

# Columbia College

Summer 2014

## TODAY





“I knew that Columbia would be life-changing, that it would introduce me to inspiring people and give me the opportunity to explore what is, in my opinion, the greatest city in the world. What I wasn’t expecting was for Columbia to become my home.”

Sophia Golec ’15



# Thank You!



“My experience at Columbia College has taught me to challenge my existing notions and perceptions. I have learned the value of personal challenges and the demerits of comparisons with others. Everyone’s journey is unique. Columbia taught me to push myself and discover my limits.”

Sundas Amer ’15



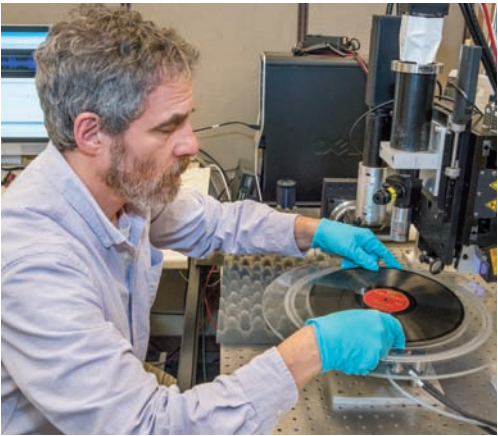
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## MESSAGE FROM DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

# A Plan for Lifelong Engagement

In May, 1,026 Columbia College students marched from Butler Library toward the Sundial in their Class Day ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments, commemorate their graduation and join our community of almost 48,000 alumni. Two weeks later, nearly 1,500 Columbia College alumni and more than 700 guests returned to Morning-side Heights for Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day to celebrate on Low Plaza, take Mini-Core Courses and catch up with friends.

As I've written here, life as a Columbia College student is a continuum — you start as a "future student," spend four years as a "current student" and graduate to a "former student," a category in which you will typically spend more than 60 years. The events of each spring represent this, as current students transition to former students and former students reconnect with their Columbia College experience. But I don't want that to happen only at reunion. My goal as dean is to keep you connected and engaged in the life of the College throughout your personal and professional lives.

To figure out how best to engage you, the alumni of Columbia College, I appointed a College Alumni Relations Task Force last year. The 13-member committee, which included members of the University Board of Trustees, Columbia College Board of Visitors, Columbia College Alumni Association Executive Board and Columbia College Young Alumni, convened focus groups, bench-

marked with other institutions and created a five-year strategic plan for Columbia College Alumni Relations. The committee believes this plan will enhance your Columbia experience, help you remain involved in the life of the College and connect you with other Columbians — both students and fellow alumni.

The plan that the committee presented to me earlier this academic year has four pillars:

- **Intellectual Experience:** To provide content-rich, unique, intellectual experiences, ranging from Mini-Core Courses to virtual programming;
- **Power Network:** To help you build personal and professional connections through the energy and accomplishments of our community, including career programming, mentoring and other tools;
- **Pride and Recognition:** To build upon the traditions that connected you to the College and to your peers, and to recognize and celebrate your accomplishments as alumni; and
- **Columbia Service:** To inspire you to get involved with students, other alumni and the College, and to give your time and talents, while having meaningful volunteer and leadership experiences.

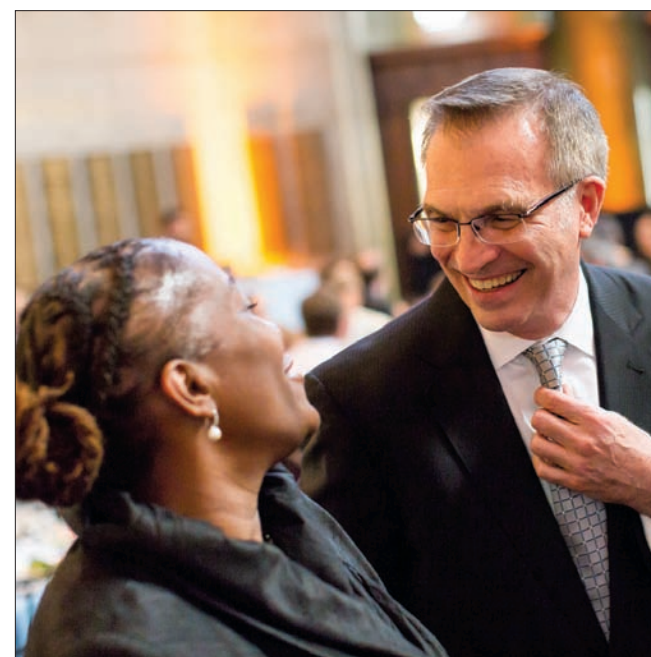
Our Alumni Relations team did a lot this academic year to carry out this plan — expanding our staff, strengthening our relationships across campus and enhancing our outreach efforts. I hope that you have begun to notice the changes. You are already connecting to the College by reading this issue of *Columbia College Today*. But I encourage you to get more involved with the Columbia College Alumni Association, to sign up to interview future students through the Alumni Representative Committee or do mock interviews for the Center for Career Education, to attend alumni events in your region and to come back to campus for the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day and for the Alumni Procession at Convocation, or for reunion and Dean's Day each spring.

This is a plan for you, so if you have questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to [ccalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:ccalumni@columbia.edu).

Have a great summer!



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO



Valentini shares a laugh with Wanda Holland Greene '89, '92 TC at the 1989 dinner on the Saturday of Alumni Reunion Weekend.

PHOTO: SCOTT RUDD/SCOTTRUDDVENTS.COM

*James J. Valentini*



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# Letters to the Editor

## The Varsity Show

What a great [Spring 2014] issue! Of course, being a member of the Pony Ballet, I'm prejudiced. I don't remember the theme of the Varsity Show that year, as we of the Pony Ballet figured it was all about us and not the rest of the show.

We had a lot of fun. I remember that to jazz up one of our numbers, Claire Schiel '49 Barnard (our dance teacher and choreographer) suggested I sashay out during our Hawaiian number and roll my belly. I did, and it brought the house down (or so it seemed to me). In any case, thanks again for bringing back those fun times.

Raymond Annino '50  
NORTH SMITHFIELD, R.I.

We enjoyed the piece on the Varsity Show in the Spring 2014 issue, remembering the days of the all-male productions. And the so-called dance instructor (she was not our dance instructor — Claire Schiel '49 Barnard was) in the picture on page 27 was none other than Broadway star Nanette Fabray, uptown for the day to pose for publicity photos.

We also recalled that in the late '40s, the Columbia Players produced other shows, with Barnard women in major and supporting roles. In the early fall, under the direction of Preston Munter '46, '49 P&S, we did Shakespeare (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Coriolanus*) in McMillan; Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*; and an original verse drama, *The Edge of Perfect*, by Ferdinand Monjo '46, based on the legend of Eloise and Abelard, in Brander Matthews. Early in the spring semester we performed T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* in St. Paul's Chapel for three years running. And one winter we performed Euripides' *Iphigenia in Aulis* in the Low Rotunda. Many of those shows starred Dolph Sweet '48 and Sorrell Boone '49, both of whom went on to be featured actors in movies and TV and on Broadway.

Dr. Marvin M. Lipman '49, '54 P&S  
(*Pony Ballet* 1948, 1949)

Naomi Loeb Lipman '51 Barnard  
(*Eloise*, *Iphigenia*, among others)  
NEW YORK CITY

As a Varsity Show performer and composer (*The Shape of Things*, *The Sky's the Limit*, *When in Rome, Not Fit to Print*), I was pleased to see them featured in the Spring

2014 issue. I wish to fill in some omissions in the articles.

First, missing from the list of Varsity Show participants who went on to significant professional achievements in show business are:

William Goldenberg '57: Billy continues to have a great career in Hollywood and on Broadway and TV. His credits include two Emmys (22 nominations); composing the music for the Broadway musical *Ballroom*, innumerable films and TV theme songs; and acting as music director and appearing as accompanist for Nichols and May; Kukla, Fran and Ollie; Barbra Streisand; Liza Minnelli; and Bea Arthur, among others.

Richard Chodosh '49 and Barry Alan Graef '52: Dick wrote the music and Barry the book and lyrics to the 1963 Off-Broadway show *The Streets of New York*, which was the subject of a laudatory article in *Time*. They also wrote the show *Berlin Is Mine*.

Second, regarding women in the Varsity Show, from inception men played both male and female roles. Then, in 1936, the all-male cast concept was breached with the addition of women. The story was that it caused a riot at the Astor Hotel, where the show was being presented, and the experiment was halted the following year. In 1956, we decided to once again make the cast coed. There was no riot, the change was a success and women were in to stay.

Jerome Breslow '56  
POTOMAC, MD.

Thanks for the nice issue [Spring 2014] about the Varsity Show in modern times. Much of what is described is not "traditional," however. I was in the Varsity Show each year 1937–41 (the great I.A.L. "Izzy" Diamond '41 wrote them) and they were wonderful and satirical but not about Columbia. There was no "pie in the face" at selection. The World's Fair was satirized, as in Izzy's great song: "Give me the trylon and the perisphere, And let them pile on the good old atmosphere." The highlight was always the Pony Ballet. We, alas, had no girls in our casts.

Charles Plotz '41  
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

I enjoyed the Spring 2014 edition, which focused on the Varsity Show. In "All the Columbia World's a Stage," ["Within the

Family"] CCT editor Alex Sachare '71 refers to a lapse in performances 1967–78, when "the Varsity Show was revived with The Great Columbia Riot of '78."

I had the great fortune of working on the 1978 show. Behind this resurrection were then-students Mike Eisenberg '78 and Steve Werner '78, who made it their mission to revive what had effectively become a lapsed tradition. At the time, no organization really supported the production. (For that matter, there was no one to approve or disapprove of their plans to do the show at all.) So, with the optimism of the young, they decided just to go ahead, with Steve largely supporting the production with his own funds.

There were, of course, other unsung heroes. Ken Kalb produced the show, arranging such things as rehearsal space and publicity. The show also benefited from the help of a first-rate director, Joe Klein '58.

Sometimes meaningful traditions die out. But thanks to Steve and Mike, Columbia students today continue to take part in (or see) a dramatic spectacle that thankfully has persevered.

Bennett Caplan '78  
BETHESDA, MD.

## Professor Danto

While I appreciated the tribute to Arthur Danto in CCT ("Around the Quads," Winter 2013–14), it focused almost exclusively on his contributions to art criticism. I knew Danto in a much different context that I believe deserves equal (or greater) attention, namely, as a teacher and mentor.

The first semester of my freshman year I enrolled in Danto's introductory philosophy course. He was an inspiration in the classroom [and] a vibrant force as an instructor. In an age when many senior scholars disdain teaching large introductory courses, he relished the opportunity to do so, teaching the class annually. I admit I disagreed with his approach to philosophical inquiry — I was 17 and, of course, knew better — yet he always made himself available to engage with me.

In the intervening years, even when I was not taking a class with Danto, I camped out in front of his office in order to discuss with him whatever philosophical dilemma was bothering me at the moment. He was forever gracious in permitting me to pick his brain.

I was in the first class in Columbia's philosophy department to enjoy the opportunity to write a senior thesis. Danto,



A scene from this year's Varsity Show, *Morningside Nights*.

PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

to my great good fortune, agreed to supervise mine, demonstrating remarkable patience and affable support.

Although his contributions to the world of art criticism deserve recognition, I shall always remember Danto as a masterful teacher and a forbearing adviser.

Cary J. Nederman '78  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Editor's note: The author is a professor of political science at Texas A&M.

## Hoop Dreams

As we look back on the 2013–14 Columbia men's basketball season, one cannot underestimate the magnitude of what coach Kyle Smith, his able staff and most of the student-athletes on this year's team have accomplished.

Going far beyond the numbers (21–13 overall record, 8–6 Ivy League, first post-season berth in decades) and personal accomplishments (Alex Rosenberg '15 and Maodo Lo '16 garnering All-Ivy first and second-team honors, respectively), a sense of pride and vitality has been instilled in this program. Our Ivy League games are particularly entertaining and something to look forward to in the winter months, and the atmosphere in Leaven Gymnasium has been a sight to behold with several contests being sold out or nearly sold out.

In addition, the chemistry of this group was really evident this year and is a tribute to Smith's recruiting philosophy and his emphasis on "team first, check your ego at the door." Look at the field goals attempted for the season and you can get

a good idea of how this group bought into the concept of ball distribution and a "pass first" mentality.

Several of the New York City tabloids have started to pick up on the resurgence of the basketball program on Morningside Heights and with good reason. Smith has amassed 63 wins in his four years at Columbia and his and the program's future looks bright, with I hope a good recruiting class being shored up.

Congratulations to the 2013–14 Lions.  
Roar, Lion, Roar!

Anthony Piscitelli '78  
BRONX, N.Y.

## Hoop Memories

The first two 1948 Class Notes in the Spring 2014 issue landed me back on the basketball court for the '46–'47 season. In his note, Dr. Peter A. Arturi '48 mentioned he played on the JV team under Lou Rossini '47 TC, as I did. After all these years, I am sorry to say that I can't conjure up a face with the name, but I'm sure Peter can't, either. I also remember scrimmaging against Lou during the second semester in 1946. I had been discharged in February from the Army Air Corps, just in time to pick up where I had left off three years earlier. Lou was named JV coach, a position he held until he succeeded Gordon Ridings as varsity coach at the start of the 1951 season.

Lou was a teammate of Walt Budko '47E, whose death in spring 2013 was reported in the 1948 Class Notes by Dr. Murray Strober '48 and Albert Burstein '47. I had learned of Walt's passing from the Trinity School magazine. He and I played together there, or more accurately, we played against each other, as I was the JV center while Walt was the star center on the varsity team. If Murray or Al had to defend against Walt under the basket, they would not have remembered him as a "gentle giant."

George Woolfe '48  
FALMOUTH, MASS.



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



WITHIN THE FAMILY BY EDITOR ALEX SACHARE '71

## “Daily” No More: Spectator Will Emphasize Digital Publication

**T**he *Columbia Daily Spectator* is daily no more — at least, not in print. On April 27, the venerable 137-year-old newspaper announced that in order to “make its journalism — and its online presentation — the priority,” it would cease daily publication of its print edition. Instead, *Spectator* said it will publish “a weekly print product while bolstering its commitment to sharp, round-the-clock coverage of Columbia and the surrounding neighborhoods.”

Columbia will become the only Ivy League school without a daily student-produced paper.

Nonetheless, the announcement claimed, “While we will no longer print five days per week, we will be more ‘daily’ than ever. This move will strengthen our efforts to be a 24/7 news source for Columbia and the local community, putting us in a position to fund enhancements to our website, overhaul our newsroom culture, and spend more time producing the top-quality journalism that is — and always will be — at the core of *Spectator*’s mission.”

Sounds reasonable, right? After all, many daily newspapers have cut back on their publishing schedules during the past decade and longer, and others have folded entirely. The announcement from *Spectator* stated, “We know the vast majority of our readers consume our content online, not in print.” So if the majority of your audience isn’t reading the print product, why go to the expense of printing it in the first place? Why not devote those resources to producing the best online edition you can? Or, as the announcement put it, “By untying ourselves from the daily print production schedule, we will free editors and writers to focus on providing our readers with the stories they want through the medium they prefer.”

If it’s all so reasonable, why did I find this news so sad? And not just me — every former Specie I contacted, even one former editor who is now an online journalist, expressed the same feeling.

When asked my major at Columbia, the Registrar will tell you sociology but I usually say it was *Spectator*. I spent far more hours at the *Spec* offices on the third floor of Ferris Booth Hall or out covering events for the paper than I did studying in Butler Library, or anywhere else for that matter. And, with the perspective that comes from more than four decades in the work force, I can say without question that I learned more at *Spectator* than I did in any class, or two or three.

I’m not talking just about the nuts and bolts of journalism, although I picked up enough of those in four years at *Spectator* to land a job with Associated Press and start work the week of graduation. I’m talking about the teamwork and the sacrifice and the dedication it takes to see a newspaper through from concept to completion, from story list to delivery, so it can be read — surreptitiously, of course — in 9 a.m. classes.

The most important thing I learned during four years at *Spectator*, including two years as sports editor, was accountability. I learned the importance of getting it right. I learned to gather facts, to check them, to question them and recheck them until I knew the story I was running was accurate — and not just accurate, but fair and responsible as well. No, this wasn’t like heart surgery where a patient could die if a mistake was made. But if there was an error or a misrepresentation in one of my stories when the paper arrived in the morning, it was on me — and that was one feeling I never wanted to have.

That’s what worries me about the new *Spec*. Despite the pledges to produce “top-quality journalism,” will it devolve into just another blog? Unlike print, where a mistake lives forever, an error online can be fixed at any time with just a few keystrokes. Without that specter of seeing a mistake you made, or one you let

slip past your vigilant eyes, in print the next morning, will there be one less layer of fact-checking, one less source to contact for verification, one less reading to make sure there are no unintended meanings, one less check to make sure a name is spelled correctly? That’s the kind of accountability I’m talking about. It’s a valuable lesson I learned at *Spectator* by poring over copy, galleys and page proofs, and I hope it remains part of the *Spec* culture as the emphasis moves to digital delivery.

I hope *Spectator* flourishes in its new format. I will miss picking up a copy of the paper in the morning and reading it at my desk, but I will log on whenever I remember. It won’t be the same experience for me, but that’s not what’s most important; my hope is that legions of Species present and future will have the same rich, challenging and fulfilling experience at *Spectator* that I had.

Alex Sachare



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

# AROUND THE QUADS

## Class of 2014 Celebrates at Senior Dinner

**O**n May 6, graduating seniors gathered under a tent on South Lawn at the annual Senior Dinner to celebrate the end of classes. More than 900 members of the Class of 2014 enjoyed dinner and mingled with friends while a photo slideshow played on the ceiling, projecting images of four years’ worth of their favorite photos. In the background, upbeat music kept the energy high while students lined up for a turn inside the event’s photo booth.

After an introduction from Class President Conan Cassidy ’14, Senior Dinner Co-chairs Luisa Lizoain ’14 and Abigail Pucker ’14 recited a short poem about friendship and thanked everyone for coming. Next to speak was Dean James J. Valentini, who congratulated the seniors on their accomplishments.

As of June 3, the Senior Fund raised more than \$22,600 and more than 250 seniors participated in Valentini’s “3-2-1 Challenge,” which encourages students to contribute

for three years, encourage two friends to donate and have their donations matched one-to-one by an alumnus/a — for the third consecutive year, Gene

Davis ’75, ’76 SIPA, ’80L. Because the class met its participation goal, the Senior Fund also received a gift of \$100,000 from Charles Santoro ’82.

Student Council President Daphne Chen ’14 gave a toast to their new lives as graduates, saying, “It’s a hello toast, because I’m not ready to say goodbye to you.”

Kyra Tirana Barry ’87, outgoing president of the Columbia College Alumni Association, welcomed the students to the CCAA and asked them to stand and cheer if they had participated in certain Columbia traditions, which brought the attendees to their feet for everything from passing the swim test to finishing off a giant Koronet pizza slice. Calvin Sun ’08, president of the Columbia College Young Alumni Board, closed out the evening by inviting the students to their first alumni event, a party on the U.S.S. *Intrepid* during Alumni Reunion Weekend.

View a Facebook album of the dinner and shots from the photo booth: [facebook.com/alumnicc/photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums).



Above, seniors and Gerald Sherwin ’55 (middle) spell out a superlative message. Top and middle, Dean James J. Valentini poses for a group selfie and students don costumes for the photo booth.

PHOTOS: RICH ORMANOWSKI



## Columbia Launches Startup Lab in SoHo

The Columbia Startup Lab, a collaboration among the College, Engineering, SIPA and the Business School, opened in Manhattan on June 10 with a mission of fostering entrepreneurship among young alumni. The startup lab provides a co-working space with heavily subsidized rent — members pay \$150 a month per seat, with the remainder covered by Columbia — for alumni who have graduated within the last five years and have started their own businesses.

The lab is located at WeWork, which runs communal work spaces around the world, including 12 locations in Manhattan. Columbia rented the first floor of the West SoHo space (existing startups already occupy the upper floors), allowing young alumni to interact with one another and with more established tech and media startups. WeWork generally uses open floor plans, with couches, tables and recre-

ation centers to encourage discussion and idea sharing.

"If you think about it, the whole thing is networking. You're bringing people together from different disciplines — it's all a big mixing pot," says Chris McGarry, Columbia's director of entrepreneurship.

More than 35 Columbia alumni-helmed businesses have joined the space, including six run by College alumni. Aditya Mukerjee '12 founded Board-Rounds, a healthcare startup that focuses on patient follow-up care. Matt Star '12 is coding for Rawr Denim, a blog about raw denim that offers a suite of tools to help men find the perfect pair of jeans. Brian Valero '12 and Nicholas Cox '11 launched Drop Global, both a mobile community where surfers, snowboarders and other action sports athletes can connect and an e-commerce site for action sport-inspired clothing and gear. Carolyn Yim '11 created a way for consumers to directly pur-

chase her luxury knitwear with her online shop, +PLY. Cooper Pickett '10 started Longneck & Thunderfoot to help companies develop online media strategies, and John Mascari '08 is serving up organic pasteurized juices designed for expecting mothers through Bundle Organics.

Alumni applied for the space in February and March and the chosen businesses, which can use the space from four months to a year, were announced in early April. McGarry says the teams were selected by the Columbia Entrepreneurship Initiative for their ability to bring a range of skills and interests, so members can learn from one another. "The biggest victories that we've scored are when we broker collaborations between schools and create programs and resources that are greater than the sum of their parts," says McGarry.

Anne-Ryan Heatwole '09J

## Students Honor Friedman, Khalidi



Award winners Rashid Khalidi, the Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies, and Robert Friedman, a professor of mathematics, flank Dean James J. Valentini (top row, center), surrounded by Academic Awards Committee members and Rose Razaghian, executive director, planning and analysis (top row, far right).

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

On May 5, the Academic Awards Committee (AAC) of the Columbia College Student Council presented the 2014 Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching, which recognizes a faculty member's "humanity, devotion to truth and inspiring leadership," to Professor of Mathematics Robert Friedman. Also presented by the AAC the same night was the 2014 Lionel Trilling Book Award, given to a member of Columbia's faculty whose book was published in the previous year, to Rashid Khalidi, the Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies in the Department of History, for *Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. has Undermined Peace in the Middle East* (2013).

The awards, which were presented in the Faculty Room of Low Library, are the only academic honors judged and presented by students. The 15 AAC members, who represent a cross-section of classes and majors, audit approximately 600 hours of classes of Van Doren Award nominees and read the books under consideration for the Trilling Award.

The Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching has been awarded annually since 1962 and was established in honor of Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS, a Pulitzer Prize winner and legendary Columbia faculty member. The Lionel Trilling Book Award, established in 1976, is given to a member of Columbia's faculty whose recent book upholds a level of excellence commensurate with the work of Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS, another famous Columbia faculty member and a public intellectual and literary critic.

## Columbia Joins edX

Columbia has launched a partnership with edX, a nonprofit online learning platform founded in 2012 by Harvard and MIT. The first Columbia course offered through edX will be "The United States in the Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction," taught by Eric Foner '63, '69 GSAS, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History and a Bancroft Prize, Lincoln Prize and Pulitzer Prize winner.

"Professor Foner is a legend," said Anant Agarwal, the president of edX, which has offered more than 150 courses from 33 colleges and universities in a range of subjects. "Having his course on the Civil War on edX will significantly enhance the quality of the courses on edX."

Foner plans to retire at the end of the 2014–15 academic year and taught his Civil War course for the last time this past spring, when the lectures and discussion sections were recorded. Of the partnership with edX, Foner told *Spectator*, "To me, this is just a way to disseminate knowledge to a broad audience." He added that he was glad that the course "can be available to people long after I've left the University."

Though Columbia professors have taught massive open online courses through other platforms, including Coursera, no University-wide partnerships had been established before the March 13 announcement about edX.

## Five Alumni Honored at John Jay Awards Dinner



Dean James J. Valentini (far left) with honorees (left to right) Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz '62, '66 P&S; James L. Melcher '61; Joyce Chang '86; Michael S. Solender '86; and Mozelle W. Thompson '76, '81L.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Five accomplished alumni were each presented a 2014 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement at the annual John Jay Awards Dinner, held at Cipriani 42nd Street on March 5. This year marked the 36th annual dinner; 195 honorees and 11 decades of alumni have been honored. The dinner raised \$1.1 million for the John Jay National Scholars

Program, which provides financial aid and special programming to enhance the academic and extracurricular experiences of outstanding students.

The 2014 honorees were Joyce Chang '86, managing director, global head of fixed income research, J.P. Morgan; Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz '62, '66 P&S, an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the James B. Duke Professor

of Medicine and professor of biochemistry and chemistry at Duke University Medical Center; James L. Melcher '61, founding partner, Balestra Capital; Michael S. Solender '86, Americas vice chair and general counsel, Ernst & Young; and Mozelle W. Thompson '76, '81L, CEO, Thompson Strategic Consulting.

Read more about the dinner, including quotations from the honorees: [college.columbia.edu/news/five-alumni-honored-2014-john-jay-awards-dinner](http://college.columbia.edu/news/five-alumni-honored-2014-john-jay-awards-dinner). View a Facebook album of the dinner: [facebook.com/alumnicc/photos\\_albums](https://facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums).

## IN LUMINE TUO

**KATZNELSON:** Ira Katznelson '66, the Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, was awarded the 2014 Bancroft Prize for his most recent book, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time*, in which he exposes the racial politics that enabled Franklin Delano Roosevelt to secure Congressional support for many New Deal measures.

The prize, which was established at Columbia in 1948 with a bequest from Frederic Bancroft, a preeminent historian, librarian, author and Columbia lecturer, is considered one of the most distinguished academic awards in the field of history. It is awarded annually by the University trustees to two authors of distinguished works in American history or diplomacy. Ari Kelman, a professor of history at UC Davis, also received the award this year for his book *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek*.

**AXEL:** University Professor Richard Axel '67 has been elected to The Royal Society, the United Kingdom's national academy of science, as a foreign member. Axel, a professor in the Medical Center's Departments of Neuroscience; of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics; and of Pathology and Cell Biology, has headed multiple studies in neuroscience and gene transfer techniques. He is a member of The Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute and of The Kavli Institute for Brain Science and an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Along with Linda Buck, Axel was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2004 for a series of pioneering studies that clarified how the sense of smell works.

## Greene Speaks to Alumni in California

On April 29, almost 140 alumni, students and guests joined physics and mathematics professor, and author, Brian Greene (below, far left) at The Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills for an illuminating conversation moderated by writer, award-winning TV correspondent and Los Angeles resident Gideon Yago '00. Greene discussed with Yago the new World Science U, an online learning platform, as well as the Columbia Science Initiative, which celebrates Columbia's leadership in research and innovative teaching. The conversation was followed by a reception at the center's roof garden.

Go to [alumni.columbia.edu/columbia-science](http://alumni.columbia.edu/columbia-science) to watch the full livestream of the event and to learn more about the Columbia Science Initiative. Go to [facebook.com/alumnicc/photos\\_albums](https://facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums) to view photos from the event.





**Alondra Nelson is a professor of sociology and gender studies, and director of the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Raised in San Diego, she earned a B.A. in anthropology from UC San Diego and a Ph.D. in American studies from NYU. Her 2011 book, *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination*, was recognized with four scholarly awards.**

#### What's your specialty?

I work at the intersection of the sociology of race and/or ethnicity and the sociology of science. I went to graduate school at a time when a great deal of new scholarship was helping us to better understand how ideas about race (and justifications for racism) were drawn from the biological sciences and medicine — including books like *Tuskegee's Truths* by Susan Reverby, which traced the notorious syphilis experiment, a scientific inquiry partly premised on spurious theories about fundamental differences between black bodies and white bodies, and Robert Proctor's *Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis*, which explored the way that medical research was used for ideological purposes in Hitler's Germany. This new wave of scholarship highlighted moments in which science and technology were mobilized against marginalized groups. As someone also interested in African-American history, I was struck that a lot of this literature suggested a one-way street. It gave us a picture of race making "from above" — in science and medicine — but offered little insight into how the communities detrimentally impacted by these ideas responded to them.

#### And that led you to the Black Panthers?

Yes. We often think about the Civil Rights Movement as being about access to schools and to lunch counters but it was also about access to medical care and medical facilities, and to nursing schools and medical education. The Black Panthers emerged in 1966 as an organization that was trying to curb police harassment, and violence and often deadly engagements with police came to be the way that we think most about them. But part of their story is also radical and fairly ambitious health care activism. I wrote about their sickle cell anemia campaign, which best I could discern is the only case of a grassroots genetic

idea that there were biological causations for violence. In this instance, the Black Panthers were successful in working with a coalition of other activists, including the NAACP and the National Organization for Women, to block state funding to the center, so it never came to be. What's interesting about this Black Panther story, surprisingly, is that it's not a poignant postscript about the damage that was done to vulnerable communities by biomedical experimentation. Rather, it's a powerful story that says, "we learned about this as it was happening, we understood what the stakes were and what the implications of this research was and we were able to stop it."

can make up one's identity: the tests, the family stories, the things written in the front of a bible, oral history, even the things you might feel about what you think your ancestry is.

#### What undergraduate courses do you teach?

A lecture course called "Post-Racial America?" It looks at facets of American life, such as the workforce, mass incarceration, urban and suburban living, the intersection of race and ethnicity with gender and class, and growing populations of people who call themselves multi-racials. As someone who is a post-Civil Rights Movement sociologist, I think many things have gotten better, some things have not changed and some things have gotten worse. So to pose that question every

week — post-racial America? — makes students think with complexity about contemporary racial politics in the U.S.

#### What historical figure would you most like to meet?

Ida B. Wells-Barnett. She was a journalist, lay sociologist and an anti-lynching crusader as well as a woman leader working in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when there weren't many well-known women leaders. It's one thing to take the helm of an organization; it's another to have unpopular opinions and to be disliked both because you're operating outside of the realm of normative, polite womanhood and outside of the realm of status quo politics. And at the same time she was a mother, she was a grandmother, she was a wife. Ida B. Wells was able to accomplish things that most of us can only aspire to.

*Interview: Alexis Tonti '11 Arts  
Photo: Bruce Gilbert*

## Five Minutes with ... Alondra Nelson

screening and counseling program in the United States. I also wrote about their challenge to a planned research center at UCLA that was gathering together researchers interested in studying the



## IN MEMORIAM

# Robert L. Belknap '57 SIPA, '59 GSAS, Professor Emeritus

**R**obert L. Belknap '57 SIPA, '59 GSAS, Professor Emeritus of Russian in the Department of Slavic Languages, a long-time Literature Humanities instructor and a former acting Dean of the College, died on March 17, 2014. He was 84.

Belknap was regarded as one of the world's foremost experts on Russian literature, particularly Dostoevsky. He authored two major studies, *The Structure of The Brothers Karamazov* (1967, reprinted 1989) and *The Genesis of The Brothers Karamazov: The Aesthetics, Ideology, and Psychology of Making a Text* (1990). Together with Columbia colleague Richard F. Kuhns Jr. '55 GSAS, Belknap also wrote *Tradition and Innovation: General Education and the Reintegration of the University* (1977).

Belknap was born in New York City on December 23, 1929, and graduated from



Princeton in 1951. He began teaching at Columbia in 1956 following Army service and earned a Ph.D. in 1959 from GSAS in Slavic languages and literatures. He also studied at the University of Paris and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) State University.

Belknap began teaching Lit Hum in 1960 and continued for nearly every year thereafter. He chaired Lit Hum in 1963, 1967–70 and again for two years in the 1980s. He also taught courses in Russian and comparative literature and literary theory and major Asian classics. He was acting Dean of the College in 1975 and was associate dean for student affairs, chair of

the Slavic languages department and director of the Russian (now Harriman) Institute. In 2000–01, Belknap was honored for distinguished service to the Core Curriculum. He was presented the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching in 1980 and a Society of Columbia Graduates' Great Teacher Award in 2010.

In fall 2013, Core lecturer Anne Diebel Ph.D. '13 GSAS was appointed the inaugural Robert Belknap Core Faculty Fellow, a named lectureship endowed by Belknap's former student Jay Lindsey '75. *Teaching Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature: Essays in Honor of Robert L. Belknap* was released in February.

Liza Knapp '85 GSAS, department chair and associate professor of Slavic languages, said, "Bob was a magisterial teacher of literature in true Columbia tradition, a guiding intellect and scholar in the field of Russian literature and a committed educator who devoted his energy and vision to making Columbia an institution to be proud of."

Belknap is survived by his wife, Cynthia Whittaker; daughters from a previous marriage, Lydia Duff, Ellen '86 Arch. and Abigail Krueger; stepchildren, Erica and Andrew Whittaker; and sisters, Louise Belknap Carter and Barbara. A memorial service is scheduled for St. Paul's Chapel on Friday, September 12, at 2 p.m.

*Karl Daum '15*

## Ten Faculty Receive Lenfest Awards

**T**en Arts and Sciences faculty members have been honored with Lenfest Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards for their ability to engage, challenge and inspire students. The awards were established by University Trustee (now Emeritus) Gerry Lenfest '58L in 2005 and award each honoree a stipend of \$25,000 a year for three years.

Two of this year's honorees are College alumnae: Christine Philiou '94, associate professor of history, and Valerie Purdie-Vaughns '93, assistant professor of psychology.

The others are Elizabeth Blackmar, professor of history; Virginia Page Fortna, professor of political science and chair of the Department of Political Science; Erik Gray, associate professor of English and comparative literature; Peter Kelemen, the Arthur D. Storke Memorial Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences; Ioannis Mylonopoulos, associate professor of art history and archaeology; Joanna Stalnaker, associate professor of French and romance philology; Brent Stockwell, associate professor of biological sciences and chemistry; and Rafael Yuste, professor of biology and neuroscience.

## Lavine Honored with Seixas Award

**O**n May 15, University Trustee Jonathan S. Lavine '88 received the 14th annual Gershom Mendes Seixas Award from Columbia/Barnard Hillel. The award is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to Jewish life at Columbia.

A former chair of the Board of Visitors, Lavine is the managing partner and chief investment officer of Sankaty Advisors. President Lee C. Bollinger said, "Jonathan Lavine is a joy to us on the trustees. We depend upon his enthusiasm. Every day, we're grateful for his involvement."

Held in the Low Rotunda, the event raised more than \$1.3 million thanks to a matching gift of \$500,000 from Lavine and Robert K. Kraft '63, setting a record for the largest gift in the award's history. Kraft, who also presented the award, spoke about Lavine's passion for social justice.



**Robert K. Kraft '63 (left) and Seixas Award honoree Jonathan S. Lavine '88.**  
PHOTO: JOHN COSTELLO



## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ **Maggie Gyllenhaal '99** will make her Broadway debut this fall, starring opposite Ewan McGregor in Tom Stoppard's Tony-winning play *The Real Thing*. The Roundabout production is scheduled to begin performances on October 2, officially open on October 30 and run through January 4, 2015. Best known for her work in films such as *Mona Lisa Smile*, *Secretary*, *The Dark Knight*, *Sherrybaby* and *Crazy Heart*, Gyllenhaal's stage credits include *Closer*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Three Sisters* and *Homebody/Kabul*.



Maggie Gyllenhaal '99

to volunteer their home for a classical musical performance with musicians and guests. The performances are typically free but afterward, hosts pass a hat for the musicians. More than 100 events have been held since January 2013, and Bodkin has attended almost all of them. "The goal of Groupmuse is to revitalize the role of classical music in

contemporary society by emphasizing and accentuating its inherently social nature, and to create lots of legitimately fun, stimulating and enriching opportunities to encourage folks to expand their minds and their social circles," says Bodkin.

■ **Michael Sovern '53, '55L** released his memoir, *An Improbable Life: My 60 Years at Columbia and Other Adventures*, which is in part about his time as University president 1980–93. He was featured on public radio's *The Leonard Lopate Show* on March 3, was interviewed in the Spring 2014 issue of *Columbia* magazine and will write about his book and his career for the Fall 2014 issue of *CCT*.

■ **Sam Bodkin '12** founded Groupmuse, a website that matches people who want

Institute and the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and professor of biochemistry and chemistry at Duke University Medical Center, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2012 for his work in receptor biology, and Yancopoulos is the chief scientist and president of Regeneron Laboratories, the largest biotechnology company in New York and one of the fastest growing in the nation.

■ Former New York Gov. **David Paterson '77** has donated papers detailing his time as lieutenant governor and governor to Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The donation covers Paterson's po-



David Paterson '77  
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

litical career 2007–11, and the majority of the papers will be available to the public without restrictions.

■ **Marc DaCosta '06** and **Hicham Oudghiri '06** were featured in a *New York Times* article about their website Enigma.io, which standardizes and makes searchable public data sets from federal and state agencies. With

\$4.5 million raised from investors, the company allows the public to search data sets free of charge. The website launched for public use on March 23.

## Barry, Fergang Recognized for Service as Alumni Leaders

Classmates **Kyra Tirana Barry '87** and **Yale M. Fergang '87, '88E** will complete their terms as president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) Board of Directors and chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors (BOV), respectively, on June 30. Both were honored for their service to the College with a toast from Dean James J. Valentini at the final meeting of the academic year of their respective boards.

Barry completed a three-year term as president of the CCAA Board of Directors and will be succeeded by Doug Wolf '88. Valentini praised Barry for her leadership, guidance and support during his first years as dean, calling her a key partner whom he frequently turned to for advice and counsel during that transition and praising her for her dedication and devotion to the College. He also thanked outgoing CCAA board members for their service.

Fergang, who will be succeeded as BOV chair by Alexander Navab '87, was presented with a personalized chair by the dean for leading the BOV for two years. Also thanked for their service were outgoing BOV members Alexandra Wallace Creed '88; Gene I. Davis '75, '76 SIPA, '80L; Allen I. Fagin '71; Robert L. Friedman '64; Thomas H. Gloer '81; Jeffrey D. Knowles '71; Sami W. Mnaymneh '81; J. Michael Schell '69; M. Glenn Vinson Jr. '67; and Rory Wilfork '97.



Dean James J. Valentini (above left, middle) with CCAA outgoing board president Kyra Tirana Barry '87 and incoming president Doug Wolf '88, and (above right) with outgoing BOV chair Yale Fergang '87, '88E.

PHOTOS: CCAA, CHAR SMULLYAN; BOV, MICHAEL DIVITO



■ Two young alumnae have won prestigious awards this year: **Amirah Sequeira '12** received a Gates Cambridge Scholarship while **Katie Bentivoglio '13** received a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Junior Fellowship. Sequeira plans to pursue a one-year M.Phil. in history, philosophy and sociology of science, medicine and technology at the University of Cambridge; Bentivoglio will work for one year as a research assistant for the Carnegie international affairs think tank.

■ **Lisette Camilo '98** is the new director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services for NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio. Formerly the office's acting general counsel, Camilo will now focus on procuring services and contracts for the New York City government.

■ Three alumni made *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People list this year: U.S. Attorney General **Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, '76L**, President **Barack Obama '83** and showrunner **Jenji Kohan '91** of *Weeds* and *Orange Is the New Black*. The list, released on April 23, cited Holder for working to end discriminatory sentencing practices as well as for taking on banks for mortgage fraud and tax evasion. Obama was viewed through the first 100 days of his second term and his plans for the rest of his presidency, and Kohan was noted for her ability to create non-traditional television shows with characters that cover a range of races and sexual orientations.

■ Three alumni were nominated for 2014 Tony awards: **Terrence McNally '60's** play *Mothers and Sons* was nominated in the Best Play category, while **Brian Yorkey '93** and **Tom Kitt '96** were nominated in the Best Original Score category for their musical *If/Then*.

■ **Allen I. Fagin '71**, a prominent attorney and former chairman of Proskauer Rose, has been named EVP and chief professional officer of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, for which he had served as a lay leader. The Orthodox Union, as it is known, is the world's largest kosher certification organization and also has an impact on the Jewish world through its array of religious, youth, social action, educational, public policy and community development services, programs and activities. Fagin was at Proskauer 1976–2003 and was its chairman 2005–11.



Lisette Camilo '98  
PHOTO: MARCELLO RIOS



Allen I. Fagin '71

■ **Jim Jarmusch '75** was celebrated April 2–10 with the Film Society of Lincoln Center's "Permanent Vacation: The Films of Jim Jarmusch," a retrospective of 11 of his feature films as well as several of his shorts and music videos. Jarmusch's latest film, *Only Lovers Left Alive*, stars Tom Hiddleston and Tilda Swinton as a vampire couple who have been together for centuries. The film was first shown at the Cannes Film Festival last year and was released in the United States in April.

## Ifill Honored at CCYA Fund Spring Benefit

More than 200 young alumni attended the eighth annual Columbia College Young Alumni Fund Spring Benefit on April 25 at The Racquet and Tennis Club. This event brings together alumni from the Classes of 2004–13 not only for a fun evening but for a good



PHOTO: SCOTT RUDD/SCOTTRUDEVENTS.COM

cause, as a portion of each ticket goes to the Young Alumni Fund. The Gerald Sherwin '55 Young Alumni Service Award is presented at the event, and this year's honoree was Justin M. Ifill '06, shown above with Sherwin (who was celebrating his 80th birthday, hence the sash). The benefit raised almost \$10,000 for the Young Alumni Fund and the silent auction raised more than \$2,300 to support summer internship stipends.

View a Facebook album of the event: [facebook.com/alumnicc/photos\\_albums](https://facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums).

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# Roar, Lion, Roar

## Men's Tennis Wins Ivies, Reaches NCAA Sweet 16

In a season coach Bid Goswami called “pretty historic,” Columbia’s men’s tennis won the national indoor doubles title, compiled a 22–2 overall record, swept the Ivy League championship while losing only one point in seven matches and recorded the first two NCAA tournament victories in program history.

Columbia’s only losses of the season both came at Athens, Ga., to then third-ranked Georgia early in the season and to

top-ranked Southern Cal in the NCAA Tournament’s Sweet 16. Columbia’s two losses were the fewest in the NCAA. USC went on to win its fifth national title in six years.

Columbia got an early taste of success at the ITA /USTA National Indoor Championships in November when Ashok Narayana ’15 and Max Schnur ’15 stunned the top-seeded and No. 1 nationally ranked pair of Mikelis Libietis and Hunter Reese from Tennessee 6–3, 6–2 to win the doubles crown at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

After beating Marist and Monmouth to open their regular season, the Lions headed south to Athens for the ITA Kickoff Classic, where they were beaten by the Bulldogs 4–2 before they bounced back to defeat Washington 4–0. That began an 18-match winning streak for the Lions, capped by a sweep of their Ivy opponents for their first league title since 2010 and their 11th Ivy crown overall.

“All the things that we wanted to accomplish since September, we have now,” Goswami said after Columbia blanked Princeton 4–0 on April 20. “This was the last, to win the Ivy League outright.” Well, not quite the last. “This feels good,” Narayana said before quickly adding, “This wasn’t our biggest goal. We want to make a dent at the NAAs, and we feel confident.”

Traveling to Nashville for the NCAA Regionals, the Lions beat East Tennessee State 4–0 for their first NCAA tournament win. Then they surprised host Vanderbilt 4–3 as Winston Lin ’15, the Ivy League Player of the Year, fought off cramps and defeated Austin Gonzales 2–6, 6–3, 6–4 in No. 1 singles, the last match of the day. That earned Columbia a return trip to Athens, site of the NCAA Championships, where the Lions were defeated by Southern Cal 5–0.

“It has been a remarkable, remarkable year for us. We could not be any prouder of what this team has accomplished,” associate head coach Howard Endelman said. “If you would have told us in the beginning of the year that we’d play the entire 2014 season with just two losses, one to No. 3 Georgia and the other No. 1 USC, both in national tournaments? I think we’d take it. It is easy to be disappointed because our mentality is we don’t want to back down from anyone, but that being said, when we reflect on this year, we know how special it was and how blessed we are to have such a unique group of players.”



Playing at No. 1 singles, Winston Lin ’15, the Ivy League Player of the Year, compiled a 31–3 record and won 20 consecutive matches.

PHOTO: BILL KALLENBERG

### SCOREBOARD

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

**3** Ivy League baseball championships since 2008 under coach Brett Boretti

**31** Singles wins by Winston Lin ’15, men’s tennis’ Ivy Player of the Year

**.917** Winning percentage by men’s tennis, which compiled a 22–2 record

**21** Victories by men’s basketball, Columbia’s most since 1968

## Men's Golf Tops Ivies

Men’s golf won its fourth Ivy League championship in the last seven years, posting a 12-stroke victory at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., on April 25–27. Columbia took control of the three-round tournament by recording a team score of 276 in the middle round, 13 strokes lower than any other round shot at Baltusrol in the championships.

Leading the Lions was Brandon Jowers ’15E (74-69-75—218), who finished fourth overall and was named the co-Ivy League Player of the Year. Harrison Shih ’16 (77-70-73—220) joined Jowers on the All-Ivy first team after finishing tied for fifth and Tharusyan Pillay ’17 (77-69-77—223) earned a spot on the All-Ivy second team, finishing tied for ninth. Christopher Chu ’17, who matched his career-best round with a 68 on Saturday, and Andrew Kim ’14 made it five Columbia golfers in the top 25.

### SPORTS SHORTS

**BASKETBALL:** Men’s basketball, picked to finish last in the preseason Ivy League media poll, won 21 games and made its first playoff appearance since 1968, reaching the quarterfinals of the CollegeInsider.com Tournament. The Lions (21–13 overall, 8–6 Ivy), without a single senior on the roster, finished tied for third with Princeton in the Ivy League behind Harvard and Yale, Columbia’s highest finish since 2000. The 21 victories were the most since the 1968 team went 23–5 and won the Ivy championship. Alex Rosenberg ’15 and Maodo Lo ’16 led the Lions in scoring with 16.0 and 14.7 points per game, respectively.

**ROWING:** Columbia earned its first gold medal in a national championship event since 1929 when the lightweight four of Anders Smedsrud ’14, Lane Brokaw ’14, Matt Bellesheim ’15 and Steven Boyle ’14E and cox Erica Cunningham ’14E won at the National Men’s Lightweight Championships on June 1.

**TRACK & FIELD:** Columbia won four individual titles at the 2014 Ivy League Heptagonal Outdoor Track & Field Championships on May 10–11. Marvellous Iheukwumere ’14 successfully defended her crown in the 200m for her fourth outdoor Ivy sprints title in two seasons. Nadia Eke ’15 won the women’s triple jump, Harrison McFann ’14 captured the men’s 800m and McFann teamed with Brendon Fish ’15E, John Gregorek ’14 and Robert Napolitano ’17 to win the 4x800m relay.

## Baseball Repeats as Ivy Champions

It is often said that the hardest thing to do in sports is repeat as champion, as every opponent takes special pleasure in knocking off the defending titlist, which goes through the entire season wearing a target on its back. That didn’t stop the Columbia baseball team.

For the second consecutive season, the Lions won the Ivy League Championship, defeating Dartmouth in a doubleheader 6–2 and 4–1 on May 10. It was the Lions’ third crown since 2008 under coach Brett Boretti and their 12th overall title.

Columbia was 5–12 after its spring trip to Florida, Georgia and Texas. But after splitting their next six games, the Lions launched a school-record 15-game winning streak with a 5–4 victory at Dartmouth in the second game of a doubleheader on April 5. Columbia split a pair of doubleheaders against Penn to finish the Ivy season tied with the Quakers atop the Lou Gehrig Division. They then won a one-game playoff 4–0 in Philadelphia on May 3 behind David Speer ’14’s five-hit, nine-strikeout pitching.

## Cornacchia, Feagin Honored



PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Thomas Cornacchia ’85 and Susan K. Feagin ’74 GS (flanking Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy above) were presented with the Athletics Alumni Awards at the Varsity C Celebration on April 29. Cornacchia was a heavyweight rower for four years and established an endowment fund for Columbia rowing in 2011, and Feagin, special adviser to President Lee C. Bollinger, was a leader of the recently completed Columbia Campaign that raised more than \$6.1 billion for the University. Among student-athletes, Michael Attal ’14 (men’s soccer) received the Dwight D. Eisenhower Watch, Danielle Cosentino ’14 (field hockey) was presented with the Marion R. Philips Watch and Harrison McFall ’14 (men’s track and field) and Michelle Piyapattr ’14 (women’s golf) received the Connie S. Maniatty Outstanding Senior Athlete Award.

**ARCHERY:** For the first time in program history, Columbia posted top-three finishes in both the compound and recurve divisions at the U.S. Intercollegiate Archery Championships, held in Long Beach, Calif., on May 14–18. The compound team of Judy Zhou ’17, Julie Hoffmann ’16 and Mary Quien ’14E won the silver medal and the recurve team of Sarah Bernstein ’15 Barnard, Tiffany Kim ’16, Joy Chang ’17 and Grace Kim ’15 captured the bronze medal.



# Class of 2014 Pauses to Graduate

By ALEX SACHARE '71



**D**ean James J. Valentini chose punctuation as the theme for his remarks to the Class of 2014 at Class Day on May 20, and in particular the importance of the comma.

Valentini said that while graduation might seem like a period or a full stop, coming at the end of students' undergraduate years, it should rather be regarded as a

comma or a pause. "It tells you to take a breath before beginning the next phase of your life," he said. "It separates an independent clause — your four years here as a current student — from a dependent clause, the next 62 years or so that you can expect to live (as I'm told by the actuaries of the Social Security Administration), a period of 62 years during which you will be former students. ... This dependent clause is one in which we want you to be engaged and continue to be nourished by Columbia but now also want you to be nourishing others. We invite you to a lifelong engagement."

The keynote speaker was screenwriter and actor Dan Futterman '89, who noted that the graduates had drawn a lucky card in life but added, "With that privilege you have responsibility. Do not shut the door behind you. Turn around and give someone else a hand up the stairs and through the door." He urged them to be open-minded to what life has to offer: "Take the blinders off, look at all the paths available to you. You will get pushed back, you will get knocked down, you will. But you can handle adversity. The force of being set back can either injure and debilitate you, or it can propel you with greater force in a different and unexpected direction."

Salutatorian Samuel Walker '14 and Class



At top, smiles and tears at the end of a long road. Above, Dean James J. Valentini and Dan Futterman '89.

President Conan Cassidy '14 delivered remarks; awards were presented by Interim Dean of Student Affairs Terry Martinez, Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis and Columbia College Alumni Association President Kyra Tirana Barry '87; and Senior Fund Chair William Maxfield '14 presented the class gift.

The next day, the members of CC '14 were among the more than 14,000 degree candidates from the University and its affiliates who

officially became graduates as President Lee C. Bollinger presided over Commencement, which he described as a chance to look at the world that awaits them. "Yours will be the biggest world ever invented, and yet also the smallest," he said. "And like it or not, your fates will be more intertwined with those of all humanity than ever before, for good or ill depending on how you handle it."

Several College alumni were honored during Commencement: David Rosand '59, '65 GSAS, the Meyer Schapiro Professor Emeritus of Art History, was one of eight honorary degree recipients; cellist Alisa Weilerstein '04 received the University Medal for Excellence, awarded annually to an accomplished alumnus or alumna under the age of 45; and Mitchell B. Freinberg '73, '77 Business and the Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. '78 were among 10 Alumni Medalists who were honored for distinguished service of 10 years or more to the University.

In a move to a more sustainable ceremony, half the gowns worn by the bachelor's and master's candidates were made from recycled plastic bottles — 46 water bottles per "green" gown, to be precise. The remaining gowns came from inventory. In future years, all graduation gowns will be made from recycled plastic bottles.



Clockwise from top left: Members of the Class of 2014, before and during Class Day and Commencement; President Lee C. Bollinger speaks to the more than 14,000 degree candidates and their guests; the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day; celebrating a job well done.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO AND CHAR SMULLYAN





# Academic Awards and Prizes

Dean James J. Valentini and Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis were on hand to congratulate the students at the 2014 Academic Awards and Prizes Ceremony, held on May 20 at Faculty House. To view photos of the ceremony, as well as the Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony and other 2014 awards presentations, go to [facebook.com/columbiacollege1754/photos\\_albums](https://facebook.com/columbiacollege1754/photos_albums) and select the album “Senior Awards - Class of 2014.”

### Special Achievements To Be Noted

*Presented by Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis*

**HARRY J. CARMAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Juan Grana '14

**HOLTHUSEN-SCHINDLER SCHOLARSHIPS**

Claire Blakey '09  
Gena Miller '09  
Ashley Lherisson '12

**CLASS OF 1939 SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Brendan Donley '15  
Luke Foster '15  
David Froomkin '15  
Grant Gutierrez '15  
Joseph Lee '15  
Elora Lopez '15  
Quitze Valenzuela-Stookey '15  
Estefania Chavez '16  
Yekaterina Kovalyova '16  
Nicolas Sambor '16

**JARVIS AND CONSTANCE DOCTOROW FELLOWSHIP**

Yilin (Timothy) Chen '14

**HENRY EVANS TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP**

Hwei Ru Ong '14  
Marial Quezada '14

**SOLOMON AND SEYMOUR FISHER CIVIL LIBERTIES FELLOWSHIP**

Sejal Singh '15  
Sahng-Ah Yoo '15

**ALBERT ASHER GREEN MEMORIAL PRIZE**

Victoria Robson '14

**EURETTA J. KELLETT FELLOWSHIP**

Anabel Bacon '14  
Bernardo Sarmiento Hinojosa '14

**RICHARD LEWIS KOHN TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP**

Maris Hubbard '16

**DAVID B. TRUMAN ALUMNI AWARD**

Noor Habboosh '14

**SALUTATORIAN**

Samuel Walker '14

**VALEDICTORIAN**

Margarete Diaz Cuadros '14

### Prizes in the Core Curriculum

*Presented by Professor Susan Boynton, Department of Music*

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

Luca Marzorati '16

**DEAN HAWKES MEMORIAL PRIZE IN THE HUMANITIES**

Daniel Listwa '15

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

Veronica Handunge '17

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

Daniel Listwa '15

### Prizes in Science and Mathematics

*Presented by Professor John Parsons, Department of Physics*

**RICHARD BERSOHN PRIZE**  
Samuel Kazer '14

**COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AWARD**

Evan Munro '14  
Lisa Zhou '14

**THOMAS J. KATZ PRIZE**  
Seokjoon Oh '14

**ALFRED MORITZ MICHAELIS PRIZE**  
Rohitvarma Basavaraju '14

**PROFESSOR VAN AMRINE MATHEMATICAL PRIZE**

*First Year:* Hardik Shah '17

*Sophomore:* Samuel Nicoll '16

*Junior:* Yifei Zhao '15

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

Sicong Zhang '14

**BRIDGES AND STURTEVANT PRIZE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Margarete Diaz Cuadros '14

Darpan Patel '14

**THE HERBERT DERESIEWICZ SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Annie Lin '15

**RUSSELL C. MILLS AWARD**  
Alison Cooper '14

Zachary Newman '14

**THE SANDS FAMILY SUMMER UNDER-GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Anna Scipioni '14

Anjali Doshi '16

Shea Jendrusina '16

Sarah Kellner '16

Vedika Kumar '16

Kevin Liu '16

### Prizes in the Social Sciences

*Presented by Professor Gregory Wawro, Department of Political Science*

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

Varun Char '14

**CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN HISTORY**

Jenne O'Brien '14

**CHANLER HISTORICAL PRIZE**

Peter Andrews '14

**TARAKNATH DAS FOUNDATION AWARD**

Priom Ahmed '14

**ALBERT MARION ELSBERG PRIZE**

Jessica Geiger '14

**LILY PRIZE IN HISTORY**

Bob Sun '14

**GARRETT MATTINGLY PRIZE**

Kenneth Philbrick '14 GS

**SANFORD S. PARKER PRIZE**

Joonwoo Park '14

**SANFORD S. PARKER SUMMER RESEARCH PRIZE**

Meir Brooks '15

Laura Fritsch '15

Noah Morgenstein '15

Miryung Yang '15

Nicolas Sambor '16

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

Jordan Freisleben '15

Noah Morgenstein '15

Julian Brave Noisecat '15

James Vasco Rodrigues '15

**ROMINE PRIZE**

*Honors Thesis:* Evan Munro '14

*Seminar Paper:* Dylan

Glendinning '14

**PHYLLIS STEVENS SHARP FELLOWSHIP IN AMERICAN POLITICS**

Gregory Graff '15

Morgan Romey '15

**CAROLINE PHELPS STOKES PRIZE**

Andrew Wright '14

**ALAN J. WILLEN MEMORIAL PRIZE**

Salonee Bhaman '14

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

Valerie Comenencia Ortiz '14

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

Grace Bickers '14

### Prizes in the Humanities

*Presented by Professor Eugenia Lean, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures*

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

Shirlynn Sham '14

**CHARLES PATERNO BARRATT-BROWN MEMORIAL PRIZE**

Abigail Struhl '14

**DINO BIGONGIARI PRIZE**

Casey Ross '14

**BUNNER PRIZE**

Amalia Scott '14

**DOUGLAS GARDNER CAVERLY PRIZE**  
Isabel Wiggans '14

**EARLE PRIZE IN CLASSICS**

Ridge Montes '15E

**JOHN VINCENT HICKEY PRIZE**

Bernardo Sarmiento Hinojosa '14

**ADAM LEROY JONES PRIZE IN LOGIC**

Daniel Listwa '15

**HELEN AND HOWARD R. MARRARO PRIZE**

Maria Gimenez de los Galanes

Cavallo '14

**BENJAMIN F. ROMAINE PRIZE FUND**

Ridge Montes '15E

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

Abigail Fisch '14

**DEUTSCHER VEREIN PRIZE IN GERMAN**

Julia Slotnick '14

**SUSAN HUNTINGTON VERNON PRIZE**

Sophia Kitlinski '14

**RICHMOND B. WILLIAMS TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP**

Catherine Chen '15

Brendan Donley '15

Luke Foster '15

Joseph Lee '15

Michael Menna '15

### Prizes in the Creative and Performing Arts

*Presented by Professor Susan Boynton, Department of Music*

**ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS POETRY PRIZE**

Kate Gamble '14

**KAREN OSNEY BROWNSTEIN WRITING PRIZE**

Abigail Struhl '14

**GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS PRIZE IN ORATION**

*Informative:* Oladayo

Osuntokun '15

*Persuasive:* Mario Rosser '14

**ARTHUR E. FORD POETRY PRIZE**  
Nai Liu '14

**PHIOLEXIAN PRIZE FUND**

Serena Solin '16

Kailee Pedersen '17

**AUSTIN E. QUIGLEY PRIZE**

Gabrielle Beans '14

Emily Sorensen '14

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

Corinna Boylan '15

Nathan Chan '15

Elias Dagher '15

Julia Danitz '15

Hannah Gorman '15

Vicente Hansen '15

Javier Llaca '15

Madeleine Tucker '15

Fifi Zhang '15

Yujin Ariza '16

Fernanda Douglas '16

Annalise Perricone '16

Paul Bloom '17

Samantha Bottom-Tanzer '17

Hannah Murphy '17

Yong Murray '17

Kaitlin Pet '17

**LOUIS SUDLER PRIZE IN THE ARTS**

Gustave Reed '14

**MARIANA GRISWOLD VAN RENSSELAER PRIZE**

Ethan Plaeu '15

**SEYMOUR BRICK MEMORIAL PRIZE**  
Esther Binstock '15

Chantal McStay '15

# Senior Snapshots

*The Class of 2014 is remarkable for its achievements and ambitions. Following are seven members' stories.*

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

PHOTOS: CHAR SMULLYAN

## Onella Cooray Helps Consumers Make Healthful Choices

Onella Cooray '14 envisions a career in which she can help average consumers make healthful decisions for themselves and the planet. “There’s so much information about sustainable living floating around,” she says. “Not everyone has the time to sift through it or the knowledge to unpack it to see what actually goes into [the food] they eat and [the things they] use.”

In her last semester, the self-professed foodie interned with Clean Plates, whose offerings — which include restaurant guides and a free app for Manhattan, Brooklyn and Los Angeles — direct consumers to sustainable, healthful and flavorful food sources. Though the company is based in Manhattan, Cooray mostly tele-commuted thanks to the Center for Career Education’s Virtual Internship Program. She both conducted research for the Clean Plates newsletter and contributed to a glossary of nutrition and sustainable food terms.

Previously, Cooray interned with GrowNYC, a nonprofit that operates more than 50 farmers’ markets throughout the city. Once or twice a week from June 2013 through January 2014, she managed food stamp transactions at the Lincoln Hospital Greenmarket in the Bronx. Cooray also visited the hospital to encourage beneficiaries of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children — federal food assistance for low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children ages 5 and under — to use their checks at the market “to buy fresh produce that is in season and probably less exposed to pesticides and chemicals,” she says.

A Kluge Scholar from Colombo, Sri Lanka, Cooray was drawn to Columbia’s emphasis on the liberal arts. After completing a concentration in environmental science, she opted for a second concentration in sustainable development to see “the social and human aspects of environmental issues.” She had an “aha” moment when she took “Global Food Systems” as a sophomore. “I was aware of issues surrounding food, but I hadn’t really considered pursuing that as a career,” says Cooray, who during her first two years was a member of Columbia University EcoReps, a student group that works with Housing and Dining to make the campus more environmentally sustainable.

Cooray’s most significant co-curricular activities, however, revolved around the International Students Orientation Program, a Student Affairs initiative that helps foreign students transition to the United States and the College. For Cooray, the friendships and insight she gained from the program were so vital that she volunteered as an ISOP orientation leader the next two years and was one of two paid student coordinators for ISOP 2013. She was recognized for her dedication to the program with a King’s Crown Leadership Excellence Award. “ISOP was definitely one of my more important commitments and has brought me a great sense of accomplishment,” says Cooray.

After graduation, Cooray will be an editorial consultant at Clean Plates before turning her attention to graduate school. For now she’d like to stay in the Big Apple, where she relishes the culinary scene. “I really enjoy good food and good ingredients,” says Cooray. “So coming to New York City was just marvelous.”



Onella Cooray '14



## Marvellous Iheukwumere Runs Toward 2016 Olympics

The 2012 Ivy League Heptagonal Indoor Track and Field Championships occupy a special place in **Marvellous Iheukwumere '14's** memories. The sprinter captured the first of her seven Ivy League titles at the event, hosted that year by Cornell, as she prevailed in the 200-meter dash and helped Columbia win the indoor championships for the first time.

"No matter where I am in life, that will always be something I helped accomplish at Columbia," says Iheukwumere, who was 9 when her family moved from her native Nigeria to Austin, Texas.

As a sophomore, Iheukwumere was named the 2012 Armory College Athlete of the Year for her indoor performance. As a junior, she won all the sprint titles in both the indoor and outdoor Ivy League championships and, at the NYU Team Challenge in January, won the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.46, breaking her own school record. She also received the 2014 Scholar Athlete



Marvellous Iheukwumere '14

Award and 2014 Arthur Ashe Sports Scholar Award.

Excelling in track and field while carrying a full academic load required a balancing act, but Iheukwumere welcomed the challenge when she chose the College. "I wasn't interested in going to a school where my experience would just be centered on sports," she says. "I wanted to expand my academic horizons."

A psychology major, Iheukwumere received a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, awarded each spring to up to five sophomores from underrepresented backgrounds to prepare them for Ph.D. studies. For the remainder of their college career, fellows receive financial support and research training and engage with faculty. The fellowship allowed Iheukwumere to study the relationship between use of the drug ecstasy and cigarette smoking. She found a mentor in Associate Professor of Psychology Carl Hart, the program's faculty coordinator. "It was a great experience," says Iheukwumere. "It's really powerful to produce knowledge and tell people something new."

Eager to inspire others to pursue higher education, Iheukwumere mentored middle school students through Level the Field, a nonprofit started by Erica Woda '04 that connects youth in Washington Heights and East Somerville, Mass., with student-athletes from Columbia and Tufts. For six weeks each fall during her first three years, Iheukwumere visited the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School once a week to help students establish goals and teach them time management strategies and other skills. In turn, the students "taught me to continue to dream," says Iheukwumere, who as a senior recruited and trained fellow Columbians to serve as mentors for Level the Field.

Iheukwumere has pondered a career in the sports industry. Last summer, as an intern in the NBA's facilities and crisis management department, the Miami Heat fan helped devise security plans for various events, including the NBA Draft. After graduation, she will work full-time at the NBA in one of its Associate Programs as well as focus on running with the goal of representing either the United States or Nigeria in the 2016 Olympics. "I don't see that I'm done yet," Iheukwumere says of her running. "I really want to push my potential and get to the ultimate stage of competing."

## Luisa Lizoain Uses College Experience for Urban Exploration

Given **Luisa Lizoain '14's** primary reason for choosing the College — "I was excited about the cultural opportunities New York City provided," she says — it's no surprise that her favorite memories of the Core are the supplemental outings. "When I took Lit Hum, we got tickets to see *Sleep No More* [an interactive retelling of *Macbeth*]; that was definitely a highlight," says Lizoain, who also relished her Art Hum-related visits to the Met.

Lizoain, who majored in urban studies with a focus in sustainable development, also used her time at the College to explore other cities. She spent eight weeks during summer 2012 as an intern at ClearWorld Media, a social media consulting group in Beijing, through Columbia Experience Overseas, a program of the Center for Career Education. ClearWorld Media uses social media to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote its clients. Lizoain managed Facebook, Twitter and other

social media accounts for two of the company's projects, Climate Action and Upcycling, which encourage individuals to reduce their carbon footprints and limit waste. "It was interesting to learn how companies like these [generate] the content they post," says Lizoain. "I hadn't really thought about online branding in that way."

Lizoain spent the Spring 2013 semester at the School of Land and Environment at the University of Melbourne, where she took four courses. She particularly enjoyed "Cities: From Local to Global," an urban planning course that involved excursions to the suburbs of Melbourne to study the use of space and to get local residents' perspectives on what they liked and disliked about their neighborhoods. "The field work forced me to pay attention to elements of the landscape that I might ordinarily take for granted," says Lizoain.

A movie buff who enjoys all genres, Lizoain initially thought

to major in film. Instead, she pursued her interest through electives and the Ferris Reel Film Society, a student group that organizes on-campus screenings for Columbia students for free or at discounted prices. This year, Lizoain, who became president of the group as a junior, helped arrange advanced screenings of *Don Jon* at the 84th Street AMC Theater and of the mid-season premiere of the USA Network drama *Suits* in Roone Arledge Auditorium. The latter included a Q&A with cast members.

"There's a sense of community when students are watching the movies [and TV shows] together; that's been really rewarding," says Lizoain, who was honored as a Senior Marshal. The Toronto native also volunteered with the Global Recruitment Committee beginning in her sophomore year, was an orientation leader for the New Student Orientation Program 2011–13 and co-chaired the 2014 Senior Dinner.

In her last semester, Lizoain interned in the film and television division of Random House, where she evaluated the potential of book manuscripts for motion picture adaptation. In the short term, she plans to pursue a career in film or television production, but has not ruled out attending graduate school for urban studies. "I love them both," she says.



Luisa Lizoain '14

## Darpan Patel Researches Cancer Cell Death Mechanisms

Guaranteed research funding made the College an easy choice for **Darpan Patel '14**. A biology major, he was among the select few admitted to the I.I. Rabi Scholars Program as incoming first-years on the basis of "exceptional promise in the sciences." As a Rabi Scholar, Patel received stipends and free housing for three summers while he researched cell death mechanisms with Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and Chemistry Brent Stockwell.

Broadly speaking, Patel's research sought ways to kill cancer cells while avoiding the recurrence of the disease seen with conventional therapies. Most current treatments work by inducing a naturally occurring mechanism known as apoptosis, or programmed cell death. "The problem is that cancers eventually develop resistance to apoptosis," says Patel, whose experiments involved using small molecules — potential treatments — in attempts to destroy cancer cells through non-apoptotic means.

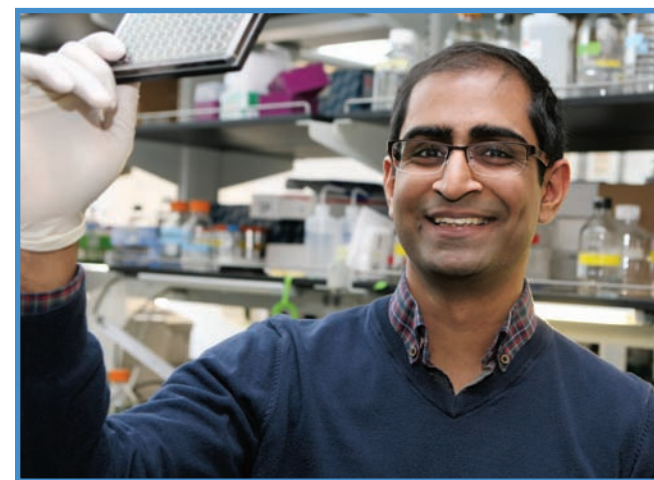
Each fall, as required by the program, Patel shared his summer

work with his fellow scholars at the Rabi Scholars Program Annual Research Symposium. "What I really liked about the Rabi program is that it brought me into contact with people from many disciplines," says Patel, who received the Bridges and Sturtevant Prize in Biological Sciences, awarded every year to a graduating senior for "highly original and fruitful" research.

In his senior year, Patel worked with Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Hazel May to lay the groundwork for an intergenerational mentoring program for Rabi Scholars. He held biweekly office hours during which he fielded questions from first- and second-year Rabi Scholars about life as an undergraduate researcher. He also gave talks to undergrads on such topics as scientific writing and finding the right lab to work in. "It's helpful for them to think about these things early on so they can gauge for themselves whether they are having the best research experience possible," says Patel, who grew up in Morrisville, N.C.

Patel hopes to make the mentoring program available to all Columbia undergraduate science students. He is working toward that goal by continuing his research in Stockwell's lab as well as applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs. In the long run, Patel sees himself as a professor of clinical oncology at a research hospital or medical school. Accordingly, once a week during the spring 2014 semester, he volunteered at the Beth Israel Cancer Center, where he evaluated proposals for clinical trials and shadowed doctors. "I wanted to get an inroad into how clinical research is done, especially cancer clinical trials, and, more generally, get a better notion of how cancer patient-doctor interactions work," says Patel.

Also in his last semester, Patel gave lectures and created study guides as a teaching assistant for "Molecular Biology," co-taught by James Manley, the Julian Clarence Levi Professor of the Life Sciences, and Jennifer Punt, assistant professor of pathology and cell biology at the Columbia Medical Center. "I learned an astronomical amount during the last semester, just in terms of how differently people think about [scientific] problems and how valuable that is," Patel says.



Darpan Patel '14



## Kai Schultz Pursues Law, Writing and Human Rights



Kai Schultz '14

From a nonprofit internship to literary research to extracurricular activities, **Kai Schultz '14** used his time in the College to explore LGBT issues from a variety of angles.

Among his most informative experiences, he says, was an internship with the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT and AIDS/HIV Project in the spring of his sophomore year, which entailed summarizing legal cases the nonprofit was considering for representation. He also was involved with the organization's "Don't Filter Me" project, which aimed to stop public schools from using web filtering software that blocks access to sites containing positive LGBT-related information. His experience at the ACLU "solidified my interest in going to law school," says Schultz, who now is a paralegal at a boutique securities litigation firm in Manhattan.

An English major, Schultz spent summer 2013 in London, where he conducted research on homoeroticism in Matthew

Lewis' *The Monk* and other 18th-century Gothic texts. He studied one of Lewis' unfinished manuscripts, *The Effusions of Sensibility*, at the Victoria and Albert Museum. "[*The Monk*] treats homosexuality in more careful terms compared to its depiction of other transgressive sexualities," says Schultz, who concluded that "Lewis was thinking carefully about how to inscribe homoeroticism into the text without specifically calling attention to something that resonated in his personal life."

A \$4,000 Richmond B. Williams Traveling Fellowship, awarded by the Department of English and Comparative Literature to English majors in their junior year, covered Schultz's travel and living expenses. While in London, Schultz started the website Let Me Speak (letmespeakproject.com), where he showcases "the diversity of queer life in urban spaces" through interviews with members of the LGBT community. He now conducts interviews with LGBT New Yorkers. "It's been a great way to meet people and to develop my writing in other ways," says Schultz.

Schultz, whose long-term plan is to "combine my interests in law, writing and human rights," was president of the Columbia chapter of Amnesty International in his senior year. The student group organizes events such as speaker panels and film screenings that are centered on a semester-long theme — for Spring 2014, it was transgender awareness — and other human rights issues espoused by Amnesty International.

Schultz, who grew up in the Phoenix suburb of Gilbert and now calls Scottsdale home, was drawn to the Core and New York City. In his first year, he joined the Undergraduate Recruitment Committee and began leading campus tours and hosting prospective students through the Lunch and Overnight Visits program and Days on Campus. As a URC member, he also interviewed prospective students in conjunction with the Alumni Representative Committee.

Schultz was a member of the URC Advisory Board in his senior year, during which he was responsible for coordinating all campus tours. "You learn to articulate your thoughts much better when you are in front of a group of people and have to talk about the school," says Schultz of his experience as a tour guide. "It's definitely one of the activities I'm going to miss the most."

## Finn Vigeland Has the Right Word for Just About Anything

**Finn Vigeland '14** was just a few weeks into his College career when, in October 2010, *The New York Times* published one of his crosswords. Though he attained at an early age what is considered the holy grail of crossword puzzling — and he's had two more puzzles published in the *Times* since — Vigeland is hardly complacent. "It's fun to try to get a word or phrase in that hasn't appeared in the *Times* puzzle," he says.

Vigeland, who was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and grew up in Westchester, first submitted a crossword to the *Times* in 2008. Crossword editor Will Shortz rejected it but suggested ways to improve the puzzle and invited Vigeland to compete in the Westchester Crossword Puzzle Tournament. Shortz organizes the annual event, followed by a reception at his area home.

Vigeland's interest in crosswords began in earnest when he

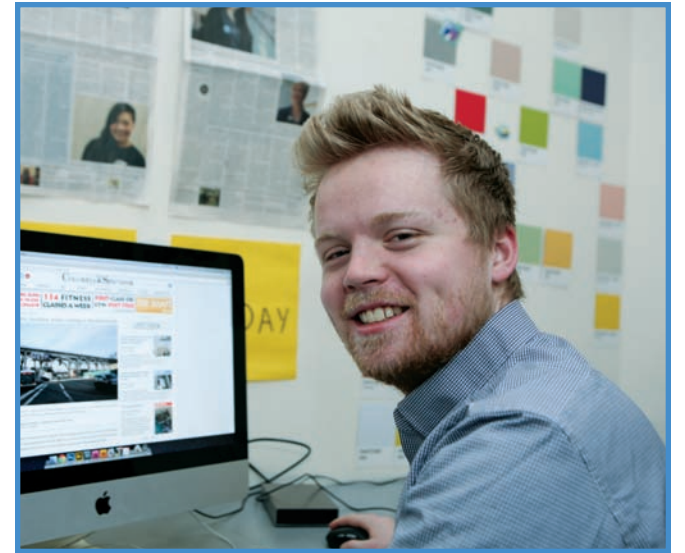
saw *Wordplay*, a 2006 documentary about the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, which was founded by Shortz in 1978. (Vigeland has twice competed in the event, most recently in March, when he finished 246th among 580 competitors.) The DVD extras, which include interviews with crossword constructors, inspired Vigeland to create his own puzzles. "It's important to have an aesthetic grid but it's very much a science of getting interlocking letters to fall into place," says Vigeland, who also has had a crossword published in *The New York World*, the Journalism School's online newspaper, and another in *Twenty Under 30*, a collection of puzzles by constructors under the age of 30.

Up until his last semester, when he was not in class or constructing a puzzle — his collection of unpublished crosswords is "sizeable" — Vigeland often could be found in the *Spectator* office, where he was managing editor for a year beginning in

December 2012. "It's mind-blowing to me that at the ages of 20 and 21, I was responsible for something I like to think had a big impact on people's lives around campus and around the city," says Vigeland, who as city news editor in 2012 reported from President Barack Obama '83's election night rally in Chicago.

An urban studies major who chose the College largely because of the Core, Vigeland envisions a career in transportation planning. As a historical franchise intern last summer with the New York City Department of Transportation, he helped digitize the city's centuries-old utility company contracts for internal use. Using his knowledge of geographic information systems, he laid the groundwork for a database that allows users to search for contracts by keyword or by clicking on a map of the city.

A biking enthusiast, Vigeland hopes to find work that allows him to build upon the alternative transportation initiatives enacted by the Bloomberg administration. "I really think [they] moved the city in the positive direction of promoting more cycling and walking and less reliance on cars," says Vigeland. "I would love to work in a field that allows me to promote these policies and make them better."



Finn Vigeland '14

## Kalena Zimmerman Spreads the Columbia Gospel to Hawaii

As she was planning Perspectives in Diversity and Days on Campus this spring as co-chair and programming coordinator for the Multicultural Recruitment Committee (MRC), **Kalena Zimmerman '14** paused to reflect on her time in the College. "I've come full circle, as these are the programs that got me to pick Columbia," she says.

As an incoming student, Zimmerman traveled from her hometown of Hilo, Hawaii, for the overnight visit programs, held each April. "I really enjoyed the atmosphere," recalls Zimmerman, a Kluge Scholar. "I wanted to experience four years in a place where I didn't know anyone and I would have to find myself."

As a member of MRC, Zimmerman also interviewed prospective students in collaboration with the Alumni Representative Committee (ARC) and contributed to a college application guide expected to be available online to the Class of 2019. Designed with first-generation students in mind, it includes a timeline. "The idea is to spread everything out so they know what is coming," says

Zimmerman, the first member of her household to go to college.

From November 2012 until she graduated, Zimmerman also was an outreach intern with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, which entailed corresponding with prospective students and leading campus tours and information sessions for groups from local schools and community organizations. Zimmerman, who is part native Hawaiian on her mother's side, contributed to recruitment efforts by helping to establish relationships with community organizations that reach indigenous populations in her home state.

Zimmerman was a liaison between Admissions and two student groups: Mālama Hawaii and the Native American Council. As a junior, she helped revive the former, which celebrates the islands' culture through an annual luau and other activities. During her first three years in the College, Zimmerman also helped plan and promote the Native American Council's annual Powwow and Native American Heritage Month.

Strengthening the Native American and native Hawaiian communities at Columbia "has been my biggest goal here," says Zimmerman, who as a senior mentored a Native American student raised in Hawaii through the Columbia Mentoring Initiative, a program of the Office of Multicultural Affairs that pairs first-years with upperclassmen. She received a King's Crown Leadership Excellence Award for her support of current and prospective students and for fostering a "diverse, tolerant, and inclusive community" on campus.

Zimmerman, who also was honored as a Senior Marshal, majored in East Asian languages and cultures and wrote her senior thesis on tourism marketing techniques in Hawaii, Japan and South Korea. Among her favorite memories of her College years is writing a paper for Art Hum on Pieter Bruegel's *The Harvesters* while sitting in front of the painting at the Met. "I loved that Columbia allows students to learn from the city," she says.

Zimmerman plans to return to Hawaii to share her knowledge of college admissions with indigenous and first-generation high school students. "I want to work with students to give them the opportunities I was given," she says.



Kalena Zimmerman '14

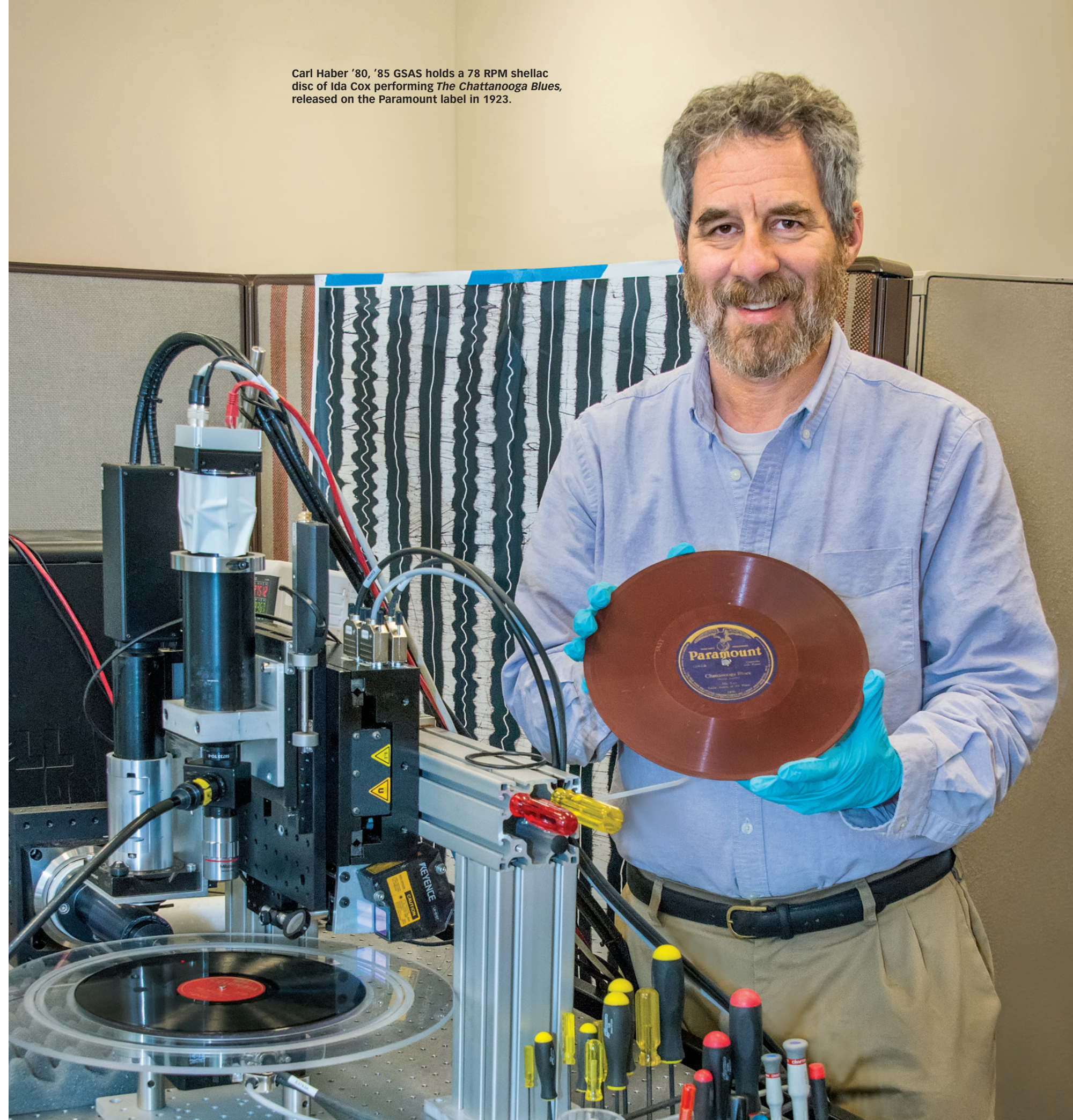


# In the Groove

*Particle physicist  
Carl Haber '80, '85 GSAS  
preserves sounds of the past*

BY DAVID MCKAY WILSON  
PHOTOS: BERKELEY LAB - ROY KALTSCHMIDT

Carl Haber '80, '85 GSAS holds a 78 RPM shellac disc of Ida Cox performing *The Chattanooga Blues*, released on the Paramount label in 1923.





Particle physicist Carl Haber '80, '85 GSAS was listening to National Public Radio one day in 2000 when he heard Grateful Dead percussionist Mickey Hart discussing the problems inherent in audio preservation. Many early 20th-century recordings used primitive technology, with the sound etched in media such as wax cylinders, metal or shellac, and had become so fragile that playing one with a stylus could destroy the historical artifact.

Haber, whose day job has him designing instrumentation that detect the positions of sub-atomic particles to an accuracy of a few thousandths of a millimeter, wondered if he might adapt those imaging techniques to read the hills and valleys of sound encoded in the grooves of those centuries-old surfaces.

"I just thought: We've been doing optical measurements in the lab, which were ultra-clean, ultra-precise, and done with light and imaging," says Haber, a senior scientist at the federal Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, located adjacent to UC Berkeley, where he has worked since doing his post-doctoral work in physics there in 1985. "I decided to investigate the scale of measurement needed."

At a used book store, Haber found the classic text *Acoustical Engineering*, by Harry Olson, a pioneer of acoustical engineering, which confirmed that an imaging instrument in his lab was precise enough for the task. Then he did some moonlighting with a

colleague, Vitaliy Fadeyev, to determine if the images could be translated into sound.

By 2002, they were ready. It was time to see if digital maps — gleaned from the surfaces of the recordings without contact — could produce genuine sound. Fadyev wrote a program to scan a few revolutions of a shellac disc, taking the analog version of the music and creating a digital data file that could be converted into sound. The test case: a 78 rpm pressing of the Weavers' 1950s hit, *Goodnight, Irene*.

"It was one of those moments," Haber recalls. "It actually worked!"

Haber's manner of retrieving sound from old recordings was a breakthrough in the field of audio restoration. His technology, developed in association with the Library of Congress, has since proved successful in helping bring to life sound from the oldest known recording of the human voice, made 154 years ago. It also worked to reveal the only known recording of Alexander Graham Bell's voice and to reconstruct the voices and instrumentation that were embedded in tinfoil in 1878 by a machine developed by Thomas Edison — the oldest recording of an American voice. The technology can also mitigate damage to recordings, helping to produce clearer sound.

Haber's first trial took an hour of measurement to produce

one second of sound. He and Berkeley Lab colleague Earl Cornell subsequently created a scanning device called IRENE — Image, Reconstruct, Erase Noise, Etc. — to make the process more efficient. Twelve years later the technology has progressed significantly, enabling the development of optical scanning systems that cost about \$200,000. Such systems are now used in Berkeley, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the Roja Muthiah Research Library in Chennai, India. A scanning system was installed in December at the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Mass., which makes the technology available on a fee-for-service basis.

Haber's research received a huge boost in 2013, when he was tapped as one of 24 recipients of a \$625,000 award through the MacArthur Foundation's MacArthur Fellows program. MacArthur fellows don't apply for the so-called "genius grants" but rather are selected for their work, and for the potential for developing it further, and are given an income stream of \$125,000 a year for five years.

Archivists estimate that up to one million recordings could benefit from the technology, with the sounds transferred into digital files. They include field recordings of linguistic and cultural importance, primary recordings of musicians and poets, speeches by historical figures, radio broadcasts, public and private dictation, and recordings made by world leaders.

Haber recalled the day he got the call of a lifetime from the MacArthur Foundation. It came three weeks before the award, as the foundation prepared its promotional materials.

"I really didn't know what to say when I got the call," he says. "All I could think of was what fun the person making the calls was having. It was the opposite of a parking meter officer. Instead of ruining someone's day, that person was making mine."

Haber, who grew up in Flushing, Queens, entered the Engineering School in 1976, thinking that he might want to design prosthetic devices for amputees. But that all changed after taking a Core Curriculum class taught by a doctoral candidate who was studying the epistemology of quantum theory. Haber became enthralled by this area of physics, which explores the physical behaviors of matter at the molecular, atomic and sub-atomic levels.

He started reading quantum theory on the side, and couldn't put it down. By the end of his freshman year, Haber was so enthralled by the subject that he transferred to the College to major in physics. That summer, he landed a job in the Columbia lab of a researcher who was carrying out experiments in the low-temperature properties of liquid helium.

There, he met Chien-Shiung Wu, a renowned physics professor. Wu took Haber under her wing, and he worked in her lab in the basement of Pupin Hall for three years as she conducted experiments in "parity violation effects," which showed that certain physical phenomena are not symmetric. Soon after earning his

undergraduate degree, he began his graduate studies in physics at Columbia.

"I fell in with these people," Haber says of the department's students and faculty. "It was a hospitable place to be."

He continued to research under the tutelage of physics professor Michael Shaevitz, now the director of Columbia's Nevis Laboratories in Irvington, N.Y., who was his thesis adviser. By 1982, Haber was collaborating with Shaevitz on high-energy experiments at Fermilab, the federal research center in Batavia, Ill. Haber's thesis experiment involved the search for the trans-

formations of neutrinos, which are sub-atomic particles that had been assumed to be massless, traveling at the speed of light.

"He was my first graduate student — and a really great student," says Shaevitz. "If there were some new idea, and I didn't understand it, I'd say, 'Hey, Carl, can you research that and write me a paper on it?'"

In the field of particle physics, Haber has made his name building instruments. While his graduate work focused on data analysis, his thesis project included the study of detectors used to measure the intensity of the neutrino beam at Fermilab.

His experiment, however, did not locate the effect for which he was searching.

"Twenty years later, the effect was observed, but not in the region in which we were looking," he says. "It turns out, at very, very low energy, you could see it. We were just not looking in the right place. It's like if you were taking an opinion poll and you wanted to see how Republicans felt about an issue, you could be waiting for a very long time if you were asking in Berkeley. You should have been in Sacramento."

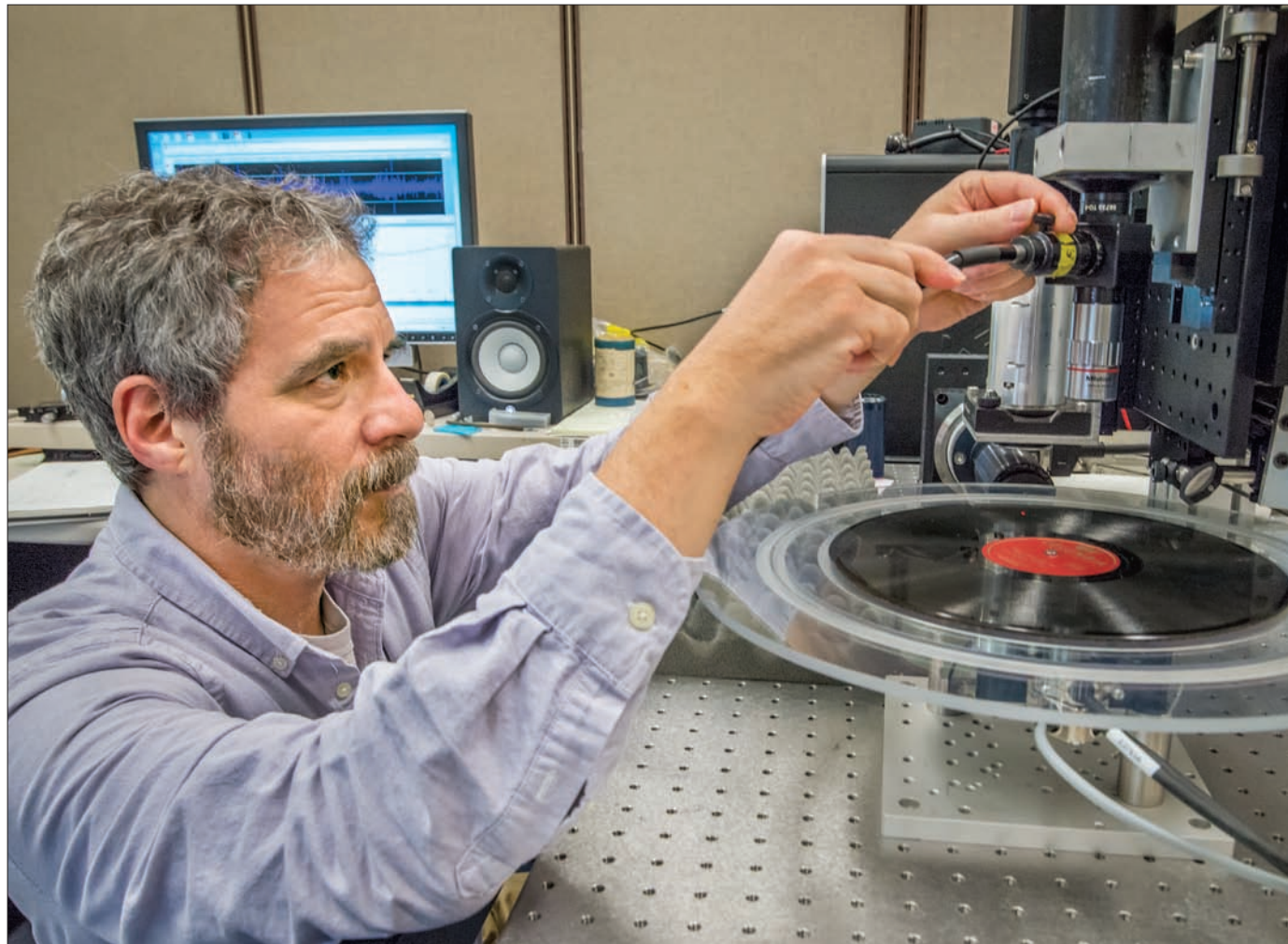
Haber headed west for his post-doctoral work, becoming the latest in a long line of Columbia physicists to go to Berkeley Lab. There, he joined a research team led by William Chinowsky '49, '55 GSAS and Bill Carithers, who had been a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia in the

1970s. Their team was working on developing a collider detector for Fermilab, which at the time was directed by Leon Lederman '51 GSAS, a former Columbia professor who shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1988.

Haber's team developed a device to track the trajectories of sub-atomic particles created in high-energy collisions. It was like a 3D camera that could create images of the particle tracks as they emerged from the collisions — at a precision of 10 microns, or 10 millionths of a meter. "Being able to obtain that level of precision was the starting point also for thinking about understanding grooved sound recordings, where the groove undulates again on a scale of microns encoding the recorded sound," says Haber.

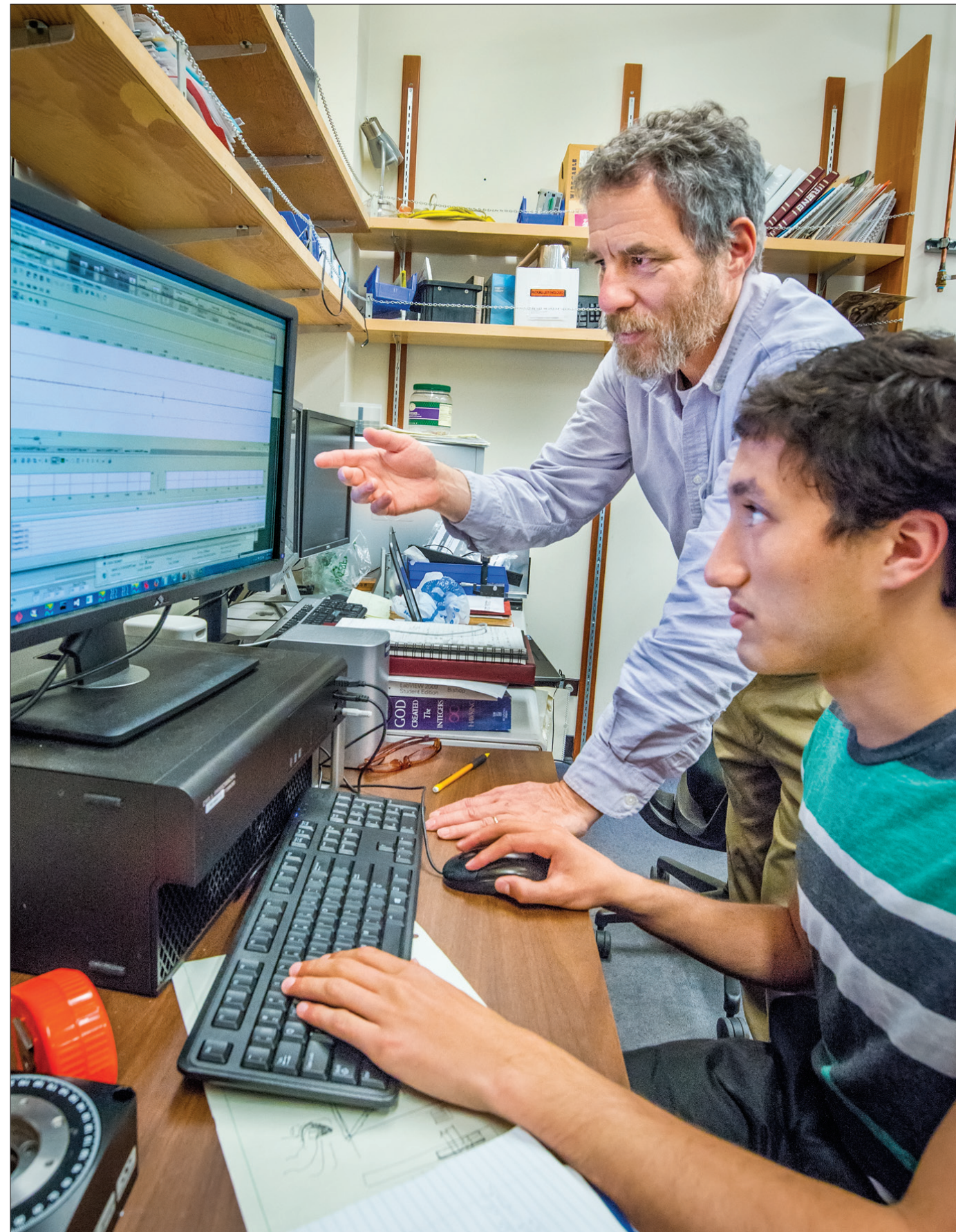
Haber keeps in touch with his Columbia physics colleagues, including Shaevitz and professor Michael Tuts. Haber designed the invitation for the bar mitzvahs of both of Shaevitz's sons and, at Tuts' invitation, presented a colloquium on his audio preservation work at Columbia in late March.

*Haber's manner of retrieving sound from old recordings was a breakthrough in the field of audio restoration. His technology, developed in association with the Library of Congress, has since proved successful in bringing to life sound from the oldest known recording of the human voice, made 154 years ago.*



It is estimated that up to one million recordings could benefit from the technology Haber developed.





Haber says he has an open mind as to ways in which the MacArthur grant will benefit his work.

Haber is collaborating with Tuts — and 3,000 other physicists from 178 institutions in 38 countries — on an experiment taking place at the CERN Large Hadron Collider near Geneva. Haber has helped design the system, which is 10 stories and uses silicon electronics to detect the sub-atomic particles that are set free by the collision of protons at close to the speed of light.

Tuts says that Haber maintains a steady hand in the high-stakes research. “He’s very calm,” says Tuts, “and he’s very thoughtful in the tools he needs to develop.”

Haber also visits the class of UC Berkeley Professor of Physics Saul Perlmutter, a colleague at Berkeley Lab, as a guest lecturer in his popular class on the physics of music. “There’s a huge physics component to music,” says Haber, “but there are also ideas of [personal artistic] expression.”

**I**n 2003 — when Haber first contacted the Library of Congress about his findings — audio preservationists had a limited range of options for the restoration of mechanical sound carriers. Discs or cylinders composed of shellac, wax, lacquer or metal, which were not otherwise too fragile or broken, could be played back with professional grade turntables and a range of styli and cartridges. An optical laser turntable existed but was useful mainly for vinyl LPs that were in very good condition.

Peter Alyea, a digital conversation specialist at the library, read Haber’s paper explaining his breakthrough. Alyea’s father was a physicist as well, so Alyea had an inkling of what Haber was developing.

There were concerns, however, among others at the library. While the institution had purchased tools to assist in its preservation work, it rarely supported research that would require designing a tool like the optical device Haber had proposed.

“It was worth the risk,” Alyea says. “No one was building the tools we needed to solve our problem. There was no guarantee that Carl’s idea would solve everything. But it seemed like it would be useful for frail and damaged recordings, and it could be used as a tool for analysis. The advantage was that if we hit any of these, it would be useful.”

Haber says the MacArthur funding will help extend his work into areas not supported by his current grants, which are targeted at specific collections. “The MacArthur grant is spread across five years, so it can help with flexibility,” he says. “I have an open mind. I don’t know what other ideas will come up. I’ll take it one step at a time.”

Of particular interest to Haber are the Alexander Graham Bell-Volta Laboratory Collection at the Smithsonian, late 19th- and early 20th-century recordings made in the field by ethnographers who documented the folklore and language of Native Americans, and the Milman Parry Collection of 3,000 recordings from the former Yugoslavia, which includes songs, poetry and epic tales that were passed down through oral tradition.

Then there’s Alan Lomax’s vast collection of folk songs, recorded in the hills of Appalachia and in the Deep South during

the 1930s, which are stored at the Library of Congress and at Columbia. Many of the recordings were etched into aluminum.

“There are huge amounts of stuff on discs and on cylinders,” Haber says. “I want to develop a more systematic campaign to make the transfers.”

Haber’s emergence as a leader in the field of audio preservation, including historical musical recordings, combines his scientific prowess with his interest in the arts and his knack for building. At Columbia, he dived into both science and the arts. Even as he pursued his doctorate in physics, he continued studying in the School of the Arts under print-maker Robert Blackburn.

In one of his art classes Haber caught the eye of an undergraduate, Elizabeth McCoy ’83 Barnard, and they became friends. They went their separate ways upon her graduation, only to meet three years later in Berkeley; she’d moved back home after spending three years teaching English in the Central African Republic, and he was ensconced at Berkeley Lab. One day, in the heart of town, at the corner of Euclid and Hearst Avenues, their paths crossed. By 1998, they were married. They live in Berkeley with their children, Theodore (14) and Lena (12).

Haber likes to work with his hands, be it drawing on a sketch pad or working in his garage woodshop building cabinets and furniture for his family’s home.

This winter the workshop was also a place to explore the world of sound and physics with Theodore, whose physics teacher assigned a project in which students were asked to build a musical instrument that played a scale in the key of C. Theodore turned to his father for help. First, Haber consulted with his brother-in-law, Roger Waxler ’86 GSAS, a research scientist at the National Center for Physical Acoustics at Mississippi. Then Haber dug out another textbook by Olson, whose

writings had served as a foundation for his audio preservation invention.

Haber and his son bought pieces of 1/8-inch aluminum, measured the lengths that would deliver the precise tone and mounted them. They struck the bars, which resonated in what they asserted was the C scale.

But the teacher sent the project back for revisions, saying the notes weren’t in the right key. When Haber measured the bars’ thickness, he discovered that the aluminum strips were actually 10 percent thinner than advertised, which had thrown off the calculations. They ground off two or three millimeters from each bar. They had their C scale.

“In these projects, you need to measure everything,” Haber says. “We discovered physics actually works.”



**David McKay Wilson**, a public affairs columnist at The Journal News in White Plains, N.Y., has written for Columbia College Today and TC Today since 2007. His CCT stories have included profiles of U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, ’76L and former New York Gov. David Paterson ’77, and a look at the Class of 2015.



Restaurateur Mauro Maccioni '95 prepares his family's famous pasta primavera — a dish invented by his father, Sirio, in 1975 — tableside during lunch at Osteria del Circo.

PHOTO: NATALIE KEYSSAR

# A Savory Tradition

*Mauro Maccioni '95, youngest son of “the first family of fine dining,” keeps making food lovers smile*

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

It's lunchtime on a humid summer Tuesday and a suit-and-tied Mauro Maccioni '95 is seated in a harlequin-patterned chair in the dining room of Osteria del Circo, the Midtown West restaurant inspired by his mother Egidiana's Tuscan home cooking. He's been back from Italy for less than a day, but defies any jet lag to watch over the flow of service beneath a ceiling adorned with trapezes and silhouettes of simian acrobats. The whimsical décor continues the circus theme conceived by his father, Sirio, for the family's first venture, the renowned French restaurant Le Cirque.



With the elder Maccioni now in his 80s, Mauro and his older, NYU-educated brothers, Mario and Marco, have taken over the family business and expanded it into a global restaurant empire. In the process, they've turned the Maccionis into what celebrity chef Anne Burrell has called "the first family of fine dining." Although they run a much bigger operation, the brothers, like Sirio, pride themselves on being visible, hands-on restaurateurs who tend to all aspects of the business, from employee management to hosting and, in the case of the culinary-inclined Mauro, menu planning.

"When you put a smile on people's faces and they say, 'Ah, the food is great. I want to come back,' you can go home and sleep



The Maccionis at home (top, left to right, Mario, Mauro, Sirio, Egidiana and Marco) and at Le Cirque.

PHOTOS: TOP, COURTESY MAURO MACCIONI '95; BOTTOM, SABRINA WENDER

well. Your feet may be tired, but it's very satisfying," says Mauro, who was a toddler in 1974 when Le Cirque opened at the Mayfair Hotel on East 65th Street, and less than a year removed from the College when Circo opened in January 1996. The family's third New York City restaurant, Sirio Ristorante, opened in October 2012 at The Pierre hotel. Maccioni Restaurant Group also operates three restaurants in Las Vegas, two at the Casa de Campo resort in the Dominican Republic and a growing number of ventures in India and the United Arab Emirates. Holland America Line also offers the dining experience "An Evening at Le Cirque" on its cruise ships.

That the Maccioni brothers would become enamored of the restaurant business seems inevitable, especially for Mauro, whose formative years coincided with the heyday of Le Cirque. Back then, Frank Sinatra, Woody Allen, Richard Nixon, Jackie Onassis or Nancy and Ronald Reagan could drop in on any given night and order the house's signature paupiette of black bass. Many of Mauro's childhood Saturdays were spent serving coffee and refreshments to the restaurant's elite patrons.

While Sirio has said he envisioned his sons becoming "a lawyer, a doctor and an architect," Mauro doesn't buy that his father wanted them to pursue other careers. "He always jokingly said, 'I didn't send you guys to NYU and Columbia for you to sell soup,'" says Mauro. "And then all three of us went into this business of selling soup — very good soup — but selling soup."

Born and raised in New York City, Mauro traces his passion for food not to Le Cirque but to a 1982 family trip to Europe. "After spending time in France, eating the croissants, the amazing butters and marmalades, I fell in love with food," says Mauro, then 10. His teenage memories include strolling into the Le Cirque kitchen after school with a basketball tucked under his arm and asking chef Daniel Boulud, now a world-renowned restaurateur, to make him a burger. Boulud, seafood guru Rick Moonen, Food Network personality Geoffrey Zakarian and chocolatier Jacques Torres are among the star chefs whose careers were launched at Le Cirque.

In contrast with his sons' upbringing, Sirio, recipient of the 2014 James Beard Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, was orphaned by 12. He supported his sister and grandmother by working at a hotel in his Tuscan hometown of Montecatini Terme. Sirio later worked in prestigious hotel restaurants throughout Europe before taking a job on a New York-bound cruise ship in 1956. In the 1960s, he made a name for himself as the maître d' at The Colony, a Manhattan café society restaurant with an A-list clientele. When The Colony closed in 1971, Sirio decided to open his own restaurant, which he named Le Cirque — French for "the circus."

Among the patrons who became fixtures at Le Cirque was the late pioneering television executive Roone Arledge '52, a University trustee who was also an occasional guest at the Maccioni home. "He knew I would be going to college soon and he would tell me, 'You should go to Columbia,'" says Mauro, for whom "being in the city and being able to attend such a pres-



Maccioni reviews the dishes of the day with Osteria del Circo's executive chef, Alfio Longo.

PHOTO: NATALIE KEYSSAR

*At each restaurant, and in particular at Les Crayères, Mauro devoted some days to learning the nuances of being a host and running a dining room. It was the kitchen, however, where he spent most of his time.*

tigious Ivy League school" made the College an obvious choice.

Mauro lived at home on the Upper East Side and drove to campus — "I'm Italian; I'm a mama's boy," he says — though he occasionally crashed with his fraternity brothers at the Kappa Delta Rho house. He also spent considerable time at Dodge Fitness Center playing basketball. Even during his College years, however, Mauro devoted many nights and weekends to Le Cirque. He often would sit in budget meetings, but it was the food aspect that captivated him.

On his own initiative, Mauro spent his college summers in Italy and France, honing his skills through *stages*, or culinary internships, at such Michelin-starred restaurants as Enoteca Pinchiorri in Florence, Les Crayères in Reims and the Hôtel Ritz in Paris. In 2001, he spent a month under chef Juan Mari Arzak's tutelage at Arzak in San Sebastian, Spain, the first restaurant in the Iberian country awarded three Michelin stars.

At each restaurant, and in particular at Les Crayères, Mauro devoted some days to learning the nuances of being a host and running a dining room. It was the kitchen, however, where he spent most of his time. He describes his role as being "an extra pair of hands," and was often asked to help prepare for service

in the mornings by chopping carrots and onions. "As I did that kind of work, I was able to see the plating," says Mauro, who also gained experience at the various kitchen stations, including salads and hot and cold appetizers.

Mauro continues to cultivate his knowledge of Italian cuisine through trips abroad. "I travel throughout Italy to eat at anywhere from three-star Michelin restaurants in Milan to simple *trattorias* [informal restaurants] in Tuscany — all different styles from high to low," he says.

Given his culinary experience, Mauro acts as an in-house food consultant at Circo, working with the chef to design and adjust the menu, plan specials and decide on new ingredients. "Mauro knows more about what food should look and taste like than any of us," says Mario, the eldest of the brothers. "If he has a strength, it would definitely be the food."

Mauro's love of food has long been evident to chef Cesare Casella of New York City's Salumeria Rosi Parmacotto; an authority on Tuscan cuisine, he has known the Maccionis for more than 30 years. Casella notes that of the brothers, Mauro is the most in touch with his Tuscan roots. "His passion was not only to be a restaurateur like his father but also to be knowledgeable about food



and international cuisine. He respects simplicity and has great respect for the food that he provides to his customers."

Mauro also has a reputation for sparing no efforts when he cooks for friends and family, including his 8-year-old daughter, Stella. "You would think a guy who works in a restaurant five or six days a week, on his day off, the last thing he would want to do is cook. But that's what he does," says Mario, who praises Mauro's seafood pastas and marvels at the time his youngest brother will devote to stuffing calamari or zucchini blossoms. "He goes crazy, makes a huge mess and everyone has a great meal."

Mauro grew up playing with dough and making sundaes with Marisa May, daughter of Tony May, the Italian restaurateur behind former New York institution San Domenico. The father-daughter team currently owns SD26 near Madison Square Park, a modern spin-off of their original restaurant. "If Mauro cooks for

draws most of its patrons from the upper echelon of society but Mauro believes its diners still seek the luxury associated with classic French fine dining. "If I was a customer, I'd go to all the other trendier places for variations on tuna and things like that. Le Cirque, for me, is about caviar and champagne, Dover sole and soufflé," says Mauro. Nonetheless, he recognizes the need to adapt to a changing culinary industry. "It's difficult to maintain that 'edge' with the journalists, the media and customers. We think we do a pretty good job at it. We go around. We visit all the restaurants. We're pretty involved trying to keep the younger edge."

The balancing act manifests itself at Le Cirque's latest incarnation, at the Bloomberg Building on East 58th Street, where it relocated in 2006. (After shuttering its original location in 1996, the restaurant operated as Le Cirque 2000 at the Villard Houses in

*Keeping the Maccioni brand current while preserving Le Cirque is part and parcel of the brothers' challenge.*

me and other friends, it's always Italian, not French," says Marisa May. "He realizes what authentic Italian flavors are and which ingredients are top-of-the-line, which is extremely important when you are cooking Italian food because it's not worked like French food, where you simmer sauces for hours."

When it came to burgers, May notes, Mauro's taste was not limited to those made by Boulud: "If we were allowed to, we would love to go to McDonald's and have quarter pounders with cheese, which would make our parents pull out their hair."

**M**auro eases into a typical work day with a cappuccino at Circo around 10 a.m., followed by an informal meeting with the chef. Most days he devotes entirely to Circo. Other days, after touching base with Circo's general manager and checking reservations, he'll spend the early afternoon assessing things at Sirio, Le Cirque or both. Still an avid basketball player, if he's not spending time with Stella after school, he's at the gym shooting hoops before returning to one of the three restaurants for dinner service.

The responsibilities among the Maccioni brothers are divided in a way that, in Mauro's words, keeps them "out of each other's hair." While Mauro is hands-on at Circo and plays a supervisory role at Sirio, Marco is more focused on Le Cirque. Until recently, Mario lived in Las Vegas and oversaw the family's restaurants there. "It is quite a headache," says Mauro of running a business with his parents and siblings. "It does compromise the family relationships, but we all love each other very much and we make it work. It is not an easy thing. Sometimes my brothers and I see things quite differently."

Each of the brothers has carved a niche within the business. Mario considers himself "back-of-the-house and employee-oriented," while Marco's forte is service and wine programs. The culinary side is Mauro's territory. "Mauro is side by side with the chefs of all these restaurants, not trying to micromanage them but definitely having his input," says Mario.

Keeping the Maccioni brand current while preserving Le Cirque is part and parcel of the brothers' challenge. The restaurant enjoyed its prime at a time when New York City's dining scene was much smaller, and now faces competition from the city's seemingly endless food options. Le Cirque no longer

the Palace Hotel 1997–2004.) Jackets and an ample budget are still required in Le Cirque's main dining room, but not at the adjoining Le Cirque Café, which according to Mauro, "is based on the principle of a simpler presentation of food at a more moderate price point."

May underscores how difficult yet crucial it is for a restaurateur in Mauro's position to strike the right balance between tradition and innovation. "He had to reinvent his father's concept, like I had to at SD26," she says. "Taking the torch and taking it to another level and bringing in a new generation — but not forgetting the past — is what helps him be such a successful restaurateur."

The Maccionis' willingness to evolve with the industry is evidenced by a foray into reality television. The family accepted a proposal to conduct a search for an executive chef for Circo Abu Dhabi, expected to open later this year, on the Food Network show *Chef Wanted with Anne Burrell*; each episode features four contestants competing for a position at a different top restaurant. Mauro represented his family in their episode, which aired in August 2013. "The industry has changed; I've gotten a lot of feedback from people who saw the show. They recognize me," he says. "Not that I'm a star now, but for business it definitely makes a difference, puts you on the map. It helps the brand."

Mauro's "all-in" approach to the restaurant business, whether he's in front of a camera, designing a menu or observing service from a back table at Circo, has earned him the praise of his family. "There are people who do this because they have to do it and they want to bring home a paycheck," says Mario. "[Mauro] really throws himself into it — both food and marketing. He eats it up. He's very passionate. Not to say that the rest of us aren't passionate, but he's the one who gets all bent out of shape when something isn't right."

For someone who once advised his children to pursue other paths, Sirio lauds his youngest son's passion. "Mauro is good because he's never happy," says Sirio. "He's always after the chefs: 'We should do more, we should do this.' And that's how a really good restaurant guy should be."

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

# Alumni News

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Workers prepare for the 1926 Commencement, as seen from the Low Steps. The Sundial's sphere is still in place and Butler Library has yet to be built, leaving an unbroken view of Morningside Heights.

PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

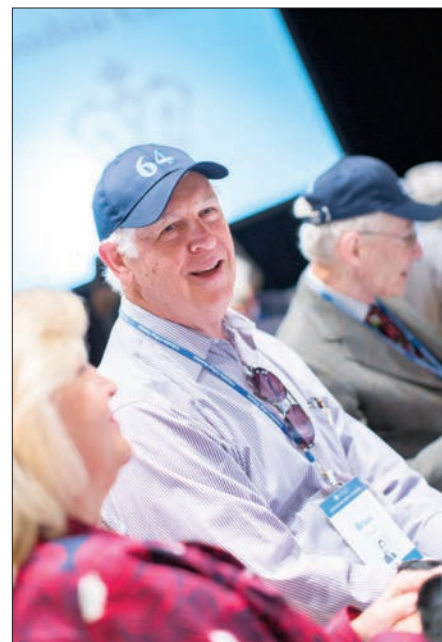




# At Reunion and Dean's Day, Alumni Reconnect and Reminisce

*Nearly 1,500 alumni caught up with old friends and relived their classroom experience at Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2014*

BY LISA PALLADINO



**A**lmost 1,500 College alumni and more than 700 guests returned to campus and to venues throughout New York City May 29–June 1 for Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2014. Gathering this year were classes that end in 4 and 9, and all alumni were invited to Saturday's Dean's Day, which offered Talks Across Campus and Mini-Core Courses that recreated the educational experience that bonds all alumni.

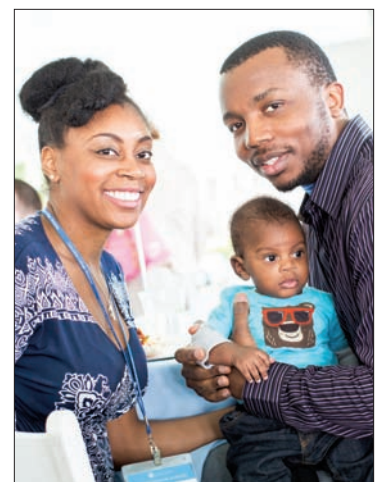
Among the weekend's other highlights were class-specific panels, receptions and dinners; the Young Alumni Party aboard the *U.S.S. Intrepid*; Dean James J. Valentini's Continental Breakfast and Address; and two perennial favorites, the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception. At Valentini's address, Jonathan Sobel '88 was presented the President's Cup, awarded annually to an alumnus/a for contributions to his or her class' reunion the previous year. Sobel co-chaired his 25th Reunion Committee.

Gifts to the Columbia College Fund are an important part of reunion, and as of June 6, the Class of 1964 was on the verge of \$6 million in gifts and pledges, which would tie it with the Class of 1963 for a 50th reunion record, and the Class of 1989 was approaching its goal of 70 John Jay Associate-level donors (\$1,500 or more), which if reached would set a record for leadership gifts in a 25th reunion.

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

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Opposite: The Young Alumni Party aboard the *U.S.S. Intrepid*; a proud member of the 50th reunion class. This page, clockwise from top left: Dean James J. Valentini addresses members of the Class of 1989 at a dinner; catching up during Saturday lunch on South Lawn; many weekend attendees bring their families; Professor Susan Pedersen lectures on the League of Nations; balloons and banners festoon campus; mugging for the camera at an outdoor photo booth before the Starlight Reception.

PHOTOS: SCOTT RUDD/  
SCOTTRUDDVENTS.COM

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## MESSAGE FROM CCAA PRESIDENT KYRA TIRANA BARRY '87

## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

As alumni, or former students as Dean James J. Valentini often calls us, many of us share a desire to advocate for current students to ensure that their Columbia experiences are as meaningful as ours were. This support takes many forms. Many of us volunteer as a way to connect with students and stay up to date on campus life and activities. However, another, and even easier, way to support current students is simply to take an interest in their lives — read *Spectator* or browse through stories on Bwog.

In the Spring 2014 CCT we were treated to an in-depth look at the Varsity Show; the issue was rich with stories of former and current students, and it helped connect alumni to life on campus. For this issue, let's shift our focus to athletics. At the final Board of Directors meeting of the 2012–14 term, Director of Athletics M. Dianne Murphy briefed us on CU athletics and challenged board members to a trivia contest, with Columbia Blue gear as prizes. For us proud alumni, it was a fun way to test how vigilant we have been about staying up to date on student news. I am happy to offer the same opportunity to you, and the first four alumni who can correctly name these four teams will also win Columbia Blue gear (send your answers to ccalumni@columbia.edu).

- Which Columbia team has won the Ivy League Championship three of the last seven seasons?
- Which Columbia team this year became the second in Ivy League history to move to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament?
- Which Columbia team finished its dual meet season 7–0, compiling its first undefeated dual meet season?
- Which team has the most all-time Ivy League championships in its sport (second is Penn/Princeton with 14)?

Another important area for undergraduates is the Center for Student Advising (CSA). Dean Monique Rinere reviewed the recent four-year report with the board and it's safe to say that the CSA — and our alumni, who volunteer their time — provide an invaluable resource to students. We are proud of the progress the College is making in this area. The adviser/advisee ratio at the CSA has been reduced and the program is consistently reaching and serving more students in a meaningful way. The CSA has done a remarkable job recognizing and being responsive to the changing needs of students. The CCAA board will remain involved with CSA so that we can achieve the excellence that Columbians expect and deserve in this important area.

While many of us want to know how we can better advocate for current students, I have spent the past three years pondering a similar thought: How can the CCAA better support and advocate for *you*? The goal seemed simple enough — find out what alumni want and give it to them. But what *do* we want? As is typically the case, the answer proved to be much more complex than the question. The more alumni we talked to, the more different answers we heard. We realized that — in true Columbia form — we are an incredibly diverse group! We want different things — from the simplest aspect of alumni engagement to the most complex — partly because of who we are, but also because of where we

live, what stage of life we are in and how Columbia College had an impact on us.

As the board continues to ask questions and collect responses, we know that we will need to become more dynamic and responsive, and include more alumni volunteers in our expanding network. To that end, we have already made several important changes to the CCAA board for the 2014–16 term in order to better represent the diverse voices among our alumni population.

Reflective of our population's growing geographic diversity, our new president, Doug Wolf '88, is not from the tri-state area — a happy coincidence considering our increasing efforts to engage alumni outside of NYC. I pass the torch to Doug, who lives in the Boston area, with excitement and gratitude, knowing that he will carry us even further beyond the point on the horizon where, three years ago, I envisioned we'd be today.

We have reorganized our committees to focus on four important areas: the ongoing Intellectual Experience of alumni; the Power Network through which our alumni and students connect to each other; Pride and Recognition, which creates more shared experiences for us to celebrate our Columbia Blue as well as our accomplished individuals; and Columbia Service, to meet the aspirations of Columbians who would be leaders and make a true impact.

We have added three VPs to the leadership team to grow our reach, and I am excited to welcome and congratulate eight new members, who bring a wealth of volunteer leadership to the team. Mike Brown Jr. '06 is a co-chair of the Young Leaders' Council; Gene Davis '75, '76 SIPA, '80L returns after a term on the Board of Visitors and sponsorship of Valentini's "3-2-1 Challenge"; Steve Coleman '83 has been an ARC chair in the Boston area; Stefanie Katz-Rothman '88 was a leader of her 25th reunion and an adviser on our branding and marketing efforts; Arthur Kohn '84, '86L

(Continued on page 87)

## CCAA Executive Board 2014–16

PRESIDENT **Doug Wolf '88**

VP ENGAGEMENT **Laura Lopez '92**

VP DEVELOPMENT **Michael Behringer '89**

VP STATE OF THE COLLEGE **Michelle Estilo Kaiser '87**

SECRETARY **Stacy Rotner '99**

CHAIR **Kyra Tirana Barry '87**

CHAIR EMERITUS

**Geoffrey Colvin '74, '77L, '78 Business**

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**Zila Acosta '11, '15L; Craig Brod '77;**

**Gene Davis '75, '76 SIPA, '80L; Leslie Gittess '88;**

**Stefanie Katz-Rothman '88; Arthur Kohn '84, '86L;**

**Scott Koonin '02; Ira Malin '75; Francis Phillip '90;**

**Ted Schweitzer '91, '94L; Sherri Pancer Wolf '90**

## Bookshelf

**The Dream of a Democratic Culture: Mortimer J. Adler [ '23] and the Great Books Idea** by *Tim Lacy*. The author provides a historical account of "Great Book" collections and their proponents, like Adler, who sought to support an intellectually robust, consensus-oriented democratic culture (Palgrave Macmillan, \$95).

**An Unusual Arrangement: A Present-Day Romance and Its Special Ground Rules** by *Durham Caldwell* '48. The novel follows a couple in a budding romance through their summer-time adventures around Cape Cod (CreateSpace, \$7.95).

**Transforming a College: The Story of a Little-Known College's Strategic Climb to National Distinction** by *George Keller* '51. This updated version of the book by the late Keller (CCT's former editor) detailing Elon's reinvention as a thriving liberal arts university includes a new foreword and afterword from the university's president (Johns Hopkins Press, \$24.95).

**Le Livre Des Lecteurs (A Book of Readers)** with photos by *George S. Zimbel* '51, texts by *Vicki Goldberg, Dany Laferrière* and *Elaine Sernovitz Zimbel*. In this monograph, George S. Zimbel captures the evolution of everyday life since 1950 through his photography of people around the world reading (Les Éditions du Passage, \$49.95).

**Mostly Grave Thoughts: On Mortality and Other Matters** by *Eugene Goodheart* '53. Goodheart's essays serve as a memoir, exploring the self through themes such as aging, mortality, illness, fatherhood and marriage (Transaction Publishers, \$44.95).

**New Water: Twelve Stories** by *Anthony Robinson* '53. This collection of short stories examines the moral and spiritual crossroads of life and the people of small-town America (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, \$8.95).

**An Improbable Life: My 60 Years at Columbia and Other Adventures** by *Michael I. Sovern* '53. In this memoir, Columbia's 17th president discusses restoring the University's stature after the 1968 protests as well as issues in academia such as coeducation, affordability and affirmative action (Columbia University Press, \$30).

**Prison of Light** by *Donald Steckler* '54. This e-book collection of poetry reflects on metaphysics and God (Outskirts Press, Inc., \$9.99).

**Bobby's Song & Short Stories** by *Richard Ascher* '55. Ascher's collection of short stories presents an amalgamation of tragic, witty and crude characters who believe in their good intentions as they commit horrendous crimes (Ascher, \$12.95).

**The Cambridge History of The First World War: Three Volume Set** edited by *Jay Winter* '66. Winter produces an authoritative and comprehensive history of the Great War (Cambridge University Press, \$450).

**World Cinema Through Global Genres** by *William V. Costanzo* '67. In this textbook, the author organizes international films by region to sharpen students' understanding of global genres, aesthetics, culture and film theory (Wiley-Blackwell, \$39.95).

**Chomsky's Challenge to American Power: A Guide for the Critical Reader** by *Anthony Greco* '67. The author studies Noam Chomsky's role as a public intellectual and his analysis of American politics, foreign policy and more (Vanderbilt University Press, \$29.95).

**The Politics of Simple Living: Why Our Economy Is Making Life Worse and How We Can Make it Better** by *Charles Siegel* '67. Siegel proposes policies to address a hypergrowth economy's damaging effects on quality of life and the environment (Preservation Institute, \$14.95).

**The Biblical Outlook: Topics in Jewish Philosophy** by *Rabbi Shlomo Polachek* '68. The author surveys topics in Jewish philosophy through the Hebrew Bible (Urim Publications, \$29.95).

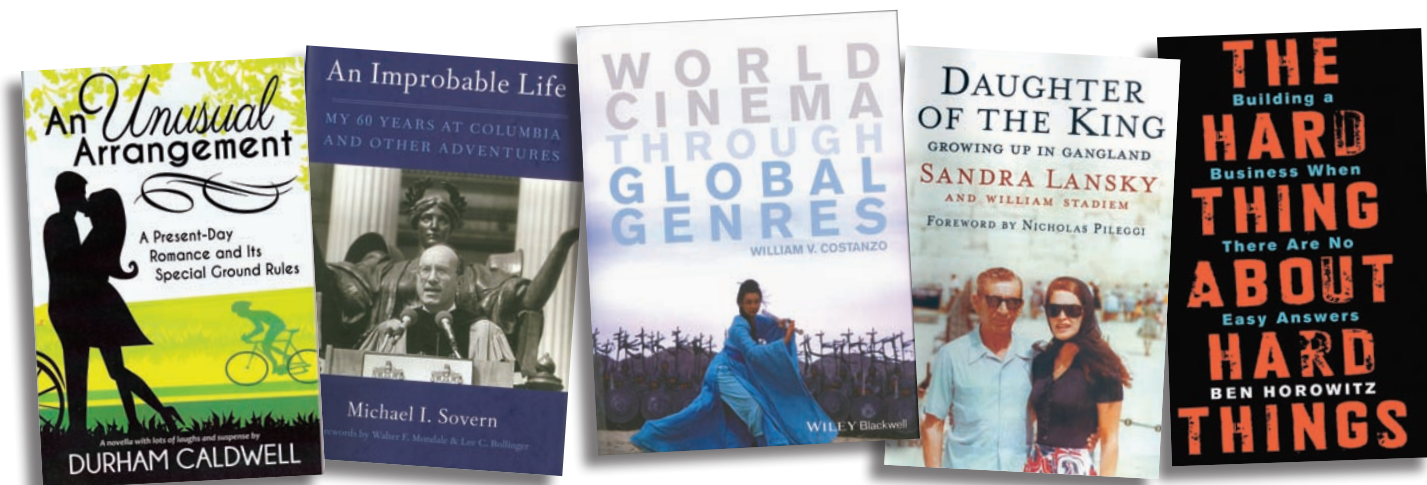
**Daughter of the King: Growing Up in Gangland** by *William Stadiem '69* and *Sandra Lansky*. In her memoir, co-written by Stadiem, Lansky reflects on her life as the daughter of legendary mob boss Meyer Lansky, the brains behind the enforcement arm of the American Mafia known as Murder Incorporated (Weinstein Books, \$26).

**The Art of the Watchdog** by *Daniel Feldman* '70 and *David R. Eichen-thal*. The authors review current government oversight techniques and arm the reader with tools to combat fraud, waste, abuse and corruption (State University of New York Press: Excelsior Editions, \$29.95).

**Shakespeare in America: An Anthology from the Revolution to Now** by *James Shapiro* '77, the *Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature*. Shapiro explores the influence of the playwright's works on America, from politics to music to theater and film productions (The Library of America, \$29.95).

**The Murder of the Middle Class** by *Wayne Allyn Root* '83. Root offers a plan for fiscal conservatives and Libertarians to "retake" Congress, the presidency and the nation (Regnery Publishing, 27.99).

**Cinderella Spinderella** by *Mark Binder* '84. Based on his spoken-word story for inner-city children





# Brad Stone '93 Examines Amazon And the Man Behind It

BY JUSTIN DEFREITAS

San Francisco journalist **Brad Stone '93** has covered Silicon Valley for 15 years. During that time, books about the great technology companies and their CEOs have proliferated, as their products have had increasingly profound effects on our daily lives. But Stone noticed a significant gap in the library.

"I saw all the books about other tech giants — Apple, Facebook, Google — but no one had done a great Amazon book," he says.

There were legitimate reasons. CEO Jeff Bezos had instilled a culture of secrecy at Amazon and many writers who wanted to tell the company's story had been denied access to its central figures. In addition, the online giant's Seattle location, away from the tech hub of the Bay Area, afforded it some relief from journalists. But Stone felt these obstacles only partially explained the lack of a serious study. "Everyone had dismissed Amazon as a boring old retailer," he says. "But the company was doing incredibly well and showed a constitutional knack for expanding and getting into different businesses."

Stone was well positioned to take on the challenge. He had interned for *Newsweek* after college and worked his way up to junior reporter, filling in for the magazine's New York and Chicago correspondents. In the late '90s he was assigned to the technology beat and moved to Silicon Valley — a shift that put him at ground zero for the industry's boom, subsequent bust and resurgence. After *Newsweek*, Stone worked for *The New York Times* and, more recently, for *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

Stone had something else working in his favor: access. He had interviewed Bezos a dozen times through the years and his coverage of Amazon and the tech industry had earned him Bezos' respect. After Stone pitched him the idea of a book modeled on business books they both admired, including Walter Isaacson's biography of Steve Jobs, the CEO was skeptical but supportive — and for the first time gave the go-ahead for many of his loyal associates, past and present, to speak on the record about Amazon and Bezos himself.

The result is *The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon* (Little, Brown and Co., \$28), in which Stone traces the Amazon story from its birth as a start-up selling books out of a garage to an international corporation that employs hundreds of thousands of people, racked up \$74 billion in sales in 2013, and is on track to reach \$100 billion faster than any other retailer. The book covers the company's innovations, its influence on the business and tech world, its cultural impact and its internal operations — with Bezos as the relentless driving force pushing the company to expand, evolve and dominate. Stone makes the case that whether you love it or love to hate it, Amazon is one of the world's most pervasive and influential companies as well as "one of the tent-pole companies of the century."

And Bezos himself, Stone says, is not merely a retailer on par with Sam Walton, but one who "ranks up there with the greats

of the technology industry. Like Steve Jobs, he has the ability to disrupt every industry he goes into."

Stone contends that Bezos was among the first to recognize the potential of the Internet, and his vision enabled Amazon to create new business models, changing the way consumers read and shop. As an example, he cites the first Kindle: "By no means a work of design art, it was like a bastard child of a BlackBerry and a '90s-era PC. But you could buy a book over a cellular network in 60 seconds, from anywhere in the world. Bezos made an unorthodox and risky bet on developing hardware and creating a digital distribution model."

And Bezos made that bet in 2004, at a time when the idea of e-reading was all but dead. "Without the Kindle, books may have been lost in transition to digital media," says Stone. "Sony's

e-reader was failing, NuvoMedia's Rocketbook had failed, Google was embroiled in lawsuits over its effort to scan every book ever made and Steve Jobs said the whole concept of e-books was flawed because people don't read."

Bezos also pushed his company into new businesses and markets. Today, Amazon is not merely a seller of retail products but of the infrastructure upon which other entrepreneurs build their companies. In fact, half of Amazon's business is as a platform for other businesses. With Amazon Web Services, Stone says, "Bezos single-handedly reinvented Silicon Valley with web services that made it easier to start a company. He made cheap storage and processing power available to cash-strapped start-ups."

Along the way, Bezos, like Jobs, often pushed the ethical envelope. Stone recounts instances of the CEO's brutalizing and destroying competitors, as well as engaging in profit-bleeding price wars to force promising start-ups to sell out to Amazon. Bezos' leadership style also goes under Stone's microscope: He demands long hours from his employees, insists they be as driven as he and has been known to eviscerate them as incompetent, ignorant or just plain stupid when they fall short of his expectations. The reason, Stone says, is that Bezos wants every ounce of energy directed toward his ultimate goal of creating "the everything store" — a one-stop online source for everything that a consumer could want, and at the lowest prices.

For some, the idea of an enormous corporation selling everything under the sun and putting small, independent shops out of business is a kind of dystopian nightmare. Bezos is unfazed by such criticism. "He answers that it's the Internet that's disrupting businesses and industries, not Amazon," Stone says. In the Internet era, Bezos often says, the power rests with customers — they can compare prices, review products and make their voices heard. "The new regime favors the customer," says Stone. "Bezos' response is that Amazon is just good at thriving in that landscape."

Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer, editor and cartoonist.



PHOTO: CYNTHIA E. WOOD



with physical disabilities, Binder's e-book retells Cinderella, offering 25 storytelling combinations with a humorous and urban twist (Light Publications, \$4.99).

**The Fate Motif** by Douglas Nordfors '86. The author's latest collection of poetry reflects on time, the self, historical figures and meditation (Plain View Press, \$14.99).

**The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance — What Women Should Know** by Claire Shipman '86 and Katty Kay. Combining research in genetics, gender, behavior and cognition, the authors provide working women a guide for confidence and success in a corporate world dominated by men (HarperBusiness, \$27.99).

**The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers** by Ben Horowitz '88. The University trustee and cofounder of the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz offers tough-talk advice and practical wisdom for starting a business, tackling issues such as the ethics of hiring and firing friends, when to sell and how to organize an office (HarperCollins, \$29.99).

**The Life and Opinions of the Housecat Hastings** by Harrison Bae Wein '90. The author's first novel is an autobiography of a housecat that rises from humble beginnings to become the leader of all feline-kind (Derwood Press, \$13.95).

**Miami for Families: A Vacation Guide for Parents and Kids** by Laura Albritton '93. From organizing activities by their age-appropriateness to mapping every restroom

and parking location, Albritton details Miami's sites, activities and restaurants (University Press of Florida, \$18.95).

**Yummy Supper: 100 Fresh, Luscious & Honest Recipes from a Gluten-Free Omnivore** by Erin Scott '93. Award-winning food blogger Scott compiles recipes with an emphasis on natural ingredients, flavor and fun (Rodale, \$24.99).

**Visible City** by Tova Mirvis '95. This story of a young mother who spies on her neighbors, curious about their relationships and love lives, examines commitment, loneliness and the fears of both young and old when it comes to fulfillment (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$24).

**Rethinking the Politics of Absurdity: Albert Camus, Postmodernity, and the Survival of Innocence** by Matthew H. Bowker '96. The author discusses the role of absurdity in literature as a means to soften and diminish tragedy, arguing that a healthy community must be able to face the pain of losses, terror and destruction (Routledge, \$130).

**Hollywood Exiles in Europe: The Blacklist and Cold War Film Culture** by Rebecca Prime '96. Prime documents the untold story of the American directors, screenwriters and actors who exiled themselves to Europe as a result of Hollywood's 1950s and 1960s blacklist (Rutgers University Press, \$27.95).

**Tangier: A Literary Guide for Travellers** by Josh Shoemake '96. This travel guide explores the literary history of Tangier, Morocco,

and the spies, outlaws, outcasts and writers who made it their home (I. B. Tauris, \$25).

**Dorothy Must Die** by Danielle Paige '97. In this novel, the Land of Oz is in ruin and a new girl from Kansas must kill a tyrannical Dorothy as well as the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion (HarperCollins, \$17.99).

**Meatless All Day: Recipes for Inspired Vegetarian Meals** by Dina Cheney '99. The food columnist's latest cookbook offers 85 vegetarian meals with filling, textured and "meaty" ingredients (Taunton Press, \$19.95).

**Everybody Else: Adoption and the Politics of Domestic Diversity in Postwar America** by Sarah Potter '99. The author studies families who chose to adopt during the 1940s and 1950s as a way to fit in with the cultural expectations of the middle-class, affluent lifestyle (The University of Georgia Press, \$29.95).

**Adam** by Ariel Schrag '03. This debut novel looks at love and identity through the life of a social misfit who moves to New York City and joins the gay marriage and transgender rights scene, eventually falling in love with a lesbian (Mariner Books, \$13.95).

**Maurice Dobb: Political Economist** by Tim Shenk '07. Shenk documents the life of Maurice Dobb, a prominent Communist economist, and casts new light on the connections among economics, politics and power in the 20th century (Palgrave Macmillan, \$115).

**Darwin's On the Origin of Species: A Modern Rendition** by Daniel Duzdevich '09. Duzdevich simplifies the language of Charles Darwin's classic work into clear, modern prose for the contemporary reader (Indiana University Press, \$30).

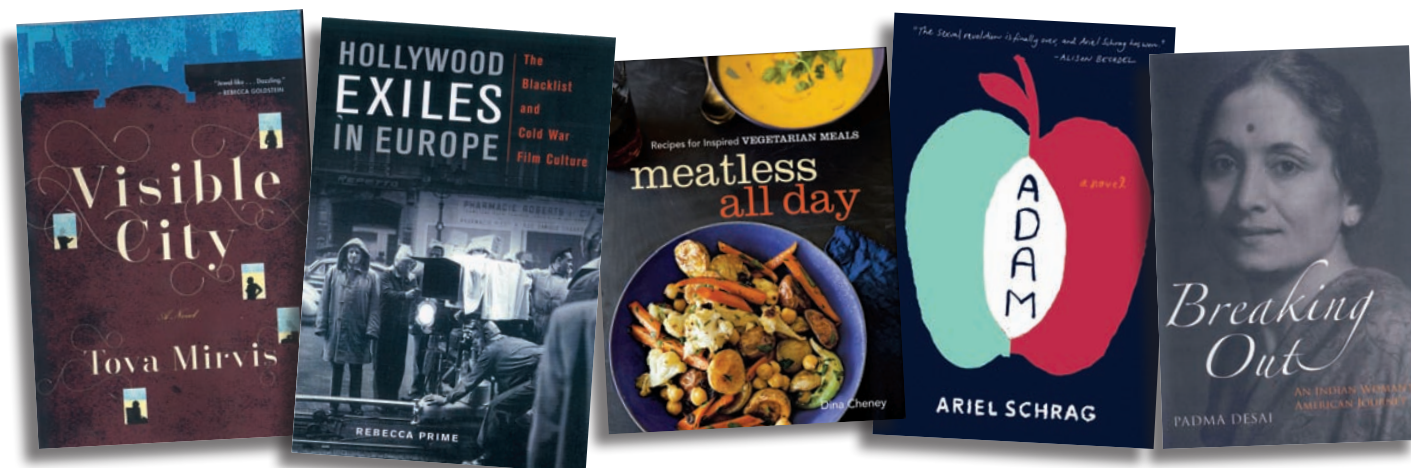
**Breaking Out: An Indian Woman's American Journey** by Padma Desai, the Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Comparative Economic Systems. Desai recounts her academic life, her discovery of self and the difficulties of assimilating into American culture and society while retaining her Indian traditions (The MIT Press, \$24.95).

**Beyond Gibraltar** by Maristella de Panizza Lorch, professor emerita of Italian and of Medieval and Renaissance studies at Barnard College and Columbia University. This memoir covers Lorch's time growing up in war-torn Europe and traveling to the United States (Pegasus Press, \$20.47).

**The Story of the Jews: Finding the Right Words 1,000 B.C.–1492 A.D.** by Simon Schama, University Professor. In part one of this two-volume work, Schama examines the history of the Jewish people across several millennia and continents (HarperCollins, \$39.99).

**Recovering Place: Reflections on Stone Hill** by Mark C. Taylor, professor of religion and chair of the Department of Religion. Taylor steps outside the fast-paced and technology-addicted world to reflect on the importance of place, specifically the beauty of the Berkshire Mountains (Columbia University Press, \$35).

Karl Daum '15





# Obituaries

1 9 3 8

**George W. Sferra**, dentist, Gulfport, Fla., on November 6, 2013. Sferra was a captain in the Army in WWII. He practiced dentistry in New York City for more than 50 years and was a past president of the New York County Dental Society and the New York Academy of Dentistry. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Edith, in 2012. Sferra is survived by his children, George W. Jr. and his wife, Barbara, Mary Sferra Facciolla and her husband, Tom, James and his wife, Cynthia Allen, and John and his wife, Ivana; six grandchildren; and sister, Elinor Bazaz. Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities.

1 9 4 2



**John A. Persson '42**

**John A. Persson**, retired engineer, Cranberry Township, Pa., on October 15, 2013. Born September 4, 1919, in Denmark, Persson immigrated to New York with his family. He entered Columbia with the Class of 1942 but graduated from Engineering with a B.S. in electrical engineering. At Columbia, Persson rowed crew. He was employed by Union Carbide and Carborundum Co., Mining and Metals Division, as senior design and development engineer, Engineering and Construction Department, in Niagara Falls. In 1969, Persson worked for Lectromelt Corp. in Pittsburgh as product manager, where he specialized in manufacturing electric furnaces and ancillary equipment. He retired and in 1987 formed Triode Tech to exploit invention of iron free self-baking electrodes for submerged arc furnace production of silicon metal. In the field of electrochemistry and metallurgy, he held 27 patents. He authored 20 publications. Persson was fluent in

six languages and enjoyed traveling. He was predeceased by his wife, Aina Sophia Almen, whom he married in 1942 and who passed away in 1979. He is survived by a son, David J., and his wife, Marcia; two grandchildren; companion, Claudette Malfray; sister, Judith Harriet Foley; nephews, Frank and Jim Foley; and niece, Judy Lynn Foley.

1 9 4 5

**Joseph M. Stein**, retired neurologist, Topeka, Kan., on July 24, 2013. Stein was born on January 27, 1924, in Weehawken, N.J. He commuted to Columbia while in the World War II Army Specialized Training Program, finishing his premedical degree in 1944. Stein earned an M.D. from NYU in 1947. After a yearlong internship at Morrisania Hospital in NYC, he completed a three-year residency at Bellevue Hospital. Stein served as a neurologist at Scott AFB for two years during the Korean conflict. He moved to Topeka in 1953 to join the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry for training, completed in 1955. He then moved to the Winter General (V.A.) Hospital until 1957, when he became part of the Menninger neurology-neurosurgery staff and faculty of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. In 1991 he joined the Cotton-O'Neil Clinic and retired in 2009 at 85. Stein is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lucy "Nickie" Nichols; sister, Helen Alexander, and her husband, Robert; brother-in-law, Arthur Nichols, and his wife, Phyllis; children, Janet and her husband, Christopher Rauschenberg, Mark and his wife, Jill Kleven, and Naomi; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Doorstep, the Sunflower Music Festival or the Doctor Joseph and Lucy Nichols Stein Fund for Music Student Travel or Nursing Scholarships.

1 9 4 6

**Bernard Goldman**, retired engineer, Lakewood, Colo., on October 27, 2013. Born on July 20, 1926, in Manhattan, Goldman was initially a member of the Class of 1946 but graduated in 1947 from Engineering and in 1948 from the Journalism School. He was retired from the Navy and had been affiliated with Ford Instrument, Grumman Aircraft, Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. and insurance/financial service companies. Gold-

man founded Evergreen Beth Congregation, in Evergreen, Colo., and the JCRS Issac Solomon Historic Synagogue Foundation for restoring the synagogue on the campus of the Jewish Consumptives Relief Society. An avid skier, he was awarded the Halstead Award by the USSA-Rocky Mountain Division for outstanding volunteer services to the sport and was a board member of the Loveland Racing Club, promoting skiing for kids. Goldman is survived by his wife, Susan Zinn Goldman (née Shuman); children, Janlori and her partner, Katherine Franke, Michael '84 and his wife, DeeDee Carlson, David '85 and his wife, Karen Dodds, and Lisa Zinn and her husband, Steve Sikorski; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Bernie Goldman Memorial Scholarship Fund, Loveland Ski Club, PO Box 1032, Georgetown, CO 80444.

1 9 5 0



**Joseph A. Mehan '50**

**Joseph A. Mehan**, retired communications executive, Fort Myers, Fla., on December 18, 2013. An Army veteran, Mehan earned a degree in 1951 from the Journalism School and was a newspaper reporter, writer and field producer for NBC News. He covered the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights Movement, space missions and political conventions, and earned Peabody, Ohio State, Writers Guild and CINE awards. At the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), he wrote and produced documentaries featuring hosts such as Cyrus Vance, Harvard President Derek Bok, Hank Aaron, Arthur Ashe and Ray Charles, leading the Ad Council to name the UNCF a Major Campaign and appoint Young & Rubicam to develop a slogan to distinguish the UNCF.

While director of communications at UNCF, Mehan introduced and promoted "A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Waste." He represented UNESCO's controversial "New World Information and Communications Order" before the UN General Assembly and world press for 12 years and retired to become an adjunct professor of international communications at SIPA, where he taught 1990-2000. Mehan is survived by his wife, Margaret "Peggy" Mehan '63 SW; sons, Jeff and his wife, Kimberly Henderson '84 Business, David, Christopher and Michael; stepchildren, Katherine Stansmore-Heckscher '95 P&S and Thomas Stansmore; and 10 grandchildren.

1 9 5 1

**Allan W. Robbins**, retired Navy officer and branch librarian, Alexandria, Va., on March 3, 2013. Robbins was born in Camden, Maine, on October 22, 1928. At Columbia, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi, completed the NROTC program and graduated with a bachelor's in political science and a commission in the Navy. Robbins served in both Korea and Vietnam and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. Following his military retirement in 1971, Robbins attended the Catholic University of



**Allan W. Robbins '51**

America and earned a master's in library science. From 1973 to 1993, he was the branch librarian for two public libraries in Alexandria, Va. He also was the curator for the Alexandria Library Lloyd House, which housed the city's rare document collections. In his retirement, Robbins indulged his lifelong interests in literature, history, music and travel. With his wife of 61 years, Lianne Lawrence Robbins, he enjoyed winters in Florida and frequent visits with his six children and 11 grandchildren.

1 9 5 2

**Thomas E. Federowicz**, retired physician, Binghamton, N.Y., on November 27, 2013. After graduating from Plymouth H.S., where he was a three-season athlete, Federowicz earned a football scholarship to Columbia, where he played tackle on both defense and offense. He then earned an M.D. in 1956 from P&S. After completing a residency in general surgery, followed by a hand fellowship at Roosevelt Hospital, Federowicz was hospital chief of surgery at Myrtle Beach AFB. He moved his family to Vestal, N.Y., in December 1962 to begin his private practice in surgery. There, Federowicz and his wife, Jeanne, raised their nine children. Federowicz was an assistant clinical professor of surgery for Syracuse Medical School. From a young age, he believed in community service and was involved with many organizations. Federowicz was predeceased by a son, Gregory, and is survived by his wife; children, Tom and his wife, Jane, Daniel '81 and his wife, Caroline, Stephen and his wife, Mary DeGuardi-Federowicz, John Ed Bon, Mary, Barbara Jean and her husband, Michael Houck, Janine, Ann Marie and Greg's widow, Maria Kirchever-Federowicz; and 21 grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Lourdes Hospice, the Kopernik Society of Broome County, the Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic

## Lawrence E. Walsh '32, '35L, Trustee Emeritus, Renowned Litigator

**Lawrence E. Walsh '32, '35L**, a University trustee emeritus, the special prosecutor in the Iran-Contra scandal and a former corporate litigator at Davis Polk & Wardwell, died on March 19, 2014, in Nichols Hills, Okla. He was 102.

In 1986, Walsh, 75 and retired from Davis Polk, was appointed special prosecutor in the Iran-Contra scandal by Attorney General Edwin Meese III. Walsh pursued allegations that the White House had been secretly supplying weapons to Iran in the Middle East and to Contra Rebels in Central America. Seven years and \$37 million later, the case fell apart even though Walsh had won significant convictions. Six key figures were pardoned by George H.W. Bush and two more were granted immunity by Congress. In his 1997 memoir, *Firewall: The Iran-Contra Conspiracy and Cover-Up*, Walsh condemned Bush and Congress for preventing "the rule of law being applied to perpetrators of criminal activity of constitutional dimension."

Walsh was born on January 8, 1912, in the fishing hamlet of Port Maitland, Nova Scotia. He and his family moved to Queens when he was 2 and he became a naturalized citizen eight years later. Walsh graduated from Flushing H.S. and worked his way through the College and the Law School clerking in a bookstore, working at the Post Office on Christmas and working daily at a Columbia cafeteria. During summer breaks he went to sea on steamships in the United States Merchant Marine.

At 24, Walsh was asked to join a special state investigation of corrupt Brooklyn prosecutors, and in 1937, Manhattan D.A. Thomas E. Dewey '25L appointed Walsh to a staff of 70 prosecutors to go after racketeers and corrupt Tammany Hall politicians.

Walsh joined Davis Polk in 1941. He left a year

later when Dewey was elected governor of New York and requested Walsh as his assistant; Walsh later became Dewey's chief counsel. In 1954, President Eisenhower appointed Walsh to the federal bench in Manhattan, where he earned a reputation for harsh sentencing. In 1957, when William P. Rogers became U.S. attorney general, he appointed Walsh chief deputy to oversee the selection of federal judges and the integration of public schools in Little Rock, Ark.

Walsh returned to Davis Polk in 1960 as a senior partner and corporate litigator represent-

ing companies such as General Mills, AT&T and ITT. In 1969, he served as deputy to chief negotiator Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. as a part of the U.S. delegation to the Paris peace talks with North Vietnam. That same year, he led the American Bar Association committee that found President Nixon's nominees, Clement F. Haynsworth Jr. and G. Harrold Carswell, qualified for the U.S. Supreme Court, though both were rejected by the Senate. Walsh was ABA president 1975-76.

A 1967 Alumni Medalist, Walsh was a University

trustee 1968-81, after which he became a trustee emeritus. In 1989, he was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

Walsh's obituary in *The Washington Post* quoted a lawyer who worked on the Iran-Contra investigation and delivered papers to Walsh, who was always "still working — in a coat and tie, at the little hotel desk, as though this was what everybody does at 11 o'clock at night when they're 75 years old."

Walsh is survived by daughters Barbara and Janet Larson, from his marriage to Maxine Winton, who died in 1964; daughter Elizabeth, from his second marriage to Mary Porter; stepchildren, Sara and Dale; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

*Karl Daum '15*



PHOTO: AP/JACOB HARRIS

of Binghamton or Birthright of Binghamton.

**Robert C. Schwegler**, certified life underwriter, North Tonawanda, N.Y., on June 25, 2012. Born on February 7, 1929, in North Tonawanda, Schwegler was Navy ROTC, a Lion linebacker and center, and member of Sigma Chi while at the College. After graduation, he and his wife, Patricia McCoy, moved to San Diego, where Schwegler graduated from the Naval Amphibious

Training Unit. After serving as a naval officer during the Korean conflict, the couple returned to North Tonawanda and raised five children. Schwegler was a certified life underwriter with Home Life Insurance Co. and coached varsity football at St. Joe's and Nichols Schools in Western New York. Later, he worked in sales with Gray Line Tours in Niagara Falls. Schwegler enjoyed reading, gardening, bird watching, the beach, watching sports and playing euchre. He is

survived by his wife of 59 years; daughter, Joan Winter, and her husband, Ron; sons, Robert P., William and his wife, Dawn, Carl and his wife, Gina, and George and his wife, Cathy; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1 9 5 8

**Charles A. Swenson**, retired software developer and editor, Alpharetta, Ga., on September 21, 2013. Swenson was born on September 23, 1936, in Bergen County,



# Richard D. Friedlander '60, '63 Business, Alumni Leader

**Richard D. Friedlander '60, '63 Business**, a former president of the Columbia College Alumni Association and an involved student and alumnus, died on March 31, 2014, in New York City. He was 75.

Friedlander earned a B.A. in fine arts and three years later an M.B.A. As an undergraduate, he was a member of the Marching Band, the Senior Society of Nacoms and the Board of Managers, in its inaugural year. He served on the Undergraduate Dormitory/Housing Council, was rushing

Band Alumni Association, the Society of Columbia Graduates and the Columbia University Club of New York. Friedlander continued to be involved with the Senior Society of Nacoms and formerly was a member of the Alumni Federation Alumni Council. In recognition of his deep involvement with Columbia, he was presented the Alumni Medal in 1980.

In his professional career, Friedlander was most recently an SVP in the investments division of Smith Barney in New York. He had worked

in investment banking and financial services since the 1970s, first with Loeb, Rhoades & Hornblower, then with Shearson Lehman Brothers/American Express from 1983. Shearson Lehman became part of Smith Barney in 1993. After Salomon Smith Barney was formed in 1997, Citigroup acquired it in 2000, and it became part of Morgan Stanley in 2009. Friedlander stayed with the firm in its various incarnations.

Friedlander, who enjoyed gardening, is survived by his wife, Iris Friedlander '63 Barnard.

Lisa Palladino



N.J. He graduated from the College with a dual major in history and philosophy. While at Columbia he was an active member of the Van Am Society. In his sophomore year he took a course in Zen Buddhism with Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki, which triggered his ongoing fascination with the Japanese culture. In 1974, Swenson began taking private lessons in Japanese while attending Japanese classes at night at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. He also studied at the Atlanta branch of Brenau University and was a member of the Japan-America Society of Georgia for more than 20 years. A Japanese postal history specialist, he joined the International Society for Japanese Philately and in 2002 was elected a director of the society. In 2008, Swenson became assistant editor for postmarks for the society's bi-monthly journal, *Japanese Philately*. He is survived by his wife, Sandy; son, Bjorn; daughter, Kristen; and son-in-law, Capt. Perry Yaw.

native, Juro earned an M.B.A. from NYU. He was an advertising and marketing executive with Grey Advertising, Citibank and Prudential Insurance, and also had his own firm, Evan Juro and Associates. His hobbies included sailing, running and playing jazz piano. Juro had recently published a book, *Dear Instant Family*, the true story of what happened when 400 women responded to his 1993 personal ad in New York magazine seeking a wife and a mother for his young children. Juro is survived by his partner, Teri Gottlieb; daughters, Becky and Samantha; sons James, Jeremy, Julian, Todd and his wife, Laura, and Stephen and his wife, Renee; four grandsons; and brother and sister-in-law, Richard '63, '66L and Fran.

**Marshall H. Berman**, author, academic and philosopher, New York City, on September 11, 2013. Berman was born on November 24, 1940, in the Bronx. A graduate of Bronx Science, Berman earned a doctorate from Harvard in 1968. He joined the City College faculty shortly thereafter and was dis-

tinguished professor of political science. He also helped establish the Center for Worker Education in Manhattan, where working adults could pursue college degrees. Berman's intellectual passion was first stirred by Marx and he viewed him as deeply relevant long after Communist governments faded. Berman's *New York Times* obituary stated: "Marx, he insisted counterintuitively, might admire the energy and diversity that capitalism has delivered to the United States even if he believed there was a better way. The Bronx, Times Square, all of New York in its many incarnations — from the seedy, bankrupt 1970s to the murderous 1980s to today's urban boutique — was in his view alive and luminous in its recklessness and resilience." Berman was a prolific writer, contributing to many publications, including *The New York Times*, and he was a board member of the leftist journal *Dissent*. His best-known book, *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air: The Experience of Modernity*, was published in 1982 and took its name from a line in Marx's *Communist Manifesto*. Berman is

survived by his wife, Shellie Sclan, and sons, Danny Berman and Eli Tax-Berman.



Geoffrey M. Horn '65

**Geoffrey M. Horn**, editor and author, Red Bank, N.J., on November 25, 2013. Born in Manhattan in 1944, Horn was a first-generation college graduate who also studied at St John's College, Cambridge, U.K. Shortly after returning to the States, in 1967, he married his high school friend and pen pal turned life partner, Marcia, who would be his wife of 46 years. Horn began work at Macmillan Publishers, leaving to start a freelance writing and editing business. He built a loyal network of employers and colleagues at *Collier's Year Book*, *Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia* and *The World Almanac*. He penned several noted Judaica titles including *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews* (with Abba Eban) and the bestselling *Bible Stories for Children*. Later, he wrote more than 50 nonfiction children's books, profiling contemporary figures and career paths. Horn bought an original Mac in 1984, first took to the stage in his 40s, learned to play Bartók in his 50s and went to indie and punk concerts into his 60s. Survivors include his wife; sister, Madeline DeLeon; sons, Dave and Michael; daughter-in-law, Jennifer; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Doctors Without Borders.

**Leonard V. Don Diego Jr.**, retired teacher, EMT volunteer, Manalapan, N.J., on September 17, 2013. Born in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn, Don Diego had resided in Manalapan for 20 years. He taught at Xaverian H.S., Brooklyn, and then at Brick H.S. and Kean University. After retiring in 2007, Don Diego became a volunteer EMT for the Manalapan/English-town squad. He was a communicant of St. Thomas More Catholic

Church, Manalapan, and had volunteered for the College's Alumni Representative Committee. Don Diego enjoyed learning, history, sports, collectibles and model trains. He was predeceased by his brother, Edmund, and is survived by his wife of 30 years, Patricia; and children, Leonard III and Laura. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.



John W. Elsberg '67

**John W. Elsberg**, retired editor, Arlington, Va., on July 28, 2012. Elsberg was born in New York City on August 4, 1945. He was a history major at the College and received a Kellett Fellowship to attend St John's College in Cambridge, U.K. He and his wife, Connie '67 Barnard, moved to England where their son, Stephen, was born. There, Elsberg studied English history and taught for the University of Maryland overseas. On his return to the States, Elsberg settled at the Army's Center of Military History, where he worked 1975–2005. He rose to be the center's editor in chief. Elsberg wrote poetry from the time he was in high school, was the author of more than a dozen books and chapbooks, and appeared in a number of anthologies. He was fiction editor for *Gargoyle* magazine in the 1970s and recently was poetry editor for *The Delmarva Review*. From the 1970s on, he was the editor of *Bogg, Journal of Contemporary Writing*. He hosted open poetry readings at The Writer's Center in Bethesda, Md., for almost 25 years and led writing workshops. In recent years, Elsberg wrote primarily tanka and haiku and was working on a collaboration with a fellow poet in which they evolved their own style based on these forms.

**William A. Pencak**, professor and editor, Coburn, Pa., on December 9, 2013. A native New Yorker, Pencak earned an M.A. in 1973 followed

## 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.

- 1941 John Stathis**, retired physician, Longmont, Colo., on May 23, 2014.
- 1945 Stanley B. Braham**, urologist, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., on March 27, 2014.
- Seymour Fisher**, retired insurance salesman, Bethlehem, Pa., on March 7, 2014.
- Howard M. Schmertz**, attorney, Millrose Games director, Port Washington, N.Y., on March 27, 2014.
- 1947 George H. Borts**, retired economist, Barrington, R.I., on May 2, 2014.
- 1948 Hoke Brissenden**, Etna, N.H., on March 6, 2013.
- 1949 Albert F. Keegan**, radiologist and professor, Haverford, Pa., on February 26, 2014.
- 1950 Weld S. Carter Jr.**, Penngrove, Calif., on April 10, 2014.
- David B. Karlin**, retired ophthalmic surgeon, New York City, on May 10, 2014.
- 1951 Phillips A. Brooks**, anesthesiologist, Longwood, Fla., on December 31, 2013.
- Gerald P. Brophy**, retired professor, Amherst, Mass., on April 2, 2014.
- 1952 Charles Zimmerman**, radiologist, Annapolis, Md., on May 3, 2014.
- 1953 James C. Coyne**, New Providence, N.J., on January 27, 2014.
- 1954 Sander Goldman**, Cutchogue, N.Y., on January 7, 2014.
- Martin Pine**, professor, New York City, on March 15, 2014.
- 1955 John Burke Jr.**, retired, Montrose, N.Y., on January 6, 2014.
- Martin Gottfried**, drama critic and Broadway historian, New York City, on March 6, 2014.
- 1956 Arthur Bank**, physician, professor emeritus, New York City, on February 27, 2014.
- 1957 Erik R. Eybye**, chemical company executive, Paoli, Pa., on December 20, 2013.
- 1959 Edward C. Mendrzycki**, attorney, Bronxville, N.Y., on May 11, 2014.
- 1961 Kenneth C. Edelin**, retired physician, Sarasota, Fla., on December 27, 2013.
- 1962 Daniel R. Shackman**, psychiatrist, Santa Barbara, Calif., on March 20, 2014.
- 1963 Joel H. Rascoff**, nephrologist, New Rochelle, N.Y., on March 31, 2014.
- 1964 Mark J. Zucker**, professor, Innsbruck, Austria, on August 3, 2013.
- 1966 P. Lawrence Traynor**, Robertsbridge, Kent, U.K., on October 15, 2013.
- 1972 Keith A. Luis**, professor, blues musician, recording artist, Austin, Texas, on July 28, 2013.
- 1999 Adrienne Wadewitz**, writer and editor, Palm Springs, Calif., on April 8, 2014.

by an M.Phil in 1975 and a Ph.D. in 1978, all in history and from GSAS. A professor emeritus of history at Penn State, distinguished historian of early American history, historian of Pennsylvania and twice editor of *Pennsylvania History*, he also was an author. His first books, *War, Politics, and Revolution in Provincial Massachusetts* (1981) and *America's Burke: The Mind of Thomas Hutchinson* (1982), focused on New England, and his third, *For God and Country: The American Legion, 1919–1941* (1989) was written for a friend who had set out to write it but passed away. His *Jews and Gentiles in Early America, 1654–1800* (2005) took him into the reconstruction of an oft-overlooked segment of colonial society. He co-edited *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth* and was working on a biography of Bishop William White, Pennsylv-

nia's first Episcopal bishop. Pencak taught classes in Jewish studies prior to his retirement from Penn State and following his retirement accepted a position as the Bert and Fanny Meisler Visiting Professor of History and Jewish Studies in the Department of History at the University of South Alabama. Pencak is survived by his mother, Harriet; and husband, Vincent Parker.

**Karin M. Higa**, art curator, Los Angeles, on October 29, 2013. Higa earned a master's in art history from UCLA. At the time of her death she was enrolled in the doctoral art history program at USC. Higa was a specialist in Asian American art who was a curator at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles 1992–2006, rising to the rank of

senior curator of art. Soon before becoming ill she had been named a curator for the Hammer Museum's "Made in L.A." Biennial for 2014 but had to step down. During her tenure at the Japanese American National Museum, Higa helped to organize many notable exhibitions, including a 1992 show of art made at internment camps during WWII and a 2008 show devoted to the art of *ikebana*, or Japanese flower arrangement. She was a curator of the touring exhibition "One Way or Another," spotlighting contemporary Asian American art, which ran at the Asia Society in New York in 2006. Higa was a Los Angeles native. She is survived by her husband, Russell Ferguson; mother; and brother.

Lisa Palladino



# Class Notes

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**Columbia College Today**  
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Your friends and classmates want to hear from you! Please send news about yourself or your family, or a favorite Columbia College memory, to **CCT** at either of the addresses at the top of the column or via our webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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**Robert Zucker**  
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Your correspondent had a serious car accident last June 29. Driving a rented car while mine was in the shop, I looked at my cell phone and smashed into the car in front of me. After several surgeries and five months of hospitals and rehab residences I am back home with a full-time helper and a great deal of nerve damage. Assuming I hang on, I should be back to normal in two years.

The following came from **Ed Alexander '42J**:

"In 1942 I entered the Army and was assigned to the Psychological Warfare Division, shipped to England, where I joined General Eisenhower's staff at SHAEF in London, and then transferred to Verdun, France, at General Bradley's headquarters.

"After the war I worked in public relations for Laurence Olivier on his Shakespeare films, *Henry V* and *Hamlet*, and in 1949 joined the Voice of America, writing and supervising broadcasts to the Soviet Union. After 10 years I joined the Foreign Service, serving in West Berlin, Budapest, Athens and East Berlin, and in between as deputy director for

the U.S.S.R. and East European Division of the United States Information Agency. Following retirement in 1980, the State Department called me back to serve on the Delegation of the United States to the United Nations Human Rights Council, both as member and spokesman, in three conferences held in Ottawa, Budapest and Bern.

"After my 'second retirement' I traveled throughout the United States and Canada, lecturing — and writing articles — on American foreign policy, especially vis-à-vis the Soviet Union. I have also written three books: *The Serpent and the Bees*, on the KGB's 15-year effort to recruit me; *A Crime of Vengeance: An Armenian Struggle for Justice* (soon to be made into a motion picture), about Turkey's genocide of the Armenian people; and a novel, *Opus*, about the search by the American and Soviet cultural attaches during the Cold War for a missing Beethoven manuscript, which culminates at KGB headquarters in Moscow. My last two lectures were delivered at the Library of Congress and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts. Somehow in between all of the above, I managed to squeeze in several hours of tennis, for which I have had a lifelong passion."

Don't hesitate to keep us posted about your activities. You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or submit a note via **CCT's** webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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**Melvin Hershkowitz**  
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On January 6 I received an email, and subsequently a phone call, from Judge **Leonard Garth**, who is retired but still active in an independent living facility in North Branford, Conn. Len reported that the federal government, in recognition of his many years of service as a senior judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, has extended funding of his private chambers within his North Branford residence for two more years. Len, modest as ever, commented that at 93, he is uncertain how many cases he would sit for in the immediate future. He has been married for 72 years to his beloved, devoted wife, Sarah, who helps care for him as he negotiates his daily

routine in a wheelchair. Len cannot walk but his cerebral functions remain sharp. Congratulations to Len on his outstanding career! (Note: Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito was one of Len's law clerks.)

January is a birthday month for several classmates: your correspondent on January 18 (91), **Don Mankiewicz** on January 20 (92), **Robert J. Kaufman** on January 21 (93) and **Stewart McIlvennan** on January 24 (93). At the time of this writing, all of us are in reasonably good shape and in touch with one another. Here's to the nonagenarians!

*The New York Times* of January 16 [online] had a memorial tribute by Evelyn Bishop to her husband, **Franklin Gerald Bishop '43E**, who died on January 14, 1996, after a long struggle with cancer. Gerry was a good friend of this writer. We met in September 1938 at a freshman beer party in John Jay Hall, where we gathered around a piano to sing bawdy songs, including *Hi Ho Kaffozalum*, *The Harlot of Jerusalem*. Gerry earned a second M.S. from the NYU School of Engineering in 1948. He had a long, successful career as an engineer and management consultant while remaining a loyal Columbia alumnus. During his final illness, Gerry attended a Homecoming game at Wien Stadium in his wheelchair, maintaining a cheerful attitude and enjoying the company of old friends. We salute Gerry and send warm greetings to Evelyn.

As I write these comments, the Ivy League basketball season has just closed. Columbia finished with a record of 19–12, including 8–6 in Ivy League games, then went 2–1 in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament for a final record of 21–13. Harvard won the Ivy League title for the fourth consecutive year, and Columbia finished third in the league. This team did not have any seniors on the roster, so it should be even better next year, with returning star Alex Rosenberg '15 and skilled three-point shooter Steve Frankoski '15 among others. We compliment coach Kyle Smith on his good work and send our hopes for an Ivy League championship in the near future.

One of my dearest and oldest friends, Dr. **Arthur Wellington** — whose late wife, Marilyn, was a Syracuse alumna — roots for both Columbia and Syracuse. At 94, Arthur, a retired optometrist in Elmira, N.Y., is perfectly lucid and

sends me legible, handwritten letters with news of himself and his family. As one of three surviving members of the Columbia chapter of the Certified Degenerate Horseplayers Club (the others are **Don Mankiewicz** in Monrovia, Calif., and this writer in Northampton, Mass.), Arthur tests his still formidable handicapping skills at the Elmira OTB facility. He hopes to visit his handsome cottage in Tenant's Harbor, Maine, this summer.

My warm regards to all classmates. Your news is always welcome.

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**G.J. D'Angio**  
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**Leo Stern '45 Dental** writes, "After my recent 91st birthday, I feel persuaded to update my personal history. Having graduated from both the College and Dental School by 1945, I wasted no time in marrying Enid Gardiner and having a daughter, Elizabeth, in '51, and twin sons, Jay and Anthony, in '54. I tried to propel them toward the College, whispering in their ears, 'Core Curriculum,' but it didn't work. They chose the Ivy League schools in Cambridge, Mass., and New Haven, Conn., although I told them that Lit Hum started at Morning-side. (I didn't mention Chicago.)

"Liz graduated from Radcliffe and embarked on a study of Celtic mythology toward her doctorate, living in Iceland several years on a Fulbright scholarship and then teaching for a while at UC Berkeley. She is now married to a tenured professor and lives in Urbana, Ill., where she is employed by the university there. Their one son, Daniel, is finishing a two-year enlistment as a sergeant in the Israeli army.

"Anthony graduated from Harvard and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Montefiore/Einstein Medical Center. He has two sons, Charles and Joseph, and a daughter, Marguerite. Joseph graduated from Middlebury in 2011 with an interest in classics. This fall he begins Greek and Latin graduate studies at Columbia, and he taught informally during the last year.

"Jay told his mother, 'I just won't be a lawyer!' Through his own strivings he emigrated to California several times, graduated from Yale

and is a successful movie producer (Route One). He will soon produce an adaptation of the book *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson, starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. Jay, who in high school was named All-New York City cornerback, has one son, Eli, who will be a quarterback in his last year of high school. Eli has been scouted by four Ivy League colleges including alma mater."

**Bernie Weisberger** writes, "It's hard to think that almost a year has passed since our pleasant Class of '43 (and '48) lunch last June. The summer and fall passed uneventfully for me, which, when you're into your 90s, is always good news. My wife, Rita, and I still get around and even travel a bit, often to family events involving our respective children, who are now closing in on or just past 60. That's hard to realize — and even more so that those cute little grandchildren who squealed and romped with happy cries of 'Grandpa' when you arrived bearing gifts are now fledgling lawyers and professors and suchlike, and — in Rita's case — are themselves married and parents. She has what the old South would have called a 'passel' of great-grandchildren.

"I did a little bit of writing in the fall, including a few posts on Bill Moyers' website. But for me the most interesting event of the past year was a two-week 'vacation' in sunny Cuernavaca, Mexico, where I did intensive language study in the city's International University. Two weeks of Spanish conversation and grammar, six hours a day (8 a.m.–2 p.m.) with a small and oddly mixed class. The students included a retired professor of French from Quebec, two Nigerian nuns, a young business administration student also from Nigeria, a gentleman from Japan recently retired, and yours truly. Not sure what brought the nuns there — I'd suspect preparation for work in some Hispanophone locale — but for the three of us retirees, it seems to have been just pleasure in learning. There also was plenty of pleasure in the afternoons, sipping *cervezas* or other beverages on the terrace outside the little apartment I'd rented. I don't know whether it improved my Spanish but it certainly improved my general well-being before I returned to Chicago and single-digit temperatures!

"Not much else to report from the land of 90-something. A few more good friends passed on into the beyond, saddening but inevitable. Lots of reading of works old and new. Lots of teeth-gnashing, I fear, at the political and cultural deterioration of the United States. (Harumph!) But somehow the

Republic will survive — er, that is, well, I hope so. Best wishes to other members of our class and to Columbia alumni everywhere."

My wife, Dr. Audrey Evans, and I are going to the Highlands of Scotland in June to attend the wedding of her godchild, who through the years has become more like a granddaughter. We'll tack on a journey to Ireland, centering on Limerick. We don't know Eire very well and chose to visit the southern part of the country. Also, The Donkey Sanctuary is in Mallow, County Cork, and I would like to visit that facility. It was established because donkeys (and mules) are often abandoned as farms become

**For Bernie Weisberger '43, the most interesting event of the past year was a two-week "vacation" in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where he did intensive language study.**

mechanized. This organization collects the strays; feeds, heals and grooms them; and then finds receptive homes where the animals can live out their lives in security and "comfort." By chance I came across the sanctuary in action. It was during a previous trip, when a van delivered a rehabilitated donkey to the B&B where we were staying. It since has seemed to me to be a humane endeavor worthy of support.

In sad news, my friend Dr. **Arthur Leo Peterson** died on January 31, 2014, in Gladwyne, Pa. After serving as a major in the Army Air Force Medical Corps, Arthur had a distinguished career as a staff psychiatrist at the venerable Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital. He became its chief medical officer and was a recipient of many other professional honors. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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**Bill Friedman**  
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I am writing this report prior to our 70th reunion, although it will reach you after that momentous celebration. Looking back 70 years brings to mind those hectic days when the war caused many disruptions of college life and turned Columbia into a different campus. The draft, coupled with the urge to enlist, cast uncertainty on all of us as to whether we would graduate and, if so, when. We reviewed the availability of the V-12 program and Army Specialized Training

Program, and considered increasing our point load, hoping to obtain our degree before a call-up to duty and before our scheduled Commencement.

I enrolled in some courses that I had never before contemplated, such as "Statistics 206 Modern Computing & Tabulating Methods," which was a course in punch card operation, a mechanical data methodology that preceded the computer age. I reflect with regret that I didn't follow up my studies of that forerunner of the PC and the Mac with further related coursework. Who knows, had I done so, I might have become a rival of Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.

I achieved my personal goal, along with approximately 60 other overly ambitious students, in October 1943, when University President Nicholas Murray Butler [Class of 1882, Class of 1884 GSAS] awarded our diplomas in an unusually intimate ceremony, well in advance of the scheduled June 1944 Commencement.

We heard from **William Strun- ing**, who writes, "Following service during WWII, I worked in various phases of industrial marketing sales, new product development and marketing/economic research, and in various fields, for example, thread and cordage building products, chemicals and vending machines. I started teaching, drawing heavily from industrial experience, in 1955 and continued to do so for nearly a half-century, most recently at Seton Hall. However, I remained active in business, largely in the coffee industry. My employers included Pan-American Coffee Bureau, International Coffee Organization and Kraft Foods. Since retirement, I have prepared statistical analyses for a few coffee clients, reviewed texts for several library associations and enjoyed spending time with my family."

**Henry Rolf Hecht**, my predecessor as class correspondent, soldiers on, advising: "I'm still around, and I think my mind still functions reasonably OK. But physically I'm frail and need help moving around. I'd love to get to the reunion but don't see how I can make it. My granddaughter, Lisa, will have finished all her studies and interning by the time this comes out and will be a full-fledged doctor of veterinary medicine."

**Bruce Mazlish** writes, "My mar-

riage to Neva Goodwin is heading toward its 33rd year. My four children are doing well. My son Tony and his family live in Somerset, Md., and recently visited Cyprus ... His three children — my grandchildren — are doing well at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C. My son Jared is in Breckinridge, Colo., where he designs, manufactures and markets his Fat-yplus skis. I recommend them for anyone who enjoys skiing. His sons, Jacob (3½) and Caleb (1½), have been on skis and Jacob has been on hockey skates. Jacob also has put together a 97-piece puzzle.

"As for my professional life, I keep trying to write (though with faltering vitality), especially on globalization. Also recently got word that my 2004 book, *Civilization and Its Contents*, is to be translated and published in Arabic, thus joining a translation into Chinese.

"Otherwise, it's one step in front of the other."

Finally, my self-deprecating, indefatigable pal Dr. **Dan Choy** reports: "Did I tell you I was appointed as an unofficial consultant to [one of the labs] in the new Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute? Obviously it was because of my good looks and endearing personality because I certainly don't have the brains for the post (plus I am almost 88 and two years post-retirement). [As of this writing I was] also supposed to give a talk to the Classes of '44 and '49 at the reunion luncheon on Saturday, May 31."

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28–31, 2015**

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I received the following from **Henry Shinefield**:

"As a member of the 1944 Varsity Show cast, I was thrilled to see the expansive tribute to Varsity Show history in the Spring 2014 *Columbia College Today*. It stirred many memories, which resulted in visions of the past in remarkable clarity. Bob Felson '48 and I were Barnard Lovesies in a skit ... Bob and I were also members of the traditional Pony Ballet. The show and the music for *On the Double* were, in the main, written and directed by Alby Sherwin '42, a great





**Members of the Class of 1946 and their wives gathered in October for lunch at a French bistro in Midtown. Seated, left to right: Irwin Nydick, Howard Cohen, Len Moss, Aihud Pevsner and Mel Holson; and standing, left to right: Barney Zumoff, Ellie Nydick, Muriel Moss, Lucille Pevsner, Ira Millstein, Phyllis Holson, Richard Heffner, Marjory Cohen and Marge Sunshine.**

PHOTO: BERNARD SUNSHINE '46

pianist. The show was a sellout and a great thespian success.

"The 1944 show was the 50th Varsity Show, and as I write, I plan in May to see the 120th."

Things have been quiet lately but I know that our class' stalwart members have news to report and remembrances to share. You may submit notes to either address at the top of the column, or through CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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**Herbert Gold** keeps rolling along, and his new book, *His First Murder*, will appear on bookstands shortly. Herb says the novel, his 24th, is a study of a 21st-century psychopath.

The Columbia University Archives is housed in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library in Butler Library (South Hall). Wandering through the collection recently, I came across the 1944-45 College catalogue of courses. Names of faculty greats popped off the pages and it turned into a walk down memory lane. In addition to courses in Chinese, Japanese, classic and Romance languages, there were some in Arabic, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Sanskrit.

Navy V-12 was a large part of the College's student body and this course description caught my eye: "Navy English 1 and 2 — not open to civilian students. Modern usage, grammar, idiom, sentence structure, punctuation, spelling, ef-

fective paragraphs. The aim of this course is to teach the student to say and write what he means concisely and with a purpose."

Were civilians kept out because military secrets were hidden in the course's content?

Virtually unmanageable forest fires in the West brought the following from **John McConnell** in Post Falls, Idaho: "When you hear and read of 180-plus square miles of flaming forests and timber in just one location, look at a map of New York City and figure the square miles of Manhattan or any of the boroughs. Try to imagine what a fire covering that area would do. Yes, it's the real West and quite common during dry, hot weather. Lightning strikes are a common cause, apparently, but carelessness by individuals can be just as catastrophic. Locally, 'dry farmers' of grains and so forth have 'controlled burns,' tank trucks and equipment at the ready in anticipation of fire."

With regret I report the passing of **Norman Cohen** '48 Business. Norman was a CPA. He published a weekly newspaper and was also an adviser to businesses. He took particular pride and satisfaction from his work volunteering as a mentor to troubled and at-risk teens.

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**Ed McAvoy** got in touch via email and phone. He shared a long note, which he titled "Columbia Alumni Club & Biosphere Memories":

"I read with great interest the profile in the Fall 2013 issue of Wm. Theodore 'Ted' de Bary ['41, '53 GSAS], a charter member of the Hickory Hill Cooperative. It brought back memories of Hickory Hill and of my effort years later to help improve the Tucson-area image of Biosphere2, a Columbia University research program.

"I am a 1949 charter member of Hickory Hill, a housing complex in Tappan, N.Y., that was an offshoot of a Columbia project called Shanks Village. The severe housing shortage in metro New York after WWII encouraged CU to convince the government to convert the thousands of acres of what had been the largest East Coast port of embarkation for Army soldiers headed to Europe — Camp Shanks in Orangeburg (Rockland County), N.Y. — into a housing facility of about 1,500 affordable apartments for faculty, staff and students.

"This was accomplished by converting about 500 of the large barracks into one- and two-bedroom units — rent was \$38.50 per month and included a kerosene space heater and a stall shower! Probably 10,000 families from across the United States lived in the project during Shanks Village's 'life.' Most of them were discharged service members who were returning to the academic world to earn their graduate degrees. I was a 23-year-old married College student seeking a B.A. Most residents were closer to 30.

"In 1948, 65 Shanks Village families, wanting to remain in Rockland County, formed the Northern Valley Homes Association. For two years this group studied 200 available tracts of land, financing, membership rules and architectural plans. Eventually 32 families invested \$1,000 each into Hickory Hill Cooperative (HH1).

"Fifty percent of the members of HH1 were CU families and construction was successfully completed in 1952. Columbia members included Ted de Bary, Henry Magid ['38, '41 GSAS], John Landgraf ['51 GSAS], William Hadley ['38, '39E, '41E], Danforth Toan ['49 Arch.], George Furey ['37], Dr. Robert Weiss ['51 P&S] and Dr. Maus Darling ['47 Dental]. The students were myself, Arnold Frank ['47 Business, '50 Business], Walter Wileikis ['57 GSAS] and Eliot Tozer ['49 GSAS]. Also participating were CU machinist Lloyd Dutton and CU professor Frank Lear. In 1975 contiguous land was acquired and a Community House and 30 retirement townhouses were constructed (HH2). That addition included an affiliation with HH1.

"In 1991 my wife, Norma, and I moved to Hong Kong for three years, where I was advertising

director of the one-million circulation *Asia Magazine* and publisher of *The International Weekly South China Morning Post*, which I launched. We developed readers in 60 countries and it was a successful, world-class newspaper with 14,000 subscribers and total circulation of about 20,000. Then something called the Internet arrived and the beautiful, 24-page, full-color, two-section weekly went digital.

"I had a wonderful 55-year career in publishing with several of the world's leading newspapers and magazine companies (including 20 years with *The New York Times*) and ended in 1993 as publisher of *The International Weekly South China Morning Post* based in Hong Kong.

"Norma and I returned to Hickory Hill in 1995 and in 1997 moved to Tucson. We became active in a senior Humanities Seminar program sponsored by the University of Arizona (UoA) and I was nominated to the Board of Directors of the Advisory Committee of the university's College of Humanities. In addition, our close friends Minnie and Bob Weiss came to Tucson every winter for several months and joined the seminar program. Bob had retired from Columbia as dean of the School of Public Health and retained close ties with the University.

"CU was also managing the spectacular Biosphere2 campus in Oracle, Ariz. Bob and I visited the campus and met with the president, whom he knew. We discussed the poor reputation Biosphere2 had in the area because of fraud committed by the previous owners and CU's efforts to reverse this negative image. Bob suggested that the presence of a Columbia alumni club would help achieve a better regional impression and he knew just the man to start and develop one — me!

"I asked for time to investigate the possibility of an alumni club being successful and contacted a friend in the Alumni Office. I was able, by ZIP code analysis, to discover that there was a potential universe of about 800 alumni to tap from the University's many schools. I also had the cooperation of Alumni Office personnel and did several mailings to develop paid membership. Within a couple of months, Pam Parry '71 GSAS, '73 LS and I signed up more than 125 paying members from 20 CU schools! We had a monthly luncheon meeting during the school year at the prestigious Arizona Inn and had exceptional speakers.

"These events started with UoA president Peter Likins. Peter had been a Columbia professor, provost and a protégé of Ted's in the '60s. He was followed by the then-CU

executive vice provost, Michael Crow, who at that time handled the Biosphere2 program from New York. Michael later became president of ASU. An executive of Teachers College also spoke as did other senior professors and administrators, including noted UoA professor and Nobel Prize Award recipient Jonathan Overpeck.

"The response in Tucson was wonderful! We averaged more than 90 alumni and guests for each luncheon. Tucson press and PR efforts were most rewarding and I believe the Columbia University Club of Southern Arizona more than achieved its goal. Biosphere2 personnel were very cooperative and sponsored several superb functions for club members during the years I was president. The club still exists and Biosphere2 is now a division of UoA.

"Norma and I left Tucson in 2004 and returned to Hickory Hill. She passed away in 2010; we were married for 65 years.

"I've resettled in Turners Falls, Mass., with a new life partner, Lynn Hoffman. We built an apartment/suite in my daughter's home and enjoy local cuisine and life in the area. Lynn is an internationally known family therapist and has lectured worldwide.

"She and I are both from Rockland County, N.Y., and crossed paths many times at 35,000 feet but never met until 2011."

Dr. **Nicholas Giosa** writes, "My thoughts for the day: During a lifetime of looking at the human parade, I have compiled some 140 poems and am looking for a publisher before my allotted time comes to an end. Any help out there? Meanwhile, embrace and celebrate each day."

**Cyrus Bloom** called in. He shares: "I and my wife, Nan, have moved from South Orange, N.J., to Philadelphia to be closer to our sons, Joshua '85 and Thomas '93, both of whom live there. Our new address is 1520 Spruce St., Apt. 701, Philadelphia, PA 19102; email: cyrusbloom@gmail.com."

CCT, and your classmates, would love to hear from more of you. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column. You also can send news online using CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

This column is a wonderful way for the class to stay connected but CCT needs a class correspondent to write it. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti '11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485.

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Dr. **Bob Silbert** writes, "My wife and I live on Riverside Drive and West 90th Street, barely a mile from the college where I spent so much time. I lived on campus with my roommates, **Sam Hoch** ['52 P&S] and **Bob Mellins**. Unfortunately, Bob passed away in late 2012 after a rewarding and successful career as a pediatric pulmonologist at [what was then called] Babies Hospital [now known as Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian], where he had helped to set up the country's first pediatric pulmonary department. Sam has been a psychiatrist in San Francisco after serving in the Army in Korea. I stayed in NYC for my psychiatric training and opened my private office in 1959. I had hospital appointments at Presbyterian Hospital and later at New York Hospital (today they are joined as NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital). I retired in 2003, having had my fill of dealing with insurance companies.

**Nicholas Giosa '47 has compiled some 140 poems and is looking for a publisher: "Any help out there? Meanwhile, embrace and celebrate each day."**

"I felt well prepared by Columbia for my career as a physician and psychoanalyst (as Sam was) and feel my undergraduate training is so different from what my grandchildren are experiencing. I can walk through the Met Museum and view the European galleries and almost always know who did what painting. I am not alone in this. Our current college kids are not really being educated; they are being trained.

"Today, in so many colleges, liberal arts courses are not highlighted. My first grandson was told to drop those courses and take courses that would help him get a job. (My second grandchild is applying to colleges.) We are educating future workers and the emphasis is on what courses will be best suited to help them do that. As much as I understand that, it seems to me that there is a huge educational loss in the arts and humanities and I gather it is generally so in many colleges. It is a loss and a sad one. Not all change is progress.

"Family is basically the same." **John Kuhn** writes, "Recently sold my former home in Norwood, N.J., as my last connection with the north. Been in Gautier, Miss., since

1999. We had a cold winter, too. Nothing really new to report but still around at 88."

**Arthur Kunin**, who lives in Shelburne, Vt., also is 88. He writes, "In fall 1945, just discharged from an Army hospital and two days before classes started, I recall the faith and kindness of admissions officer Bernard Ireland ['31, '35 GSAS] admitting yet another first-generation Jewish boy from Brooklyn to Columbia College. Subsequently, my three brothers, two cousins and son were successively admitted. Initially destined to be a history major, I graduated Phi Beta Kappa and took the least resistant road to The University of Vermont College of Medicine. After years of clinical and research training at Harvard, I was appointed to the medical staff at Vermont and spent 40 years as an investigator in renal physiology, as a clinician and teacher, and as the spouse of the first female Democratic governor of Vermont [Madeleine May Kunin '57]. All told, my most significant education took place in the Humanities and Contemporary Civilization courses at Columbia. What did Robert Frost say about 'the crossroads'?"

**Seth Rubenstein**, of Brooklyn, N.Y., writes, "I am plugging away 5 ½ days a week (on Saturdays I leave after I read the mail), trying to make a living practicing probate law. My vacation comes during the two weeks in August and September that the U.S. Open is in town. "Whatever happened to Butch Seewagen?

"I feel gratitude to Columbia daily, particularly when I read the work product of young lawyers who do not know not to split infinitives or that contrary to fact requires the subjunctive."

Also in Brooklyn is **Heywood Shelley** '50L: "I was hit by a car four years ago and I lost my right leg at the knee so I am either in a wheelchair or walking on a prosthesis. I am dependent on my aide or my wife, Maritza, to leave my wheelchair.

"I spent five years at Columbia after my return from the Army as follows: one year finishing my College curriculum, three years at the Law School (Class of '50 by virtue of the professional option, which provided that my first year of law school counted as the last year of college) and then finally, one year as an associate in law at the

Law School, which [consisted of] meeting with the law school class. There were 300 in the class. I met with the students in small groups to ameliorate the fact that the class was [so large].

"While at the College I had a course in Shakespeare with Mark Van Doren ['21 GSAS] and one of my fellow students said, 'The only thing about Shakespeare is it's full of clichés.'

"After my five years at Columbia I joined the law firm that Franklin Delano Roosevelt belonged to. I cherish my copy of the law firm's communication to FDR saying: 'If you join us, as you know, for the first year you don't get paid. Thereafter, if you remain with us, you will get compensation but it would be of necessity rather small.'

"The highlights of my career as an attorney: I represented the New York Mets and thereafter got a call from one of the Yankees' owners saying that he understood that I was the world's greatest authority on stadium leases and invited me to do the same job for the Yankees that I had done for the Mets. However, at the first meeting I learned that while Yankee Stadium was being renovated, the Yankees were planning to play at Shea Stadium so I would have a conflict of interest. So I declined the offer from the Yankees.

"Going on with my career, I was elected to the Board of Directors of four listed public companies. Another of the highlights of my career is that I had dinner with Prince Charles at St. James's Palace in London. He had been told that I was a New York lawyer and he said, 'Well, you Americans are more litigious than we are.' And the reason for that, which I figured out later on, is that in the United Kingdom if you lose the case you have to pay not only your own legal fees but also the winning party's legal fees.

"Another highlight of my career was that I represented the Bush and Walker families in connection with their Kennebunkport properties. I got a nice letter from George Herbert Walker Bush, the first President Bush, thanking me for my 'innovative' work in connection with Kennebunkport, keeping it in the Bush or Walker families.

"I now spend an important part of my time with my descendants: My daughter, Alexandra ['96 Arts], and her daughter, Lily. As I write this, Lily was to sing with her school chorus at Lincoln Center on the weekend."

CCT, and the class, would love to hear from more of you. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia



College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column. You also can send news online using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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It is always deeply gratifying to learn of a classmate’s significant contribution to matters of great import to our lives and our nation. Once again I’ve heard from **Joe Russell** of such an occasion, and I have the privilege of passing the news on to you. I quote below in an edited version of his lengthy note. If any of you are interested in the full text, which fleshes out the process, names of his collaborators and details of the cases, please email me and I will forward your request to him.

Joe writes, “Today’s *New York Times* (March 9) editorially celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s landmark decision adding strength to the First Amendment’s promise of press freedom in the case *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*. That has particular significance for me, as the court also ruled in favor of its companion case, *Abernathy v. Sullivan*, at the same time, and I had done most of the paperwork necessary to bring that matter before the court and obtain the final result.

“I volunteered to draft the Petition for Certiorari, a writ from the Supreme Court allowing our *pro bono* clients’ case to be accepted, and did so during several weeks of a family vacation during summer 1962. My draft was reviewed with

another partner, Benjamin Spiegel ’38L, now deceased, who assisted with his extensive knowledge of First Amendment law, and Harry Wachtel [’40L] added a bit of fire and brimstone to the opening argument. The final petition was printed, filed and served in November 1962, and the writ was granted in early January 1963.

“Our case was argued to the Supreme Court by former U.S. Attorney General William Rogers and former New York State Judge Samuel Pierce on the same morning that Columbia law professor Herbert Wechsler [’31L] and soon-to-be U.S. District Court Judge Marvin Frankel argued the *Times*’ appeal.

“After the court adjourned, we were joined by our clients and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at a nearby hotel to unwind, to hope for a favorable result and to accept thanks for what we had done through that day. The result was truly gratifying. We felt that justice had been done in a significant cause.”

Word of an early March event — “Fear, Freedom: Dark Past, Brighter Future,” a conversation with **Richard Sachs** — regrettably reached me too late to attend. But according to the information describing the evening, Richard read from his memoir of a closeted life in the tumultuous world of the 1940s and the decades following. He also talked about the fictitious safety of marriage, children and a family business, and how, after slowly emerging from the closet at 58, he now has a second, happy marriage to a man he loves. Richard was interviewed by prominent author-journalist Eric Marcus, and Dean Jeffrey Peck of the CUNY Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College moderated the Q&A program.

Richard reports, “It was a successful event with a nice crowd of different ages, affiliations and so on. The response was gratifying. I’m finishing the memoir and have an agent looking for publishers.”

Richard’s courage, creativity and participation in the forward march of social and political progress continue to be a source of pride for our class.

On a lighter note — but no less significant, as we get to hold our heads high on the athletics front infrequently — **Gene Straube** reports that the Columbia men’s basketball team made it into the postseason for the first time since 1968, reaching the quarterfinals of the Collegelnsider.com Postseason Tournament and finishing the season with a 21–13 record. We are grateful to Gene for keeping us posted on things that make us smile.

This column thanks the contributors for keeping us posted on things that matter. Keep the cards and letters coming and have a joyous summer.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28–31, 2015**  
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**Rudy Weingartner** has joined the ranks of the bloggers. To read his work, go to rhweingartner.blogspot.com and sign in.

Sad to report the passing of two classmates. **Joseph A. Mehan** of Fort Myers, Fla., died in December 2013 (see Obituaries), and **Harry W. Pauley** of Newburg, Pa., died in February 2014.

The mailbag was far too light this time around. Your classmates want to hear from you. Consider sending an update to either of the addresses at the top of the column, or submit a note via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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**Robert Snyder**, our class president, is seeking classmates to join him at periodic lunches to be held at the Columbia University Club of New York (15 W. 43rd St., between Fifth and Sixth Avenues). This will be a good way to keep in touch and share news with one another. Bob is suggesting that — starting in September — we meet monthly, or every six weeks or so, on a Thursday, noon–2 p.m. Given the club’s convenient location and the excellent public transportation in the metropolitan area, everyone in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut can join. Please telephone Bob at 212-751-1106 or on his cell, 347-886-2309; or email him at roberttsnyder@gmail.com to express your interest. (Be sure to include the double “i” in the email address.)

Members of the NROTC from the Class of 1951 held their 63rd reunion in Jacksonville, Fla., February 18–20. **Leonard Stoehr** provided the following, which has been excerpted from a six-page report.

The group was hosted at NS

Mayport. Following a greeting from the station commanding officer, Capt. Wes McCall, the visiting Columbians toured oceanfront base housing, aircraft maintenance facilities and current aircraft on the flight line. After touring the harbor where an AEGIS cruiser was at anchor, along with the moored *USS New York* (LPD-21), the Navy veterans were hosted by the Chiefs’ Club and enjoyed a delicious fried chicken buffet.

In addition to Len and his wife, Jan, participants included **Jim Lowe**, Ed Soohoo ’50, **Merritt Rhoad** and Peg Bachman, and Phil Bergovoy ’50 and his wife, Hindy. “**Tex**” **McNallen**, who was diagnosed with walking pneumonia at the last minute, was unable to attend but sent along this advice to the group: (1) Don’t get old in your attitude and outlook, (2) Don’t get depressed, (3) Don’t criticize and (4) Don’t complain.

A while back your correspondent missed a deadline. It was the first miss since the 40th reunion of our class, and the CCT staff was kind enough to note my lack of news with a brief paragraph requesting help. **Ronald G. Granger** ’54 Dental responded. His career included a Navy experience for which he now holds the rank of retired naval captain, and he is retired from a professorship and department chair at Boston University.

Ron and his lovely wife, Evie, celebrated their 60th anniversary last September with a 14-day Baltic cruise. They were accompanied by two of their daughters (they have five children), six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Evie has cousins in Stockholm, so they spent three days there before the cruise, which visited 11 countries. The weather was perfect and three days in London capped a wonderful travel experience. The Grangers live in Boynton Beach, Fla., during the winter but escape to Maine in the summer to do vegetable gardening and woodworking.

**Ted Bihuniak** and his wife, Marilyn, moved from Connecticut to Cypress Cove in Fort Myers, Fla., and enjoy the warmer weather. Although they miss not having the whole family near, they do have some granddaughters close by. Ted reports that their kids of every age are pursuing careers in the United States and overseas in the fields of engineering and international business. Ted and your correspondent were both in Japan with the 98th Bomb Wing (B-29s) during the Korean War.

**William A. Billingham** continued his education at Penn, where he earned a D.D.S. He and his wife, Kay, reside in Syracuse, N.Y., but catch some Florida time in winter.

He is looking forward to his 60th reunion at Penn’s Dental School this year, plays volleyball at the YMCA and saves time for three married children and 10 grandchildren. Recently Bill learned of the death of John Leahy ’53, ’54E, who was the stroke on their shell while he was the coxswain. They remained close friends, like so many Columbians, as the years went by.

Here’s a further note on **Robert Osnos**, who played 150-lb. football. Although called “a star” in this column in the Spring CCT, Bob wanted to note that the team’s record was 0–5, the coach was p.o.’d and there were no stars in sight! He is already looking forward to our 65th reunion, Thursday, June 2–Sunday June 5, 2016. Could he possibly be the organizer?

Here is a vital statistic. Our class numbered more than 600 when we entered Columbia in September 1947. Between drop-outs, transfers, requests to not be contacted, classmates of unknown location and classmates who have died, the current mailing list now has 230. With sadness we note the deaths of **Allan W. Robbins**, **George E. Chase** and **Chester M. Edelmann Jr.**

Keep in touch! News is always appreciated. And don’t forget to send in your contribution to CCT before the University’s fiscal year ends on Monday, June 30. You may give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/cct/giving or by calling 212-851-7852, or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Today, to *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 6th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

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**Pete Vayda** writes, “Between now and September 2016, I’ll be splitting time between my home in New York and stints in Indonesia, where I’m heading the ‘human actions’ component of a research project on peatland fires and carbon emissions. The project is funded by a NASA grant to South Dakota State University.”

**Carl Meier** ’56 P&S writes, “My wife, Gail ’55 Nursing, and I were married in 1955 and are still together 59 years later. I joined the Navy in 1957 and retired in 1981 after 24 years of active and reserve service. We moved to central New Jersey in 1959, where I joined a small family medical practice. In 1974, Somerset Medical Center in Somerville, N.J. — a teaching affiliate of Robert Wood Johnson

Medical School — asked me to start a graduate residency program in family medicine. The program was approved and accepted its first medical school graduates several years later. I remained the director of the program for 19 years, retiring in 1995 as an assistant professor of family medicine.

To pursue a research project, **Pete Vayda ’52** will split his time between his home in New York and Indonesia for the next few years.

“After living in Sanibel, Fla., for 18 years, we moved to the mainland and now reside in a Christian Continuing Care Retirement Community in Ft. Myers, Fla. We have three children, one each in corporate, medical and software endeavors, and five grandchildren. We are still able to travel and would enjoy having classmates visit.”

This column is a wonderful way for the class to stay connected but CCT needs a class correspondent to write it. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime you may submit notes to either address at the top of the column or through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**53 Lew Robins**  
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Early this April, I received the following email from **George Lowry**: “Last week I went to campus to see and hear **Mike Sovern**, who was being honored for the publication of his book, *An Improbable Life: My 60 Years at Columbia*. A few classmates were there — **Pete Carbonara**, **Pete Pellet**, **Marty Rabinowitz** — and probably some I missed, as it was a big crowd. Very interesting book. Turns out Mike was (and is) an even more important man than I thought.”

George was also kind enough to send a copy of Mike’s fascinating book, which is filled with anecdotes about Mike’s life as the dean of the Law School and later as the president of the University. In the chapter “Becoming ADean” he writes: “One of my favorite innovations as dean was to take half of the enormous men’s room on the first floor [of the Law School] and convert it into a women’s room. When asked what to do with the urinals, I suggested that we put flowers in them.”

Mike relates that he was espe-

cially proud of having helped to select Ruth Bader Ginsburg ’59L as the first woman to become a member of the Law School faculty. He also was instrumental in promoting two women as the first two female Law School deans.

Of his time as an undergraduate, Mike describes events that

many of us will remember. For example, he writes, “On occasional Saturday nights we could, for five dollars a couple, attend dances with a live band and a headlining vocalist. I still remember a thrilling performance by Édith Piaf. The fact that I was a clumsy dancer didn’t stop me from having a good time.”

In those days, every College student had to take two science courses. Mike selected calculus and psychology. He writes that the psychology course was taught by a modest congenial professor, Fred Keller, and involved spending four hours a week in a lab, learning about conditioning. Describing his experience, Mike writes of feeding rats in a glass Skinner box “which had a levered bar and a small opening to receive food pellets. The beginning exercise called for us to give the rat a pellet every time it pushed the bar. ... [a]s boredom took hold and my mind wandered, I conceived of a cartoon with two rats in a Skinner box, one saying to the other: ‘Have I got this kid conditioned; every time I hit the bar, he gives me a pellet!’”

A friend of Mike’s found someone to draw this cartoon for *Jester*, and many years later Mike’s daughter called him from college to tell him she had found the cartoon in her psychology textbook.

According to Mike there is an apocryphal tale about Columbia’s 13th president, Dwight D. Eisenhower. When asked why he left the presidency of Columbia for the presidency of the United States, Eisenhower replied, “I couldn’t stand the politics.”

I’m sure that reading Mike’s book about his “improbable life” will evoke images of our wonderful life at the College. Several years after we graduated, I had dinner with Dean Harry Carman and his wife, Margaret, at a Chinese restaurant on West 125th Street and Broadway. Afterward, as we walked along Broadway, I said to the dean, “How can I ever thank you for the things you have done to help me?”

I’ve never forgotten his answer. “Just pass it along, Lew,” he said. “Just pass it along.”

Reading the text of Mike’s book makes it clear that he is a classmate who has spent his adult life passing it along to many, many others.

In sad news, **Arthur Elkind** reports that Dr. **Harold Abrams** of Trumbull, Conn., died in March 2013. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and three children.

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By the time you read this, our class will have celebrated our 60th anniversary of graduation from alma mater. In the words of our class president, **Bernd Brecher**, we will have partied, celebrated and commemorated a cumulative 24,000 years of Core-directed lives on this planet. Stay tuned for the next issue of CCT for a full report. In the meantime, several classmates have let us know of some of their activities.

**Jim King** enjoys spending his time in both his Garden City (Long Island), N.Y., and Sanibel, Fla., homes. He has published a book, *From Brooklyn to the World: A Fun Trip*. As one newspaper described it, “The book recalls an odyssey of growing up in Brooklyn in the 1930s and 1940s, playing big-time college baseball.”

I know that I will buy his book, as profits go to the charity of Jim’s longtime friend, famed Brooklyn Dodger pitcher Carl Erskine, and his Madison County branch of the Indiana Special Olympics.

**George Goldstein** and his wife have moved from New York to Boca Raton, Fla. While they remain fans of the Mets, Yankees, Jets and Giants, George says they are enjoying the better weather. He retired from a career in medicine and the pharmaceutical research industry for the attractions of being a “history buff, museum docent, bridge player, amateur movie critic and so on.” George is also involved with a lifelong learning society at a local university. While he didn’t think he’d be able to make our 60th reunion, he hopes to make our 65th.

**Phil Bonanno** has been happily retired for 15 years; he and his wife live on Cape Cod but spend winters in Naples, Fla. Phil was a civil engineer in heavy construction and was fortunate enough to be involved in some interesting projects including Boston’s “Big Dig” and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York. He has been doing arbitration work on construction issues

### 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.



and dispute review boards.

Phil and his wife enjoy his retirement and now spend more time with their children and grandchildren. He adds, “Sure have much to thank Columbia for — the wonderful education and meeting so many wonderful friends. ... My regards to all classmates.”

**Ed Cowan** and his wife, Ann Louise, recently drove to Florida for a week of spring training, where they watched the Washington Nationals drill and practice. They were joined by **Don Crabill** and his wife, Mary. They also watched their team play two games; the Nats won both. All four were happy.

**Bruce Glaser** resides in Fairfield, Conn., and teaches art history at a local college part-time. As Bruce puts it, he spends much of his time “gardening, reading and as a serious foodie.” He also takes jaunts to NYC, walking old neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Manhattan, and says he is utterly astonished by their transformation, with museums, art galleries and more.

I was happy to hear from **Charles Ehren**, who noted that “after many years of law teaching and deaning,” he retired with his wife, Joan, to East Hampton in 1997. Both have been active in local civic and political affairs.

When I was working, I often got together with **Kamel Bahary** in midtown Manhattan. He shares, “I retired recently and I plan to travel with [my wife,] Susan.”

We have had great reunions and I’m sure this one will have been great as well. Until next time!

REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28-31, 2015  
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A lot of things are going on, both within and outside the gates of College Walk, making the University one of the most exciting schools of learning in the world. Producer Dede Gardner ’90 and actress Devyn Tyler ’13 were part of the Academy Award-winning film *12 Years a Slave*. University Trustee Ben Horowitz ’88 was featured in a *New York Times* article about his new book, *The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers*.

In early March, five alumni were each presented a coveted John Jay

Award for distinguished professional achievement. One of the attendees was **Allen Hyman**, who cheered on Dr. Robert Lefkowitz ’62, ’66 P&S.

Also in March, mathematics and physics professor Brian Greene launched two online courses as part of his new online teaching initiative, World Science University.

Fred Brooks ’56 and his wife, Jane, donated their Asian art collection, including Tang Dynasty treasures, to the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn.

In the travel world, the Columbia Alumni Association is offering a special small-group trip, “Classic Greek Isles,” including stops at Crete and other Greek locales. It will take place in late August, crossing into early September, and promises to be a terrific venture for the attendees.

The Sundance Film Festival, in which Columbia does very well, took place in Park City, Utah, in January; more than 60 Columbia filmmakers entered the competition.

The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science celebrated its 150th anniversary this year — “You’ve come a long way, baby.” **Jack Freeman ’55E** and **Bob Pearlman ’55E** were pleased with the festivities.

According to a December article in *USA Today*, Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC is “Silicon Valley’s Secret CEO Whisperer.” On a related note, Jonathan Schiller ’69, ’73L was selected to co-chair Columbia University’s Board of Trustees, serving alongside Bill. With the basketball team doing so well, we recall that Jon was a member of the nationally ranked team in 1969.

The school has entered into a contract with edX for online learning — the first course (online) will be on the Civil War, with the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS.

We’re starting to hear more and more from our classmates as our 60th reunion approaches.

**Sven Johnson** is still involved with Toys for Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps. We continue to hear from our San Francisco brethren, including, among others, **Stanley Lubman**, whom we hope will come to the reunion, and **Henry Cohen**, who is a big fan of Professor Wm. Theodore de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS; Henry has donated original prints titled “Mishima,” by Nathan Lerner, in honor of the professor. More information on the life and trials of Henry will appear in the next issue of CCT.

We also hope to see **Bernie Kirt-**

**man** (good buddy of **Bill Epstein**) next June as well as **Bill Mink** (and his high school classmate **Bob Brown**).

**Bob Bernot**, who lives in North Hill, N.Y., has retired but continues to teach Columbia medical students. **Michael Goldstein ’55E** requested an article from *Spectator* (as fierce as ever) on Columbia football.

Your scribe promises it will be given to Michael in person at the reunion, if not sooner. **Jack Stupp**in is still painting and living in Sebastopol, Calif. According to Jack, “Since I helped start Silicon Valley, it is very exciting to be in the first Silicon Valley Art Fair.” **Bill Langston** says he will definitely come east to see the campus in 2015.

**Don Laufer** and **Alfred Gollomp** have taken a “breather” from the monthly class dinners to visit Israel. We will all get together upon their return, along with **Ron Spitz**, **Alan Hoffman**, **Elliot Gross**, **Roland Plottel**, **Tony DiSanto**, **Bob Schiff**, **Chuck Solomon** (doing alumni “stuff” for the Dental School), **Anthony Viscusi** and more. Others who will join the throng are **Steve Rabin**, **Ralph Wagner** and **Bob Dillingham**, plus some surprise guests.

We are sad to report that **Marty Gottfried** (theater critic for *The New York Post*) passed away in March. Condolences go to Marty’s friends and relatives.

Fabulous classmates in the Class of 1955.

The big 6-0 is almost upon us. Good food, good company, great social events and more.

It will be better than Freshmen Week. Plans are under way. Get in shape for the times of your lives. Love to all! Everywhere!

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On February 6, I attended the annual Dean’s Scholarship Reception, where our Class of ’56 scholars meet and share stories, questions and observations with our class members. It is certainly one of the more satisfying Columbia events that I attend. This year, **Dan Link** and I represented our class. We had our first official Class of 1956 Alan N. Miller Scholarship Fund recipient, Marilyn Minton ’17; she was unable to attend the recep-

tion but wrote a wonderful letter about the importance of our class’ scholarship funds to her in particular as well as to all the Columbia scholarship recipients. In addition, we now have four Class of 1956 Scholarship Fund recipients: Alexandra O’Hagan ’14 from Redondo Beach, Calif.; Daniel Shi ’15 from Clarksville, Md.; Gregory Remppe ’16 from Albuquerque; and Alex Jastrzab ’17 from Staten Island (he is a graduate of Bronx Science, to which many of our class members can relate).

On February 23, we had our annual Florida alumni luncheon. **Lou Hemmerdinger** writes his thoughts on this year’s event, as, unfortunately, I was unable to attend: “We had our Sunday class brunch at Prime Catch on the intracoastal waterway in Boynton Beach, Fla. In attendance were **Dan Link** and his wife, Elinor; **Stan Manne** and his wife, Fern; **Lou Hemmerdinger** and his wife, Anita; **Bob Sirot**y and his wife, Margo; **Marty Mayer** and his wife, Susan; **Murray Eskenazi** and his wife, Joan; **Gershon Vincow** and his wife, Dina; and **Mike Spett**. It was a very happy affair, rekindling friendships and with lots of good memories and new stories shared among the group.”

We look forward to holding next year’s get-together at **Ed Botwinick**’s, which I hope, and God willing, I will attend.

At this writing we are planning our spring and summer class luncheons at, respectively, the Columbia University Club of New York, Faculty House (on campus) and **Dan Link**’s golf and country club in Larchmont, N.Y. Please contact me for details or to add your name to the list of class members who wish to be notified of the luncheons.

**Frederick Lippman**, chancellor of the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University, has “been appointed to the board of Florida TaxWatch.”

**Guy Castle** writes, “Enjoy reading Class Notes and looking forward to the next reunion. Survived lung cancer and am enjoying country life with my husband of 54 years (partner for 52, husband for two). I trust that 1956 can increase donations [to Columbia] for 2014. Past years have been far too low!”

**Fred Brooks**, who lives in Greenwich, Conn., recently donated all of his and his wife Jane’s Asian art collection, including Tang Dynasty treasures, to their local Bruce Museum. This collection was assembled from their travels not only to China but also to Japan and European countries that host major Chinese art collections. Collecting, sharing and giving is another way

we can all use our liberal arts Columbia education to benefit others.

**Ron Kapon**, our peripatetic oenophile, has recovered from knee surgery and was able to attend most of Columbia’s basketball games during one of their best seasons.

In sad news, **Jerry Sturman** informed me that **Les Rabkin** passed away in January after a brief but overwhelming infection. A memorial service was held in Seattle and attended by more than 100 friends and family who celebrated his life and his outstanding contribution to his field of psychology and to his second love, film. All who knew Les will mourn his passing and miss his longstanding friendship. I send class condolences to his wife and family.

Also, sadly, **Arthur Bank** passed away in February. Arthur will be remembered as an active and interested class member and as an internationally recognized leader and major contributor in the field of hematology research. Arthur recently completed a book outlining his view of medicine, including his perspective on the responsibility of each medical doctor to his patient. I extend class condolences to his wife, Rona, and his family.

As always, please contact me or **Lou Hemmerdinger** (hemmer@aol.com) with news that you would like to share in Class Notes. Also, if you have changed your email or mailing address, please inform the CCT staff: college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus. This is part of our mission to keep all class members up to date on class news and activities.

A brief note on fundraising: Anyone who has not yet contributed can do so through Monday, June 30, the end of Columbia’s fiscal year. Give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline or by calling the Alumni Office, 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.

I look forward to sharing many good memories with class members from the summer season.

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**Michael Lipper** reports that **Erik Eybye** died on December 20, 2013, in Paoli, Pa. He writes, “Erik at the time we graduated ... was the midshipman commanding officer of our NROTC unit. He then went into the Navy as a junior officer. After that he went to work for Ford in its

international activities. Subsequent to Ford he had a number of positions with some large companies. He and his wife, Lena, had a daughter [Marianne], who is a research scientist formerly with Merck. Her brother, Tom, is with Merrill Lynch in Summit, N.J. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* ran a brief obit [on December 23].” If you would like details, Tom may be contacted at tomebybye@gmail.com. Memorial contributions may be made to the Boy Scouts of America, 1325 W. Walnut Hill Ln., Irving, TX 75015-2079.

**John Taussig** shares, “The Southern California contingent of our class ... met for lunch on January 25. As usual, we met at Parkers’ Lighthouse in the Long Beach marina. We have made this a regular venue for our gatherings because with the Los Angeles and Orange County geographies so spread out, we find this locale ... equidistant [or mutually inconvenient] for all [except] for **John Ahouse**, who lives in Long Beach. “The weather was perfect. After all, this is Southern California. The conversation and [comradeship] continue, as we now meet about four times a year.”

He continued with the following report about the classmates in attendance:

“**John Ahouse** accepted congratulations for the local press coverage of his recent gift to California State University, Dominguez Hills, of his comprehensive collection of books and ephemera concerning the life and writings of novelist and former gubernatorial candidate (1934) Upton Sinclair. CSUDH offers a program in labor history, for which Sinclair’s work is a potential resource. Sinclair attended graduate school classes at Columbia in 1897-98 (at the beginning of the Nicholas Murray Butler [Class of 1882] era). Otherwise, John continues as docent at The Wendell Museum in Culver City, Calif., where he lectures on the post-WWII division of Europe.

“**Kenneth Bodenstein** has been busy following the UCLA and Columbia tennis teams as they excel in their conferences. He was in NYC at Flushing Meadows last fall [watching] the Columbia men’s doubles team win the National Indoor Intercollegiate Championships for the first time since the 1890s. It was a great event and Columbia had a noisy group of fans.

“**Mike Gold** heads the Virginia M. Woolf Foundation, which publishes large-print publications for the visually impaired as well as a newsletter for policemen and prosecutors. *The Law Enforcement Legal Reporter* [is sent] monthly to approximately 1,000 police personnel and departments and reports on current developments

in criminal law.

“**Herbert Sturman** reports that his family is in good health. He works full-time and enjoys it. Herbert had a good year professionally in 2013 with good results against the IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board. He also received some prestigious awards recognizing his abilities as a tax lawyer. His current activities include, among others, working out every day, playing golf when he can break away from the office and playing bridge with his wife as his partner.

“**Eugene Wagner** moved to Pacific Palisades, Calif., 19 years ago after selling his oral care company. He developed oral care consumer products. Since then he has been living the life of bicoastal (NYC) retirement. When people ask him what life is like, he responds: ‘It’s like taking the course but not the exam.’ Remember that at Columbia we always had to take the exam.

“**Gerry Werksman** practices law on a reduced basis and enjoys life in Southern California with his wife, Betty Teller ’59 Barnard.”

As for himself, **John Taussig** writes that he was “CEO of the consumer credit and direct marketing businesses of TRW, which were sold in 1996 and are now known as Experian. Since retiring in 1998 I have been an angel investor in start-up and early stage companies and am a co-founder of Tech Coast Angels, an organization consisting today of five chapters and 270 investors in Southern California. I enjoy the Southern California lifestyle and spending time with my three grandchildren. I am an

avid racquetball player and enjoy playing in live (not online) poker tournaments.”

**Salvatore Salibello** shares the following career recap: “Captain, Pan American World Airways (retired). Attorney-at-law, approved mediator and arbitration New Jersey Superior Court.”

Yours truly was on vacation in Rome January 17–February 3. I visited many places but limit my comments to some highlights.

I explored the Eternal City mainly on foot, taking the Metropolitana (Metro) from near my hotel to the stop nearest to the area that I wanted to explore and then back. Going about on foot gives me the flavor of a city and turns up architectural gems. Every so often I encountered a little fountain or other decorative piece set in a niche in a building wall. Near the foot of the stairway leading down from the church of San Pietro in Vincolo (noted for the Michelangelo sculpture of Moses) to the Via Cavour, I found the exquisite little church of St. Mary of the Mountains (Santa Maria ai Monti), with a dome similar to that of the cathedral Duomo in Florence but without supports from the floor below.

My walks took me from the Vatican to the cathedral of St. John Lateran (San Giovanni Laterano) and from the Borghese Gardens to the Roman Forum and the adjoining huge monument to King Victor Emmanuel II (under whom Italy united in 1870). The king and his queen are buried in the Pantheon, some distance away. My Italian, albeit very limited, was invaluable for asking directions and some-

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

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times for ordering meals.

I was among several thousand who attended one of Pope Francis’ Wednesday morning audiences, held outdoors in St. Peter’s Square. The pope entered in his popemobile, reaching out to many in the crowd close to him. He and his small entourage then mounted the rostrum. Seated as I was with my back to the rostrum, I saw the event on a large screen, probably more clearly than I would have from a distance without the screen. A priest translated the pope’s address into English, French and German. Pope Francis addressed the crowd as “brothers and sisters,” and at the end he thanked his audience. He noted the presence of several non-Catholic organizations in Rome, including the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. This pope has a most magnetic and warm personality. The day before the audience I took a tour of the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter’s Basilica.

Following the audience, I visited the Castel Sant’ Angelo, generally a parallel to the Tower of London. It has served as a papal palace, a sanctuary for popes fleeing the Vatican during attacks via an aqueduct and a prison. It was especially interesting to me as the scene of the third and last act of the opera *La Tosca*. The castle also affords magnificent vistas of Rome, especially of the Vatican. In the vein of *La Tosca* I also visited the church of St. Andrew of the Valley (Sant’ Andrea della Valle), where the first act takes place, and the Farnese Palace, the site of the second act. Presently the palace is the French Embassy, closed to the public. One of the side chapels in the church has a sign noting the opera but alas it has no painting of a fair-haired marchesa (noblewoman) as Mary Magdalen.

Along the Tiber is a gem of a synagogue (Sinagoga), comprising a Spanish and Portuguese sanctuary in dark wood, the Jewish Museum and the synagogue’s main sanctuary; the last is richly decorated in Babylonian and Persian details. The synagogue’s square dome is a prominent feature on the skyline of riverside Rome. The museum has a fine collection of silver, textiles, parchments and marble carvings as well as excerpts from old films.

No discussion of Rome would be complete without noting its many fountains. There is the large and elaborate Trevi Fountain, lifted from obscurity by the 1954 film *Three Coins in the Fountain*. In addition, there are several fountains by Bernini. At the Piazza Navona is the Fountain of the Four Rivers, with allegorical figures representing the Danube, Rio de la Plata, Ganges and the Nile. In the center of the

Piazza Barberini is the Fountain of Triton. About 100 feet away, at the foot of the Via Veneto, is the Fountain of the Bees. Bernini is buried in an obscure grave in the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major); the epitaph aptly proclaims that “He decorated the city.”

All in all, the trip was most rewarding. I would be pleased to discuss it with my readers.

**58** **Barry Dickman**  
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We are sorry to report the death of **George Wertheim** ’59 GSAS on December 8, 2013, in San Francisco. George is survived by his wife, Linda; daughter, Val Langmuir; and brother, Bill Wertheim ’65.

After earning a master’s in psychology, George finished a Ph.D. in experimental psychology at Stanford. He taught at Stanford, among other schools, then returned to the Bay Area to work first for the San Francisco mental health department and then for the information technology department; there, he fulfilled his destiny as a troublemaker by helping form Local 2, the Union for Professional and Technical Engineers in city government. He also started a small computer company and had been a board member of Congregation Bna’i Emuneh in San Francisco.

*The New Yorker* gave a shout-out to former NBC news reporter **Carl Stern** ’58, ’59J in a January 20 Talk of the Town piece.

The perpetual motion machine has finally stopped — or at least slowed down: **Steve Jonas** announced his retirement as professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and the Program in Public Health at the School of Medicine of Stony Brook University. Not to worry, though; he will continue as professor emeritus. Many of his accomplishments have been reported already in this column, but here’s a brief recap:

Steve earned an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, an M.P.H. from the Yale School of Medicine and an M.S. in health management from the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. He also studied at the London School of Economics and the Touro College Law Center. He had been at Stony Brook since 1971 and also held adjunct professorships at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

and Touro Law Center. He has written numerous books on both public and personal health and medical-related subjects as well as politics. Steve is a past president of the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine, a past associate editor of *Preventive Medicine* and current editor-in-chief of the *American Medical Athletic Association Journal*. He also has hosted a radio call-in show on politics and been a web columnist. In his spare time, he is a dedicated triathlete and, yes, he has written a book on that, too.

*The New Yorker* gave a shout-out to **Carl Stern** ’59J in the January 20 Talk of the Town piece titled “Opened Files.” It covered an event (the subject of a recent book) that was a precursor to the Edward Snowden exposure of NSA data collection: the 1971 break-in at an FBI field office that revealed the extent of J. Edgar Hoover’s spying on American citizens. The “burglars” came across a reference to a program called COINTELPRO.

The comment says, “It took two years and the determination of **Carl Stern**, an NBC news reporter who filed several Freedom of Information Act requests and a lawsuit against the Justice Department and the FBI, for Americans to discover what COINTELPRO was ... a top-secret program which spied on civil rights leaders, suspected Communists, public critics of the FBI and student activists, among others, and sought to intimidate,

high school, four in college and two in law school. In those ‘good old days’ I earned enough for my tuition and other expenses and saw some of the comedians in Joe’s film.”

Speaking of **Bernie Nussbaum**, we have mentioned that his daughter, Emily, is the TV columnist for *The New Yorker*. Her husband, Clive Thompson, is also a writer and the author of the book *Smarter Than You Think: How Technology is Changing Our Minds for the Better*.

The class lunch is held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Grill Room of the Columbia University Club of New York, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). Email **Art Radin** if you plan to attend, up to the day before: aradin@radinglass.com.

**59** **Norman Gelfand**  
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I hope this column reaches you after an enjoyable time at Alumni Reunion Weekend. Stay tuned for the Fall CCT for a full report.

At one of our Reunion Committee meetings, I was asked to solicit biographies from classmates. We had a similar compilation for, I think, our 35th or 40th reunion. The biographies were then combined into a book. This time we may not have a hardcopy book but the contributions will be collected and made available, probably online via a dedicated website. Please contribute your reminiscences. There is no special form for the submission; just write what you want to communicate to your classmates (we’re still accepting them even though reunion is over). Thank you for your participation.

**Ralph G. Risley** writes, “My wife, Sara, and I moved to Tucson from the Bay Area in 2004 and are still in the process of redoing our second house. I seem to be driven by projects (versus going to the gym for exercise). The real challenge and reward in this activity comes from the preservation of the character and bones of a property, restoring it to what it was prior to years of neglect and deferred maintenance. ...

“Our three sons live in Northern California. Our oldest has a mergers and acquisition practice in Palo Alto, specializing in the software aspects of digital and Internet media and the offshoots thereof. Our other sons, and a daughter-in-law, are all lieutenants with the Sacramento Police Department. “We spend four to five months

each year on the road, half in California and the remainder elsewhere in the Western United States. I will never retire in the traditional sense. I am always looking for value-added startups that can be leveraged. I am currently focusing on a U.S.-Mexico border transportation hub that integrates cross-border transport and regional economic development.

“Sara is deep into miniatures as a collector, artisan and seller of what no longer meets her current tastes. She does four shows a year in the West.

“In closing, I have a bit of reflection on the loss of a friend and a member of our local Columbia alumni club, Bill Krauter ’66 Business. It happened unexpectedly, and too early. As you move about your daily routines, remember it can all end without warning and before you can have a last conversation.”

From **Bernie Pucker**, we hear: “As it turns out, Alumni Reunion Weekend coincided with the last major exhibition in Pucker Gallery’s present space, where we’ve been for 46 years, at 171 Newbury St., in Boston. My wife, Suzanne, and I have sold our building and will move nearly 7,100 art objects to 240 Newbury St., third floor. The location will provide us with slightly more space and higher ceilings — all on one floor! It is exciting and challenging. Fortunately, our son, Jon, is working with us and leading the way. We should be in by August and our first show will open in September.

“Boston has been good to us. We are fortunate to live in an educated, supportive community. Along the way we have dedicated a major part of our lives to supporting nonprofits, and continue to be amazed by the creative energy of the city’s nonprofit sector. We host two or three events for these organizations in our gallery each month; lately this has included events for LIFT, Peace First, Medicine Wheel Productions and Playworks. Amazing, young, bright people saving the world.

“Our family’s Columbia connection strengthens with [our granddaughter] Abby ’14. We are so happy.

“Our usual approach is a day at a time. We start with ‘This is the Day, the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and greet it with Joy and Gladness’ but with luck and better we may make it to our 60th!”

**Bob Stone**, who at this writing planned to be at reunion, reports, “I will attend the high school graduations of my two eldest granddaughters: Elana in Silver Spring, Md., and Juliet in Denver. (How did I get so old?) Elana will head to an

honors program at Maryland and Juliet will attend Kenyon College. If I can hang on long enough, my two youngest grandkids will have the opportunity to be third-generation candidates at Columbia, as their mother is Phyllis B. Stone ’91.”

**Bruce M. Stave** and his wife of 53 years, Sondra Astor Stave, continue to work together through The Stave Group: Oral History Consultants (oralhistorybythestavegroup.com). They do projects and conduct workshops locally and abroad. At the request of the State Department, they presented a weeklong oral history workshop in Ljubljana, Slovenia. They also are completing an oral history of Armenians in Connecticut, where they have resided for 49 years. The project is supported by an endowment for Armenian studies at the University of Connecticut, where Bruce taught for many years and is now a distinguished professor of history emeritus. As a consequence of that project, the Staves visited Armenia and met with faculty at Yerevan University; the trip also took them to Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia. At this writing they were planning to take a Black Sea cruise in June. Despite the recent emphasis on Eastern Europe, Asia remains their favorite location.

Bruce also does his own version of *Wayne’s World*, as he hosts a local access TV program in which he interviews residents of varying sorts in Coventry, Conn. The Staves’ son is Channing ’92. Aside from partnering in a successful marketing research analytic business, Disruptyx, Channing brings his son, Stratton (10), and daughter, Sabrina (4), to Columbia football and basketball games. Often their mother, Sara, a Connecticut College graduate, accompanies them. Stratton’s favorite Columbia basketball player is Alex Rosenberg ’15, and Sabrina is getting into the act as well.

**David Horowitz** writes, “My son Ben ’88 was made a Columbia trustee in 2013, overcoming the burden of having a Columbia black sheep for a dad. I’m very proud. Ben is brilliant and will do Columbia a lot of good. His old man, nearing the end of his run, has begun publishing his collected works in 10 volumes under the title *The Black Book of the American Left: The Collected Conservative Writings of David Horowitz*. The first two volumes — *My Life & Times* and *Progressives* — are in print and three more will be out before the end of the year. Ben also published a book this spring — a terrific one, his first. It is called *The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers*. I

have a hunch that it will outsell all of his father’s books, including the bestseller co-authored with Peter Collier on the Kennedys.

“Age has its many trials, as everyone reading these notes is aware. For some who keep their eyes open it brings a certain wisdom, which unfortunately is virtually impossible to pass on. Every generation has to learn the hard way — by experience. This in itself goes a long way toward explaining why our species is condemned to repeat the same mistakes in every generation, and why moral ‘progress’ is a chimera and the dedicated pursuit of it the source of so much human misery. But that was the subject of my remarks at our 50th reunion, which fell on many deaf ears. Sorry to miss this one. Maybe I’ll still be around for the 60th. If not, I wish you all good luck.”

**Gene Appel**, who was unsure at this writing whether he’d make it to the reunion, writes, “My wife, Linda, and I responded to a Columbia Alumni Association Facebook post requesting love stories at Columbia. Ours was accepted and posted on the CAA Facebook page [facebook.com/ColumbiaAlumniAssoc] in a collection called “Columbia LOVE Volume I.” It has our picture and story of how we met; it’s been 55 years.”

**Peter Rosenfeld** accepted an invitation to become a member of the Scientific Program Committee of the 17th World Congress of Psychophysiology (IOP2014). IOP2014 will take place in Hiroshima Tuesday, September 23–Saturday, September 27. Peter says this is the first official congress held in Asia in the 32-year history of the International Organization of Psychophysiology. Also at this IOP congress he will co-chair a symposium (with an Israeli colleague) called “Advances In Memory Detection Research.” His wife, Carmen, plans to attend. Their daughter, Patricia, is earning a Ph.D. in economics and finance this June and has accepted an assistant professorship at Rice.

**Ken Scheffel** recently returned from a trip to Guatemala. He says, “Now, I need a vacation to recover from my vacation. Will try to write more after I’ve recovered.”

**Norm Bernstein** writes, “In 2012 and 2013 I won two cases back to back in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (the second against the U.S. Justice Department, which sought to overturn the first decision) and then filed a successful brief in the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the grant certiorari that was denied in January 2014. That win made the front page of *Bloomberg’s* *Toxics Law Reporter* on January 30.”

**Richard Lacoss** reports, “My

family went to Tanzania last summer on our yearly vacation. Upon our return we all went our separate ways. My son, Remi Oldham, who graduated from Boston University in 2013, is a graduate student in geophysics at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. My daughter, Zelda Lacoss, after graduation from Smith in 2013, is in Beijing for a year studying Chinese. This gave me and my wife, Cynthia Oldham, an excuse to visit her recently; we all then traveled to Japan and Korea, and also went to the Ice Festival in Harbin, China, which was amazing. Cynthia and I are now back in Cambridge, Mass., with the cat and the dog.”

**Allan Franklin’s** 11th book on the history and philosophy of science, *Shifting Standards: Experiments in Particle Physics in the Twentieth Century*, was published in December. He writes, “I spent the fall semester as the senior visiting fellow at the Center for Philosophy of Science at Pittsburgh.”

**Norman Gelfand’s** daughter Keren Shoshan was married on March 23 to Adam Cohen in Ramat Gan, Israel. The couple will live in Israel, where Keren handles media relations for a startup called TipRanks. Feel free to look at its website.

In sad news, I am sorry to report the deaths of **Evan Juro**, **George H. Semel** and **Richard Stepick**.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28–31, 2015**  
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A malfunctioning computer prevented my putting together a column for this issue. The good news is that I have a new one and should be on track for the Fall issue. So please, share your news with me at either address at the top of the column or send an update through the CCT webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

In the meantime, all best for a healthy and enjoyable summer.

**61** **Michael Hausig**  
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**Jim Melcher** has been honored as an outstanding member of the



Columbia College family, having received a 2014 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. The ceremony took place during the John Jay Awards Dinner on March 5 at Cipriani 42nd Street. Jim is the founding partner of Balestra Capital.

**George Kalbous** reports, “As of the end of 2012, I have completed more than 700 musical shows for seniors, telling the stories of how the great songs and standards were composed. I began doing these shows in 2001 after I retired from Ohio State as a professor of Russian literature. Conservatively, more than 20,000 people have seen these programs.”

**Avrum Bluming** and his wife, Martha, celebrated their 50th anniversary in the northern Nepal kingdom of Mustang. When they plan vacations, they generally search for a place where the indigenous culture hasn’t yet been destroyed by contact with the modern world.

In northern Mustang the couple encountered a culture little changed across hundreds of years. Avrum says that at the height of summer, Mustang’s population consists largely of horsemen and pastoralists who follow their herds of sheep, goats and yak to wherever the harsh, steep environment yields temporary fodder. Once winter arrives, herds must be taken south to the warmer, greener hillsides of southern Nepal. Many of the men leave for India, taking up temporary careers as traders across the Himalayas. The remaining population, cut by half, does its best to keep warm around dung-fueled kitchen fires in simple houses of stone and mud, living much as Europeans did during the Middle Ages.

Avrum and Martha stayed throughout the trip in the same accommodations as the locals — basically, stone- and mud-walled rooms with no plumbing. The only water source was from the glacial snow-melt that in the warm months runs through the streets of the towns. They brought their food with them, as well as propane tanks for cooking and a basic kitchen’s worth of cooking utensils and dishware. It was pretty uncomfortable, they said.

**Morrow Wilson** now calls himself an independent producer, writer, marketing/communications executive and performer. Find out more at [davidsunshinethenewnovel.com](http://davidsunshinethenewnovel.com).

**Bob Juceam** received the Champion Attorney of the Year Award from CUNY’s Citizenship Now! Program on March 25 at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The award was presented by Robert A. Katzmann, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Though he left the partnership

in 2006, Bob remains of counsel at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson in New York with a litigation practice, including matters of professional responsibility, defense of counsel charged with misconduct, insurance and reinsurance, and nonprofit organization and governance. His full plate also includes advancing lawyer pro bono activities through the American Bar Association, where he is a member of the House of Delegates, a directorship at the Pro Bono Institute and participation in the Immigration Justice Project.

In 2013 **Jose Cabranes** completed 12 years as a University trustee, a position in which, he was happy to report, he was regarded as having an unduly “parochial” interest in the welfare of the College within the University — a concern that afflicted College alumni well before we arrived on Morningside Heights in 1957 and which, he regrets to say, will persist well into this century.

**Bob Juceam ‘61 received the Champion Attorney of the Year Award from CUNY’s Citizenship Now! Program at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.**

Jose remains a judge in full active service on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. His “home” chambers are in New Haven, Conn., where he has lived for 34 years. He goes to New York to hear cases every five to six weeks, on average. In August 2013 he was designated by Chief Justice John Roberts to also serve, for a seven-year term, on the three-judge United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review.

Jose’s wife, Kate, a former federal prosecutor in New York, is a tenured member of the faculty of Yale Law, where she is the Lafayette S. Foster Professor of Law and teaches constitutional law, criminal law and criminal procedure.

The couple has four children. Their younger daughter, Amy, for the past eight years has been the director of development and (latterly) director of foundation relations of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. Their older daughter, Jennifer, went into the family business — she’s a graduate of Harvard Law — and lives in Concord, Mass., with her husband, Robbie, a partner in a Boston law firm, and their four children (ages 15, 13, 11 and 9). She is a regular columnist on political and cultural affairs for the *Boston Herald* and appears frequently on New England Cable News as a political commentator.

As for their sons, because the

family is the matriarchy that it is (in Jose’s words), both followed Kate’s footsteps to Dartmouth. Older son Alejo ‘14L spent a year on a Dartmouth fellowship in Europe, where he was a paralegal in a law firm and an analyst at a financial consulting firm. He will now work at the NYC law firm of Hughes, Hubbard & Reed. Younger son Ben will graduate from Dartmouth in June. He is unsure where he will land professionally, although — after a three-month internship in 2012 at Major League Baseball’s media center — he is interested in sports management.

**Stan Futterman**’s son, Dan ‘89, was the College’s Class Day speaker in May.

**Rod Parke** and his partner of 33 years, Dale Burke, finally were able to marry last July.

**Arnold Klipstein** writes that since he “retired” in July 2012 he has been working much of the time in Spokane, Wash., as a gastroenterologist for the Rockwood Clinic.

He works two weeks a month and enjoys the people and the lack of dealing with the business portion of medicine. He works for an agency that he says treats him well. He has a wonderful fiancée and is healthy. Arnold travels a lot in between working and says, “Life is great.”

In February, at our class’ monthly luncheon in New York, **Stuart Newman** and his law partner, Liviu Vogel, spoke about their firm’s efforts to collect a \$2.7 billion judgment against the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of U.S. Marines killed or wounded in a truck bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in October 1983. Last summer, the U.S. District Court in New York ordered that \$2 billion in a bank account beneficially owned by the Central Bank of Iran be turned over to the plaintiffs. Stuart’s firm is also pursuing a turnover of NYC commercial real estate controlled by the Iranian government, including, ironically, the office building where the Class of ‘61 holds its monthly luncheon meeting.

My wife, JB, and I spent the winter in Colorado as volunteer ambassadors at Copper Mountain, where we provided ski tours and other on-mountain services to guests. **Alex Liebowitz** visited and skied with us for more than a week, and **Bob Rennick** and his wife, Lisa, drove up from Colorado Springs for our annual mutual

birthday celebration. Although much of the nation was staggered by continual snowstorms, we celebrated the more than 300 inches of snow we received this season.

Unfortunately, three classmates passed away in recent months.

**Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin** died of cancer on December 30, 2013. Ken’s controversial 1975 manslaughter conviction for performing a legal abortion was overturned on appeal in a landmark test of medical, legal, religious and political questions surrounding abortion in America. Ken became a hero of the women’s movement, was named to prestigious posts in national health and human rights organizations, and went on to a successful medical and teaching career. He became known for his concern for indigent patients, and he spoke often of the need for legal and safe abortions.

Ken was chairman of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America 1989–92. His case was the subject of a 1978 book, *The Baby in the Bottle*, by William A. Nolen, and a play, *As to the Meaning of Words*, by Mark Eichman, which was staged in New York in 1981. Ken authored many articles on the prevention of teenage pregnancy and the perils of substance abuse during pregnancy. In 2007 he published a memoir, *Broken Justice: A True Story of Race, Sex and Revenge in a Boston Courtroom*.

In addition to his wife, Barbara, and four children, Ken is survived by eight grandchildren; brother, Milton; sister, Norma Edelin Johnson; and nephew, Jeh C. Johnson ‘82L, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and son of Norma and her husband, Jeh V. Johnson ‘53, ‘58 Arch.

**Sam Marateck** passed away on January 14, 2014, after a short illness. Sam completed a Ph.D. in physics at Rutgers in 1967. His interests then shifted to computer science, which he taught in NYU’s computer science department from 1972 until he was taken ill in October 2013. He was the author of several well-known programming textbooks, which introduced many students to the subject.

According to his memorial service program, Sam, despite his career path, retained a side interest in physics and authored an article on Feynman diagrams in the Notices of the A.M.S. in 2006 and an article “Yang-Mills and Beyond,” published in the Notices of the A.M.S. in 2012.

He was awarded the 1986 Washington Square and University College Great Teacher Award, the 1989 College of Arts and Science Baker’s Dozen Teaching Award, the 1996 CAS Outstanding Teaching Award and the 2001 CAS Golden Dozen

Teaching Award. In recognition of Sam’s outstanding teaching contributions, the Courant Institute established the Samuel L. Marateck Award for Outstanding Teaching in Computer Science.

Sam was a cherished and active member of the Jewish communities at NYU and at his regular synagogue, Young Israel of Long Beach, N.Y.

**Victor Hao Li** ‘64L passed away on September 18, 2013, in Oakland, Calif.

Victor was born in Hong Kong and earned two post-graduate degrees from Harvard Law. He was the Lewis Talbot and Nadine Hearn Shelton Professor of International Legal Studies at Stanford before he moved to Hawaii to become president of the East-West Center Foundation, a job he held from 1981–90. Victor then founded the Asia Pacific Consulting Group of the law firm Watanabe Ing with former Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi. Victor helped U.S. companies set up operations in China while Ariyoshi did similar work for Japan. Because of a personal invitation from Victor, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang made Hawaii his first stop on his first official U.S. visit in 1983.

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**Ed Pressman** reported that at Homecoming, October 19, he, **Paul Alter**, **Stu Rosenbluth**, **Dave Tucker**, **Leo Swergold**, **Mike Stone** and **Stan Waldbaum** spent a wonderful day at the game, about which Ed wrote, “I will say little” — and then had dinner together. Prior to kickoff they had lunch at the 1962 table under the Homecoming Big Tent with **Yen Tan** and **Gary Roxland**. “I hope,” Ed wrote, “that the women were able to put up with our remembrances. Whenever we get together, the time goes too quickly.” At the time he wrote, they were planning a basketball outing. To learn of such gatherings, contact Ed: [edwardpressman@mac.com](mailto:edwardpressman@mac.com).

**John Garman** sent the sad news that **Dick McKenna** passed away while shoveling snow in the dark on February 3. He was 74 and did not have any health problems. Dick earned a master’s in education from Rutgers and pursued a more-than-40-year career as a teacher and coach. He taught science and biology at North Plainfield (N.J.) H.S. 1963–2003 and coached Little League, swimming, wrestling, cross country, and boys’ and girls’ track. For 50 summers, starting when he was in high school, Dick directed playground programs in North

Plainfield and Maplewood, N.J.

Dick’s family established a scholarship fund in his honor to help “not necessarily the best” high school students pay for college. Dick long wanted to help those students, because they are less likely to receive financial aid from the colleges they want to attend. You can support Dick’s fund by contributing to the NPHS Alumni Association, c/o Fred Sheeler, 587 Ayres Ave., North Plainfield, NJ 07063.

Dick is survived by his wife, Gail J. Looker McKenna of 229 Benns Hill Rd., Bangor, PA 18013; their daughters, Jennifer McKenna and Joanna Bartholomew; and two grandchildren. A son, Douglas, predeceased him.

On December 24, *USA Today* ran a long story about **Bill Campbell** under the headline “Silicon Valley’s Secret CEO Whisperer.” Here are some excerpts: “Bill Campbell is the most important executive you’ve probably never heard of. His official biography is impressive: chairman of Intuit, president of Go Corp., founder and CEO of Claris Corp., former Apple executive and its longest-serving board member. But it’s what he does on the side that has made an even bigger impact. “The former Columbia University football coach is an executive adviser to some of the biggest names in technology, from Steve Jobs and Jeff Bezos to Google’s Eric Schmidt and Larry Page. He’s also worked with Ben Horowitz [‘88] and Marc Andreessen, who went on to found one of the country’s top venture capital firms, Andreessen Horowitz. ...

“While Campbell is a big proponent of creative talent, particularly in engineers, he insists that leaders have fundamental operational skills, whether it’s understanding a manufacturing process or basics like hiring and running good meetings. ‘Brilliance,’ [Campbell says,] can’t be taught, but the operational stuff can be. Do you have operational instincts? Who cares? If you work with me for six months, I can give you enough prowess and process to be able to go run something, and really do something with it.’ ...

“The Pennsylvania native ... was always a geek at heart — even when he worked at an old-school company like Eastman Kodak. ‘I used to take all those green sheets from Kodak, take them home on Sunday and put them around a glass table and pound it all out. I had all the summary sheets of the ship-to locations. I’d break them down, see where there was retail and find out what was strong, what was weak, what markets were good. Where was Fuji affecting us and the private labels and things like that? I mean, I was a

good computer jock at that time. In fact, I was the only one that did that at Kodak. They would say to me, ‘Where did you get your information?’”

Andrew Dunn ‘71 emailed the sad news that his brother, **Ralph Dunn**, passed away at the end of December after a 20-year bout with cancer. “About all I know of his Columbia years,” Andrew wrote, “is that he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity; roomed with **Larry Devore**, his dearest lifelong friend, in Livingston; coxed the frosh lights; and was the Lion at football games. To get by the science and language requirements he took poets’ astronomy and Spanish, but couldn’t identify a single constellation or understand anything beyond *adios* and a few phrases I won’t repeat in company.”

Ralph graduated from the New England School of Law and practiced as a trial lawyer with his father-in-law in the firm of Reinherz & Dunn in Malden, Mass. **Larry Devore** wrote in his eulogy: “Ralph was a professional lawyer. I mean that he was extremely good. He cut to the chase. He represented me many times. I never, ever lost. We took on a downtown firm, and a week later they came to us for a settlement. He was not good; he was great.”

In 1998 Ralph and his wife, Reinherz “Linda” Dunn, retired to Aventura, Fla., where he devoted himself to golf. He had three holes-in-one.

Ralph is survived by Linda, of 19355 Turnberry Way, Apt. M15E, Aventura, FL 33180-2541; their son, Eric, of San Francisco; and two grandchildren.

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I hope spring revived your spirits after our long, cold winter. For some strange reason it seems that more and more of you are emailing me from the warmer climes of Florida, Arizona or farther south. Lucky you. For those of us in New York, we enjoyed seeing the beautiful Columbia campus in the snow and the trees on College Walk magically twinkling with festive lights. Many of your classmates, including **Henry Black**, **Steve Barcan** and **Doron Gopstein**, braved the cold to cheer on the Columbia basketball team to its most successful season in 45 years.

**Carey Winfrey** writes, “Since retiring as the editor of *Smithsonian* magazine in October 2011, I have been working — at an

appropriately leisurely pace — on a documentary about Key West, Fla., and why this little resort town became such a magnet for writers, going back to the day in 1927 that John Dos Passos persuaded Ernest Hemingway to give the place a try. Hemingway was followed, in short order, by Richard Wilbur, Elizabeth Bishop, Wallace Stevens, Robert Frost, Tennessee Williams, James Merrill, John Hersey, John Ciardi, John Malcolm Brinnin, Ralph Ellison and many others. Today’s crop includes Alison Lurie, Robert Stone, Judy Blume, James Gleick, Frank Deford, Ann Beattie, Meg Cabot, Harry Mathews and Michael Mewshaw. The one-hour film, *Writers on Bicycles: Literary Key West*, was shown as part of the Friends of the Key West Library lecture series in January.”

**Nick Zill** has written and produced another political satire/musical comedy, which opened in Hollywood in February. It’s titled *Obama Spy Drama* and features as characters Edward Snowden, Vladimir Putin and a CIA official named Carlos Danger, as well as President Barack Obama ‘83.

Nick, when are you bringing your shows to the East Coast — perhaps Off-Broadway?

**David Pittinsky** writes, “*The Legal Intelligencer*, an ALM Pennsylvania Newspaper Group publication, has honored me with its Lifetime Achievement Award. I still practice full-time at Ballard Spahr in Philly, so I guess longevity is rewarding.”

**David Saxe** was recently honored at the 38th annual Jewish Lawyers Guild Dinner at the Hilton New York Hotel with the Benjamin N. Cardozo Award. He has been on the Appellate Division, Supreme Court, First Department for 15 years.

**Mei Gurtov** has published his 22nd book, *Will This Be China’s Century?* *A Skeptic’s View*, and has started a blog on foreign policy, *In the Human Interest*, at [mgurtov.wordpress.com](http://mgurtov.wordpress.com).

**Sid Kadish** writes, “I recently had a Columbia moment. I was studying Psalm 36 in my monthly Bible study group when verse 10 jumped out at me. ‘For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light.’ We know this better as ‘In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.’ I spent a few minutes with my group talking about how indeed a Columbia education can illuminate the darkness of ignorance ...

“I retired from active medical practice at the end of 2013. It was 41 years of radiation oncology, usually dealing with cancer patients, making for a rewarding and satisfying career. Now I am engaged in volunteer work, consulting, scientific writing and taking it easy. Retire-



ment so far has been wonderful. “As I write, today is Patriot’s Day and Marathon Monday here in Massachusetts. There is a great deal of feeling in the air and everyone is either running, watching the runners or watching the race on TV. This is Boston’s answer to 9-11. It’s heady!”

Because the mailbox was a little empty this quarter, I went online and researched what you are all up to. Many of you have a large and interesting Google (or Bing) presence. I will highlight some of the ones I find from time to time. Please contact me if you would like to point (or not point) classmates to your Facebook page, website, blog or YouTube feed.

You can find out all about **Doug Anderson** and his wife Dale’s Israeli decorative arts foundation at aidaarts.org.

If you are interested in Transcendental Meditation or just would like to see **David Orme-Johnson’s** watercolors, you can start at his Wikipedia page. It has a series of links.

My former roommate, **Patrick Cary-Barnard**, has been posting short videos to YouTube for several years. You can find links at greencoalitionverte.ca/pimento.htm. Patrick reports from the Montreal neighborhood of Westmount on environmental and other issues. A Google search will lead you to many of his articles as well as the YouTube videos he has filed as “The Pimento Report.”

Patrick, you look positively youthful!

Want to know what **Lee Lowenfish** has written about baseball recently? Take a look at leelowenfish.com.

**Michael Hassan** is in Mexico and was recently married. You can find him on Facebook.

**Zev bar-Lev** (ne **Rob Lefkowitz**), maintains an educational site at languagebazaar.com. Some

interesting lessons there.

So visit these sites, look your classmates up on Facebook and “Friend” them. And visit our class page at facebook.com/columbiacollege1963 and “Like” us! You’ll be rewarded by seeing a ton of pictures of our 50th reunion.

Remember, our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are an ideal place to reconnect. It’s been a rough winter but the Class of ’63 seems to have made it through in great shape. Our monthly lunch attendance dropped to an all-time low of three during a snowstorm in February but we rebounded to a record 14 in April. If you’re in NYC, try to make one of the next lunches, scheduled for July 10 and August 14 — they’re always the second Thursday. Check out cc63ers.com for details.

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

**64** **Norman Olch**  
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I am writing in early April and our 50th reunion is getting ever closer, though by the time you read this it will have passed. Stay tuned for the Fall CCT for my full report and please know that many people worked hard on our behalf to make it a great time. This includes **Steve Case** and **Bob Friedman**, who, as I’ve reported, co-chaired the Reunion Committee.

Others involved in the planning were **Joel Abramson**, **Adam Bender**, **Bernard Catalinotto**, **Lionel Etra**, **Marty Isserlis**, **Howard Jacobson**, **Gil Kahn**, **Fred Kantor**, **Beril Lapson**, **Peter Lowitt**, **Marshall Meyer**, **Jeff Newman**, **Steve Rosenfeld**, **Merv Rothstein**, **Dan Schechter**, **Steve Solomon**, **Peter Thall**, **Allen Tobias**, **Ivan Weissman** and **Marty Weinstein**.

**Bob Goldman** is the Catherine and William L. Magistretti Distinguished Professor in South and Southeast Asian Studies at UC Berkeley. He writes, “I am in the middle of my 42nd year as a faculty member at Berkeley and still enjoy it as much as ever. I got here through the kind of unexpected turn in one’s life that only a place like Columbia can provide, and which turned a halfhearted pre-med chemistry major into — of all things — a professor of Sanskrit. Thanks to the College’s excellent courses in what, in the pre-Saidian era, we used to call Oriental Civilizations and Humanities, and thanks to the inspirational teaching and mentoring of such outstanding scholars as Wm. Theodore de Bary

[’41, ’53 GSAS] and Ainslee Embree [’60 GSAS], my eyes opened to things I had never even dreamt of.

“Since our graduation from Columbia half a century ago, I have lived for various periods of a year or more in Philadelphia (Ph.D., Penn, 1971), Oxford (Spalding Visiting Lecturer in Eastern Religion and Ethics), Pune and Delhi, India, and of course Berkeley. I still miss my native New York, though.

“I live a short distance from the UC Berkeley campus in the beautiful Berkeley Hills with my wife, Sally Sutherland Goldman, who (go figure) also teaches Sanskrit at Berkeley. We have three sons, Jesse ’95, a professor of physics at the University of Hawaii at Hilo; Seth, a postdoc in microbiology at the Waksman Institute of Microbiology at Rutgers; and Aaron ’08, who works for a startup in San Francisco.

“Jesse and his wife, Cindy, had their first child and our first grandchild, Clara Hui-en, in 2013. My wife and I, along with Aaron, flew to Hawaii to see them in January, and then went straight on to New Delhi, where I was awarded the President’s Certificate of Honour for Sanskrit (International) at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the former seat of the viceroy and now the Indian equivalent of our White House. The award is given to one non-Indian Sanskrit scholar each year and is announced on August 15, India’s Independence Day. The ceremony was an interesting mélange of Indo-British pageantry. The award also includes a traditional pandit’s gift of a woolen shawl and a cash prize.”

Congratulations, Bob. **Kevin DeMarrais** writes, “After 20 years, 1,046 Sunday columns (without missing a week), awards from the New Jersey chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for the top business stories of the year, some angry phone calls and letters from advertisers who didn’t like what I said about them, and even more letters and emails from readers who thanked me for helping them, it is time to retire.

“On April 6, ‘Your Money’s Worth,’ my consumer-oriented financial column, made its last appearance on the front page of the Sunday business section at *The Record*, the highly regarded Bergen County-based newspaper. It was a tough call because I still enjoy what I’m doing, but it’s time to move on with the rest of my life, to travel, to spend more time with my four grandsons and to try to avoid driving my wife (of almost 50 years), Marilyn, crazy.

“This was something of a second or third career for me. Many people start in journalism and move into

public relations to make more money. I started in public relations, including 19 years as director of sports information at Columbia, and left to help found a startup online company that was five to 10 years ahead of its time. That was my chance to get rich. Instead, I was part of one of the first digital bankruptcies — you haven’t lived until you watch the auctioneer sell off your desk — before embarking on a career in journalism, which was always my first love.”

**Steve Savitt** reports similar news: “I will retire at the end of June 2015, after having been on the faculty of the University of British Columbia for 45 years. I look forward to having more time for my academic work (in the philosophy of time) once I stop teaching. I also intend to have a bit more fun, too. For instance, despite the lack of all qualifications, I have joined the board of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association and I am happy to participate even peripherally in the sort of work where many of my classmates have made their careers. Last year we won a constitutional challenge to Canada’s archaic prostitution laws, and we currently have a case arguing for physician-assisted suicide for the terminally ill (in carefully delimited circumstances) headed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

“Like **Avi Decter** (and no doubt many others), my wife and I sold our longtime home, which was in a residential neighborhood of Vancouver, and moved into an apartment downtown. The change has been exhilarating. We now get out more often and walk nearly everywhere instead of driving. We feel fit — and morally superior to boot.

“We recently became grandparents. Our son, David, a professor of mathematics at the University of Arizona, and his wife, Katherine, an engineer with Raytheon, became the parents of Emilia last December. Emilia is, at the moment, unemployed though busy with a number of important projects, like getting her hands to her mouth.

“The pattern of my life will no doubt be familiar to a number of classmates. [As I write] it is unlikely I can be at the reunion. There are certainly a few I would have liked to have seen on campus, if they are still with us. **Les Pockell** is not, and I miss him.”

**Steve Rosenfeld** writes from New York: “On May 16, I received my first degree from a university not named Columbia, when I was presented with an honorary juris doctor from the City University of New York Law School on the occasion of my completing 10-plus years as chair of the CUNY Law

Board of Visitors, and in recognition of my career-long involvement in public interest and public service pursuits. Among the endeavors cited by the faculty in voting me this honor are my work as deputy general counsel of the New York State Special Commission on Attica in the 1970s, my service as a board member and president of the Legal Aid Society (for which I now volunteer several days a week, representing abused and neglected children in Family Court) and my role in helping to create CUNY Law’s new Theodore Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice, in memory of my late Paul, Weiss partner, whom we all [may] remember as President Kennedy’s counsel and speechwriter when we were at the College.”

Congratulations, Steve.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28-31, 2015**  
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**65** **Leonard B. Pack**  
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I am happy to say that I had a hand in creating the lead story in this column. The backstory is that **Allen Brill** and I are among the handful of classmates who settled on the Upper West Side, not far from Columbia. My wife, Adele, and I ran into Allen and his wife, Irene, at a neighborhood restaurant, and we decided to sit together. In the course of conversation, Allen mentioned that **Brian Fix** ’68L was on his way to Dakar, Senegal. That night I wrote to both Brian and **Gary Engelberg**, who has lived in Dakar since his Peace Corps service in 1965, to connect them and pave the way for a get-together in Dakar. I include below their separate reports on their encounter.

Gary writes, “Brian has been back and forth to Dakar since the ’70s, but [until now] neither he nor I was aware of the other’s presence in that part of the world! We met for a Senegalese lunch at my place and exchanged war stories, drank Senegalese tea and listened to the call to prayer from the mosque across the street. Brian is advising the Senegalese government on infrastructure development through public-private partnerships. I am happily retired after turning over the management of my NGO, Africa Consultants International, and

its Baobab Training and Resource Center, to a new team of competent Senegalese.”

Here’s Brian’s take: “Indeed, an enjoyable lunch with Gary. For CCT purposes, I should simply add that for my sins, having spent close to 20 years living and working in Europe — Paris for 12 years and London for six before that, first opening and then managing Central and East European offices for the Salans law firm and, as those offices matured, moving over to French corporate work — I decided that it was time to become American again. I returned to NYC in 2008 (but only after playing architecture student through the Architecture School’s program in Paris at Reid Hall).

“Given all my years working in emerging markets, particularly Africa, I have been working for the past four years on a pro-bono basis with the International Senior Lawyers Project, assisting African governments in negotiating international development contracts, as well as teaching a seminar at Sciences Po in Paris on the same subject. The current work in Senegal is through the ISLP and the African Development Bank but doesn’t hold a candle to the good work that Gary has been doing in Dakar for the past 47 years. *Chapeau!* ...

“On a personal note, though I maintain a residence on the Upper East Side, I decided that after all these years it was also time to relax on the weekends so I recently bought a historic house in Princeton once occupied by one Woodrow Wilson. Tigerland notwithstanding, I will remain loyal to Morningside Heights. But if anyone is in the Princeton area, do let me know.”

You can reach Gary at gengelberg@acibaobab.org and Brian at brian.fix@dentons.com.

**Josh Fendel** (joshf6271@aol.com) writes: “Reading the Class Notes in the Winter 2013–14 issue of CCT reminded me of a recent tête-à-tête I had with my wife. (Actually, it was mostly me talking and her listening.) I was feeling a bit melancholy as I contemplated my retirement later this year and what I sometimes feel is a failure to live up to my potential. The recent Class Notes regarding the accomplishments of some of our classmates has done little to lessen my sense of inadequacy in this regard. I have had a moderately successful practice as a clinical social worker for more than 40 years, which provided me with satisfying and fulfilling work. But I have won no national honors, published no acclaimed books or articles, received no major awards, made no significant discoveries, managed

no law firms, held no public office, headed no academic departments, held no distinguished chairs and accumulated no great wealth.

**Steve Shama’s** comments about retirement made me wonder exactly how much ‘several’ million dollars was. But like Steve, my financial planner assures me that my wife and I can live a very comfortable life without running out of money.

“On the other hand, I plan to retire to the San Francisco area later this year (from Long Island), moving to be near both my son, David ’95, and my brother, and their

**In April, Bob Yunich ’65 and Tony Leitner ’65 were honored as 50-year members of The International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta.**

families. I am grateful for my two children and their spouses, my five grandchildren and my wife of 46 years, Barbara. We are all in good health (on an age-adjusted basis) and living comfortable lives. I have good friends (sadly, I will leave many of them when I move), and a fair number of people whom I love and who love me. I look forward to an active retirement pursuing a number of interests for which I haven’t had enough time.

“And, oh yes, in 2012, I was the Nassau-Suffolk Bridge Association Flight ‘B’ Player of the Year. (I was president of the College Bridge Club and captain of the Bridge Team 1963–65).”

Josh touches on two important issues. One is the question of retirement, which is clearly a topic of great interest to people of our vintage, and I encourage classmates to weigh in on their decisions. Josh also refers to the self-selection that afflicts Class Notes: the trumpeting of accomplishments, honors and distinctions. But everyday details matter, too, particularly to people with whom you were friendly while at Columbia, so do not be reticent about sharing details of your life and activities, which may be more interesting to our readers than any awards you may have won. [Editor’s note: See Alumni Corner for more on this topic.]

Friends of the late **Gideon Oberweger**, whom many of us admired and respected, should check the Class of 1992 notes in this issue to catch up on the doings of his son, Alex ’92, and the news of the birth of his grandson, Samuel Gideon Oberweger, on January 24.

**Gregory Tarsy** (gregorytarsy@gmail.com) writes, “I’ve been quietly living near the beach in Santa Cruz, Calif., for 25 years or so and am a senior manager at Oracle

by virtue of it having acquired Sun Microsystems, my long-term employer, in 2010.

“I plan to retire to a career in ceramics at the end of next year. I’ve been doing mostly wheel throwing, making functional ware, but not as much as I would like. I plan to continue when I retire and enter a ceramics program toward a B.F.A. or the equivalent. That plus singing in a choir or two and spiritual practice keeps me quite busy, as does family life with my wife, Karen, and two no-longer-full-time-resident stepsons.

“I’ve been singing South African four-part harmony with a sprinkling of other freedom songs in a local choir called Zabalaza (Zulu for struggle). Occasionally I sing with another local group, Peace Choir. I’m a longtime member of Subud, a spiritual organization begun in Indonesia in the late 1920s and which now has a membership of 20,000 people spread across about 80 countries. For a few years before Subud I was a Buddhist and sort of still am. There’s not much Columbia presence in my neighborhood but I do regularly see a work colleague, Marty Itzkowitz ’62.”

**Bob Yunich** (rhyunich@gmail.com) shared this account: “This year has been marked with several anniversaries — the 10th anniversary of my 60th birthday, my wife Joanne’s and my 35th wedding anniversary and my 45th Harvard Business School reunion. In April, **Tony Leitner** and I were honored as 50-year members of The International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta. Tony also was recently initiated into the elite group of Distinguished Fijis, which includes Roone Arledge ’52 and Jack Nicklaus, among others.

“Joanne and I also have been fortunate to continue our adventure travel. In May we went on an awesome two-week trip to China with Abercrombie & Kent. Our tour started in Beijing. We saw the usual sights: Tiananmen Square; the Great Wall of China, where we climbed and walked one of the best-preserved segments northeast of the city; and the Summer Palace.

“The next leg of the trip was our 3½-day, 400-mile Yangtze River cruise from Yichang to Chongqing, passing through the Three Gorges.

“From Chongqing, we flew to and saw Guilin, then onto Xi’an. In Xi’an, we visited what is rightfully

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# Stefan Rudnicki '66 Gives Voice to Printed Word

BY MARY JEAN BABIC

In his celebrated career as an audiobook narrator, **Stefan Rudnicki '66** has voiced New England sea captains and 6-year-old boys. He has read poetry in French and adopted Welsh, Texas and Polish accents. He has narrated science fiction books, history books, business books, parenting books, mysteries, thrillers, Chekhov and Nabokov. He's lent his resonant baritone to some 400 works and, mostly as co-owner of Los Angeles-based Skyboat Media, produced more than 3,500.

Last year Rudnicki was named a Golden Voice by *AudioFile*, the audiobook business' trade magazine. Something of a lifetime achievement award, the Golden Voice is a capstone for a career already decorated with two Best Spoken Word Grammys for producing (2013's *Society's Child*, an autobiography of singer Janis Ian, and 1999's *The Children's Shakespeare*) and Audie Awards (the audiobook world's Oscars), among other honors.

Not too shabby for what in fact is Rudnicki's second career, one stumbled upon but that's proven prolific.

"From week to week you're doing something different," says Rudnicki. And when your job requires you to read aloud every word of, say, Will Durant's multi-volume *The Story of Civilization*, "your education never ceases."

Book narration, Rudnicki says, draws on all the tools he's gained, from a multilingual childhood to his theater days at Columbia, his master's program at the Yale School of Drama and the hundreds of productions he was involved with — performing, producing and directing — during two decades as a theater professor. "The core of the process is always to identify what is unique about a particular book or author and discover ways to underscore that uniqueness," he says. It's not only about character voices but also pacing, tempo, intentionality and the tones of different segments of a book.

And if a book calls for accents

or long passages in a foreign language? Rudnicki revels in it — it's kind of his thing. Born in Krakow at the end of WWII, he lived in Sweden and Montreal before his family settled in Queens when he was 7; there was a time when he spoke Polish, Swedish and German. He's since lost them all, but that early exposure, Rudnicki says, gave him a facility with language that he calls on time and again.

During his time at Columbia there was no theater major, so Rudnicki opted for English. But he credits the Core with making it possible for him "to do everything that came afterward." He adds, "I pity anybody who hasn't had it. I describe it to people and their jaws drop: 'You did what? You studied what?'"

Rudnicki honed his performance chops in Varsity Shows and Barnard Gilbert and Sullivan Society musicals, and in 1969 he completed an M.F.A. at Yale. He then held faculty positions at the University of Rochester, Jersey City State College, NYU

(adjunct) and Long Island University's C.W. Post campus. By 1987 he was LIU's department chair in theater, film and dance. The only remaining career step was to dean, which did not interest him, so he left academia to focus fully on theater. In 1991, he drove his Honda to Los Angeles, where he's lived ever since.

In his first years there, Rudnicki landed acting and directing jobs on low-budget horror and action films

(his description). Then one day a playwright friend mentioned a gig she had abridging books prior to their being recorded.

"I'd never heard of an audiobook," Rudnicki says. "I figured it was something for the blind."

At that time, the mid-1990s, most audiobooks were confined to two 90-minute cassettes, so the book, be it *War and Peace* or *A Tale of Two Cities*, had to be cut to fit that format. In his teaching and acting days, Rudnicki had abridged plenty of texts. "I did *A Midsummer's Night Dream* with eight actors in 45 minutes," he says. "I thought, if I could abridge Shakespeare, I could do this."

The friend hooked him up with Dove Audio, and in short order he became production coordinator and then VP. He got behind a mic around 1997. Rudnicki's audiobook career has coincided with tremendous growth in that industry, which has been transformed by digital downloads and the exploding young adult market (notably, the Harry Potter series). Books are now recorded at full length, and most new titles come out on audio. In 2011–12 alone, audiobooks sales increased by 13.5 percent, according to the Audio Publishers Association.

In 2000, Rudnicki and his professional and personal partner Gabrielle de Cuir, herself an audiobook narrator and director/producer, hung out a shingle as independent audio producers, under the name Skyboat Road Company Inc., now known as Skyboat Media.

Three of Skyboat's studios are in their home in L.A.'s Valley Glen neighborhood; another is minutes away in Studio City. Through the years, Rudnicki and de Cuir have developed close working relationships with writers such as Harlan Ellison, Ursula K. LeGuin, Deepak Chopra and Lewis Shiner.

Skyboat's best-known production is the *Ender's Game*

series, written by Orson Scott Card. In recording those classic sci-fi novels, Rudnicki opted for multiple narrators, departing from the single-narrator norm. He voiced the main character, Ender Wiggin, who is, when the series begins, a 6-year-old boy.

"Clearly I don't sound like one," says Rudnicki. "The idea was to find that attitude and nail it down."

Card was so impressed that he now requires hiring Skyboat Media as a condition of selling audiobook rights to a publisher. "Stefan was determined to treat audionarrative as a new and separate art form, at the boundary between the narrative and the dramatic," says Card.

To stay competitive in an ever-more competitive business, Rudnicki is now positioning Skyboat to become a publisher as well as producer and is mining backlists to acquire rights to books that he wants to bring, in audio form, to a new audience. Many are science fiction, fantasy and horror books that he loved as a kid. One of Rudicki's first acquisitions, however, was *Thirty Years of Treason: Excerpts from Hearings Before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1938–1968*, written by one of his Columbia professors, Eric Bentley.

With the exception of *The Delivery*, a 2008 short film that he and de Cuir made — the plot centers on, yes, audiobooks — Rudnicki hasn't been on a film set in more than a decade. He says he misses it but has no complaints about the path he's taken. It turns out that being involved in every aspect of producing an audiobook is "a performance art that is also education." He adds, "It's really thrilling."

*To hear Rudnicki discuss the best book he's narrated, go to Web Extas at college.columbia.edu/cct.*

**Mary Jean Babic** is a freelance writer who lives in Brooklyn. This is her third article for Columbia College Today.

called the greatest of all archaeological sites in China: the Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses dig. This site is a small part of the Tomb of Qin Shihuangdi, the first emperor of the Qin dynasty (221 B.C.–206 B.C.). Some 8,000 life-size figures (warriors and horses) were originally crafted during a 40-year period, prior to the emperor's death, in the belief they would safeguard his passage to the afterlife and protect his kingdom from attack. This emperor also should be credited with maintaining full employment; in addition to the workers who built his tomb, he enslaved hundreds of thousands more to build the Great Wall. He also set an extremely high bar for anyone wanting to have a spectacular monument to one's self. After the emperor died, almost all the original terra cotta figures were damaged and remained underground for nearly 2,000 years. Since 1974, when the site was discovered, 20–25 percent have been painstakingly restored, and the restoration will continue for decades to come. Although the terra cotta warriors have been billed as the eighth wonder of the world, I think Machu Picchu (which we visited in 2010) ties for this distinction.

"From Xi'an we flew to Shanghai, which is by any measure the most westernized city in China, and our last destination before returning home. During WWII, due to the absence of visa restrictions and despite the occupation by the Japanese, Shanghai became the refuge for 30,000 European Jews fleeing Hitler. The language barrier aside, and notwithstanding the lack of food and poor living conditions, these refugees were warmly welcomed by the Chinese (this story would make a great Steven Spielberg film as a sequel to *Schindler's List*). We visited the section of Shanghai that had been dubbed the Jewish Ghetto, which includes the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue, now used only occasionally for worship services and primarily as a museum. On our walking tour, we saw the former home of Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury in the Carter Administration, who lived in Shanghai.

"I cannot bring myself to retire fully but am certainly enjoying more leisure: We spend half our time at our upstate home, YSACRES, in Andes, N.Y., and the remainder in New York City. I have been taking gardening classes at The New York Botanical Garden and enjoy my regular workouts and yoga practices. Fly-fishing always has been my passion; however, the conditions in the western Catskills were less than ideal last spring and early summer. My insurance and investment advisory

practice still is going strong. Our Andes home is perfectly located for my fishing adventures and for taking care of my clients who reside in the Hudson Valley. New York remains my primary base."

Word has come of the death of **Geoffrey Horn** on November 25, 2013. Geoffrey was an editor and writer who lived in Red Bank, N.J.

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I had the pleasure of watching our men's basketball team several times this year, including their final game in the quarterfinals of the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT). I attended with **Harvey Kurzweil**. We completed our finest season in 45 years with a 21–13 record. Congratulations to the team, and here's to grand expectations for next season.

I recently enjoyed a tasty and fun Chinese luncheon in Manhattan, with a menu selected by **Michael Garrett**. Joining us were **Tom Chorba, Mark Amsterdam, Rick Reder** and **Richard Zucker**. The bill was surprisingly light, especially given the fact that Michael did the ordering. He is gluten-free, so he vicariously enjoyed our repeat while attacking his bean sprouts and steamed broccoli. I can state the diet is working, as he is half the man he used to be. Perhaps the fact that none of us had alcohol had something to do with the reasonable cost. It was also suggested that we request submissions of jokes to Class Notes to provide some humor, along with updates. Thoughts? My thinking is that some of our news is funny enough on its own, but I'm open.

**Daniel Sullivan '67** Business writes, "This is the first time I have sent an update to Class Notes. I have fond memories of my days at the College. Coming from Canada I had to make a few adjustments but not many. I look back at Contemporary Civilization and Literature Humanities and only wish I appreciated these courses as much then as I do now. I enjoyed many of the friendships I made at Livingston Hall and Carman Hall, and through the Blue Key Society and Sigma Chi.

"While at the Business School I became interested in investment banking and afterward I returned to Toronto and enrolled in a master's program in economics at the University of Toronto. After graduating, I joined a Canadian investment banking firm and had a satisfying, 38-year career. Approaching mandatory retirement at 65, I was appointed by the Canadian prime

minister as consul general for New York and moved back. I and my wife of 40 years, Sandra, enjoyed four years of interesting work and life in NYC. We returned to Canada to retirement and board work in 2011. We have two children and two grandchildren. I enjoy golf and travel, and fortunately have had no body parts replaced as yet."

**Bill Greenfield** reports, "[As I write] I am sitting in the Van Pelt auditorium in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, waiting to see Art Garfunkel [65]. Through the years I've wondered how I could have been so preoccupied with my premed studies that I wasn't aware he was a classmate.

"At that time I also was often with Stefan Grossman, a classmate of my girlfriend at Cooper Union. Stefan was hanging out with [musicians] Rev. Gary Davis and John Sebastian. One time he brought his friend Mississippi John Hurt to the apartment and we ate Chinese food and he played for us.

"Man, would I pay more attention to these things if I were doing it again; although, if that were the case, I might not now be winding down a medical career and enjoying music so much more. Gotta go. Art is coming on."

**David Paglin** writes, "Semi-retired, I keep active as a writer and professional theater artist in Washington, D.C. I happily lucked into a tutoring job at the Center for Academic Excellence's Writing Center at the Naval Academy. One finding therefrom: It's a certain outcome of (initially) experiencing the grandeur of such a place that one becomes aware that both the martial and the peacemaking virtues — whose polarities and whose champions have propped the arc of our Republic — became conceived in the same womb of courage, the same moral purposiveness, the same nobility of hope. Curious how monuments erected to victory and to warriors compel the reflection that the warrior's triumph comes when he may say he has exhausted the causes to murder.

"Put another way: The international and diplomatic (apparent) blacks and whites of the judgments that many of us recall from the wars and the anarchic chaos of the mid- to late-'60s have now — in a time of other genres of human conflict — become glossed by varied tones of gray, whose quieter shades beckon and do not abuse the gaze of history ... our necessary conceiving of history ... that we, the Class of 1966, have beheld and lived inside of, in its baffling, protean incarnations. My best to classmates."

**Calvin H. Johnson** writes, "This falls into the category of



Audiobook narrator Stefan Rudnicki '66 has won two Best Spoken Word Grammys.

PHOTO: ALEX LINARES



small news but I offer it to hold back the encroachment of the ‘65 or ‘67 Class Notes on ‘66 space: I continue to teach tax law at the University of Texas Law School in Austin. My major writing/ research is on the Shelf Project, which is a collaboration to raise revenue in ways that will improve the fairness and efficiency of the tax system. Still fun. I try to run five miles or swim a mile every day. My fourth grandchild, Elliot Alexander, was born recently, which is pretty terrific news within our family.”

**Rich Beggs** writes, “My wife, Geri, and I are happy to be in Florida during the winter. In January I had total right shoulder replacement surgery, which put my golf on hold until May. But rehab in 80 degrees is OK. I have adjusted to retirement and find lots of things to do. I keep up with the events and process at Columbia, including the athletics situation. Reality will be back come the first game in September (at least for football). But it’s going to be a long process, especially considering the long history and significant impediments. Keep the faith.”

**Cliff Rosenthal** is finishing a two-year stint at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C., focusing on low-income issues. This came on the heels of his closing out a successful 32-year career running the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions. By the time you read this, he will be back in Brooklyn for good.

**Dan Gover** suggests taking a survey of how many classmates are working versus being retired. He adds, “I am looking at six more years at least. Fortunately, I’m a college professor in New Jersey. Unfortunately, I need the governor to open my lanes to get over the George Washington Bridge and visit Columbia.”

**Albert Bruns** writes, “I retired in 2013. My last job was working at the Hidden Lantern Bookstore in Rosemary Beach, Fla. My wife, Prudence, teaches Transcendental Meditation and has given lectures this year in Iowa; Whistler, B.C. (Canada); New York City; and other places. She recently finished her second book, a memoir titled *Dear Prudence*. Her first was the publication of her Ph.D. thesis from UC Berkeley, based on her translations from Sanskrit of five texts on Nadi vinyan (ayurvedic pulse diagnosis).

“Prudence and I are also working on a documentary film about our experiences at the 2013 Kumbha Mela in Allahabad, India, a multi-week festival that was attended on its biggest day by 35 million pilgrims (all told, more

than 100 million people participate in the Mela, which takes place over a period of a few weeks every 12 years). Our editor suggested that the film would be more interesting if the Mela were presented through our eyes. We have both studied India for several decades; we both spent several years studying Sanskrit (that’s what my wife’s Ph.D. is in); and we have both practiced Transcendental Meditation since the mid-1960s and been teachers of TM for nearly that long.

“The editor felt that through our lives the viewer could get a sense of the impact of the sixties on our generation and how we carried those experiences into our later life, and in turn see our impact on the next generations. I have interviewed several old Columbia friends for the film including **Dick Melita**, **Mike Melita**, **Bill Wise** and **Mike Shannon**.

“Our oldest son is developing cryptography programs. He lives with his two teenage children in Napa, Calif., and works in San Francisco. Our daughter is in her third year of medical school at FSU and doing specialty rotations at a hospital in south Florida. She has two children, a daughter learning gold-working (jewelry) in San Francisco and a son who is learning the same skill, living near us here in Florida. Our youngest son lives in Berkeley and works in Santa Clara in big data for a genome sequencing company.

**David Hillis ‘67, ‘72 P&S writes that his class was well represented at October’s centennial gala dinner of the Senior Society of Sachems.**

“I am helping my wife as well as reading, walking, swimming, keeping up my Sanskrit, enjoying meditation and traveling. This year we went to India, British Columbia, New York (twice), places in the South, Iowa and — by the end of the year — California, twice.”

One final brag: My son Rich, who will begin his final year of law school this fall at Richmond, has been offered a federal bankruptcy court clerkship in Norfolk, Va., so there’s another year or so of southern living for him. One hopes he won’t need to use his forthcoming expertise on my behalf.

The big 50 is coming up — as in our 50th Alumni Reunion Weekend. Please start consulting your long-term calendars for Thursday, June 2–Saturday, June 5, 2016. This will be probably the most significant and hopefully well-attended reunion of our class, and it would be wonderful to see all of

you there. I promise to buy each one of you a drink and dinner of your choice during the weekend. I swear. I really do. You can count on me. Seriously.

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**David Hillis** ‘72 P&S writes, “In October, the Senior Society of Sachems celebrated its centennial year with a gala dinner at the University Club of New York, in Midtown. Of the grand total of 1,500 Sachems alumni across a 100-year period, 800 or so are said to be alive, and almost 350 attended the dinner. It was a huge success.

“Our class was particularly well represented, probably in part because **Roger Lehecka** was the Sachems faculty adviser for many years during and after his tenure as dean of students. Of our 15 members, I know that three have died: **Paul Bernbach**, **Jeremy Epstein** and **Don Krim**. Nine of the remaining 12 were in attendance: **Bob Coffee**, **Paul Gewirtz**, **David Hillis**, **Roger Lehecka**, **Larry Miller**, **Mark Minton**, **Allen Spiegel**, **Tom Werman** and **David Zapp**.

“My career is coming to an end in the coming months. After graduating from P&S, I completed a residency and chief residency in medicine at Parkland Hospital in

and grandkids. My most recent book, *Biblical Paradigms in Medieval English Literature: From Caedmon to Malory*, has been released as a paperback — a new Routledge venture, to make scholarly books more affordable.”

Amy Epstein, widow of **Jeremy Epstein** (who died in 2009), says, “I’m writing simply to mention two extraordinary legacies that reflect two of Jeremy’s great life interests: Columbia College and pro bono service.

“Jeremy created a scholarship for an undergraduate in the College with an interest in classics. Three undergraduates have received the Jeremy G. Epstein Scholarship since 2009 and each has shown a level of intellectual curiosity that would have pleased their benefactor. The current recipient has been accepted to Oxford next year, where she will study classics. Jeremy spent two years at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he studied classics on a Kellett Fellowship before attending Yale Law. I know it was an extremely interesting and intellectually rewarding time because we were married in the summer between his first and second year.

“I should also note that attending the Dean’s Scholarship Reception every February with the Jeremy G. Epstein Scholarship recipient, and hearing about the differences all these scholarships make in the lives of the undergraduates who receive them, is one of the most uplifting events in my calendar.

“Equally gratifying is attending the now-annual Jeremy G. Epstein Awards for Outstanding Pro Bono Service, sponsored by the New York City Bar Association at the beginning of Pro Bono Week in October. The awards were created in 2009 by the New York City Bar Association in Jeremy’s memory and are given to 10 attorneys in New York City who have done exemplary pro bono work for the City Bar Justice Center, the association’s not-for-profit division. The keynote speaker at last year’s ceremony was Judge Jed S. Rakoff of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York.

“I should note that Jeremy devoted more than 5,000 hours to pro bono service while working in private practice, believing that any individual or organization is entitled to fair representation regardless of the ability or means to pay.

“My children and I are certainly now the beneficiary of all this goodwill from these lifetime interests. I am simply noting the importance of these legacies for my family, which help keep Jeremy’s memory alive for us, as well as for the many people who have gotten

to know about him through the Columbia College scholarship and the pro bono awards program.”

**Jeff Newman** writes, “My son, David ‘02, had the privilege of clerking for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg [‘59L] at the Supreme Court for the 2010–11 term, four years after his graduation from law school. He then served for two years as counsel to the assistant attorney general for national security. In September 2013, he accepted an offer from his former boss at the Department of Justice to join her at the White House; since then, David has been director for counterterrorism at the National Security Council. He is married to Kate Devine ‘02. I am a beaming grandfather to their two precious, young daughters.

“My daughter, Deborah ‘04, earned a master’s in art education in May 2013 from NYU. She spent a week in Kosovo last summer, volunteering with promising young art students. Deb is now proudly, and energetically, teaching art in a Manhattan public school. She is recently married to Drew Shannahan ‘03. Talk about keeping things in the Columbia family.

“I feel most blessed. I extend warm greetings to my classmates from long ago, not so far away.”

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Hi, classmates. I had a bump in the road that interfered with column writing but now I’m fine and getting ready for spring in New York. This magazine comes out in summer, though, so I hope you all are near a beach or enjoying warmer weather.

As I write, I just on Saturday saw Columbia win its second basketball game of the post-season in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT); the Lions were superb. I was with Bob Costa ‘67, his wife, Joan, and daughter, Carolyn ‘12, who works at ESPN. Carolyn used to broadcast for WKCR sports! I also saw **Ira Goldberg** at the game; he was cheerful and spirited.

I spoke with **Greg Winn** recently; he has a recently born granddaughter and seemed very happy indeed about that. Congratulations!

**Phil Mandelker** got in touch, as he was visiting the United States from Tel Aviv to spend time with his mother.

From the mailbag, I received several good notes; I’d love to hear from all of you at some point. Remember, you can write to the addresses at the top of the column

or submit news via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**Ed Weathers** ‘69 GSAS writes, “Always sad to see no news in our class’ CCT space, so here’s a brief update. I live in Blacksburg, Va., with my lovely partner, Gail. I have retired from full-time teaching in the English department at Virginia Tech (VT) but I keep my hand in the teaching game part-time. I am one of a group of U.S.-based teachers working via the Internet to improve the English writing skills of Tanzanian medical students who are studying at a medical school near the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. The program is overseen by Duke through a grant from the U.S. government. I have now been to Tanzania twice. The students are astonishingly bright; all their medical studies are in English, although that is commonly their third language (after their tribal language and Swahili). If they were in the United States, I like to think most of these students would be going to Columbia.

“At the request of my former English department colleagues at VT, I also write a blog about, well, writing. The blog includes the Greatest Hits from my many years of teaching college writing classes. Occasionally, writing teachers from here and there make some of my posts part of their lesson plans — very rewarding. (The blog is at writeyourbest.blogspot.com.) I also maintain a blog at edweathers.blogspot.com that includes mini essays about everything from politics to crossword puzzles. (I am a failed cruciverbalist.)

“I am a volunteer tennis coach for the Blacksburg H.S. tennis team, and Gail and I love visiting my son, Alex, his wife, Lori, and our two small granddaughters in California whenever we can.

“This sounds like a busy life but I actually spend a good deal of time just playing golf (got my handicap index down to 1.4 last summer!) and tennis (still doing OK in singles against former college players half my age).

“The Columbia tennis team played the VT team and others in a multiple-team event in Blacksburg last winter. I said hello to the Columbia coach and to the players. They were all delightful and pretended to welcome the greetings and Baker Field memories of this old alum. I am a good friend of the VT tennis coach. He has nothing but the highest praise for the Columbia team.

“I speak well of Columbia to one and all, and last year I was happy when one of the girls on the local high school tennis team — a superstar mathematician and

good athlete — applied with my encouragement and was admitted. She says she is doing well.

“My two best friends of Columbia origin are **Bruce Margon** and Fred Stern ‘71. If you Google Bruce, you will see that he has had a sterling career in astrophysics, including a long stint in charge of the Hubble telescope’s experiments; Bruce was the ‘face’ of the Hubble for several years, appearing on *60 Minutes* when it did its first big story about the Hubble. Bruce is now a bigwig at UC Santa Clara. Fred is the son of famous Columbia history professor Fritz Stern [‘46, ‘53 GSAS], who is now mostly retired. Fred is a psychologist with a practice in Manhattan. He is my favorite person in the world after Gail. Pretty much the only time we get to NYC is to visit Fred and his wife, Lois.

“I live altogether a life of great good luck. My time at Columbia is no small part of what has allowed that to be.”

[Editor’s note: See Alumni Corner for an essay by Weathers.]

Columbia men’s tennis is great — nationally ranked, and winners of this year’s Ivy League title. Women’s tennis is exceptional, too. While we’re on the subject, Phil Milstein ‘71 encouraged me to go to the Columbia-Harvard men’s tennis match on April 5. The Lions had just whipped Cornell the prior weekend 7–0, and, well, they whipped the Crimson 7–0, too. (And Harvard has a fine team.)

While at the match I said hello to a number of Columbia basketball players who were there cheering on their fellow athletes. This team coming back next year is extraordinary; it has size and skill, a deep bench and a talented, energetic coach.

**Chris Friedrichs** writes, “When I opened the Winter issue of CCT and saw that no classmates had contributed news, it occurred to me that perhaps it is high time for me to bring you up to date about my activities.

“I teach European and world history at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and do research on the history of European cities and German social history. My most recent book, *A Jewish Youth in Dresden: The Diary of Louis Lesser, 1833–1837*, was published in 2011. [As I write] I am enjoying a sabbatical but I look forward to returning to the classroom for two or three more years before I retire.

“Two years ago my wife, Rhoda, and I purchased an apartment in Brooklyn, a convenient pied-à-terre for our visits to New York. All three of our children (and our two grandchildren) live in the city. Our daughter is a teacher in Brooklyn. Her kids are 7 and 4. Our older son is a partner in a family business

in Westchester. Our younger son is a cook at a restaurant in Lower Manhattan.

“In October I spent a month in New York, combining research with some extended family time. I enjoyed, as ever, an evening with **Charles Jarowski** (an oncologist in Manhattan) and his wife, Joan.

“Another highlight of my stay was the centennial celebration of the Columbia Senior Society of Sachems. At the banquet I sat with **Michael McGuire** and **Jim Stockinger**. I also enjoyed seeing some of my *Spectator* colleagues from adjacent years: Mark Minton ‘67 (president of the Korea Society), Robert Friedman ‘69 (a longtime journalist currently with Bloomberg News) and Nicholas Garaufis ‘69 (a federal district judge). A few days later I visited Nick in his chambers in Brooklyn and got a tour of the courtroom over which he presides.

“I was sorry to have missed our 45th reunion but I am quite determined to attend our 50th reunion in 2018 when, I believe, it will be our turn to have dinner in Low Rotunda.”

Yes, Chris. Low will be ours again. **Jon Bauman** got in touch through IM. He is doing well, and was far away from the Los Angeles earthquakes.

I have moved to One Lincoln Plaza, where I was living in 1975 when I returned from Boston. It’s great here, with a pool at the top of the building and a gym. I am feeling ready for biking in Central Park and jogging slowly — unlike **Buzz Zucker**, who sent a text alerting me to the fact that he’s back up to six-mile runs. He remains my role model. Go, Buzz.

To all classmates, I do hope we can have an event this fall. Let me know if you are interested.

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At the same time that this column is being filed in March, planning for our 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend is in its advanced stage and — if all goes according to plan — our reunion will be over shortly before this issue appears. So this edition of Class Notes will not tell you what happened, although if you made the right choice and joined us, you’ll already know. For the rest, details will come in the Fall issue.

**John Marwell** received the New York State Bar Association’s Award





Neal Handel '69 and Kristen Fujieki were married at the Montecito Country Club in Santa Barbara, Calif., on March 15. Left to right: Larry Berger '69, Isabel Berger, the groom, the bride, Bill Stadiem '69 and Steve Valenstein '69.

for Attorney Professionalism at the association's annual meeting, held in January in New York City. In accepting the award, John said the best career advice he received was "learning how to disagree without being disagreeable." (Apparently he was not asked about the best advice he ever received on any subject, so it's understandable he saw no need to share an anecdote from his College days.) John worked for a few years for IBM and has since been a partner in Shamburg Marwell Hollis Andreycak & Laidlaw, a firm he co-founded in Armonk, N.Y. The firm is best known for its zoning, land use and environment cases, and John has worked on a number of landmark cases.

Once I learned of the award, I reached out to John for personal news; he responded: "All is wonderful with our family. My wife, Gloria, is a real estate broker in Northern Westchester and Fairfield County, and recently placed third in her class of 84 competitors in the National Cutting Horse Association Eastern National Championships in Jackson, Miss. Just type in her name, or the name of her horse, Bet on Pink, on YouTube, to see what 'cutting' is all about. Our son Jeremy and his wife, Jillian, are both attorneys in Washington, D.C., and have twin 16-month-old sons, Gates and Liam (our first grandchildren). Our son Jonathan is in commercial real estate in Westchester, and our daughter, Julianna, is a second-year resident in internal medicine at the University of Connecticut in Hartford. All are working very hard and we are so proud of them."

Field reporter **Steve Valenstein** kindly filed the following dispatch

while on location in Santa Barbara, Calif.: "On March 15, **Neal Handel** and **Kristen Fujieki** were married at the Montecito Country Club. In attendance were **Larry Berger** and his wife, Isabel; **Bill Stadiem**; and me. Neal recently relocated his plastic surgery practice to Santa Barbara, following almost four decades in the Los Angeles area. Larry and Isabel continue to dominate the Isthmus of Panama in business and real estate. Bill recently published a book, *Daughter of the King: Growing Up in Gangland*, about Meyer Lansky's family (with capital and small f's). His next book, *Jet Set: The People, the Planes, the Glamour, and the Romance in Aviation's Glory Years*, is scheduled for release in June.

"I practice medicine in Westchester County and teach one afternoon a week at the Columbia University Medical Center. I have taken a second home on the Upper West Side and am enjoying the Met Opera, New York Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall concerts to which I am now able to walk. I also practice yoga, bicycle in the city and Westchester, study Talmud daily and attend services at the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue Shearith Israel on a regular basis."

**Bill Stark** has become a regular contributor. He writes, "My last two Class Notes submissions were reflections rather than autobiographical updates. I thought that those few people who remembered me would be bored if I summarized the unchanging details of my life every few years. Both times my memories of 1965-69 came out, I got a reply before my paper copy arrived, validating my idea of sharing remembrances. And so I offer

you a third installment.

"But first, to catch up: I am professor of biology at Saint Louis University. I married Sharon August after graduating and need not state what anniversary we are up to, as CC alumni know arithmetic. Our two sons are married and we have four grandchildren, two in Houston (9 and 7) and two in Seattle (8 and 5). I have run at least a mile every day since September 10, 1976 (runeveryday.com/lists/USRSA-Active-List.html)."

Moving on to reflections, Bill continues: "[At College] music was important. To this day, I think the best album is *East-West* by The Butterfield Blues Band. Did I like it because my roommates were playing it on **Dave McCarthy's** KLH in my Carman suite? Back then, it was common to initiate get-togethers with 'Come over to my place; I got a new album.' I was very proud when my friends liked the LPs I introduced — Traffic's *Dear Mr. Fantasy* and The Chambers Brothers' *Time Has Come Today*. [From MO: The latter performed for us on campus.]

"Nobody had television sets but we did go to the Carman basement TV room to hear LBJ's weekly talk: 'Ma fullow Amurkins, Ah come to you with a heavy heart ...' to see if we were going to Vietnam soon. Freshman year we took the 'war boards,' like the college boards. Uncle Sam wanted to verify that we deserved student deferment. We studied our trig and logs again, but this time it was a matter of life or death.

"In New York in those days, the telephone was a real pain in the neck. Inside phone booths, if intact, nothing worked. But they were usually ripped apart by someone who was angry about the phone's not working. Instead of a call costing a dime, there were message units. These started ticking up after three minutes and they were more than one [unit] for further distances like 'Lawn Guyland.' There was a public transportation strike. When I came back after Christmas to the train station, there were not enough cabs, but not to worry, as everyone with a car who wanted a few extra bucks gave rides. My roommates and I hitchhiked on Broadway to go ice skating in Central Park and had no trouble getting a ride from a wealthy couple in a nice car. Then we hitched to my uncle's apartment on the Upper East Side. After refreshments, he drove us home.

"The drinking age in New York in 1965 was 18. Diagonally across the street from Carman was The West End. A 12-oz. stein of light beer on tap was 40 cents. Perfect. The Gold Rail, four blocks south on

Broadway, provided an occasional change of pace. The only trouble was a building on the walk back, which had 'The wages of sin is death' painted on an exterior wall. Also, halfway between, we walked past the Gayway bar, which never had many customers."

**David Sokal** writes, "In 2012 I retired from Family Health International (now FHI 360) after 25 years of research in family planning and HIV prevention. The same year I married a wonderful woman, Mary Lacombe Ph.D., and now have a bonus grandson (11). We have been traveling, spoiling our grandson, taking courses at Duke and generally enjoying retired life. In 2013, two colleagues and I incorporated a nonprofit, The Foundation for Male Contraceptives; we are in start-up mode, getting organized and recruiting board members."

**Joel Solkoff** is an architectural columnist for e-architect.co.uk. E-architect receives nearly one million hits a day from the architecture, engineering and construction community. Joel is currently focusing on Italian architect Renzo Piano's work on the new Columbia campus at Manhattanville. Joel's older daughter, Joanna Marie, received an honors bachelor's in English from UNC Chapel Hill and later graduated from its nursing school. Joel is especially proud he was able to accompany her down the aisle in October; he is a paraplegic and traveling is difficult. Joel's younger daughter, Amelia Altalena, teaches English at a small town in Spain. She is a graduate with honors in Spanish from UNC Asheville.

In advance of this column, I sent a few blast emails (one in connection with reunion) asking for news or reflections on the College years. Some classmates responded, but I'd like to hear from more. And (as you may know) groveling becomes more difficult with age. So please show some kindness and send in your news.

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**MAY 28-31, 2015**  
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**Dov Zakheim** recently visited New York in connection with the work he is doing on the congressionally

mandated Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which is studying future pay for our active military in light of current budget constraints. Dov sits on this commission with two U.S. senators and two U.S. representatives, one from each party.

He notes: "My son Roger '00 moved from Capitol Hill, where he was deputy staff director of the House Armed Services Committee, to be of counsel at Covington & Burling. My son Scott '05 moved to Baltimore with his family. My son Keith expanded his PR business and now has four offices [spanning] both coasts. My stepson, Ben, is back from photographing the Sochi Olympics for *Harper's Magazine*. And I just try to keep up with our 10 grandchildren, with more on the way ...

"One last thing: Through a friend of my daughter-in-law's, I reconnected with **Mike Link**. We hadn't been in touch for years."

**Jonathan Beard** reports, "In February I attended a book talk at the CUNY Graduate Center and spoke to a classmate I had not seen since 1968, **Nick Freudenberg** '79 PH. He was the guest of honor because he had just published *Lethal but Legal: Corporations, Consumption and Protecting Public Health*."

**Joseph Spivack** still works for the same loan review company although his office has moved to the Wall Street area. He says, "Longer commute, unfortunately, as I live in Bergen County, N.J. My wife, Lynn Appelbaum, was honored in March for her 20 years building the Media and Communication Arts Department at City College.

"Our older daughter finished her B.A. in early childhood education at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass., moved back to New Jersey and got a job at a preschool in Hackensack, N.J. She is engaged and expects to be married in July 2015. Our younger daughter just finished her freshman year at Kenyon in Ohio. She will probably be an English major, as she's an aspiring writer. She's writing for the campus newspaper and is a student associate at *The Kenyon Review* literary magazine."

**Frank Motley** reports, "I recently spent a golfing weekend with **Fred White**, former dean at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. Fred and I will be in contact with the Black Alumni Council of Columbia University and the Barnard Class of 1970 to plan activities for Homecoming 2015."

**James Periconi** writes, "On January 7, **David Lehman** and I led members of the Grolier Club in an evening at the club devoted to the poetry of Charles Baudelaire, the preparation for which itself gave a

great deal of pleasure in renewal of friendship. David prepared original translations of several of Baudelaire's *Petits Poèmes en prose*. Dressed as a mid-19th-century Parisian bistrot musician, I played *musette* songs of that era (and of Edith Piaf's) on my accordion during the cocktail hour. David started off the dinner that followed with his translation of Baudelaire's *Enivrez-Vous* (Get Drunk). Richard Howard '51 — the foremost Baudelaire translator of our era and translator of *Les Fleurs du Mal*, for which he won the 1984 National Book Award, and a good friend of David's — lent a special grace to the evening by his presence and by his elegant readings, following dinner, in French and from his own and others' translations of Baudelaire. A very Columbia and very New York evening whose pleasure lingers and will linger long after the event."

**David Lehman** wrote in about the same evening, then provided the following: "The *Virginia Quarterly Review* is — and I will just quote from the letter it sent me — 'awarding you the Emily Clark Balch Prize for Poetry, which includes a payment of \$1,000 for your translation of [Guillaume] Apollinaire's 'Zone.' This award cannot be applied for; it is a VQR staff decision regarding the best work of poetry published in our print or online pages in 2013. Over the decades, it has been awarded to many of our country's finest writers. In addition to promoting your translation of Apollinaire's 'Zone' through social media, we will be featuring the poem and your accompanying commentary on our homepage."

**Peter Joseph** reports, "My first epidural [pain management procedure] continues to work and I feel like a new person ever since. My wife Marcy's and my sons are all in good places and life here in California is delightful, although we worry big-time about drought and fire. (Somehow earthquakes are off the radar, until one happens.) We now have adorable twin granddaughters, whom we see frequently in San Francisco, and our youngest will soon be a senior at Tufts in computer science with a minor in mountaineering and ice climbing ... but I try not to think about that too much.

"I'm 2½ years out of a 35-year career in emergency medicine and working as a full-time volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL). Those who attended our last reunion and heard my keynote dinner address know that I'm passionate about trying to avoid the worst impacts of climate chaos, which could bring down that great civilization we all learned about

in CC and Literature Humanities. There seemed to be a high degree of agreement in the room back then, and I suspect there's even more today.

"Well, after getting myself arrested in front of the White House during the demonstration against the Keystone XL pipeline in August 2011, I realized that such actions just weren't enough to stop the insanity — or, rather, the energy market in which carbon emissions are ... free! It was then that I discovered CCL, the organization that gives me the most hope that we can, perhaps, pull ourselves out of the climate ditch we've dug ourselves into on our way to prosperity. It's now obvious to many, including Columbia luminaries such as climate scientist Jim Hansen and economist Jeffrey Sachs, that the most efficient way to rein in runaway carbon emissions is to raise their cost by taxing them, and the most acceptable way to do that is to make it revenue-neutral; in other words, the government wouldn't keep the money but rather return it to households. That way, those who break into hives at the word 'tax' can relax, families would not be overburdened and a fully refunded carbon tax would have the political stability that industry needs for investment certainty.

**James Periconi '70 and David Lehman '70 led members of the Grolier Club in an evening devoted to the poetry of Charles Baudelaire.**

"This is the plan espoused by people like George Shultz, [who was] President Nixon's treasury secretary (also President Reagan's Secretary of State), whom I had the honor of meeting two days before Thanksgiving. Shultz, along with Nobel economist and former Columbia professor Gary Becker, wrote an Op-Ed piece in *The Wall Street Journal* on April 7, 2013, 'Why We Support a Revenue-Neutral Carbon Tax.' This is precisely CCL's goal, which we work to achieve by using our democratic process. Last summer we conducted 435 meetings on Capitol Hill in three days, and last year we published 1,297 letters in newspapers calling on Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax. ... It's so satisfying to be an integral part of an exponentially growing organization with such a mission, and one that is as inspiring, empowering, friendly and fun as CCL.

"I'm having a great time, and my Columbia education is in use every single day. All best to the Class of '70!"

**Martin Newhouse** sent the following while he was traveling in London: "I am president of the Boston-based New England Legal Foundation (nelfonline.org); our primary activity is as a public interest courtroom advocate for the business and property rights communities in New England. We filed 12 *amicus curiae* briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court alone last year in significant business and property cases arguing for an approach that reasonably balances regulation with freedom of action and that recognizes fundamental property rights.

"I was recently appointed by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to a five-year term on the Massachusetts Clients' Security Board, which awards compensation to clients who have had money stolen by their attorneys. Massachusetts is unique (I believe) in having no cap on the size of the awards. The board is entirely privately funded through contributions by members of the State Bar Association. I teach legal ethics as an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School and am a member of the Boston Bar Association Ethics Committee.

"My wife, Nancy Scott, a professor of art history at Brandeis, is completing a short book on the life and work of Georgia O'Keeffe; she recently won a prestigious Frick Museum residential fellowship, which will support her research for her next project, the history of the collecting of the works of J.M.W. Turner in the United States, so I may spend more time in NYC this fall.

"Relating to Columbia, I am thrilled that our older daughter, Katherine, is pursuing a doctoral degree in special education at Teachers College, where I took a couple of courses as an undergraduate. I am blown away by the high level of innovative thinking and the resources at TC. On other fronts: Our son, Sam, is a journalist in Philadelphia, and our younger daughter, Rebecca, is a sculptor, studying at the well-regarded Massachusetts College of Art and Design, the only such art school that I am aware of within a publicly funded state university system."

**Jonathan Beard** sent the following:

"**Anthony J. Rock** died on January 28, 2014, shortly after suffering a stroke at his home in Eastchester, N.Y. I met Tony in 1966 when we



lived across the hall from each other in John Jay, where I spent my freshman and sophomore years. We spent many hours together during that period, and even after I moved out of the dorms, graduated and settled on the Upper West Side, Tony continued to find me — at first every few months, later every few years — and drop in for a visit. The last time was 11 years ago, when he appeared at the door — unannounced as usual — and sat chatting in the living room for a couple of hours. He then disappeared.

“I never knew what his major was, or heard about any of his classes or professors. The same was true for politics: One of my most vivid memories of Tony comes from spring 1968, when the demonstrations, building occupations and constant activity at Columbia made the campus an exciting place for me. Tony stayed around the dorm for three or four days, figured out that classes were not going to resume, then packed up and went home to Eastchester. He retired from the Westchester County government telecommunications department in 2002.

“According to his daughter, Maya, he ‘read voraciously in literature and history, usually while listening to classical music, and with incense burning in the background.’ He did not have Internet access at home and, after he retired, I was not able to stay in touch by email. He leaves Maya, two sisters and his father.”

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If you are not receiving the ‘71C eNews and would like to, please email me.

Our Spring 2014 Class Notes featured extensive reporting (written in December) from Latvia by **Juris Kaza**, who fittingly is a stringer

for *The Wall Street Journal* and Dow Jones Newswires. In March he updated various aspects of his item for the April ‘71C eNews and this edition of Class Notes. Of particular note, he writes:

“In Latvia, eyes are on developments in Ukraine, a country under a partial military occupation from Russia, [which is] reminiscent of Nazi Germany’s actions on behalf of Volksdeutsche (ethnic Germans) in Czechoslovakia in 1938 and the move to retake the Rhineland in 1936. Latvia and the other Baltic countries with ethnic Russian minorities are deeply worried about the events in Crimea. The military occupation followed by a ‘referendum’ to join a new Russian empire looks cloned from the scenario in Latvia in 1940, when Soviet troops occupied the country and held sham elections leading to a puppet government that asked to join the Soviet Union. Before the overthrow of the government of Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine was torn between an opening to the European Union and pressure and enticements from an increasingly authoritarian and corrupt Russia, which offers a customs union but little aside from oil and gas to circulate inside the customs union. There are some superficial similarities with conditions in Latvia — or rather, what Latvia could have faced outside the EU and having taken a different political and economic path.”

Juris also writes that at the end of February his 100-year-old mother “suffered a hip fracture from a fall in her home in Newton, Mass., which she and my late dad bought in 1959 and where she had been living independently. She was treated at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and recovered in a rehab facility before moving to an assisted living facility in Wayland, about a two-minute drive from where my brother and his family live.

“My youngest son, Matiss Kaza, was accepted to NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts (Class of 2018), and will be studying film and video. My wife, Latvian filmmaker Una Celma, and I will accompany him to New York when he enrolls in late August.”

**Alan Cooper** writes, “Our son Jesse Cooper ‘08 is going to celebrate his wedding to Teresa Lee in July. It should not be taken as a sign of disloyalty that the wedding will take place at the Yale Club. (I do hold two Yale graduate degrees, after all.) I’m coming to the end of my seventh year as provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary, so I remain in close proximity to alma mater.”

Remember back 47 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we

entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

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Let’s begin with **Bill Germano**, who says, “I suppose I should report something now and again.”

Well, yes, as should we all. He continues: “Readers with two minutes on their hands every other week may want to read my posts on *The Chronicle of Higher Education’s* Lingua Franca blog (chronicle.com/blogs/lingua-franca/author/wgermano). It’s precisely the length of an espresso. I’ve been one of the Lingua Franca bloggers for a year or so now,

taking on peculiarities about language and what we do with it. This past year I also published a couple of small books: the first is *The Tales of Hoffmann*, on Powell and Pressburger’s 1951 movie of the same name (part of the British Film Institute’s Film Classics series); the second is a revised edition of *From Dissertation to Book* (yes, it’s a bodice-ripper). I’m still deaning at Cooper Union in New York and teaching every term (next up: Shakespeare). Traveled to the Arctic several times during the past few summers. I, my wife, Diane Gibbons ‘71 Barnard, and our son, Christian, made it to 80 degrees north on the most recent trip to Svalbard.”

Don’t have time to write a whole paragraph for these pages? Send a quick note, like **Andrew Ackerman** did. He writes, “I’ve been living in Europe since graduation and am a classical musician in Austria with a faculty position in Spain.”

Sounds intriguing; I’m hoping we hear more.

**George Karp** ‘76 P&S writes that he and his wife, Susan ‘73 PH, celebrated the arrival of son Adam’s daughter — and their first grandchild — Johnna Juliet Karp, on January 6. He adds, “Our daughter, Rebecca Karp ‘05, is a hematology fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where she was born in 1983 when I was a hematology fellow there.”

To share some news of my own, I am pleased to announce a new grandchild (No. 5, if you’re counting). Daphna Nechama Charnov was born on Valentine’s Day (she is a sweetheart) to my daughter, Avigail ‘05 Barnard, and her husband, Aharon. And unlike the other grandkids, she lives right here in New York, which is extra nice.

Condolences go out to **Steven Hirschfeld**, who earlier this year

lost his mother, Ilona Koonce. He says, “My mother from time to time would ask me about college friends and she dutifully read our Class Notes column to see what was going on. She led a full life in turbulent times, and gave much back to everyone around her.”

Some other sad news: **William A. Pencak** died in Coburn, Pa., on December 9, 2013. According to *Centre Daily News*, he was a professor of American history and Jewish studies at Penn State for many years and after retiring taught at Gettysburg and Ohio State. This past fall, William joined the University of South Alabama to develop a Jewish studies program there. He was a prolific author and longtime editor of *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*.

Remember to send in updates. Your classmates want to hear what’s new! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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Not much happening in the Noto-sphere lately. Must be the celestial apathy.

**Erik Bergman** writes from “Portlandia on the Left Coast.” He’s worked for Waggener Edstrom Worldwide in high-tech public relations since 2000 for clients including Microsoft and T-Mobile. Erik also has been active in Toastmasters International and has earned the Distinguished Toastmaster award for communication and leadership, the group’s highest award (as a TM myself, I know the commitment needed and it is substantial!). As well, Erik and his wife, Susan, enjoyed a second sabbatical trip to five European countries last summer.

**Nicholas Lubar** shares, “Still traveling regularly to Japan for work and have connected with a Columbia group there. Interviewed several bright high school students for the College and Engineering. You know the odds for acceptance.”

**Meir Stampfer** is principal investigator of the Nurses’ Health Study and does research on prostate cancer in his spare time. All three of his progeny are Columbians: Sam ‘07, Eliane ‘09 and Orly ‘11. Eliane was married last summer to Jason Wiese, and Meir’s father officiated (as he did at Meir’s wedding).

**Allan Solomon** is looking forward to retirement from the VA this year; he has been a psychologist there for 22 years. He’ll continue in

private practice, though, because as he puts it, “One of my sons is starting an M.F.A. at the Art Institute of Chicago — we all know it never ends.”

Ain’t it da troof? Circling back to where we began, let’s shake off this lethargy and share some news. You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or submit a note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer.

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I hope everyone enjoyed our 40th reunion — and I hope you were there! I am writing this column two months before the event, so I have no idea who attended. I’m sure, however, that we had a great gathering of classmates sharing tales of our four years on campus and our journeys during the subsequent four decades. In the next column I will bring you up to date on what I saw and heard. In the meantime, here are some of the many notes that have come my way.

**Rick Agresta** is president and CEO of Isi North America in Fairfield, N.J. The company is the U.S. subsidiary of a 200-year-old European company that produces a full range of kitchen prep tools for the home cook. Rick passed on two bits of news. First, **Ron Peterson** has left NYC for a new life in Maryland. (I’ll give you details when I can track Ron down.) Second, Rick suggested Googling **John Slough** and his company, Helion Energy. When I did, I found out that John is a professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the University of Washington in Seattle who has been doing nuclear fusion research for 30 years. As the chief science officer at Helion, John has developed a fusion engine that he believes will enable profitable fusion energy by 2019. A University of Washington report says this invention may be able to bring man to Mars.

He may not have traveled to Mars (yet), but **Ken Krug** seems to go everywhere else. In his role as CFO of The Asia Foundation (located in San Francisco), Ken was recently at trustee meetings in Kathmandu, Nepal and Delhi, India.

Closer to home, but also embracing the Asian philosophy, is Dr. **Christopher Puca**. Chris is a doctor at Ars Nova Internal Medicine in Tucson. Rather than describing his practice as internal medicine, he

refers to it as “zen-dada existential medicine,” saying that he “tries to work with the entire person in an integrated way.” Chris has four sons, aged 23–33.

**Christian Hansen**, senior consultant for Electromind in London, recently gave his 99th sermon at his Church of England parish (by now, he must have had his centennial sermon). He also had an outstanding year on the Alumni Representative Committee: “I am happy to say that, this year, for the first time in the many years I have been interviewing prospective students from the United Kingdom for Columbia College, all those I interviewed were admitted.”

Two classmates have announced that they are returning to the metro area from their dalliances in “America.”

**Barry Gruber** writes, “After three years in Minneapolis I am returning to my roots, the Northeast. Although I love the ‘mini-Apple,’ and I have really adored my job at Talmud Torah, the time has come to move on. I have accepted the position of director of congressional learning at Temple Shalom in Greenwich, Conn. I will be back within driving distance of the vast majority of friends and family.”

Dr. **David Melnick** sent a note from Wilmington, Del.: “My wife, Karen, and I are moving back to NYC, having completed a 33-year circuit up and down I-95 — NYC to New Haven to Boston to Bethesda to Philadelphia to NYC. We are landing four blocks from where we lived when I was a resident at New York Hospital.” David has been at AstraZeneca for a decade but no word yet on what he’ll be up to in NYC.

With the arrival of the “big 6-0” and the kids out of the house, **Bob Adler** and his wife, Anne-Marie Nolan, decided to shake things up. They sold their longtime home in suburban Montclair, N.J., and moved to the rugged coast of Maine. At this writing they do not have a permanent home nor have they decided whether to find new jobs or transition to retirement. Bob writes, “Lots of uncertainty but not anxiety. We are exploring and experimenting.”

Sounds like he has returned to the ‘60s mindset!

**Leon Wieseltier** still manages to stir the “political pot.” A picture of Leon and his flowing white locks was featured on the front page of *The New York Times* business section in March. Seems that he had sent an email to historian Ronald Radosh in praise of his negative review of a recently published, “profoundly anti-Zionist book” (to quote Leon). Radosh circulated the note and it was picked up by the press. In-

cluded in the *Times* piece was much speculation whether Leon (60 years old and longtime literary editor of *The New Republic*) or Chris Hughes (the 30-year-old Facebook multimillionaire, who bought the magazine in 2012) has the dominant “voice.”

Nothing like a good ruckus!

Posted on Facebook was news from **Roger Cohen**: “I was thrilled and honored to be endorsed by the Lancaster (County) Democratic Committee for the Pennsylvania Democratic Party State Committee.” This means that he was on the May 20 Democratic primary ballot

**Bob Adler ‘74 and his wife, Anne-Marie Nolan, sold their home in suburban Montclair, N.J., and moved to the rugged coast of Maine.**

to represent Lancaster County on the governing body of the state organization. Friends of Roger will have to Google him to find out if he was successful ... or wait for the next column. While Roger lives in Lancaster, he is also the founder of AutoKthonous Market Solutions in NYC.

Having started with notes from classmates around the country and abroad, here’s news from a handful of those in the New York area.

**Michael Rozza** is “semi-retired” but has made a clean break from the NYC Department of Education. He continues, “I am now doing something I did at the beginning of my career: teaching college English classes part-time.” Mike is an adjunct lecturer at Kingsborough Community College. He adds, “All other details remain the same: living in Queens, ‘happily unmarried’ to Melissa (whom I met at the Plimpton Valentine’s Day party in our senior year!). Forty years since we graduated and I still feel the same when I walk through the 116th Street gates onto College Walk!”

A similar continuity was evident in a note from **Glenn Goldman**, who lives in Tenafly, N.J. An architect and the director of the School of Art + Design at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, N.J., he writes, “I’ve been at NJIT since 1982 — I never thought I’d be anywhere that long.” His youngest son graduated from Emory and is in law school at Miami. His middle son finished medical school and is a resident in radiation oncology at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse. His oldest left his career in real estate and is a private investor in New Jersey.

At least one of his kids isn’t still racking up tuition bills!

Hearty congratulations go to **George Bartos**, for whom January 1

must have felt like July 4 (Independence Day). He posted on Facebook: “The time has come today! Retirement! What a relief!” George was a financial adviser at Smith Barney for 25 years and then moved on to do the same at the Financial Consultant Group in Chatham, N.J. We’ll await word on what George is up to in his newfound leisure.

With so many in the class slugging it out in jobs in the legal, medical and business worlds, it is time to highlight a trio who have managed to channel their creative spirits as well.

**Rob Stevens** has been the president of One Stone Productions-Mind Train Records for three decades. During the last 10 years he has been the executive producer of 11 “Billboard Hot Dance/Electronic Songs No. 1s” featuring Yoko Ono. He adds, “In case anyone wants to know, she didn’t break up the Beatles; the Beatles did.”

You heard it here first in a CCT exclusive!

Rob is also doing talk radio, having been on two of the three biggest talk stations in NYC. His current show is *Robbie Student’s Bite the Hand*; he explains, “‘Student’ was my paternal grandparents’ name before the Ellis Island types got hold of it, and it provides some separation between my parallel careers.”

Rob’s older son, Henry, is a sophomore at Haverford in Pennsylvania and his younger son, Charlie, is a high school sophomore at York Prep in Manhattan.

Having had a long career in the entertainment industry — everything from producing *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* to rebranding the Nashville Network to “Spike TV – The First Network for Men” — **Albie Hecht** is now taking on a real challenge: repositioning CNN’s *Headline News* (HLN) into what he calls “the new TV home for the social media generation (the millennials and the millennial-minded).” He was quoted in a press release: “Headlines will be ripped from the most plugged-in sites and blogs ... HLN will make it its mission to share trending news, viral events and stories that have viewers obsessed, plus discover emerging social stars.”

I guess you’ll have to go to Buzzfeed and *The Hollywood Reporter* to see what happens next!

The last of our cultural trio is a great example of the synthesis of a

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.



Columbia College education, which creates well-rounded individuals who can work in diverse arenas. The career of Dr. **Burt Rochelson** is impressive by itself. After three decades as an obstetrician specializing in difficult pregnancies, Burt is now the chief of obstetrics at the North Shore University Hospital (in Manhasset, N.Y., on Long Island). Little known to most of us, he has also been a playwright and lyricist for many decades. This only came to light after news arrived of the opening of his play *The Rule of Disorder* at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts (on Long Island). The press release said of the play, “There’s a rule in physics that all things tend to disorder. Life is like that, too.”

Burt wrote both the book and the lyrics for this soon-to-be classic.

There you have it. Classmates working to bring us to Mars, classmates moving around the country and classmates engaging their creativity. It is no wonder that the world has grown to admire the Columbia College education. In case you haven’t seen the latest statistics, the College once again was the third-hardest Ivy League college to get into — with admission rates lower than all but Harvard and Yale! Take that, Princeton and the other four Ivies! Stay tuned for the next column to learn all the news that came out of our 40th reunion.

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**MAY 28–31, 2015**  
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Gulp and golly-gee! Our 40th reunion is coming. Has it been that long already? Mark your calendars and save the dates: May 28–31, 2015, on the Columbia campus in New York City. **Bob Katz** and I will co-chair the Reunion Committee, some classmates are already serving and others are invited to join. This isn’t an exclusive club; the more, the merrier. If you’re interested in becoming a member, let me know!

In addition to me (Maryland) and Bob (New York), current committee members are **Fernando Castro**, California; **Gene Davis**, New Jersey; **Jim Dolan**, Pennsylvania; **David Gawarecki**, Connecticut; **Phelps Hawkins**, Georgia; **Stephen Jacobs**, New York; **Gerry Keating**,

Florida; **Anna Kornbrot**, Pennsylvania; **Steve Krasner**, Rhode Island; **Frank Lancellotti**, New York; **Charles Lindsay**, Connecticut and Florida; **Ira Malin**, New York; **C. John McCloskey III**, California; **Fran Minarik**, New York; **Albert Mrozik**, New Jersey; **Joe Pober**, New York; **Walter Ricciardi**, New York; **Kenneth Scherzer**, Tennessee; **Bob Schneider**, New York; **Jason Turner**, Wisconsin; **Wayne Turner**, New York; **Joe Vassallo**, Maryland; **Carson Wen**, Hong Kong; and **Richard Witten**, New York.

Some of our plans are: to hold receptions, gatherings and other events before reunion; to include Engineering and Barnard in all our efforts; to reach out to classmates in a whole lot of ways; and ultimately to have an exciting, extended weekend with lots of classmates, family members and friends attending. Thirty-seven of us came out for our 35th in 2010 and we hope to see even more for our 40th.

One of my goals is to write about 50 percent — at least! — of classmates in Class Notes before the end of 2015. So with that as my commitment, here’s some news:

**Howie Blatt** writes, “I’m retired from a career in newspapers, including New York’s *Daily News*, and I somehow evaded being laid off. I left the newspaper field to get into selling eight-tracks. Later I became a cobbler, town crier and a blacksmith. I am proud to show off my Columbia diploma when I hang around schoolyards. I tell the kids to stay in school.”

**David Gawarecki** recently returned from four months wandering around Europe; his partner, Martha, was on sabbatical and he had nothing better to do. The trip included Kiev, Ukraine, while Lenin was still on his pedestal; Lviv, Ukraine, before it emptied out to go camping on the streets of Kiev; a month in Kiveri, Greece, an obscure village on the Aegean shore; four weeks in Florence; five days in Vienna to turn “that age” wrapped in Central European obscurity; six weeks in Aix-en-Provence, France; and a short side trip to Palermo, Italy, which he reports as being weird, wild and Fellini-esque. He adds that those of us with strong stomachs should look up the Capuchin catacombs.

Returning to the United States after a number of years in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, **Phelps Hawkins** and his wife, Sandra Earley, have relocated to Savannah, Ga., to take university teaching gigs. They are especially excited to be at Savannah State University, a century-old HBCU (historically black college or university). They will build on their wildly multi-cultural experience, having taught in Bulgaria for

four years and now in a cross-cultural setting in the U.S. They say it has been a nice way for them to return to the U.S. and have more time with their grandchildren.

The entire family gathered recently to celebrate the christening of Phelps’ grandchildren, Preslee Ann Hawkins and Graham Phelps Stokes Hawkins, in St. Paul’s Chapel on the Morningside campus. The proud father — Phelps’ son, Robert Graham Bradshaw Hawkins — had himself been christened there 27 years earlier. Phelps notes that his great-aunts donated the cost of the chapel and his great-uncle Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes designed and built St. Paul’s. Afterward, the family went to the former West End, now Havana Central at The West End, and enjoyed mucho Dos Equis and Cuban food. In addition to his teaching, Phelps is an Alumni Representative Committee volunteer, interviewing Columbia undergraduate candidates from his area.

**Gerry Keating** and Dr. **Joe Vassallo** (Columbia roommates and Chaminade H.S. classmates) met in Miami in October for the NFL’s Dolphins vs. Ravens game. They were hosted by Dr. Bob Herbert ’76, ’80 P&S, who played rugby with Gerry at Columbia. Joe is a cardiologist in Washington, D.C.; he rowed lightweight crew and played lightweight football for Columbia. Herbert “The Horse” is a retired anesthesiologist.

For those of you who are surprised to see a woman’s name on our committee list, **Anna Kornbrot** ’74E holds the honor of being the first female Columbia College graduate. She was a student of the Engineering combined B.S./B.A. program, which entitled qualified Engineering students to obtain degrees from both Engineering and the College in five years. This was possible because the Engineering students completed the Core Curriculum as well as their engineering courses. Anna applied to the College, which originally wanted her to get her B.A. from Barnard. After some tense negotiations, Anna prevailed. She gets the double reunion prize for having celebrated her Engineering 40th this past spring and will celebrate her College 40th in 2015. Anna and her husband, Barry Klayman ’74, live in Wynnewood, Pa., and Anna practices and teaches dentistry in Philadelphia.

**Steve Krasner** and his wife, Susan Oclassen, have become grandparents. Son Jeff and his wife, Jess, had a daughter, Juliana, in December. Another big event: youngest daughter, Emily, got engaged.

**Charlie Lindsay** and his wife, Fern ’82 Business, split their time between Palm Beach, Fla., and

Greenwich, Conn. He says that retirement is a distant thought with children at Columbia, NYU and Boston College, adding: “Remember when \$5,000 bought you a full year at Columbia? Today, add a zero and you still don’t cover it. Multiply by three and add \$30,000 and you have my out-of-pocket tuition bills. America is a great country and I thank God and Columbia that I can pay the bills!”

Charlie’s businesses continue to do well. Riverview Capital continues to finance new technology companies and Heeltap! Entertainment is in the midst of producing seven IMAX-format films in China, Dubai, Rio and elsewhere. It is also developing a mini-series for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

**Philip Mihlmester** is EVP, global energy, at ICF International. He oversees the firm’s global energy practice, coordinating the efforts of ICF’s energy professionals worldwide in the areas of electric power, petroleum, natural gas/liquefied natural gas, coal, climate change, emissions, energy efficiency/demand side management and water issues. He oversees ICF’s client interactions, which include major power, oil, gas and renewable energy companies; governments; financial institutions; and NGOs.

Phil and his wife, Linda, have two sons: William, a chemist who works for ASTM International, and Adam, an IT consultant. They all reside in Montgomery County, Md. Phil fondly remembers the smell of the stacks at Butler, where he spent many hours shelving books (do they still use books in College?).

**Bob Schneider** is familiar with my duties as class correspondent, as he fills that role for another of his alma maters, The Wharton School at Penn. In recognition of the outstanding and repeated contributions he makes to its alumni magazine, Bob was asked to provide an answer to the following question: “What is your favorite Wharton memory?” Now I ask him a similar question: “What is your favorite Columbia College memory?” Since I know Bob reads this column as soon as he receives the magazine, he’ll respond, so look for his answer next time.

Bob also sent the following note: “I’ve spent the last two-plus years in South Carolina helping USC replace its 40-year-old [grade processing] system, and at the start of my career, I worked at MIT to support them as they replaced their 30-year-old system. How do colleges and universities continue this way? But, it keeps me in paychecks!”

For **Jason Turner**, the challenge of financing a college education for his three 17-year-old boys —

twins from his first marriage and one from his wife’s earlier marriage — looms large. Wife Iryna is Ukrainian, and her family mirrors the split within the country: her father and mother are old-line, pro-Russian communists, while her son dreams of coming to the land of opportunity and pursuing his computer career in America.

Jason runs the Secretary’s Innovation Group, an organization of Republican state cabinet secretaries. Between 1998 and 2002 he was Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s commissioner for health and welfare, and he wonders what will become of the robust welfare-to-work policies of Giuliani (followed by Bloomberg) under Bill de Blasio. These increased the proportion of welfare mothers in the labor force threefold and reduced welfare expenditures by half. Jason takes solace in the fact that his legislative initiative to require Food Stamp recipients to work or look for work as a condition of benefits was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President as part of the Farm Bill.

Classmates have gotten together at various Columbia events recently. **Bob Katz**, **Ira Malin** and **Bob Schneider** attended Burgers and Basketball in late February; this involved meeting other Class Agents at Havana Central at The West End for food and fun and then watching the men’s basketball team beat Brown 70–68. **Steve Jacobs** and **Ira** also attended the John Jay Awards Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street in early March.

Classmates, by the time you read this, it will be early summer and we’ll be a year out from our 40th. Please think back, dig up some good stories and send them to me! Then think about today. Would you be where you are if not for your Columbia experience? We’re going to have a great reunion. Plan to be there!

**76**

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A few days ago I had a surprise in my mailbox in the Boise State English Department. The return address on the manila envelope was that of **Robert Giusti** of New York. A note inside informed me that Robert is now clinical associate professor of pediatrics at NYU; his career as a pediatric pulmonologist has focused on caring for both children and adults with cystic fibrosis. His daughter, Elizabeth ’12, is also a Lion.

Inside the big envelope Robert had included — amazing! — the Class of 1976 Freshman Directory, a real time capsule item. How did it survive nearly 40 years in pristine condition and fall into Robert’s hands? According to his note: “I came upon this while cleaning out the apartment of an old friend and Columbia crew coach. It certainly brought back many memories.”

It did for me as well. There are bios of the administrators who took care of us: [former Dean of the

**Idaho Democrat Nels Mitchell ’76 won his May primary election and is now running for the U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Jim Risch.**

College] Peter Pouncey [’69 GSAS], Roberta Spagnola [Campbell ’69 TC], my former Bloomsbury Circle professor Michael Rosenthal [’67 GSAS]. There are photos of our 18-year-old selves. The ads in the back are priceless. The West End offers a coupon for a free beer. A single room at the East End Hotel on 78th Street is \$11. At the Steak House on Broadway at 111th, where my roommates and I often ate, a sirloin with baked potato and salad is \$1.79, a bargain even in 1972.

On page 48, very near my embarrassing photo, is a very handsome one of **Nels Mitchell**, who is running for the U.S. Senate as a Democrat from Idaho. He’s running against incumbent Jim Risch, the self-styled “most conservative member of the Senate.” Risch is in hot water for votes against the Violence Against Women Act and so many other bills that he has earned the nickname “Abominable No Man” from the pundits. It looks like Nels has a strong chance of taking his place. Learn more about him and his campaign at nelsmitchellforidaho.com.

**Neel Keller** is editor of the *Outer Banks Sentinel*, which serves North Carolina’s scenic Outer Banks resort area. He writes, “While my work is frequently hectic, it’s certainly never boring. Some of the more memorable stories we’ve run recently include a three-part series on the devastating impact the Biggert-Waters Act is having on coastal communities like the Outer Banks, an interview with Dave Matthews Band guitarist Tim Reynolds and an interview with a local pastor who heard Martin Luther King Jr. speak in Edenton, N.C., in 1963, just months before the historic March on Washington, where King delivered his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech.”

Neel and his wife, Heather, live a few miles inland in Creswell, N.C. **Mark Joseph** writes, “After

spending 24 of the past 30 years living in the San Francisco Bay Area, my wife, Laura Allen, and I have moved back east to Berlin, Md., where Laura is the town administrator. Berlin is a great small town and was recently voted by the magazine *Budget Travel* as the ‘coolest small town in America.’ Just eight miles to the beaches of Ocean City, Md., so I’ll still be able to surf nearby.”

This semester I’m on leave from teaching duties, using an Arts and

Humanities Institute Research Fellowship to translate modern and contemporary Catalan poetry from writers including Maria Antònia Salvà, Clementina Arderiu, Rosa Leveroni, Maria-Mercè Marçal, Dolors Miquel and Ponç Pons. Since the end of the Franco dictatorship in 1975, Catalan literature has rebounded, and I’m hoping to share as much of it as possible with English-speaking readers.

**77**

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“I had a very busy 2013,” says **Jerry Friedman**, a professor of economics at UMass Amherst since 1984. Jerry not only drafted a report on the funding for a single-payer national health plan but also presented it on Capitol Hill; drafted economic impact studies for single-payer state plans in Colorado and Pennsylvania (and, again, presented them across these states); and took a sabbatical semester in Rome with his wife where, not content with such things as side trips to Florence and looking at art, he drafted a book, tentatively titled *Richard Ely and the Trials of American Progressivism*.

Altogether, that’s a lot of drafting. Jerry says, “Good news is that I have a full draft with 70,000 words; bad news is that I have a list of 52 things to learn before I can finish. Sigh.”

From Austin, **Leland Beatty** writes that he’s “targeting voters in political races across the country, including a recent win working with Katherine Haenschen ’03. Recently, I was the plaintiff’s expert witness challenging the Wisconsin voter I.D. law in federal court. My kids are grown, I have two grandchildren and I’m still here to enjoy

it all. **Jim Middleton** and **Artie Gold** also live in Austin.”

In addition to being a member of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Johns Hopkins, **Greg Ball** is also a vice dean of science and research at the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences there. He earned a doctorate at Rutgers and taught at Rockefeller and Boston College before arriving at Hopkins in 1991. Greg says, “I interact from time to time with many of the friends I made at Columbia.”

I was distressed to learn that, after a brief illness, professor emeritus [and former interim dean of the College] Robert Belknap [’57 SIPA, ’59 GSAS] died on March 17, 2014. The notice in *The New York Times* included these comments: “Figuratively and in reality, at 6’5”, he was a towering presence. At Columbia for over 50 years, he championed the teaching of Literature Humanities and co-authored a book on the subject, *Tradition and Innovation: General Education and the Reintegration of the University*.” [Editor’s note: See “Around the Quads.”]

There will no doubt be more to say in the next issue. I hope classmates will send memories and reflections on our dean. You can write to either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**78**

**Matthew Nemerson**  
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After many years of columns full of reports and commentary from all of you, we seem to have taken a collective breather this spring. I am sure things will bounce back in time for the Fall issue. Don’t forget, you can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or submit a note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

I had a fun evening in March as part of basketball tournament “madness,” when Columbia found itself in a post-season competition for the first time in 45 years. Somewhat improbably we drew a third-round game at Levien Gym against our archrival, the Yale Bulldogs.

Not wanting to miss the matchup between my two alma maters (although rooting 100 percent for the Lions), I traveled to NYC for a rare mid-week social engagement with a half-dozen former WKCR sportsters, including **Tom Mariam**. The evening was organized by the “dean” of King’s Crown Radio alumni, the indefatigable Ken Howitt ’76.



The team lost a heartbreaker in the last minute after leading the whole contest, but the disappointment was forgotten after several large pizzas at V&T with the WKCR crew, including Ken's daughter (who is now older than we were when we were at Columbia). While I believe that New Haven has the best pizza in the country, the memories from that venerable Italian joint on Amsterdam Avenue are implanted too deeply in the psyche of our class to let mere quality win the day. Let's hope that Ivy success in the area of hoops is now part of the new normal on the Heights.

A note from **Chuck Geneslaw**: "[As I write] I am most excited and proud to be looking forward to attending my first Columbia Commencement as a parent, as my daughter, Allix '14 PH, formally receives her M.P.H. from Mailman in May. (She already has the actual document and, more importantly, a job as an administrative fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.)

"Otherwise, I am happy to keep treating children as a partner at Coastal Healthcare in Toms River, N.J., and to be board chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ocean County, N.J. Our most important statistic is that all of the children in our program have graduated from high school and entered college or post-secondary education. None have been in the juvenile justice system.

"Finally, I'm happy with 'empty nest' status. I'm delighted when any of [my wife Kim's and my] three children come home to visit but also quite pleased when they go back. Been there, done that!"

Keep those cards and letters coming!

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First, I hope everyone enjoyed Alumni Reunion Weekend. Stay tuned for the Fall issue for a report.

The news from **Jeff McFarland** is that after six years as head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention office in Beijing, he moved in August to New Delhi. He says, "Am second to the World Health Organization working on vaccine preventable diseases."

For **Bill Lee** (and for most of us), 1979 feels so long ago "yet still seems so vivid. ... I have slowly risen through the ranks of my pediatric group, Scarsdale Pediatrics, and now am the president. My spouse, Lara ['82 Nursing], a former pediatric ICU nurse, does IT work at a local high school in

lieu of healthcare. Our daughter is working on her second master's (the first was art history, and this one is in teaching).

"I still am a loyal Columbia music fan. I will always love Suzanne Vega ['81 Barnard] and appreciate Vampire Weekend, a more current alternative rock band."

**Mitchell Kotler** updates us with sad news, writing: "**Louis Petrozza** passed away on October 5, 2013. He was recruited from the Bronx to Columbia to play football. I am unsure how long he played but he was pre-med. I stood at his wedding to his high school sweetheart, Josephine, shortly after graduation, and then he went on to medical school at Penn. I think he did his ob/gyn residency there as well, or at a local affiliate.

"Though we did not see each other or keep in touch during med school and residency, we rekindled our friendship on the steps of [the then-named] Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, N.J., in 1989; he was completing a National Health Services Corps payback, and I had joined a urology practice. We then went to work mostly at a community hospital in Woodbury, N.J., where he had an excellent reputation as a quiet, caring and respected physician. We drove up and enjoyed a few Giants games together.

"Louis raised his family in Cherry Hill, N.J., and lived to see twins born to one of his daughters. Unfortunately he lost a very hard-fought, roughly two-year battle with pancreatic cancer."

**Jeff McFarland '79** has moved to New Delhi to work for the World Health Organization; he focuses on vaccine-preventable diseases.

**Robert C. Klapper** '83 P&S: "I have written Class Notes for the last 10 years for two reasons: first, because I got tired of our column not having any entries, and second, I hoped to jog memories of our four years at the College.

"Research by Nobel laureate and Columbia professor Dr. Eric Kandel, whom I had the privilege of having classes with while I was a medical student, has shown that our thoughts, including memories, are actually a protein. The question is, why do some memories burn so brightly in your brain, while what you had for breakfast yesterday remains a mystery?"

"One of my top 10 memories from college dates to a crew race against Yale and Navy in New Haven, Conn., during the spring of freshman year. My parents, who

had never attended any kind of sporting event in their lives, were watching at the finish line. The moment I remember most was when I sat, coiled like a snake, both hands clenching the end of the oar, waiting for the gun to fire to start the race and telling myself — in a sort of out-of-body experience — that this boat I was rowing was not only going to transport me down this river, but also be a magic carpet to rocket me past my parents and start me on the American dream.

"Let me know the memory that burns brightly in your cerebral cortex! Roar, lion, roar!"

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28-31, 2015**

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I hope you are having a great summer and trust that this note finds you in good spirits. For starters, make a note: Our 35th reunion will be here before you know it — the dates for Alumni Reunion Weekend are Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015 — and the Reunion Committee needs volunteers. Please email me or either of the

staff members in the box at the top of the column if you are interested.

Imagine having a job where you get to watch movies for a living. According to his Sundance.org "About Us" page, "**David Courier** is senior programmer for the Sundance Film Festival. He selects films across all the sections of the festival but with a focus on U.S. and World Cinema documentaries. He is also the writer and producer of the Sundance Awards Ceremony and oversees public programming for all of Sundance Institute throughout the year. David started his career at Sundance in 2000 as a screener and advanced from there. He is the former co-director of programming at Outfest, the Los Angeles gay and lesbian film festival. Prior to festival programming, David worked in film develop-

ment for a number of production companies. He has served on the advisory board for the IFP and on the nominating committee for the IDA Awards, the Cinema Eye Honors and the Gotham [Independent Film] Awards."

**Ray Commisso** recently was named chief investment officer at Black Diamond Capital Appreciation Fund, where he focuses on fixed income markets.

Remember to send in your updates. There's no need to wait until reunion to catch up with one another. You can write to either address at the top of the column or submit notes via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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Greetings from the Great White North (aka Connecticut)! It was quite a winter, and one that I hope is never repeated. Fortunately, I did get updates from some of our classmates and hope to hear more in the coming months.

**Howard Tucker**, a CPA, is a partner with Ernst & Young in New York and is busy pursuing the ever-elusive single-digit handicap. He's also still trying to finish Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*.

I wish Howard well with that, having abandoned any attempts several years ago.

Also in NYC, **Jeff Pundyk** is now VP of content solutions for *The Economist*, where he is happy to once again work for a media company. His wife, Anne, is doing well in the art community (annepundyk.com) and he enjoys spending time on his bike.

**Jon Samuels** presented a discussion at the Bruno Walter Auditorium at the NYPL at Lincoln Center in March. The subject was Vladimir Horowitz and the recordings in the CD set *Vladimir Horowitz Live at Carnegie Hall*.

Congratulations to Jon on his promotion of the arts!

**Jesse H. Davis** writes of athletic feats: "January 2012 was my first successful half marathon (Miami), which I ran with my brother-in-law, Alan. Then came another in March (NYC Half), then May (Brooklyn Half), September (Staten Island Half) and then ... in came Hurricane Sandy; Alan and I were ready to go but the race was cancelled. Not to be denied, I woke up on marathon Sunday, strapped on my trusty Garmin watch and set out for a long run, starting in Northern Jersey, where I live, continuing to and over the George

Washington Bridge, down the West Side, around the Battery and up the East Side — finally reaching 26.2 miles in 4:30, all by myself."

Jesse ran in the 2013 NYC Marathon with Alan, and Jesse's daughter, Katie. He had a great race, finishing in 4:10, and is excited to do it again this year.

When he's not busy training or racing, Jesse is president of Creative Mobile Technologies, where he helped to start a company that puts screens and credit card devices into the backs of taxis; he is now expanding that business internationally. On the parent front, he is proud to report that Katie earned an undergraduate degree from Brown in 2009 and a doctorate in neuropsychology in May from Yeshiva; his son, Harry, graduated from Cornell with a degree in computer science, also in May.

Congratulations, Jesse!

**Eric Daum** reports that his architectural firm, Merrimack Design Associates, continues to do well. In November he delivered the keynote address, "Why Classical: A Manifesto," at the 2013 Bulfinch Awards of the New England Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art. He says, "This talk drew an analogy between the continued relevance of the writings of antiquity and of classical architecture. I was able to cite a few dim memories of Lit Hum and CC, and hoped the food and wine were sufficiently distracting that no one paid too close attention."

He also provided the following musical update: "CollegeBand, the website started by Reed Seerman '99 (collegeband.com/tag/columbia-university/), has added a page for our old band, The Art of Dating, of which I was a member along with Amy Lipman '80 Barnard, **John Leland** and Dan Zedek '83. Photos of a gig in the old cabaret in Ferris Booth, links to *Spectator* articles about the band and four songs salvaged from an ancient cassette were posted. Upon listening to my vocals, Dan commented, 'The melody and Eric have only a passing acquaintance.'"

Eric's current band, Electric Angels, released its second album last March, and its third should be out this summer. His son, Karl '15, is a rising senior who is CCT's editorial intern as well as an editor at *Spectator*, where he also illustrates a weekly comic, "Daumsday," which offers a rueful look at college life. Eric adds, "Sadly, despite my advice, he is a history major, as I was."

Dan, don't feel bad; it could have been worse — he could have been a political science major!

On the publishing front, **Ed Klees** has published a second edition of his

*Connecting with Companies: A Guide to Consulting Agreements for Biomedical Scientists*, written by Ed and Nobel Prize-winning scientist Bob Horvitz of MIT.

Congratulations to Ed!

On a sad note, I report on the passing of **Louis J. Brindisi III**. Louis was a consultant in Jamaica Plain, Mass.

I look forward to hearing from all of you; contact me at either address at the top of the column. In the meantime, best wishes for a great summer!

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Greetings, gentlemen! This quarter I feel oddly inspired by Carl Von Clausewitz: "War is the continuation of politics by other means." I can't help being preoccupied by the old-school sociopathic antics of Vladimir Putin. My fervent hope is that we live in less interesting times.

On a more positive note, I was happy to discover that our learned professor, **Josh Golding**, published *The Conversation: A Novel*, which is being received with substantial popular and critical acclaim. The reviews I came upon all warmly praised Josh's work, while the posted ratings on the Amazon website averaged 4.9 out of 5 — not bad!

For those who have not kept in touch with him, Josh is a professor of philosophy at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky. He also serves as rabbi of Congregation Anshei Sfard, a modern Orthodox synagogue also in Louisville. His previous publications include the book *Rationality and Religious Theism* as well as a number of articles published in such journals as *Faith and Philosophy*, *The Modern Schoolman*, *Religious Studies*, *The Torah U-Madda Journal*, and *Tradition: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought*.

I was lucky enough to chat with Josh about the novel and thought that many of you would be interested in hearing a little of what I learned.

He explained that *The Conversation* is a semi-autobiographical work that takes place during a four-year span on an urban college campus with a nearby park and subway that the protagonist, David Goldstein, uses to head down to the Village. (Sound familiar?) This novel is, on one level, the story of David's spiritual journey from being raised in a secular Jewish family through a culturally and philosophically diverse college world. Along the way our protagonist must deal with many of life's typical chal-



**Members of the Class of 1981 enjoyed a weekend of golf and fishing in Jupiter, Fla. Left to right: Lou Casali, Clayton Jones, Todd Kemmerly, Marc Mazur, Sean D'Arcy and Scott Gresky.**

lenges, such as romance, drugs and parental relationships.

*The Conversation*, however, operates on many levels. Josh says its conversational style, combined with its socially and culturally diverse characters, provides a framework for him to deal rather objectively with many of life's deeper philosophical and religious questions. Among them are: Does God exist? Why is there evil? Is there a chosen people? Do the commandments have foundational reasons? Why are some of them odd by modern standards?

As a bonus, the book offers insight into the Jewish mystical tradition of Kabbalah, which I think many readers will find captivating.

Keep those emails coming! You can use either address at the top of the column or submit them via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

83

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The Lions basketball team had its best season since 1968. They finished 21–13 and lost in the quarterfinals of the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT) to Yale. I attended seven of the games. My son, David, and I even attended the Columbia-Princeton away game with **Kevin Chapman** and his wife, Sharon Gerstman Chapman '83 Barnard. It was the first time Columbia won at Princeton in 21 years.

Before the game the Chapmans invited us to their home, where they shared their Mets memorabilia. Sharon also took us to see her award-winning photograph at a

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I also spent time with former Columbia basketball star **Richie Gordon**. Richie’s son, a basketball player himself, also attended the game.

I caught up with **Andy Gershon** at several of the games. Andy played basketball at Columbia and is still in great shape. Dennis Klainberg ’84 attended some games and sat with the Marching Band. It is hard to believe that 30 years have passed since he led the band and I was the featured juggler.

Significantly, none of the Columbia basketball players graduated this year. The Lions should compete next year for the Ivy League title. I encourage you to come to the games. My friend Ken Howitt ’76 had a block of tickets reserved for his classmates and friends. Anyone interested in sitting with graduates from the 1980s should contact me.

I recently found a *New York Post* article in my files from July 2012 that I thought would be of interest: “For rent: prez’s pad: Call it an Obama tax. The Morningside Heights apartment where President [Barack] Obama [’83] crashed as a student is back on the market with a \$550 rent increase. The third-floor, two-bedroom walk-up on West 109th Street that Obama shared with a roommate in 1981 when he was a junior at Columbia University is available August 1 for \$2400. Realtor Zak Kneider admits at least \$200 of the increase is an attempt to cash in on the president’s cachet. ‘Similar apartments in the building would be around \$2,200,’ Kneider said. ‘Believe it or not, people will want to live in an apartment where the president or a celebrity once lived. But it isn’t that overpriced. Still, we are definitely playing that angle.’”

**Kenny Chin** writes, “Through the support of friends, clients and colleagues, I remain on the list of Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in financing. I have been actively sought for speaking on financing programs through the American Bar Association and the Practicing Law Institute. I continue to chair the board of directors at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, which many of you know as the Chinatown Health Clinic.

“My wife, Lisa, has now been at Empire State Development, where she works on special projects, for more than two years. She worked on setting up the Sandy small business loan and grant programs funded by HUD monies. Lisa also facilitated the [real estate] closing of Cornell Tech at the end of the year, which was particularly exciting; Cornell Tech will be located on Roosevelt Island and will contribute to NYC being a tech capital. [Their

son] Nicholas (20) is a sophomore at Michigan. [Their son] Austin (17) is a junior at The Child School/Legacy High School.”

**David Ko** writes, “I am an associate professor of neurology at Keck School of Medicine of USC. My favorite Columbia professor was Donald Hood (psychology), who piqued my interest in the study of the brain. I specialize in epilepsy and lecture widely. My wife, Eva, and I live in Pasadena, Calif., in a house colored Columbia blue and white. We have a son, Kyle, applying to alma mater, and our other son, Ryan (10), is waiting in the wings.

“I was elected president of the Korean American Medicine Association. I have met many CC alumni through the KAMA meetings, including John Oh ’81, Michael Lee ’82, Sandra Lee ’83 Barnard, John Kang ’84 and Peter Park ’86; I have also encountered P&S graduates and faculty such as Jeffery Ahn ’87 P&S, Chris Park ’01 P&S and Yang-hee Woo. The 40th anniversary KAMA scientific meeting will be in Hawaii in August, and I would like

programming at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s Creating Change Conference in Houston. For more information, contact me: transvisiblefilm.com.”

**Eddy Friedfeld** writes, “I was saddened to learn that Richard Heffner ’46, ’47 GSAS passed away [Obituaries, Spring 2014]. I was a longtime fan of his PBS show, *The Open Mind* (according to *The New York Times*, he helped create what became WNET, New York City’s public broadcasting station, and was its first general manager). I got to know him personally through our faculty appointments at NYU. I introduced myself to him at a meeting a few years ago as a College graduate, something we were both particularly proud of, and we instantly bonded. We had a few discussions regarding the Core Curriculum and how and what I was teaching. He had a keen intellect and a warm and infectious smile. He was both interesting and interested in a fellow College graduate and very supportive of passion and creativity. He will be missed.”

**David Hershey-Webb ’83 performed songs by The Everly Brothers, The Beatles and Pete Seeger on March 29 at NYC’s The Cutting Room.**

more Columbia graduates to come to make it Lion affair.”

**Wayne Allyn Root** reports that his book *The Ultimate Obama Survival Guide* was one of the top 10 bestselling political hardcover books in America in 2013, according to BookScan. Wayne joins some of the biggest names in politics on the list, such as Bill O’Reilly, Mark Levin and Charles Krauthammer. In addition, Wayne was guest host for Michael Savage’s national talk show, *Savage Nation*, for one week in December (*Savage Nation* is the fourth highest-rated talk show in America, with about four million listeners on Cumulus Media Network). His guests included former GOP presidential contender Ron Paul, famed neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson and billionaire financial commentator Jim Rogers.

It was great to receive greetings from former wrestling greats **Andy Barth** and Yossi Rabin ’84, winners of the Eisenhower Award (highest GPA of a Columbia varsity athlete) in 1981 and 1982, respectively.

**Dante Alencastre** writes, “I am a filmmaker/activist and I am honored to screen my latest documentary, *TransVisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story*, about a trans Latina activist, as part of the

Eddy delivered a eulogy for Sid Caesar, who passed away in February. It was published at cinema retro.com.

**Michael Azerrad** writes, “I’m editor-in-chief of The Talkhouse (thetalkhouse.com), the acclaimed website where smart, notable musicians write about current albums. Some of our contributors have been Ezra Koenig ’06 from Vampire Weekend, Brian Betancourt ’04 from Hospitality, composer Nico Muhly ’03, the late Lou Reed, Michael Stipe, Laurie Anderson ’69 Barnard, Win Marshall from Mumford & Sons and Huey Lewis.”

**Michael Broder** reports, “My first book of poems, *This Life Now*, came out this spring. Last fall, my husband, poet Jason Schneiderman, became an assistant professor of English at Borough of Manhattan Community College.”

In a recent article by Adam Lip-tak in *The New York Times*, he writes about Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr.’s defense of President **Barack Obama**’s health care law. **Miguel Estrada** is quoted as saying that criticism of Verrilli was “uninformed and unjustified.”

In March **Steve Perlman** gave a talk at Columbia on technology that could revolutionize wireless

performance.

**David Hershey-Webb** performed songs by The Everly Brothers, The Beatles and Pete Seeger at The Cutting Room in NYC on March 29. His daughter, Lilly Hershey-Webb, accompanied him.

Fellow class correspondent Jon White ’85 and I recently had an enjoyable lunch. Jon shared a memorable video about the history of his family’s coffee company (White Coffee). Jon’s oldest son is Isaac ’14.

Mark Simon ’84 and his son, William, joined me and my son, David, for a Nets game at Barclays Center in early January. William is the varsity goalie for his soccer team.

I attended the John Jay Awards Dinner on March 5, where I had the pleasure of spending time with **Barry Rashkover** and his wife. Their two kids attend Horace Mann, and Barry is a partner at Sidley Austin.

At the dinner I also spoke to Michael Schmidberger ’82, who received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2013. He is a managing partner of Sidley’s New York office as well as global co-head of Sidley’s investment funds, advisers and derivatives practice team, which — according to the Sidley website — has won numerous top awards as a provider of legal services to the private funds industry. It is “a two-time winner of Chambers and Partners’ ‘Investment Funds Team of the Year for the U.S.’; *Institutional Investor*’s Alpha magazine’s 2014 Alpha Awards top ‘onshore’ (U.S.) law firm serving the hedge fund industry; four-time recipient of first-tier national rankings in the U.S. News – Best Lawyers’ Best Law Firms’ rankings for Private Funds/Hedge Funds Law, and Derivatives and Futures Law; and ranked in the top band for Hedge Funds by Chambers USA every year since 2008.”

Finally, I had the pleasure of catching up with Yale Fergang ’87, ’88E, a co-founder of Royal Capital Management, who in June completed his tenure as chair of the College’s Board of Visitors.

**84** **Dennis Klainberg**  
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I hope everyone had a terrific time at reunion. Because of the timing of Class Notes deadlines and publication, I turned this column in before the big weekend but you’re reading it afterward. So, stay tuned for the next issue for a full report.

**David B. Stafford**, SVP and

general counsel with McGraw-Hill Education, lives with his wife, Caryn ’85 Barnard, and their children in Scarsdale, N.Y., the same town where fellow former Lions tennis player **Ed Ho** and his family reside. (I like to think of myself as a decent tennis player but, in fact, both David and Ed were far better, leading me to make a permanent beeline for the Marching Band.)

David is in touch with Brian Margolis ’85 (in Larchmont, N.Y.). Brian is also a friend of this writer, having been his “tap,” or nominee, for the Senior Society of Sachems.

**David Cole** writes, “I am a senior financial analyst at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in the northwest ‘burbs of Chicago. I volunteered during this past tax season with VITA [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance] (my third time), doing taxes for the working poor. It is very interesting, as I meet many different types of people; among them are poor people with and without families and new immigrants living in the United States in order to have a better life. And the tax software is pretty cool!”

**Alex Dukas** reports, “If you find yourself in Copenhagen, Denmark, anytime soon, just drop by The Coffeehouse at Pøbelinge Døssering 4 2200 København N. We opened on Valentine’s Day. During the past decades I have spent a lot of time in cafés on three continents, and often thought I wanted to have my own. Now I do.”

**Evan Kingsley** checks in: “Now that my daughter, Ava Kingsley ’17 Barnard, is at Columbia, I’m back on campus periodically and feel the warmth of that reconnection. I’m also envious because her classes are just so ... well, cool.

“I thought I’d write because of this and other recent Columbia intersections: I attended the bar mitzvah of the son of my freshman roommate, **Kenny Bernstein**; had dinner with a great friend since freshman orientation, **Len Hersh**; had breakfast with another friend since freshman year, **Jeff Rashba**, who has since made *aliyah* to Israel; and made a hire on the recommendation of Elaine Charnov ’84 Barnard.

“Of course, both my daughters are technically Barnard ‘products,’ as I’m married to Dara Meyers-Kingsley ’83 Barnard.

“With a partner, Adam Gaynor ’03 TC, ’03 JTS, I formed Plan A Advisors last summer, a management consulting firm for mid-sized and large nonprofits that include colleges and universities, independent schools, cultural institutions and human service and Jewish agencies.

“So it’s all CU, all the time, and it’s all very, very good.”

**Ken Ofori-Atta**, a 2011 recipient of a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, writes, “Been back in Accra, Ghana, since 1990, having completed Yale’s School of Management and worked with Morgan Stanley and Salomon Brothers. Formed an investment bank in Ghana and retired last year. Created a family office and dabbling in politics. One son is a freshman at Williams. Have a daughter in grade 11 and a son in grade seven.”

After his narrow loss for state representative against the Rhode Island Speaker of the House, **Mark Binder** has returned to his roots with *Cinderella Spinderella*, the first illustrated e-book for families that allows readers to choose what Cinderella and the Prince look like. “This story began as a spoken-word piece for diverse audiences,” Mark says. “When I started to create the book, I realized that readers could be empowered to pick their own version of the story.” *Cinderella Spinderella* is available for all e-book readers.

Once again, **Yossi Rabin** has good news — the arrival of his fourth grandchild, Y’honatan Shalom Hatab, on February 15.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
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**Steve Ross** reports for Orient News Network in Tokyo, covering topics from Fukushima to pop culture. Last July, he received the first-place Gold Award in the Stanford University US-Asia Technology Management Center’s Untold Story in Innovation journalism award competition. Then, several months ago, he met with honored Beta Theta Pi brother Tom “Tuna” Duval ’87, who is vice consul at the U.S. Embassy in Japan.

Steve says that Tom reflected on his heady salad days at Columbia and how he misses alma mater. Steve continues, “We snapped a photo under Tokyo’s Nihonbashi (Japan Bridge), the traditional ‘kilometer-zero’ marker point from which all distances in Japan were measured. We both sported Columbia blue for the occasion!

Columbians in Japan are welcome to give me an e-shout at steve.



**Divya Singh ’87 (left) joined Jordan Kessler ’96 and Alexandra Hernandez ’05 on a whale-watching trip in Laguna San Ignacio in Baja California, Mexico, in March. The outing was sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council, where Kessler and Hernandez work.**

PHOTO: JACOB SCHERR

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As briefly noted in the last column, former FCC chair **Julius Genachowski** has joined the Washington, D.C., office of The Carlyle Group, the private-equity firm that made its name hiring high-level government officials. Julius, who pioneered President Barack Obama ’83’s online fundraising strategy in the 2008 election, will become managing director of Carlyle’s U.S. Buyout Fund, the firm’s flagship investment pool. He will seek investments in global technology, media and telecommunications, according to Carlyle. The publicly held firm owns stakes in the audience measurement firm Nielsen, network provider CommScope, telecom services company Syniverse and SS&C Technologies, a supplier of specialized software to the financial services industry.

“We’re seeing a wave of tech-driven innovation that’s creating opportunities around the Internet, mobile, cloud and media,” Genachowski said in a statement. “It’s a great time to be returning to the private sector and focusing on investing and building businesses; I’m bullish on mobile while recognizing wired infrastructure will be critical far into the future. Mobile is going to get bigger and bigger.”

**Joe Titlebaum** co-founded Mezzobit, a big data start-up that enables digital publishers and marketers to control and monetize their audiences. In January, it was named one of the 10 hottest start-ups in New York by AlleyWatch. Joe lives in Bethesda, Md., with his wife, Julie Mack, and their kids, Ben, Aaron and Eve.

On the international front, **Denis Searby** reports from Sweden. He is a professor at Stockholm University, teaching ancient Greek, and the

section head of classics (“We don’t have our own department,” he says). Active on the Alumni Representative Committee, he adds, “I am happy that a couple of students from Sweden will be entering Columbia next year.” At this writing, Dennis also was looking forward to seeing his Columbia Greek professor, Richard Janko, who was scheduled to go to Stockholm for a workshop in April; Janko is now a professor at Michigan.

**Seth Schachner** writes, “All is well in Miami. I launched a business development enterprise, Strat Americas, providing strategic guidance and connecting digital partnerships in the Americas (stratamericas online.com). Latin America is a focus and I have a group of clients in New York and Europe, so I’m back in the city often. My wife, Allison, has a consulting and legal practice focused on education and special needs children. Our children, Miles (13) and Liv (10), love life here. I’d welcome the chance to catch up with classmates when they pass through Miami.”

**Adam Tanner** is a fellow at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard. His book, *What Stays in Vegas: The World of Personal Data — Lifeblood of Big Business — and the End of Privacy as We Know It*, comes out in September. The publisher’s blurb says the book “exposes the greatest threat to privacy today. It’s not the NSA, but good-old American companies. Internet giants, leading retailers and other firms are gathering data behind the scenes with little oversight from anyone.”

The blurb explains that *What Stays in Vegas* puts the spotlight on Caesars Entertainment as a means to explore the benefits and dark side of information gathering: “The



secret to the company’s success lies in their one unrivaled asset: they are able to track the activities of the overwhelming majority of gamblers who walk in [the casino doors]. They know exactly what games we like to play, what foods we enjoy for breakfast, when we prefer to visit, who our favorite hostess might be and exactly how to keep us coming back for more. Caesars’ dogged data-gathering methods have been so successful that they grew to become the world’s largest casino operator, and they have inspired companies from across industries to ramp up their own data mining in the hopes of boosting their targeted marketing efforts. Some do this themselves. Some rely on data brokers. Others clearly enter a moral gray zone that would make American consumers deeply uncomfortable.”

Another Boston-area alum, **Tom Scotti**, writes: “My wife, Karen, and I have lived in Massachusetts for more than 25 years and have spent the last 20 in the small town of Medfield, about 20 miles southwest of Boston. There we raised our daughter, Anne ‘16, who is having a tremendous experience, [and is] busy with both sorority life and student government (she is a Class of 2016 representative).

“Four years ago, Karen and I became involved with saving the birthplace of Lowell Mason in Medfield from demolition by developers. Mason is recognized as the father of music education in America and was instrumental in adding music to the regular school curriculum in Boston in 1838, where he was the first music superintendent. For those outside the music education world he is probably best known as the composer of the tune for the nursery rhyme *Mary Had a Little Lamb*; he also popularized the

holiday song *Joy to the World*.

“Coincidentally, I met Karen while singing with the Columbia Glee Club, so it seems fitting that fate would put us in position to work together on this project. We are restoring the house to turn it into a museum and music practice and performance space. The cost of restoring a historic home is extensive, so fundraising is important and donations are much appreciated. People can learn more about Mason and the efforts to restore the house at [lowellmasonhouse.org](http://lowellmasonhouse.org).”

Double kudos go to two classmates. First to **Lane Palmer**, who recently was named president and managing partner of Pediatric Urology Associates, based in Lake Success, N.Y. In addition, his new textbook, *Pediatric and Adolescent Urologic Imaging*, was published earlier this year. The book provides

was nationally televised — terrific timing, as the Lions notched a 16-point win. Many of you may be aware that the Columbia basketball team finished its regular season just one win short of its first 20-win season in more than 40 years. They then won two more games and reached the quarterfinal round of the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT), missing a potential tying shot at the buzzer. The Lions finished third in the Ivies and do not lose any graduating seniors, so next year could be truly special.

And finally, speaking of truly special, our 30th reunion is less than 12 months away.

Save the date for Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015. The Alumni Office is looking to coordinate an initial meeting this fall to establish a

up for the dearth of updates I get. Congrats to **Bill Fink**, who is the associate executive director for development and external affairs at Supportive Children’s Advocacy Network. SCAN is a nonprofit that supports high-quality programs for the families of East Harlem and the South Bronx. It reaches more than 7,000 children and 200 families annually.

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I am happy to start this issue’s column with a hearty welcome to the newest member of the Class of 87’s Ph.D. club, **Margaret McCarthy**. Margaret defended her dissertation in human development on March 26, and, as a fellow member of the club, I know what a wonderful and stressful experience that is. Margaret practices law and lives in Ithaca, N.Y., with her family. Her spouse, Alison Redick, is starting a consulting business focusing on college counseling, while daughter Hannah is in her first year of college at SUNY Albany and daughter Rebecca is in high school in Ithaca.

As of September 2012 and November 2013, respectively, **Thomas Duval** received tenure and a promotion from the State Department. His new assignment is in the American Embassy in Kuwait, where he will be chief of the American Citizen Services Unit effective this August. Thomas says that his wife, Carole, and daughter, Kate (13), “are very excited about seeing a new part of the world after two years in Japan.”

**Rima Jolivet** has a new job as well — she is now a consultant on maternal health goal-setting for ending preventable maternal mortality at the Maternal Health Task Force at the Harvard School of Public Health. This task force, the flagship program of the Women and Health Initiative at the school, is a facilitator of partnerships to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity around the world and contributes to shaping collective efforts to improve the quality of maternal health care worldwide. The primary goal of this project is to achieve consensus through consultation with global and national partners on both global and country-level targets for maternal mortality reduction post-2015; it also aims to develop a strategic framework for achieving them, to be launched at the PMNCH Partners Forum in June/July in anticipation of the United Nations General Assembly in September. Rima lives in Dorchester, Mass.

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Twenty-eight years ago, a group of highly educated and motivated 22-year-olds left Morningside Heights to follow their passions and dreams. Merriam-Webster defines nostalgia as “pleasure and sadness that is caused by remembering something from the past and wishing that you could experience it again.” As we turn 50, are any of you nostalgic about our time at Columbia? If so, email me some of the thoughts. It’s a milestone year for many of us. You can write to either address at the top of the column or submit them via CCT’s webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). It will make

**Margaret McCarthy ‘87, who lives in Ithaca, N.Y., has joined the Ph.D. club, having defended her dissertation in human development in March.**

a comprehensive reference for health care providers of children and adolescents with urologic conditions. Each chapter was written collaboratively, with at least one author from each specialty, melding the expertise of each specialist and offering it to readers in a manner aimed at reinforcing the integration of clinical information to radiologic imaging.

Our second set of kudos goes to **Tom Vinciguerra** for a great intro to the Spring CCT’s Varsity Show section. Tom also has been named executive editor at Indian Country Today Media Network. I bumped into Tom at the 27th annual Spectator Awards Dinner, held in February at the swanky New York Athletic Club. Seeing Tom was the second most special part of the evening (tied with listening to Katie Couric); the most special was watching my son, Isaac ‘14, receive the Quintana Roo Dunne Award for Visual Achievement to *Spec*.

In February **John Phelan, Bryan Barnett** and I attended an on-campus forum on the many aspects of the Core Curriculum, with many current and former students offering suggestions for improvement. Ironically, many of the comments and criticisms (administrative hurdles, faculty accessibility, flaws in the curriculum content) could have been made 30 years ago.

Another on-campus highlight for me this past winter was when my youngest son, Josh, and I attended the Columbia-Yale game. It took place in late February and

**Lee Ilan**, who joined me at Citi Field for Mets Opening Day, reported the following great news: “Although it’s wild that some of our classmates have kids in college, I’m happy to welcome another member to the parenthood club: **Anthony Alvarez** and his partner, Andrea, live in Brooklyn and had an adorable daughter, Nina Lee Alvarez, on December 9, 2013.”

Thanks, Lee! And congratulations to Anthony and Andrea!

**Eli Kavon** writes, “As I begin my third year as rabbi of Beth Ami Congregation in Boca Raton, Fla., I wanted to share a recent experience with fellow Columbians. I led two discussions at a movie theater in nearby Delray Beach after the showing of the Polish film *Aftermath*. While the story of two brothers who uncover the horrible truth about the fate of the Jews in their native Polish town is fictional, it was inspired by events that took place during WWII. The film is compelling and powerful, exploring historical memories repressed and revealed. The Polish filmmakers and actors are truly heroic in their willingness to confront the past and the reality of Jewish-Polish relations both before and during the Shoah.”

This is definitely a film I now want to see.

The mailbag was a little light this time around. Please don’t be shy! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCT’s webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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As I’m among the newest parents in our class, I’m still learning the ropes of childhood education. (My kids are both in preschool; whatever was left of my spare time is now spent serving on the school’s board of directors.) This recently gave me the chance to catch up with **Jessica Davidson Miller** while emailing back and forth about schooling options. Jessica, like me, lives in the Washington, D.C., area and has school-age children. She is a law partner at the Washington office of Skadden, where she specializes in complex civil litigation.

**Nikos Andreadis** wrote from Port Washington, Long Island, where he and his wife, Yvonne Knapp Andreadis ‘90, have lived since 1997 with their daughter, Sophia (14), and son, Georgie (11). Nikos graduated from Boston University Law and took over the management of his family’s private

mortgage lending business in Astoria, Queens, three years later.

Another Long Island resident, **Eve Jordan Combemale**, reports, “I live in Bridgehampton with my three children (15, 18 and 20) and sell real estate through Sotheby’s.” Eve expressed disappointment at having to miss last year’s 25th reunion. “It was my son’s graduation weekend but I’d love to connect with classmates,” she says. You can reach her at [eve.combemale@sothebyshomes.com](mailto:eve.combemale@sothebyshomes.com).

**Patrick Crawford** writes, “I practice tax law and run my firm, Crawford Tax Law Group, in Los Angeles. I very much enjoy the entrepreneurial challenges as well as the tax practice (particularly state and local tax issues). Growing this firm has been the most satisfying professional experience since I left the legal academy and returned to the ‘real world’ of private practice. I still have the scholarship bug, however, and am publishing two law review articles this year. I have also started a blog focusing on progressive takes on U.S. economic regulation ([lawcrit.com](http://lawcrit.com)). I owe very much indeed to the College and its faculty (particularly the forgettables: Raymond Geuss [‘66, ‘71 GSAS], Edward Said, Gisela Striker and Andreas Huyssen, to name just a few). My time at Columbia teed up an interesting life path.”

**Timothy Dalton** is based in Nazaret, Ethiopia. He writes, “In the middle of last year I received a \$13.7 million cooperative agreement award from the United States Agency for International Development to establish a research consortium linking scientists from the United States with those in Ethiopia, Senegal and Niger to work on the adaptation of sorghum and pearl millet to climate change in semi-arid areas. I’ve committed to building the program and the research portfolio during the next five years with the aim of raising more funds to expand the program to other countries in East and West Africa.”

**Ben Horowitz’s** new book on developing startup companies, *The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers*, was the focus of an event hosted by President Lee C. Bollinger in Low Library in March. Also feted in Low this year was **Jonathan S. Lavine**, who received the Gershon Mendes Seixas Award at the annual Columbia/Barnard Hillel dinner. The honor is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to Jewish student life at the University.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to your emails, which you can submit to me at the addresses at the top of the column or via CCT’s

webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). I also encourage everyone to join the Columbia College Class of 1988 Facebook group; it’s a convenient way to stay in touch with classmates.

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To kick things off, I hope everyone had a great time at our 25th reunion! The deadline for Class Notes passed before the big weekend, so you’ll have to stay tuned for the Fall issue for the full report.

Last winter I was sitting at a sectional swim meet in Worcester, Mass., watching my daughter, Julia (15), compete. In between races, my eyes wandered to the swim records on the wall. One was set by **Karen Ehrlich** in 1985, and I immediately thought that it had to be my Theta sorority sister, now **Karen Ehrlich Zotos**. I found Karen through Facebook and she sent in a big update.

Karen writes, “I am not sure if I am more in shock that it is our 25th reunion, or that my son is graduating from high school, all on the same weekend! Yikes! I remember bringing him to kindergarten, and then it gets fast and blurry. I think of my NYC days often. I have been back twice, once for a work thing, and then to show my kids the city.

“I moved to Texas a year after graduation, [before which] I was living with **Lori Koss** on the East Side. But then I met Pete Zotos, who later became my husband, at a wedding in San Diego, and quit my job in NYC and moved to Dallas. Lori and my parents thought I was crazy!

“I worked in the insurance/healthcare admin field for 15 years, then got my teaching certificate. I have been a middle school teacher in the Dallas public schools for seven years. Every day is a new and bizarre day. Learning takes a backseat to hormones! I work at my community middle school, and so all my kids have gone there. It is very diverse and interesting.

“Pete, who is a restaurateur, and I were married 20 years ago; we live in a beautiful area of the city known as Lakewood. He owns St. Pete’s Dancing Marlin, which has been open for 19 years. We have three teenagers: the oldest is Max (17), followed by Annalyse (16) and Alexa (14). Max will be a Texas A&M Aggie in the fall. Annalyse rows crew on the varsity team, and Alexa is a 6-1 volleyball player.

“Prior to becoming a teacher, I was an active volunteer with the PTA and raised money for the schools through the Lakewood

Home Festival. I also developed a pretty good game of tennis. I stopped swimming but started running and completed my one and only marathon in Chicago in 2006. I checked that off my list!”

Karen also wrote that her older brother, Jim Ehrlich ‘86E, passed away in December 2008 from melanoma. He had two young girls and a wife, whom Karen visited in Minneapolis this spring.

**Kirk Ruddy** writes, “All is well! I live in Darien, Conn., with my boys, Max (12), Luc (11) and Ben (8). I also live three houses from my sister, Kari (who helps me out tremendously), so I also have my nephew and godson, Nick (14), and niece, Kira (7), around all the time. These kids are pretty much my life these days! I work for SC Lowy Financial Services out of Hong Kong, so I travel back and forth a few times a year.”

**Jill Chamberlain** left Manhattan a decade ago for Austin, where she founded a screenwriting school, The Screenplay Workshop. According to Jill, “I’ve been leading group workshops and consulting privately on feature film screenplays, using techniques I developed during my years as a struggling screenwriter and filmmaker in Manhattan. Austin has quite the burgeoning film scene, and my program has been growing like crazy. Former students and clients have had their screenplays optioned, made into award-winning feature films, garner them Hollywood representation, and them professional screenwriting assignments and get recognized by top competitions including the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences’ Nicholl Fellowship.”

Recently Jill signed a contract to publish her book about “the nutshell technique,” the screenplay-structuring method she created. Look for it in bookstores in 2015.

**Joel Alter** is back in New York, lives in Washington Heights and is director of admissions for JTS’ Rabbinical and Cantorial Schools, up the block from Columbia.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28–31, 2015**  
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After a short-lived career as a lawyer and a longer one as a stay-at-home mom, **Aili Bresnahan**

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(née Webber) went back to school for a Ph.D. in philosophy and now teaches at the University of Dayton in Ohio. Her specialization is aesthetics, particularly philosophy of dance.

**Diana Semel Allen**, in North Carolina, has a new job, too. In January she joined ChannelAdvisor as VP and general counsel. The company is a provider of cloud-based e-commerce solutions that enable retailers and manufacturers to increase global sales.

When he last checked in, **Michael Kinstlick** was CEO of Coppersea Distilling, a farm distillery in New York's Hudson Valley. He is still CEO but the business is relocating to a permanent home in New Paltz, N.Y. This seems like a great idea for a road trip, no? The interesting bit about this arrangement is that Michael lives in and works remotely from Berkeley, Calif., where he, Seth Bain '89 and others founded a professional Ultimate Frisbee team, the San Francisco FlameThrowers.

What a treat to hear from **Jonathan Earle**, who reports: "I started on January 1 as director of the University Honors Program at Kansas. I'll still teach one course a year but most of the time I'll be using the things I learned at Columbia to enrich the educational experience of Kansas' most talented undergrads. It's a very different place from Morningside Heights but believe it or not, there are hills, I've never seen a tornado and the basketball is a little bit better (although congrats to the Lions on a great men's hoops season)."

New jobs certainly abound in this column, especially in the family of **Laura Shaw Frank**, who writes, "After 14 years in 'exile,' we are moving back to the Big Apple. [My husband,] Aaron [Frank '96 SW] will be the new associate principal of SAR H.S. in Riverdale. I will teach general and Jewish history at SAR as well as do research for my dissertation at the Center for Jewish History."

What this means to me is that Laura will have no geographic excuse to miss reunion — a mere 11 months away!

It's time for an update from **Noreen Whysel** (née Flanigan), whom we last heard from right before her fabulous trip to Ireland. She graduated in February from Pratt Institute with an M.S.L.I.S. and is an information/management consultant, primarily for The Information Architecture Institute. She also does web design, coding and data analysis for small companies and non-profits. She is job hunting with her shiny new master's and would love to keep working in digital archives, which she did last summer and fall

at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Lehman Social Sciences Library, respectively.

Noreen's daughters are in 11th grade at Bronx Science and eighth grade at Hunter College H.S. The college tours have begun in full force. If anyone else is college-tripping these days, please get in touch with Noreen to celebrate or commiserate. As this is my area of professional expertise, I urge you to choose to celebrate this exciting time in your child's life.

That's it for now. Please keep the news rolling in. You can write me at either address at the top of the column or use CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**91** **Margie Kim**  
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Greetings, all!

Dr. **Jennifer Garfein Ashton** '00 P&S writes, "In addition to my Englewood, N.J., gynecology practice, I am the ABC News senior medical contributor for *Good Morning America* and *World News* and am a co-host on the nationally syndicated daytime medical talk show *The Doctors*. Having these media platforms puts me on the cutting edge of medical news even as I remain firmly entrenched in my busy practice and the clinical care of my patients. I enjoy these roles, which allow me to communicate medical information to people of all ages. In my spare time, I am in the master's program in clinical nutrition at Columbia's Institute of Human Nutrition; my father, Dr. Oscar Garfein '61, '65 P&S, '97 Business is taking a class with me. We are happy to be back at our old stomping grounds!"

**Elias Dokas** is married, lives in northern New Jersey and has two children, Peter (8) and Katerina (6). He is a partner at a private equity firm, MidOcean Partners, where he focuses on investments in the business services and technology areas. Elias keeps in touch with **Chris Beach** and a number of others from KDR. He also has stayed in contact with **Annie Giarratano Della Pietra** and **Ali Namvar**, both of whom were high school classmates.

The New York City Council elected **Melissa Mark-Viverito** as speaker, the second-most-powerful position in NYC government. Melissa is a council member from East Harlem. She was born in Puerto Rico and is the first Latina to lead the 51-member municipal legislature.

**Barry A. Bunin** is the CEO of

Collaborative Drug Discovery, which celebrated its 10th anniversary at the UCSF Mission Bay conference center in April. There were presentations from scientific leaders from Rockefeller Foundation, Genentech, Amgen, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and NIH as well as a number of biotech startups that use CDD's drug discovery software. The company's product, the CDD Vault, is a hosted biological and chemical database that securely manages private and external data; at this writing, it had more than a quarter-billion data points.

Barry lives in Belmont, Calif., with his wife, Debbie (a biologist), and kids, Evan (8) and Zachary (4). He wants folks to know he has extra space if anyone is flying through SFO and looking for a more personal place to stay while in town. He can be reached at bbunin@collaborativedrug.com.

**Kif Scheuer** writes, "I've been living with my wife and three kids in San Rafael, Calif., for seven years and work in the nonprofit energy and climate field. I recently took a job as climate change program director at the Local Government Commission, a statewide nonprofit focused on supporting elected officials who want to make their communities more sustainable, healthy and resilient. I've been focused on launching the first statewide 2014 California Adaptation Forum, scheduled for Sacramento in August — would love to see some CC folks there! While in San Diego for a conference recently, I met up with **Tom Nishioka**, who lives there, and spent an hour or so surfing at sunset in La Jolla."

I hope everyone has a sunny, adventurous summer with a few lazy afternoons thrown in for good measure. Write me about it (or anything else that's update-worthy) at either of the addresses at the top of the column or via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Until next time ... cheers!

**92** **Olivier Knox**  
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Dear '92ers: You probably saw in the last issue the sad news of **Meredith Norton**'s passing on August 2, 2013. Read her obituary from the Spring 2014 CCT here: college.columbia.edu/cct/spring14/obituaries. Send a bit of love to the American Cancer Society in Meredith's memory, and consider picking up her well-received book, *Lopsided: How Having Breast Cancer Can Be Really Distracting*. Spare a thought, too, for Meredith's

husband, Thibault Jousse, and her son, Lucas.

**Amy Salomon-Kohn** wrote from Maplewood, N.J., where she lives with son, Jacob (16), and daughter, Jessie (11). Amy says she's been an educator in independent schools for more than 20 years, "teaching English and dance, and being a dean and a college counselor." She is director of college guidance at Mary McDowell Friends School in Brooklyn Heights, a school for students with language-based learning disabilities.

**Ethan O'Rafferty** (he was "O"-less in college) is VP for alliances and channels at EnterpriseDB, and he has spent 17 years volunteering "to create a parent involvement movement called Minds in Motion, providing after-school academic challenge and character development workshops to kids."

He adds, "As Columbia's first male women's studies major, I'm glad that the workshops include subjects like feminism and social justice activism."

**Eva Graburn** has lived in Portugal since 1993 with her Portuguese husband. In 2008, they started Terracotta Journeys, a tourism company that offers cycling and hiking tours of Iberia. "We are currently in a partnership with REI Adventures and running both its 'Portugal Coastal Hiking' tour and a cycling tour, 'Portugal & Spain Cycling: The Alentejo to Andalusia,'" writes Eva. "We'd love to have some alums join us!"

**Jennifer Fredricks** is molding young minds at Connecticut College, where she has been promoted to full professor of human development. She specializes in motivation, adolescent development and extracurricular participation. Her first book, *Eight Myths of Disengagement: Creating Classrooms of Deep Learning*, came out in March. Jennifer lives in the Constitution State with her husband, Harvey, and sons, Jacob (10) and Dylan (7). She enjoys swimming with a local masters team and long-distance running.

**David Mozina** (Carman 105) is putting his religion major and the doctoral degree in comparative religion he earned at Harvard to good use: In fall 2013, he became an assistant professor of Chinese religions at Boston College: "I study the revival of Daoist and Buddhist religious practices in the south China countryside after government prohibitions of local religious practices were relaxed in the early 1990s," he says. Before that, he taught at UNC-Charlotte for 4½ years.

I feel like this last note should be done sports announcer style, a skill that totally eludes me. **Alex**

# Michael Bitz '94, '98 TC Uses Comics as Vehicle for Creativity

By Justin DeFreitas

Time was, comic books were considered the adolescent's gateway to ruin. In the 1950s, Senate hearings on juvenile delinquency focused largely on the medium and its purveyors as the roots of a nationwide epidemic. Whether scapegoated for society's ills or merely dismissed as childish entertainment, this form of storytelling — words and pictures arranged sequentially — has rarely garnered much respect.

**Michael Bitz '94, '98 TC**, an assistant professor of teacher education at Ramapo College of New Jersey, views comics quite differently and has spent 12 years developing and growing an educational curriculum centered on the medium. The Comic Book Project (comicbookproject.org) builds literacy skills by helping children write, draw and publish their own comic books.

"The Comic Book Project was born from a desire to do something different," Bitz says. "At Teachers College I was exposed to different kinds of educational theory and program ideas, including learning through the arts — how the arts and creativity in general is utilized or not utilized in teaching programs."

Bitz launched a pilot project at a New York City middle school in 2001. Then, after partnering with The After-School Corp., a nonprofit that supports programs in hundreds of New York City public schools, he implemented it in 40 more middle schools. Since then, the project has expanded to all 50 states and nine other countries, and has reached more than 150,000 students.

The Comic Book Project also gives students a chance to reflect on their experiences, ideas and communities. Many schools have applied themes to the work: Students in Hawaii

produced comics about the effects of pollution, while Native American students in Washington State did theirs on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Customizing the subject matter is a crucial element in engaging students, Bitz says.

Bitz didn't read comics much when he was growing up in Wyckoff, N.J. He was an aspiring musician and frequently made the trek from his quiet suburban home across the George Washington Bridge in pursuit of the diverse and stimulating culture of New York City. He further embraced big-city life — and delved into music full-time — at the College, where he studied western classical, jazz and popular music. After earning a degree in music, however, he set out on a different course. "Exposure to many different people from different backgrounds influenced my decision to go into education," he says.

Bitz put in time as a student teacher en route to a Ph.D. in education, but the experience convinced him that he wasn't cut out for full-time teaching so he instead focused on curriculum development.

The concept of using comics as an educational tool is hardly new. "People have been advocating for this since the 1800s, when schools became like factories," Bitz says. But transforming the idea into a replicable curriculum that is easy to implement was key.

The process is simple by design: Students are introduced to the language of comic books, including lines, panels, sequencing, word balloons and character development. Once they've completed a draft, they get feedback from their teachers, then turn the draft into a finished product, penciling the

artwork, writing dialogue and captions, and inking and coloring. The books are published online and sometimes in print — "Getting your name in print is an incredible motivator," Bitz says — and exhibitions are mounted so that students can celebrate their work with friends, family, guardians and teachers.

The project quickly found success in New York City. "Teachers saw kids doing things they [the teachers] didn't realize they could do — reading and writing without

says Marge Pellegrino, program manager for Owl & Panther in Tucson, which provides expressive arts programming to refugee families affected by torture and trauma. Owl & Panther began implementing the Comic Book Project curriculum in 2006. "I started with the premise that the kids had knowledge that others didn't," Pellegrino says. "They were experts — they knew what it was like to have a parent incarcerated, or they knew what it was like to be a refugee. What should others know about it? How could we show those things through story?"

Pellegrino's students took to the exercise immediately. "They were elevated in their own eyes by the process," she says. "The kids with less English language fluency found they had a way to shine."

For the most part, Bitz has been able to launch the programs remotely, using Skype and social media to train and communicate with teachers around the world. But not all countries have such ready access to technology. Bitz recently returned from Nigeria, where he launched an international program in person for the first time. The program faced different obstacles in Nigeria, however, because comics are not popular there. "We first had to teach teachers what a comic book is," Bitz says.

"But it's not really about the comics," he adds. "The Comic Book Project represents a broader mission of creativity in the classroom, advocating for creative projects as learning projects. It's not about comics; it's about comics as vehicles for creativity."

**Justin DeFreitas** is a Bay Area writer, editor and cartoonist.



**Michael Bitz '94, '98 TC works with teachers in Nigeria; a student comic.**  
PHOTOS: COURTESY MICHAEL BITZ '94, '98 TC

worksheets," says Bitz.

He had been financing the endeavor himself but, with the program up and running, returned to Teachers College to ask if it would act as an incubator. With the Columbia name behind him, Bitz busied himself writing grant applications. A few were successful, enabling him to expand the program.

"Kids are drawn to comics, so engagement was easy,"



**Oberweger** and his wife, Caroline '06 TC, reported the great news of the arrival of Samuel Gideon Oberweger on January 24. Samuel's middle name honors his late grandfather, Gideon '65. Alex is Columbia's associate athletics director for strategic communications.

My first few issues as your new correspondent have been encouraging, but I want to hear from more of you. Don't be shy. You can write me at either address at the top of the column or through CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Roar, Lions!

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Greetings, classmates! Summer is nearly here and I'm sure those who live on the East Coast or in the Midwest are thrilled the long winter is over.

We start with some good news: In March, **Ruben Fontes** was named president of Blue Earth's solar division, Blue Earth Solar. Blue Earth is an alternative/renewable energy and energy efficiency services company based in Nevada. Prior, Reuben was with Chevron and, before that, Swinerton Builders, where his career focused on renewable energy.

Congratulations, Reuben!

Also in March, *If/Then*, the new **Brian Yorkey** and Tom Kitt '96 musical, opened on Broadway. To celebrate, the Columbia Alumni Association hosted a special event including a reception at the Edison Hotel, followed by a performance of *If/Then*, followed by a "Columbia Talkback." The last part entailed a Q&A for more than 200 alumni with Brian and

Tom. **Rachel Mintz** — who was seeing the show for a second time, having seen it first with **Mia Ricci** — said the evening was "excellent" and that she spent time with **Rita Pietropinto-Kitt** (who of course was there!) as well as **Yumi Koh**, **Joe Laszlo**, **Stephen Morfesis**, **Adrian Bordoni**, **Jaishree Kapoor**, **Sonya Kim** and **Eric Roston**. Rachel also saw Karen Sendler '94, Joan Campion '92, Dane Holmes '92 and so many others from the classes of the '90s that "there wasn't nearly enough time to catch up with everyone. What a great event!"

In addition, Rachel provided two updates: **Mike Crowley** and his wife, Alexis Hart, celebrated their 10th anniversary last summer around the same time they moved to Meadville, Pa., where they both teach in the English department at Allegheny College. They have two daughters, Amelia (8) and Agatha (6). **Mark Rutstein** lives in Westfield, N.J., with his wife, Messina, and daughter, Milana. Mark stopped practicing medicine in 2004 and has been developing anticancer drugs in the pharmaceutical industry ever since.

Many thanks to Rachel for providing news. Please keep sending updates! You can use either address at the top of the column or submit them via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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Some good news to report!

**Joe Ayala** shared his first Class Note — "It only took me almost exactly 20 years," he writes — including the great news that in February he took on the role of executive director of the College's Double Discovery Center. [Editor's note: See "Around the Quads" in the Spring issue.]

**Sharon Siegel** '00L recently published a book, *A Jewish Ceremony for Newborn Girls: The Torah's Covenant Affirmed*. She writes, "It incorporates history, philosophy and social trends, and examines both traditional sources and modern feminist writings. I wrote it across the span of 10 years. I didn't set out to write a book; I'm a lawyer and the mother of four children, living in New Jersey. The book started out as a short article, and it snowballed as my research progressed and my interests grew."

In February, **Danny Franklin** married Erica Guyer. Danny is a pollster and a principal at the Benenson Strategy Group, where

he oversees a team conducting research for the Obama administration. Erica is an associate general counsel at the Rockefeller Foundation, where she provides legal advice on grants to organizations aiding the poor.

Congratulations to everyone, and thanks for sharing your updates. Please keep the news coming — we're all eager to hear what you've been up to. You can write me at either address at the top of the column or via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Until next time.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28-31, 2015**  
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**Jodi Vermaas** (née Douglas), a first-time CCT contributor, was inspired to write in after reading about Columbia's worldwide community in the Winter 2013-14 issue of CCT about her family's global experience.

Jodi, who earned a Ph.D. in pastoral counseling and an M.S. in mental health counseling, and her husband of 16 years, Garry Vermaas '01E, have traveled throughout Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Three of their five children are from Asia and they frequently return. She writes, "As founders of a nonprofit [Priority One Worldwide], we have lived and worked in various international cities while supporting orphans and those recovering from emotional and physical trauma. It has been a privilege for me to counsel women and children through various crises and environmental challenges."

She adds that Garry has had the opportunity to build affordable housing in areas of need.

The couple began their group as a way to support indigenous missionaries in India and Myanmar in their aim to take orphans off the street and provide education and physical, emotional and spiritual care. Jodi continues: "Some of them lost parents due to trauma, so I aim to do culturally appropriate trauma work in counseling when I visit. Since we adopted our two boys (ages 3 and 14) 14 months ago from China, we have been in the United States so they can learn English. Our hope is to get back

into the field ASAP!"

A big mazel tov to **Mark Kravitz**, who is marrying his longtime partner, Jonathan Morse Kravitz, in the Berkshires in June. The ceremony will be conducted by Rabbi **Jon Berkun**. Mark and Jon live in Miami with their kids, Hershel (7) and Ava (3). Congratulations!

The news was light this issue; let's aim to do better next time. Think about sending an update with all the ways you plan to enjoy the summer. You can write me at either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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Greetings, fellow CC '96ers!

After earning a Ph.D. in film studies from UCLA and spending a year in Paris and London doing research, **Rebecca Prime** returned to the East Coast. She has lived in Washington, D.C., for the last five years with her husband, David, and their sons, Dominic (6) and Paul (18 months). Rebecca writes that teaching and parenthood have kept her busy, so she is delighted to have finished her first book, *Hollywood Exiles in Europe: the Blacklist and Cold War Film Culture*, which was published in January. It chronicles the experiences of the blacklisted American filmmakers who sought refuge in Europe in the 1950s and 1960s. Rebecca is now looking for another book project that will provide an excuse to return to Paris. In D.C. she regularly sees **Nicole Miller**, who recently relocated there from Boston, and **Susannah Gopalan** (née Vance), who was recently elected partner at Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell, a law firm where she practices in the area of health care.

**Natasha Kohne** lives in Abu Dhabi with her husband and children, Siena (5) and Arthur (1). Natasha runs (and in fact opened) the Abu Dhabi office of the global law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld. She has been living in Abu Dhabi for six years and primarily advises government entities in the Gulf Corporation Council region on their investments and activities worldwide as well as multinational companies doing business in the GCC.

**Sayan Bhattacharyya** '04L was recently named a partner in the Financial Restructuring Group of the law firm Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. Sayan focuses on corporate and financial restructuring and regularly represents ad hoc

committees of bondholders and bank lenders, official committees of unsecured creditors, debtors, individual creditors, acquirers, DIP lenders, equity holders, indenture trustees and bank agents in bankruptcy proceedings, out-of-court restructurings and default scenarios. He represents hedge funds, private equity funds, banks and large institutional investors in in-court and out-of-court restructuring scenarios. He also advises these clients on the development and implementation of distressed investment strategies.

Alas, that is all I have for you. Come out of hibernation, everyone. The weather has warmed up and I want to hear from you! I urge you to send in more notes; I know you all have a lot to say! You can write to either address at the top of the column or submit via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

— Winston Churchill

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CC '97 has been extraordinarily prolific of late! This column is almost entirely devoted to recently published books by our talented classmates.

**Danielle Paige** has a new young-adult series coming out. Its first book, released April 1, is *Dorothy Must Die*; it reimagines the fantasy landscape we're all familiar with, with another girl from Kansas landing in Oz, joining a revolutionary order of formerly wicked witches and having to kill an evil Dorothy. It's also been optioned by The CW and producer/screenwriter Tim Kring (*Heroes*) for a possible television adaptation.

**Kate Kelly** lives in Brooklyn and is a television reporter for CNBC. She is married and a proud mom of three: stepdaughter, Laney (15); son, Zachary (4); and daughter, Josephine (2½). Kate is excited about the publication of her second book, *The Secret Club That Runs the World: Inside the Fraternity of Commodity Traders*, on June 3. She writes, "It's a look inside the opaque world of commodity trading — the buying and selling of contracts tied to future prices of oil, gas, grains, metals and other raw materials we all use. The book was the outcome of a three-year investigation and lots of travel, and I'm excited to finally get it onto bookshelves (or to e-readers!)."

**Michelle Caswell**'s new book, *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory, and the Photographic Record in Cambodia*, was published on April 1. It details the reign of the Khmer Rouge through analysis of photographic history.

**Nicholas Kulish** and **Souad Mekhennet**'s new book, *The Eternal Nazi: From Mauthausen to Cairo, the Relentless Pursuit of SS Doctor Aribert Heim*, came out March 25. It details the story of Dr. Aribert Heim, who worked in the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp for a few months in 1941. Known to inmates as "Dr. Death," in the chaos of the postwar period Heim was able to slip away from his dark past and establish himself as a reputable doctor and family man in Baden-Baden, Germany. As late as 2009, the mystery of Heim's disappearance remained unsolved. The book reveals for the first time how Heim evaded capture — living in a working-class neighborhood of Cairo, praying in Arabic, beloved by an adopted Muslim family — while inspiring a manhunt that outlived him (he died in 1992) by many years.

**Matt Wang**'s game company, To Be Continued, was acquired in 2012 by one of its operating partners, 5th Planet Games, for which Matt now is senior adviser. Matt is also the deputy COO of Evercore, a leading independent investment bank. He married Elizabeth Battista last June.

I hope everyone has a terrific summer. I'll look forward to hearing about it, along with all your other news, for next time. You can write me at either address at the top of the column or via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**98 Sandie Angulo Chen**  
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Happy summer, Class of 1998.

Can you believe it has been nearly 20 years since we started our first year at the College? Consider this the perfect time to send in your updates. You can write me at either address at the top of the column, or submit via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**Meena Merchant** has a growing family. She writes, "My husband, Mitch Shepherd, and I had our second son, Mohan Merchant Shepherd, on January 23 at home. Mizan (4½) is loving life with a little brother. I recently left my stationery company to be a full-time mom and a personal coach/guide, which I find to be wonderfully rewarding.

"Mitch is a full-time freelancer doing video production and is launching a video production company (AXOXIX) that will involve collaborating with many talented local people."

Congratulations, Meena, Mitch, Mizan and baby Mohan!

Congratulations are also in order for **Abby Lublin**. According to pal **Adina Brooks** (née Berrios), Abby had a son last summer. Her family lives in Troy, N.Y.

That's it for this edition. If you're on Facebook, please join our Columbia College Class of '98 Group.

**99 Laurent Vasilescu**  
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Greetings, Class of '99. I hope this update finds you well. This submission is a bit tricky, as I'm writing a few months before our reunion yet you will be reading it after. The full report on the weekend will appear in the next issue, though it appears by all accounts we'll have had a solid turnout.

Life has been busy lately for reasons I can tell you more about in the Fall issue. That being said, it's time for me to pass the baton to **Adrienne Carter** (adieliz@gmail.com) and **Jenna Johnson** (jenna.johnson@gmail.com), who are taking over as joint correspondents. They'll introduce themselves in the fall, but in the meantime you can contact them now with your news. Thanks to everyone for making this such a terrific run!

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28-31, 2015**  
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**Emily Martin Kurzweil** has been busy with her twins, Edie and Sammy (who turned 1 last April), and their older sister, Eva. Emily moved to Portland, Ore., several years ago with her husband, Grady Jurens, to be closer to his family.

**Nathaniel Farrell** wrote in with some great news: His first book of poems, *Newcomer*, comes out this summer! You can check out an excerpt in *The Brooklyn Rail*: brooklynrail.org/2014/04/poetry/

eight-from-newcomer.

Nathaniel lives in St. Louis with his wife, teaches at Washington University and volunteers at a local radio station, 88.1 KDHX.

Meanwhile, **Matthew Matlack** has lived in Tulsa since 2002. He works in the technology industry and has been with Brocade for the past seven years. His datacenter technology is being used for the infrastructure for the nation's first community supercomputer, Tandy Supercomputing Center, which provides access to academic, corporate and government entities needing high-performance computational capabilities.

Congratulations to **Eric Goldberg**, who recently joined the law firm of Littleton Joyce Ughetta Park & Kelly as a partner in its NYC office. The firm is a litigation boutique with five offices around the country focusing on complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on products liability defense. Eric lives in Edison, N.J., with his wife, Karen '01, and their daughters, Katie, Emma and Gracie.

**Kimberly Warren** (née Fisher) emailed an update on the last five years. She got married in 2010 with 12 Columbia '00 classmates in attendance, gave birth to a son last summer and, she says, was crazy enough to only take eight days of maternity leave. She is the executive director of sales at an analytics firm and loves it. Kim is a board member of the Women in Technology Foundation, lives in Manhattan and runs every day.

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I hope everyone's summer is off to a great start!

In January I got to spend an afternoon of fun in the sun with an amazing group of alumni and their families, as we had our very own mini-reunion in the desert city of Rancho Mirage, Calif. (near Palm Springs). Thanks to **Nancy Michaelis** (née Perla) for hosting us, and to **Susan Wilsey** (née Pereira), **Annie Marquit** (née Lainer), **Dina Epstein**, **Joyce Chou** and Jamie Rubin '01 Barnard for joining. It was so much fun to catch up and meet the next generation of alumni!

**Cambria Matlow** recently launched a successful Kickstarter campaign for her film project *The Woodsriders*. It's "a meditative portrait of Mount Hood's nature and culture, as seen through the eyes of two female snowboarders."

I personally followed the campaign with great interest on Facebook and enjoyed seeing all the support

Columbia College Alumni on Facebook



Check out the Columbia College Alumni page!  
**facebook.com/alumnicc**

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings,



from the '01 community. **Claire Weingarten** will be an associate producer.

Best of luck with the film, Cambria!

**Eliel Flores** left the United States for Zurich at the end of January to begin a six-month assignment practicing international law.

**Marc Dunkelman** shared two exciting updates: He and his wife, Kathryn, welcomed their second daughter, Helen Levine Dunkelman, on February 9 at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, in Providence. Helen weighed in at 7 lbs., 10 oz. She joins sis Emilia.

Congratulations, Marc and Kathryn!

Marc also shares: "I've spent many nights and weekends in the last decade toiling over a book about how community has changed in America and why that transformation explains so many of our challenges today. It's a joy and a relief to announce that the final product, *The Vanishing Neighbor: The Transformation of American Community*, is slated to hit stores on July 28."

Congratulations, Marc!

**Ariel Neuman** reported, "My wife, Eszter, and I welcomed our son, Zev, into the world in August. He's doing great. Also, after almost seven years at the U.S. Attorney's Office, I joined Bird Marella, a litigation boutique in Los Angeles that specializes in white-collar criminal defense and complex civil litigation."

Congratulations, Ariel and Eszter!

**Avery Kastin** and Vanessa Isen were married in Aspen on January 18. Avery writes, "Vanessa's family lives in Santa Monica, Calif., while mine lives in Atlanta, so we decided to make our wedding inconvenient for both families by having a destination wedding in Colorado. Aspen holds special significance for us, as that's where we met, and

My Furnald and Carman pal, **Ethan Perlstein**, shared an exciting report (after I prompted him about all the buzz I was hearing about his business). He writes, "Things are super well! Perlstein Lab, my mission-driven biotech startup based in San Francisco and focused on orphan/rare disease drug discovery, is a go."

Ethan is busy gathering investors and also recently participated in a panel on indie science at SXSW.

Speaking of SXSW, the horror film *Home*, with a score composed by **Ronen Landa**, premiered there. According to thecredits.org, "*Home* is a feverish satanic scare-fest that's structured more like a thoughtful character study than a typical horror film. Throughout, Landa's score is oddly affecting and always unsettling."

**Eunice Rho**, the advocacy and policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, was recently quoted in *The New York Times* regarding a bill in Kansas that would have allowed businesses to refuse services to gays. She said, "As LGBT people gain greater equality under the law, the opponents are arguing, because of their religious beliefs, they should be given special authorization."

Way to go, Eunice!

**02** **Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
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This time around, there seems to be a baby boom to report. Congrats to all the new Columbia parents! In addition, there are some exciting work updates. Please keep updates (of any nature!) coming to soniah57@gmail.com. You also can send a note through CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**Ronen Landa '01** composed the "oddly affecting and always unsettling" score for the horror film *Home*, which premiered at SXSW this past spring.

we have shared a lot of wonderful memories there since that first trip. We both love to ski — Vanessa is a former professional snowboarder — so the bonus of getting to be on the slopes during our wedding week was icing on the cake.

"When we're not on the slopes, Vanessa and I split our time between Santa Monica and Atlanta. She is a professional chef and restaurant consultant, and I am a protein commodities broker and trader."

**Jacqueline Karp** and David Karp '99 are excited to announce the arrival of their son, Joel Franklin, who was born on November 26.

**Ethan Farbman** and Natalie Fung '02 Barnard welcomed their daughter, Isabelle Tatum Farbman, into the world on December 19 at 10:30 a.m. Hong Kong time. Mother and daughter are doing great.

**Richard Mammana** and Mary Christian Winthrop Mammana '04 (née Brownrigg) welcomed their

second daughter, Elisabeth Hannah Howell, on January 4 in New Haven, Conn.

**Emily Bruskin Yarbrough** and Chad Yarbrough welcomed their daughter, Zoe Anna Yarbrough, on April 19, 2013, in New York City.

**Lenny Braman** and his wife, Anne Green (director of academic counseling and judicial programming at the Law School), joyfully announce the birth of their first child, Gwendolyn May, on October 27, 2013. Lenny is senior counsel in the affirmative litigation division of the New York City Law Department.

**Tze-Ngo Chun** and his wife, Cara McKenney, welcomed their second child, Theodora Seabright, on December 19. Chun's new film, *Cold Comes the Night*, which he wrote and directed, stars Bryan Cranston and Alice Eve and was released theatrically in January. It is now available on DVD.

**Ian R. Rapoport** writes, "Last year (2013) was a wild and awesome year for my wife, Leah, and me. Most importantly, we welcomed Max Basinger into the world on July 19, all 5 lbs., 4 oz. of him. An exciting bundle of cuteness. I was really happy that **Adam Schwartz, Mike Kim** and **Matt Waldman** got to meet him during Thanksgiving break. As for work, I was moved into the role of 'National Insider' on the NFL Network, acting as our main news reporter on *NFL GameDay Morning*, *Thursday Night Football* and our other shows."

**03** **Michael Novielli**  
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The summer has brought some much-needed warmth to much of the country and I hope this issue's Class Notes will warm your hearts, as there is a ton of exciting news and announcements. Two classmates have joined the faculties of American universities, one published his first book, three welcomed children, three are in senior positions at start-ups and one recently moved to a senior leadership position with a national publication.

**Evan Mayo-Wilson** writes, "I moved to Baltimore in February to join the faculty at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I'd love to reconnect with Columbia folks in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., area."

**Yvette Siegert** teaches comparative literature and translation at CUNY Baruch, but still puts in long hours at Butler Library, where she is translating the collected works of poet Alejandra Pizarnik for publisher New Directions and writing a book about bootlegging in New York.

**David Burr Gerrard's** first novel, *Short Century*, was published in March. The book launch, at The Oracle Club in Long Island City, was attended by many alumni, including **Bec Bloom, Ben Casselman, Julia Fuma, Alexa Winnik, Yvette Siegert**, Jessica Feldman '01 and William Burr Gerrard '05.

**Anne Melzer** writes, "Next year I'll complete my master's of epidemiology at the University of Washington as part of my pulmonary and critical care fellowship. My husband and I recently welcomed our first child, a son."

**Beril Tari Becker** and her partner, Darren Becker, "had our first baby on January 18. Jonathan was born six weeks early and weighed 5 lbs. He is growing quickly and showering us with smiles."

**Justin Sellman** has accepted a full-time position with a luxury leather company, Ghurka, as its global director of sales and merchandising.

**Samuel Polk** writes, "My wife, Kirsten, and I welcomed our first child on April 2. Eveline Thompson Polk was 5 lbs., 14 oz., and couldn't be more beautiful."

**Darrell Silver** writes, "The education company I cofounded last year, Thinkful, has been growing: We've taught more than 1,000 adults in engineering with our network of more than 100 mentors around the country. Our team in NYC is now 14 strong, and we're pretty excited about what's going to happen in the rest of 2014!"

**Adam Kushner** left his job as editor of the magazine *National Journal* to join *The Washington Post*, where he is hiring a staff and launching a new digital magazine.

**04** **Angela Georgopoulos**  
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Hello CC '04! I hope all is great with you. This will be a truncated column, as the larger report on our reunion will be featured in the next issue. It was great to see those of you who made it back to campus! Classmates who didn't make it, you were definitely missed.

Congratulations to **Margarita O'Donnell** and her husband, Gareth Eckmann '02, '04E, who welcomed their daughter, Alessandra Mary-Jeanne, on March 21.

Alessa was born in Washington, D.C., where Maggie and Gareth have lived since moving from New York two years ago.

During a recent high school alumni event, I spent time with Joel Lorden '50, who regaled me with fascinating stories of his time at Columbia. In addition to learning about the \$300/semester tuition, the maid service that cleaned the dorm rooms and the ability to use the tunnels on snowy days (all things I wish we could have experienced), we debated the pros and cons of JJ's Place versus the Lions Den. The Lions Den had the advantage because it was a pub, but JJ's put up a strong showing with its late-night chicken fingers and mozzarella sticks. Also, it turns out the CC curriculum hasn't changed all that much since the late 1940s.

Keep sending those updates! Feel free to email me at aeg90@columbia.edu or get in touch via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28-31, 2015**  
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**05** **Claire McDonnell**  
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Happy summer, Class of 2005! As one of our classmates points out later in the column, in one year's time we'll be at our 10th reunion. Whoa! Until then, here's the latest:

**Eun Young Choi** writes, "In May I graduated with a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Harvard. I'm a post-doctoral fellow at Rochester, having defended last July."

**John Zaro** announces, "My wife, Natalie Zaro (née Leggio) '04 Barnard and I welcomed our first child into the world on April 10. Adrian Paul was born at 9:38 p.m. at NYU Langone on First Avenue. We reside in downtown NYC."

**Joanna Dee Das** '11 GSAS says, "I completed my Ph.D. in history at Columbia [three years ago] and will start a postdoctoral fellowship in dance studies this fall at Stanford."

**Bridget Geibel Stefanski** writes, "I'm finishing my sixth year of teaching at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton, Calif., where my son, Benjamin (4), recently finished his first year of preschool. This summer we are taking a six-week trip to Poland to visit friends and family on



Faraz Ahme '05E and Kathryn Struthers '05 were married in November in New York City. Left to right: Josh Feldman '05, Brandon Woolf '05, Lee Greenwood '05, Nick Renart '05, the groom, the bride, Megan Bailey '05 Barnard, Lizzy Murakami '05, and Nancy Fairchild '05E (née Lin) and her husband, Jeff Fairchild '05E.

PHOTO: HECHLER PHOTOGRAPHERS

my husband's side, and we're really looking forward to a trip to Krakow. I'm also looking forward to our 10-year reunion next summer — can't believe we're almost there!"

**Caryn (Waterson) Gehrke** announces, "My husband, Martin Gehrke '06E, and I welcomed our daughter, Charlotte Emma, on January 5. Her older brothers, Martin and Levi, also adore her."

**Jason Frazer** writes, "I'm a TV reporter at Channel 3 Eyewitness News in Hartford, Conn. It's the CBS affiliate."

**Steve Esses** writes, "I am a resident physician in the department of radiology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. I am married to Daniella Lichtman-Esses '05 Barnard, '09L, who is an attorney at Cravath, Swaine & Moore. We have three children: Joey, Teddy and Sheryl."

**Darren Bolton** reports, "Last year was huge for me. I got back into the golf industry and am working toward earning my Class A from the PGA of America. In April I moved to Princeton, where I accepted a job as an assistant golf professional at the Springdale Golf Club. I am writing this note from Cave Creek, Ariz., where I spent winter as assistant pro at the Mirabel Golf Club, with plans to return to Springdale in May. I also began a relationship this past summer with an awesome girl named Jessica. She is so hot. And intelligent! You guys would be jealous."

"In September I applied for a one-day license from the state of

Massachusetts to marry my father and Wei Tao. She's Chinese, and she makes these awesome dump-lings. She's like a mom to me. (I still have my real mom, too — ha!) Anyway I was granted the license and performed the ceremony like a pro; my boss at Springdale calls me 'Reverend' now. Could be my missed calling? ...

"So as you may have guessed, my parents got divorced. Happened about five years ago. They told me it was all my fault. Anyway, it has been worked out in therapy, and life is good. I am thankful to be back doing what I really love and feel so lucky to have a great girl like Jessica in my life. Keep it on the short grass!"

**Luis Saucedo** writes, "I've been at the White House National Economic Council working on economic development issues on Indian reservations for several months."

**Daniella Ross** says, "I graduated from MSU College of Veterinary Medicine in May and am going on to a small-animal rotating internship at Louisiana State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital."

**Brendon Jeremi Jobs** writes from Philadelphia: "Work has been busy. Summer break will be a needed time for reflection. I teach history at the Girard Academic Music Program after making the difficult decision to leave Philadelphia High School for Girls. My kids have been amazing and inspiring but my work as an advocate for public education in the midst of

Philly's crisis has also heated up. With a coalition of teacher leaders, I'm organizing a 'Citywide Teacher Convening' focused on empowering teachers to leverage teacher leadership in the fight for public education. I also have been busy with invitations to present and speak on panels. Recently, I spoke at a Bread & Roses Teach-In and at the social justice meeting of April's American Educational Research Association Conference, and I presented 'Preparing "Thinkers" for the Unseen & Uncertain Future' at ReTHINK Philly Ed Tech as a part of Philly Tech Week. I'm proud also to be facilitating a citywide teacher meet-up group called Black Music as Rebellion. In May, a team of participants will present at Teacher Action Group's fifth annual Education for Liberation Conference at the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School in Philadelphia."

**Jennifer Handorf** has released her third feature film as producer; it's called *The Borderlands*. Also, she recently joined the United Kingdom's Metrodome Distribution as its head of production.

In November, **Kathryn Struthers** married **Faraz Ahmed** '05E in New York City. Alumni in attendance were Megan Bailey '05 Barnard, **Nancy Fairchild** '05E (née Lin) and her husband, **Jeff Fairchild** '05E; **Josh Feldman**; **Lee Greenwood**; **Lizzy Murakami**; **Nick Renart**; and **Brandon Woolf**, who officiated the ceremony. Kathryn is pursuing a Ph.D. in urban education policy at the University





Jonny Roszak '05 and Suzanne Hopcroft '07 were married on March 23 by the La Fortuna waterfall in Arenal, Costa Rica. Top row, left to right: Ben Goldstein '05, Kate Lieberman '08, Kori Estrada '07, Myriah Pahl, the groom, the bride, Brandon Arbiter '06E (who officiated), Lenora Babb '07, Matt Harding, Kristin Adele Okoli, Amanda Pizur, David Whittemore '06 and John Plimpton; and bottom row, left to right: Jason Merritt, John Estrada '07E, Shannon Lichtman and Jason Lichtman '06E.

PHOTO: JOHN ESTRADA '07E

of Southern California, and Faraaz is VP of finance and operations at PayPerks, a FinTech start-up. The couple resides in New York.

**Kunal Gupta** opened Baby-castles Gallery, an exhibition space for independent video games, at 137 W. 14th St. in Manhattan, and Silent Barn, a participatory multidisciplinary art, performance and residency program in Brooklyn.

**Molly Breiner** lives in NYC with her husband and 4-month-old son, Robby. She recently visited with **Chris Whiting '05E** and **Jana Whiting**, who live in London.

**Alexandra "Ali" Hartman** and **Andrew Tolve** welcomed a new lion to their pride in October with the birth of their son, Austen Alexander. They say his arrival has turned their world upside down in the most unexpected and wonderful ways.

**Bartek Ringwelski** is head of innovation at Lending Club, a peer-to-peer lending leader expected to IPO this year.

**Aoife Keane** launched the Irish Whiskey Association, a trade body of 18 founding companies involved in distilling and selling Irish whiskey. In her role heading up the association in Dublin, Aoife is tasked with international protection and promotion of the Irish whiskey category, which has grown by 220 percent in the last 10 years and is the fastest growing

premium spirit. She encourages all Columbians to taste the Irish tiddle and see how it compares to its American and Scottish counterparts!

In his role at Jazz at Lincoln Center, **Seton Hawkins** produced a two-week educational tour in the United States featuring Uhadi: All-Stars of Johannesburg Jazz. The ensemble comprised six of South Africa's top jazz musicians, who held a weekend residency at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola in NYC and conducted workshops and family performances throughout the Northeast in celebration of 20 years of democracy in South Africa.

**Stephen Distinti** has been teaching Latin and ancient Greek in the NYC area for seven years; he currently teaches at Fordham Prep in the Bronx. His first book is being published this summer; it's a two-volume series of notebooks designed to help students taking AP Latin organize their work and improve their vocabulary and translation skills.

**Eileen Lee**, COO of Venture for America, is excited to welcome VFA's third fellowship class this summer. You can meet the newest fellows at [ventureforamerica.org/2014fellows](http://ventureforamerica.org/2014fellows). VFA is a nonprofit that recruits and trains top college graduates to work at startups and early-stage growth companies in

Detroit, New Orleans, Baltimore, Providence and other cities around the United States. The goals are to help fuel job growth and train the next generation of entrepreneurs. You can learn more and learn how to get involved at [ventureforamerica.org](http://ventureforamerica.org).

06

**Michelle Oh Sing**  
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I hope this column finds you well and hope you have plans to take some much-deserved time off during these summer months.

Our very own **Justin Ifill** was presented this year's Gerald Sherwin '55 Young Alumni Service Award at the Young Alumni Fund Spring Benefit on April 25. Justin says, "I am very proud of our College and how the connections to Columbia have grown stronger over the years for many more alumni than ever before." [Editor's note: See "Around the Quads."]

He continues, "In March, I had the pleasure of hosting the birthday parties of **Marques Torbert** and **Armond Adams**. The annual 'Q&A' bashes have been great fun over the years and have become small reunions for our class. I also hosted **Uzo Ometu** as he threw

his first birthday party as an adult. Good times all around. Only two more years until reunion — can't wait!"

**Nick Cain** writes, "John Jay 14 neighbors **Brendan Shanahan**, **Taylor Marcus**, **Virginia Zimpel** and **Nick Cain** have reunited in Berkeley, Calif., where all four are students at the Haas School of Business. Like life on John Jay 14, business school in Berkeley involves nice views and a heightened radar for free food. Sadly, it does not involve hall sports."

**Marisa Harary** and **Adam Zucker** celebrated the first birthday of their daughter, Sage Rafaela Zucker, on February 28 in Brooklyn. Many friends were on hand including **Jacob Appel**, **Zachary Kleinhandler**, **Adam Rozenwajg**, **Antonio Cabrera '06E**, **Ezra Surowicz '07**, **Kristin Soong**, **Kelsey Osgood**, **Monica Sethi**, **Sam Shapiro**, **Phillip Rapoport '05**, **Michael Goldberg '05**, **Larry Manis '05**, **Amalia Goldvaser '05**, **Michael Glick '04** and **Frieda Laulicht '08E**. Among the family in attendance were **Arielle Siboni '09 Barnard**, **Jeremy Banon '13** and **Alvin Zucker '44E**.

**Varun Munjal** does stock research and lives in Framingham, Mass.

As reported by *The New York Times*, **Michael C. Brown Jr.**, founder and general partner of Bowery Capital, an early-stage venture capital firm, recently married **Elizabeth B. Wilson**, CEO of Viyet, an online consignment service for furniture.

Congratulations, Michael! Remember, your classmates want to hear from you! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or via CCT's webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

07

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I hope this edition of Class Notes finds everyone well! Here are some exciting updates.

**Kylie Davis** started a new job at Broadhaven Capital Partners working on growth private equity and advisory in the financial-technology space. **Max Bauer** also started a new job as a labor lawyer in Boston. Congratulations!

**Olivia Roszkowski** is a chef instructor at the Natural Gourmet Institute and a private chef in New York City. Check out her blog, [olviathechef.com](http://olviathechef.com), for recipes, classes and events.

**Leni Babb** writes, "I passed the Utah State Bar Exam and started a

# Nikkie Zanevsky '07 Finds Outlet for Creativity in Parkour

By Elena Hecht '09 Barnard

The sun had already set on a chilly December evening when **Nikkie Zanevsky '07**, in a long-sleeved shirt and leggings, sprinted toward a jungle gym in Manhattan's Tompkins Square Park. She confidently walked up the rungs of the jungle gym — no hands needed — and then across the top of the monkey bars, silent and agile as a cat, before flipping over the edge and landing quietly on the ground.

To watch Zanevsky is to watch what seems almost supernatural, her movements like stunts out of *The Matrix*. But for Zanevsky this is old hat. This way of moving through the world as though it is an obstacle course to be mastered is her passion, otherwise known as parkour, a practice Zanevsky describes as "getting from point A to point B as creatively as possible using only your environment and your body."

Zanevsky, who majored in comparative literature, discovered parkour through a video sent to her by a friend during her senior year. "It captivated me," she says. "And I thought, 'This — I am meant to be doing this.'" Soon after, Zanevsky began commuting to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, once a week for a parkour class. She subsequently connected with the parkour community through online forums and began joining other devotees for informal training sessions. By the summer after graduation, Zanevsky was training three times a week.

Though her love for parkour was steadfast, she put it to the side in fall 2007 as she began a grueling schedule as a business analyst at McKinsey & Company — a turn that lasted only six months. "I knew I wanted to be more involved in the parkour community, so working all day [and] all night I couldn't really

dedicate myself to that," she says.

While Zanevsky is now a senior product marketing manager for Northwest Evaluation Association — what she calls her "regular job in the real world" — her dream has become a reality through The Movement Creative, an organization she began with friends, fellow traceurs (parkour practitioners) and training partners Jesse Danger and Caitlin

a one-week Parkour and Game Design Summer Camp through a partnership with Quest to Learn, a Chelsea school founded on the ideals of game-like learning, and the Institute of Play.

The impetus for starting The Movement Creative stemmed from an approach to parkour that is, as Zanevsky says, "about being open to all, so, egalitarian, accessible and learning through play." In keeping with



Nikkie Zanevsky '07 practices "the underbar."  
PHOTO: ANDY OUTIS

Pontrella. The organization is a collective of instructors whose mission is to have a positive impact on the lives of children and adults by sharing parkour.

Officially founded in January 2013, The Movement Creative grew out of an informal free workshop that Zanevsky and Danger began hosting several years ago. "Eventually it grew, kind of snowballed, and then he [Danger] and I would take turns teaching these sessions," says Zanevsky.

Today The Movement Creative has brought parkour to six schools throughout New York City and is in discussion with nine more for the coming academic year. It has also run

this outlook, the organization uses modified children's games like tag and "The Floor is Lava" to teach and practice parkour techniques. The instructors have also shared parkour and their training expertise for free at festivals such as the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation's Summer Streets and Winter Jam.

While parkour's flashy moves might be the most visible elements of the practice, Zanevsky describes parkour as "like doodling kinesthetically," and is most drawn to its creative elements. "I think that parkour is all about saying, 'Never build what's in the picture on the [Lego] box,'" says Zanevsky.

"Everybody makes their own thing with the same building blocks."

General awareness of parkour has grown thanks to increased visibility in media such as movies and music videos — and, of course, thanks to practitioners themselves. "On so many occasions I've watched curious children, hesitant adults and hurried passersby all stop what they are doing to learn a new movement from her [Zanevsky]," says Danger.

In December, The Movement Creative took part in TEDx-Brooklyn, held at the Brooklyn Bowl, demonstrating parkour's potential as an accessible form of exercise by showcasing moves in both their basic and more advanced forms — a presentation that ties to the organization's concept that parkour is for everyone.

Zanevsky emphasizes that parkour is also for everywhere, though the environment endemic to an urban landscape makes it easy to see why parkour is well suited to a city like New York. She references her Columbia graduation, and how free she felt when she used parkour to jump over a physical barrier that was preventing her classmates from moving. "We want to give that to other people," says Zanevsky. "That sense of freedom and that feeling that living in an urban environment, it doesn't have to feel depressing or like you're fenced in, but you can treat these constraints as an outlet for your creativity."

*To watch a video of Zanevsky doing parkour, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).*

**Elena Hecht '09 Barnard**, a former editorial assistant for Columbia College Today, is a writer and dancer based in New York City. Her work has also appeared in Dance Magazine.



one-year clerkship with the Hon. Justice Ronald Nehring of the Utah Supreme Court. I also had a blast celebrating **Suzanne Hopcroft's** upcoming marriage to Jonny Roszak '05 with **Kori Estrada** (née Gatta) at Suzanne's bachelorette party in Austin.

**Andy Wolf** launched the company ROIKOI. As TechCrunch describes it, "At its core, it is a leaderboard that anonymously rates people you know based on one single criterion: 'Would I hire this person at a job and work with them?'" Learn more at roikoi.com.

**Junhyung (Janet) Rho** writes, "It's my fourth year working at a bank in South Korea. If there is anybody from the Class of 2007 in Korea now, please email me. Can't wait to share memories from Columbia!" Her address is janet\_rh@hotmail.com.

It's so nice to see our classmates up to such exciting things. Thanks as always for all of the updates. Remember, you can reach me at either address at the top of the column or through CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

08

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**Dalinez Martinez-Lanzo** has a fantastic update: "On December 14, right between my birthday (December 6) and Christmas, I got the best present ever. I gave birth to a little girl, Lea Ines Lanzo. She's adorable and I'm already prepping her to be a Lion."

**Jon Cioschi** is wrapping up his time at Harvard Law, where he misses Columbia every day. For the foreseeable future he'll be in Philadelphia, his hometown, where he is excited to start work in September as an assistant public defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. He says, "Come visit anytime! And also, move to Philly! It's a wonderful town, and a hell of a lot more affordable than NYC."

This summer, **Morgan Hoke**, who is in graduate school at Northwestern, will travel to Peru to begin her year-long dissertation research in biocultural anthropology. Her research is supported by a Fulbright Research Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship.

**Rachel Levenson** was accepted to the pre-doctoral internship program in medical psychology and psychiatric consultation liaison services at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for the 2014-15 training year.

**Farah Mohammed** is president of the Sydney chapter of the Columbia

Association of Australia. A lawyer, she was admitted in February to the Australian bar.

**Chenni Xu** has moved from her job as senior consultant at Emerging Asia in Shanghai to work at Hill & Knowlton Strategies' Beijing office in a government and public affairs role. She welcomes visitors in Beijing to contact her at chenni.xu@gmail.com.

**Calvin Sun** has taken his travel service, The Monsoon Diaries, to the next level: Last December he led an expedition of 19 monsooners from 11 countries on a budget trip to the great white continent

**Morgan Hoke '08**, who is in graduate school at Northwestern, travels to Peru this summer to begin her dissertation research in biocultural anthropology.

of Antarctica. Right afterward, he headed to Pakistan to choreograph a wedding.

By the time you read this, Calvin will have graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. The May ceremony took place at Carnegie Hall, and as class president he delivered the welcoming address. Calvin has been invited to speak at 12 campuses in more than 10 states on various civil rights issues and other contemporary topics related to sex, mental health and youth engagement in activism. Calvin's travel plans include taking fellow monsooners to places such as Cuba, Bolivia, Turkmenistan, Somalia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq. If you're interested in going, let him know at cds2107@caa.columbia.edu!

As always, I encourage you to share your news. You can reach me at either address at the top of the column or through CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

09

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It turns out that the news about **Jenny Lam** in the Spring 2014 issue of Class Notes was based on a surprisingly detailed automated out-of-office reply, which came in response to my request for updates. Other than perfecting the art of deceptively non-robotic-sounding away messages, Jenny reports that she recently was visited by partner-in-crime **Stephanie Lindquist** (who has been busy co-founding masterdabblers.com).

In Chicago, they attended the wedding of **Christopher Schell**, their first friend to get married. Adulthood! Also, by the time this column publishes, Jenny will have returned from her annual trip to Hong Kong, where she's invited to attend Art Basel as a VIP and where she stocks up on cheap plastic watches.

**Eliav Bitan** graduated from UVA's Darden School of Business this spring. In June, he will start work in Minneapolis as an associate marketing manager in Land O'Lakes' agricultural products division, WinField Solutions. He

loved his internship there, which included a thorough pricing analysis and an epic trip to Dave & Buster's. Any classmates in Minneapolis are more than welcome to get in touch, he says.

And now a reminder to ... write me! And actually, it's not just me you're writing to — Class Notes are a great way to keep in touch with all classmates in one fell swoop. You can write to either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 28-31, 2015**

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10

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From Morocco to Brooklyn to San Francisco, our class certainly knows how to stay busy. Let's dive right in.

**Alexandra Stein** writes, "I live in Morocco, where I help Moroccan corporations develop social and environmental responsibility projects and strategies. Some of the projects include building wells in villages without clean running water and literacy training for hundreds of women through private financing. When I am no longer surprised to see camels on the way to work, I know it is time for a visit to New York."

**Millie Li** is getting married on

the Brooklyn Bridge pedestrian walkway this June to her longtime partner, David Dillon, director of channel sales at Eden Technologies. She is the administrative director and marketing manager for MacArthur fellow Elizabeth Streb and the STREB Extreme Action Co., recently popularized by the documentary *Born to Fly*, which premiered at the SXSW festival in March. Four of her eight bridesmaids are alumni: **Elizabeth Bruce**, Heather Oh '09, Rachel Lindsay '09 and Ashley James '09.

**Cliff Massey** has some big news: "Parting ways with Columbia was particularly hard for me after graduation, so as many of you know, I decided to stick around for a bit as staff. But after four extra years in Morningside Heights, I'm finally leaving. This summer, I'm moving to Los Angeles to attend USC for an M.P.A. program. Columbians in Los Angeles: You'll have to show me how to get around without the subway!"

**Veronica Couzo** is happy to announce her graduation from Notre Dame Law. Next, she will be clerking for Judge Julia Smith Gibbons of the 6th Circuit in Memphis. After clerking, Veronica will be an associate at Jones Day in Chicago. She recently got engaged and is excited to plan her wedding while eating lots of southern barbecue.

**Laura Z. Weldon** writes, "I finished my post-bac, pre-med program at Louisville in May and will spend the next year teaching Pilates and expanding my health coaching practice. I am applying to enter naturopathic med school (Bastyr University in Seattle) in fall 2015. I miss New York and my many dispersed Columbia friends but am excited for everything to come!"

**Justina Kaminskaite Dillon** and her husband, J. Matthew Dillon, live in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, and on March 7 welcomed their first child, Azuolas Benedict. Justina is in the second year of a Ph.D. program in clinical psychology at the G.F. Demer Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi.

The Crimson and Cambridge, Mass., are seeing a strong infusion of CC '10 Blue. **Mabo Imoisili**, **Katie Omstead**, **Michael Szeto** and **Sue Yang** are first-year M.B.A. students at Harvard Business School while **Edward Kim '10E**, **Otto Magdanz** and **Martina Hansen** are graduating second-year M.B.A.s. Meanwhile, on the other side of the river, **Isabel Broer**, **Valerie Sapozhnikova** and **David Salant** are taking Harvard Law's Class of 2016 by storm.

**Lucas Momo** writes, "During the last few months I've been involved in an interesting and exciting new development: I left my position at

[the restaurant] Sirio to join my new partners in opening a restaurant, Huertas, at 107 1st Ave., between 6th and 7th Streets, in the East Village. Huertas is a Basque-inspired Spanish restaurant and we offer a lively casual bar area with passed *pintxos* and a small dining room with a regularly changing four-course *menú del día*.

"We opened at the beginning of April. Officially, I will act as partner and co-general manager but my daily responsibilities will focus on being the consummate host and ensuring that all of our guests have a fun and memorable time (not so bad for what's considered 'work').

"I'm thrilled about this opportunity because of its potential for success and am eager for all of you to visit and share in the fun. Check us out at huertasnyc.com. Looking forward to seeing you all!"

Last but not least, here is our regular installment from **Chris Yim**: "In February, I was walking to dinner in a dicey part of San Francisco when I was bitten by what I thought was a snake. However, it was not a snake. A stranger had taken a syringe to my shoulder. Essentially, I was stabbed. The needle penetrated my military jacket and went into my flesh. I flipped out, slapped the needle out and ran away. I was a nervous wreck for a number of days before I could finally see a doctor. The last time I had seen a doctor was on Thanksgiving Day, when I dislocated my shoulder wrestling my little brother (true story!). I went to the ER, and they charged me nearly a grand for 1.5 hours of their service/time. This experience made me incredibly wary of hospitals and medicine. However, I had to go to get peace of mind. They ran the blood test, and it came out negative for any diseases or conditions.

"Is anyone else struggling with how to embrace faith in their life as a 20-something individual, living in an urban area where secularism is exalted and piety thought of as lame? In the midst of work, climbing that endless ladder, maintaining and developing relationships, staying healthy and having fun, when do we actually have the opportunity to evaluate some of the tougher questions? I'm grateful for many of the things that I have and am incredibly blessed but can't help feeling like I want to identify with something more than what's listed on my LinkedIn and Facebook pages. I'm still working on how to articulate this itch. Come back to me in a few months ...

"I was heartbroken to see that my ex-girlfriend, figure skater Yuna Kim, didn't win the gold in Sochi. I called her to congratulate her, and she seemed genuinely



Amanda Schiff '12, '14 TC and Scott Bromberg were married on June 30, 2013, in Roslyn, N.Y. Top row, left to right, Maryann Vlahos '12, Justin Hedvat '12 JTS, Anthony Testa '12, Natalie Eisen '12 Barnard, the bride, the groom and Stacy Nelson '13 Barnard; and bottom row, left to right: David Schwartz '12, Karla Casariego '12, Sydney Newman '11 Barnard, Sabina Goldstein '12 JTS, Rebecca Byrne '13 Barnard and Talia Fisher '13.

PHOTO: THE GLENMAR STUDIO

excited to embrace her new life as a 'normal' member of society.

"Exciting news: I'm going to the World Cup in Brazil this summer. I needed a place to stay for an evening in Rio de Janeiro and searched 'friends of friends who live in Rio' on a well-known social network. Through this query, I was able to reach a CC '11 alum who offered her floor to me and **Varun Gulati '10E** for a night. How about that for our Columbia network pulling through in the clutch?!"

"I've changed my stance: Tiger Woods will never win another major."

Thanks for all of your submissions. Keep them coming for next time!

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This spring proved to be a prolific season for 2011 graduates. Congratulations to all who earned degrees, took on new jobs, abandoned dehumanizing ones, got married, got lucky and went on tour!

Since graduation, **Warren McGee** has pursued an M.D./Ph.D. at Northwestern. Now in his third year, Warren is studying the normal function of a protein involved in

neurodegeneration and cancer. He was part of a team that launched the Good Neighbors Street Outreach Program in Chicago in spring 2013. The program goes out weekly with basic need items for those on the street but primarily focuses on building trusting relationships with "clients" so those individuals can comfortably reach out to its community partner, the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center, if they need help with bigger issues.

**Sam Reider** recently returned to the United States with his band, the Amigos, who were on a five-week tour of Southeast Asia and China, representing the U.S. Department of State. The Amigos' tour took them to Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Vietnam and China. Sam's band gave public performances, participated in community education workshops and collaborated with local musicians. Make sure to learn more about them at teamigosband.com and amvoices.org/ama.

After getting teaching experience in San Francisco, **Rosalyn Shih** moved to Beijing, where she began work as a college counselor for Due West, an educational company founded by Michael J. Novielli '03 and Andrew Sohn '04. She enjoys being in what feels like a foreign country to her — Rosalyn is from Hong Kong — and helping students understand their collegiate options in the United States. Anyone who swings by Beijing is encouraged to drop Rosalyn a line: rosalyshih@gmail.com!

Also enjoying the glow of a new job is **Alexander Ivey**, who recently started working for House Majority PAC in Washington, D.C. He manages research for 23 races for the House of Representatives. During the 2012 election cycle, Alexander was a research analyst at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

**Shane Ferro** is another who scored a new gig: She is now a writer at Counterparties and Reuters.com. Shane covers a variety of subjects, including economics, finance and gender equality. Another move is on the horizon, as she will be joining Duke Law as a member of the Class of 2017.

Speaking of law school, many congratulations are in order for **Ali**

## STAY IN TOUCH

To ensure that you receive CCT and other College communications, please let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct or call 212-851-7852.



**Krimmer**, who graduated from Fordham Law on May 19!

Since the timing of our appointment as class correspondents came not too long before this issue's Class Notes deadline, we really appreciated how quick you all were to send news. It was so nice to hear from you, too! Continue to send in your updates as they happen; we're looking forward to many, many more renditions of 2011 Class Notes.

Until then, much love from Nuriel (nurielm@gmail.com) and Sean (sean.udell@gmail.com).

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Happy summer, Class of 2012! I hope you'll all find time to take a break, whatever you may be up to.

**Virat Gupta** finished his first year at the Law School in May and is looking forward to spending the summer as a judicial intern for the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. He couldn't be more excited and hopes that all his classmates are doing well.

After a long winter lull, **Paul Hsiao** welcomes summer adventures: He is excited to celebrate **Eric Tang '12E's** birthday and to spend time with **Emily Ahn**, who works in Madison, Wis., but plans to visit. Paul also wishes his instant-messaging and visits with **Angela Wang** continue, and he plans to go to Bali this summer for a wedding (not his own).

**Richard Lenz** returned to New York from London by way of Baltimore in May of last year. Since then, he's been dabbling in a number of endeavors: "I've been living in up-town Manhattan with Alex Calhoun '11; his wife, Nora '10, '13 Nursing; and their daughter, Frances (Class of 2035). Otherwise, my energies have been not-so-equally divided between photographing and working in the Columbia darkroom, and making a living, both with mixed results.

"Odd jobs of the past year have included search engine evaluator, house cleaner, test subject, public relations assistant for a classical guitarist, babysitter and record dealer. I hope to publish a book of my photographs sometime in the next couple of decades."

**Aditya Mukerjee** has Columbia-related news that he's excited to share: BoardRounds, the company he co-founded with Benjamin Jack '07E as part of the Blueprint Health 12-week accelerator program, has been working with the emergency

room at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center to ensure that at-risk patients get timely follow-up care with primary care physicians. The program ended in April, and Aditya and Ben are excited for whatever the next stage of their venture will bring!

A graduate of Trinity Forum Academy, **Sarah Ngu** now is a researcher with LRN, an advisory firm that helps align an organization's culture and governance with

**Yoshiaki Ko '13 is working toward a master's of music in piano performance at The Juilliard School; he often performs in New York City.**

its values. She writes, "I've found a use for the liberal arts in (some-what) corporate America. I'm using the interdisciplinary modes of thinking that the Core and my American studies degree fostered to create speeches and articles for my CEO, Dov Seidman, on global trends, values-based leadership and organizational culture. I do miss the intellectual freedom of the academy, but I am grateful for the wider audience (e.g., the next speech is for all NFL coaches and owners)."

**Gillian Rhodes** sent an update from Cambodia: "It's been a little more than 1½ years since I moved here and although every day is still an adventure, I definitely have a community around me now. [As I write] I was recently accepted to dance/choreograph two pieces in the Sibui International Dance Festival in Malaysia in June. I'm still working for Cambodian Television Network; this year I was asked (with 24 hours notice!) to guest judge for its popular program *Like It or Not* as well as to close out the season as a judge on a Korean pop dance contest. Never a dull moment!"

In March, **Remy Zaken** participated in the workshop of *Bright Star*, a new musical by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. The New York City workshop was attended by Sir Ian McKellen, Paul Simon, Mike Nichols and Diane Sawyer. For those like me who lack knowledge in performing arts lingo, Remy explains, "A workshop is basically a staged reading of a new musical so the creative team can see what the show looks like at that point. There are minimal sets and props, and an invited audience of friends and family. It's a very collaborative experience."

Thanks for sharing all your exciting updates, CC '12. I enjoy reading each and every one, and I know many of our classmates do as well.

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I hope everyone is enjoying some sun and warmth after a long, snowy winter. This June marks our first year as Columbia College graduates, one that was undoubtedly filled with accomplishments

and exciting endeavors. Your classmates have been up to some pretty interesting things around the world.

Congratulations to **ChunYu Shi**, who recently got married; she and her husband met while she was studying abroad during her junior year in Beijing. They recently moved into a studio in Manhattan and have been looking for jobs and exploring New York City. On Valentine's Day, they renewed their vows in Times Square.

Since August 2013, **Rose Winer** has been working in Los Angeles on The Walt Disney Co.'s environment and conservation team. She's been managing two big projects, the first of which was a company-wide Earth Month (April) campaign. This involved developing various elements including a website, four webinars, a photo/video contest, two local events, promotional items, a social media campaign and marketing materials. As Disney is a global company with a variety of businesses, developing the Earth Month project meant coordinating with partners around the world; among them are Marvel, ESPN, Pixar, Walt Disney Studios, Disney Consumer Products, Disney Interactive, and Disney Parks and Resorts.

Rose also managed the launch of a program that provides Disney business leaders and employees with the tools to reduce their environmental impact at work. This project will be based on an internal website that provides business guidance, communications collateral and other resources with the goal of integrating an environmentally conscious mindset into the Disney workplace.

Rose enjoys her work at Disney, she says, because the company offers executive-level support for sustainability and has a global reach. Thus, her work successfully reaches thousands of people around

the world, spreading the message of positive environmental change.

After enjoying a post-grad summer tending bar at Morning-side Heights' beloved Pisticci, **Zoe Shaeffer** started interning with *Saveur* magazine last fall. She was recently hired as an assistant digital editor and loves the world of food and travel publishing.

**Ryan Cho** will pursue a Ph.D. in sociology this fall at UCLA. After taking a year off from school, he says he's ready to get back to studying, this time in warmer weather! He is interested in researching social stratification caused by inaccessibility to elite institutions of higher education as well as the implications and social outcomes of military service.

In April, Ryan also took command of Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company (Airborne), based in Mead, Neb. He leads 80 parachute riggers who help provide logistical support by way of aerial delivery.

Good luck, Ryan!

Similarly pursuing his academic passions is **Yoshiaki Ko**, who is working toward a master's of music in piano performance at The Juilliard School. As a student in the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange, which involved his taking weekly lessons at Juilliard while at Columbia, Yoshiaki is not new to the music academy. However, being a full-time student there definitely is! One of the big challenges, he says, comes from being surrounded by tremendously talented peers: It is inspiring, and creates a lot of pressure, he says. He explains that the students are so single-minded in honing their skills that a sense of competition is inevitable. That said, for the most part he enjoys the experience, possibly because he does not intend to have a career in piano performance but would rather attempt to combine his interests in neuroscience (his major at Columbia) and music. At this writing, Yoshiaki plans to be in Milwaukee this summer as artist-in-residence for an organization called PianoArts. He won first prize at its competition in 2010 and has been doing educational outreach and youth programs for it since.

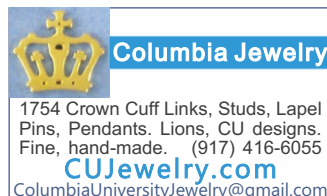
Yoshiaki often performs at Juilliard and in Lincoln Center; schedules can be accessed online.

**Giancarlo Roma** has also been working in the arts. During his junior year, his father, Thomas Roma (a photographer and photo professor at Columbia), approached him about collaborating on a book. It was to contain 142 of his father's photographs spanning his career, condensed into 100 pages, with a piece of



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short fiction running through the pictures. Giancarlo was more than excited to work on the piece, which would come to be called *The Waters of Our Time*. He explains the project "was conceived as an homage to the now obscure but once bestselling 1955 book *The Sweet Flypaper of Life* by Langston Hughes and photographer Roy DeCarava, for which Hughes wrote a fictional first-person narrative that weaves through DeCarava's photographs." Throughout *The Waters*, the story, photographs and lyrics interact as the elderly female narrator reflects on her life, spent in her hometown of Brooklyn, as it comes to a close.

In the process of writing, Giancarlo was given only a dummy that contained his father's photographs, already sequenced, and the white space between them where the text would be. He explains that he and his father thought of the process as making a movie in reverse: The pictures function as the script and the text acts as the moving images. Once he had written the first few lines, in which the narrator tries to recall a song she continually wakes up hearing in her head, the book seemed to fit with a natural soundtrack.

Working on this book has been a true pleasure for Giancarlo and

his father, he says, as they each contributed components and ended up with a great collaboration. *The Waters* was printed in Verona, Italy, in February, and released on April 22. The first book signing was set to take place on May 8 at the power-house Arena in DUMBO, Brooklyn.

Several classmates have been working on projects abroad.

After three summers of volunteering in Beirut's Palestinian refugee camps, **Gabriela Maryse Siegel** moved to Beirut in June 2013 and began a job at Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center. She works on its Syrian Refugee Crisis Response team and is protection officer and legal coordinator, mainly working on programming for the legal services the staff provides to Syrian refugees and coordinating with agencies that work on similar issues.

**James Caldalise** is wrapping up an enlightening year teaching as an English language assistant in Austria. He hopes to return to New York to continue working in the higher education sector.

After graduating, **Arielle Kogut** traveled to South America, Europe and North America. She has since settled in downtown Manhattan and is an analyst in the investment banking department at Maxim Group.

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**14 Emily Dreibelbis**  
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Congratulations, 2014! No matter how many classes we had on the seventh floor of Hamilton, how many meals we endured in the dining hall or how many cobblestones we tripped over while walking across campus — we did it.

As your class correspondent, I am thrilled to help document our journey ahead through our very own column in *Columbia College Today*. Whether you're working, performing exciting research or just taking some time to figure it all out, I want to hear about it — and so do your classmates. Our column will be a great way to stay connected to one another and the rest of the Columbia family. Please feel free to email me any time at the address at the top of the column, and I will also be in touch via email in the coming months. You also can submit an update via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Have a great summer, wherever it takes you!

**Message from  
CCAA President  
Kyra Tirana Barry '87**

(Continued from page 38)

has been a leader on the Undergraduate Campaign Council and the Board of Visitors; Yong-Kyoo Rim '00 has been a Class Agent and ARC member; Christine Ortiz '08 is the new VP of the Latino Alumni Association of Columbia University; and Raymond Yu '89, '90E has been a Class Agent as well as a member of the Fund Development Council and ARC.

The end of an era is always a bittersweet moment. However, as I close out my term as CCAA president, I can't help but smile knowing what wonderful things are in store for our alumni.

Thank you for your passion for Columbia College and its students, your continued expectation of excellence, your exceptional support of the College and for staying in touch. You make Columbia great.

*Kyra Barry*



## ALUMNI CORNER

## Song of the Unsung Alumni

BY ED WEATHERS '68, '69 GSAS

**T**his is for all of us who have never been mentioned in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* or *The Washington Post*.

It is for all of us who have never written a book, composed a symphony, made a movie or seen our play produced.

It is for all of us who managed to get through four years at Columbia College only thanks to a modicum of intelligence and a whole lot of hard work — for those of us who, say, in our junior year read Joyce's *Ulysses* during a single 24-hour period, and then, bleary-eyed, (appropriately) flunked Lionel Trilling's quiz the next morning.

This is for all of us who scrambled every week for four years just to keep up with the assignments, practically living in Butler Library, so we never had time to Learn the City. (Where the heck is SoHo, anyway?)

It is for all of us who have never been summa or magna anything.

This is for all of us who can't beat the computer at chess when it's set to "beginner," who strain to follow the logic of the daily bridge column and who can't remember the ending of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* despite having read it three times. No wonder we gave up our dreams of astrophysics after freshman-year calculus (and flunked *Ulysses*).

It is for all of us who were not All-American athletes, scholars or poets to begin with, and who will never enter a hall of fame or be nominated for The Big Prize.

It is for those of us who (mostly) didn't come from the New England prep schools or the academic hothouses of Brooklyn and Manhattan. We came, instead, from the public schools of nowhere, where we had excelled because all the tests were multiple choice and our grammar was better than average.

This, then, is for all of us who were too young, too naïve and too ignorant to appreciate fully the great lectures of the great professors in the great halls of learning when we were just 18 or, let's be honest, even 21. For some of us, it was Trilling, Edward Said and Richard Hofstadter in Hamilton Hall. For others, it was ... who knows? We don't keep up with the Great Scholars of other eras.

Yes, this is for all of us whose best papers at the College were graced with the following professorial comment: "A-/B+ There is much that is good here." (Some of us have asked that this be inscribed on our tombstones.)

This is for those of us who have written no laws, founded no companies, established no charities, discovered no stars, invented no medicines, ended no wars.

It is for all of us who did not marry a 116th Street peer and whose children decided not to apply to Columbia or, heaven forbid, applied and were turned down.

This is for those of us who don't make the news but do keep up with it, who are not opinion-makers but have informed opinions, who never created an art form or an app but know a fulfilling hobby when we find one.

It is for those of us who are not embarrassed to be caught playing golf or watching *The Big Bang Theory*.

This is for those of us who have never been asked to give an interview or to sit for a photo shoot.

This is for all of us who have, at the end of the day, done, well, OK for ourselves, and who know that our college certainly had something to do with that. We've been, throughout our lives, competent, reliable and kind. We've been valued by our bosses and admired by our co-workers. We've been respected and liked in our communities — and, for the most part, in our homes. We haven't been poor in the purse and, thanks in large part to the College, we've been enriched, a bit more than average, by the arts, the books and the more interesting kinds of people and experiences life has offered us.

Finally, then, this is for all of us who, once upon a time, came to Columbia College unformed and uncertain, and left, thank you, with just a bit of confidence. Alma mater didn't make us Rulers of the World but when we meet someone, we nevertheless try heroically to wedge Her into the conversation. "And where did you go to school?"

we ask, knowing we will be asked the same in return. It is as if, time after time, we still cannot believe the good fortune of our answer.



**Ed Weathers '68, '69 GSAS** is (mostly) retired after a decade teaching writing courses at Virginia Tech. Before that, he was, for four decades, a magazine writer and editor (*Memphis magazine*, *Golf Digest*, *Tennis magazine*). He lives with his life partner, Gail Billingsley, in Blacksburg, Va., where he is, unapologetically, a single-digit golfer and three-times-a-week tennis player. A few hours a week, via the Internet, he helps Tanzanian medical students improve their English writing skills.

*This is for those  
of us who have  
written no laws,  
founded no companies,  
established no charities,  
discovered no stars,  
invented no medicines,  
ended no wars.*



## Televised Sports Began at Columbia 75 Years Ago

**May 17 marked the 75th anniversary of the first televised sporting event in history —** the second game of a baseball doubleheader between Princeton and Columbia at Baker Field, won by the Tigers 2–1 in 10 innings. Fewer than 400 television sets were capable of receiving the signal broadcast by NBC, which used the game as a tryout before attempting a Major League Baseball game five months later. For a full account of the event, written by Hall of Fame sports writer Leonard Koppett '44 for CCT in 1999, go to [college.columbia.edu/cct\\_archive/spr99/34a\\_fr.html](http://college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/spr99/34a_fr.html).





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