

# Columbia College

TODAY 

Winter 2011–12

## Japan After the Storm





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PHOTO: NEWARK MUSEUM/ART RESOURCES

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[college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct)

# Alumni, Faculty Work To Help Students

**D**ear Columbians,

In my first three months in Hamilton Hall, I have spent much of my time meeting with and talking to students, alumni and faculty. Every conversation reminds me how special Columbia College really is. In every interaction with College students, they prove to be ever-more intelligent, perceptive about themselves and the world, and engaged in life on campus and in New York. At every event with alumni — whom I prefer to call simply “previous students” — I see further evidence of their dedication to and generosity toward their alma mater, and their continuing interest in the lives of students. And after every meeting with faculty, I am impressed with their commitment to our students, both in the classroom and outside. All of these students, alumni and faculty are eager to work very, very hard toward achieving our goal of keeping Columbia College the greatest college, in the greatest university, in the greatest city in the world, and to continue strengthening the College and enhancing the undergraduate experience here.

As I talk with current and previous students about their experience with the Core Curriculum, I am increasingly aware of its significance in their intellectual development while here, and in their personal lives after they leave. It is the signature experience in the College, and the core of our identity. It is what makes Columbia College unique, and what makes our graduates unique. It is what unites all students, both current and previous, as members of an enduring and cross-generational intellectual community that connects every Columbia student to every other.

As a chemistry professor for more than 20 years and director of undergraduate studies in chemistry, I taught and got to know hundreds of students, and many enjoyed their courses with me a great deal. But when I ask students about their favorite class, they don’t automatically say, “Well, Professor Valentini, of course it was your course in ...” Instead, even science majors point to the Core as having made the greatest impression. The answer has been so consistent as to be entirely predictable. Oh, it varies a little bit — Lit Hum, CC, Art Hum or Music Hum — but it is invariably one of the Core courses. This is, of course, understandable. The Core introduces students to great books and eternal ideas, encourages them to ask big questions and wrestle with grand themes, and, equally important, transforms the way they read, write, think and see the world.

But the Core also is the first part of a complete and rich undergraduate education; it transitions to one of our many majors and concentrations that allow students to explore their individual and specialized academic interests. The tradition of close interaction between students and faculty, which starts in the Core, continues throughout every year a student is an undergraduate here,

in undergraduate research programs such as the Rabi Fellows and the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships and through the Faculty in Residence in our residence halls. Faculty members take students on all-night bicycle trips around New York City, encourage them to do urban ethnographic research and take them to New Mexico for archaeological digs or trips to Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Our alumni are increasingly reaching out to students, especially in areas such as career development and mentoring. In speaking with students, I’ve realized that they are feeling increasingly uncertain about their futures, considering today’s economic situation, and feeling pressured to take the first career opportunity that comes along, even if it’s not in their main area of interest. Alumni are working with students in several ways to help ameliorate this concern. This fall, we launched the Columbia College Alumni-

sponsored Internship Program, which will provide our undergraduates with access to high-quality internships hosted or facilitated by College alumni in a wide range of industries. We also have initiated the Columbia Exploration Externship, which will allow first-year students to observe and shadow alumni at work during spring break. We have seen tremendous growth in the Columbia College Women Mentoring Program, in which alumnae provide insight, support and career guidance to Columbia undergraduate women. This year, we had a 300 percent increase in mentee applications over last year. We currently have 180 seniors matched one-on-one with alumni mentors, and an additional 150 juniors matched in groups. We are committed to expanding the reach and impact of all these network and mentoring programs.

Indeed, what I’ve realized in my first three months as dean is that Columbia College is really, truly doing great. Students can study just

about anything in our 75 majors and 52 concentrations, ranging from philosophy to sustainable development, or can create a major of their own. They can participate in one of more than 200 study abroad programs, conduct cutting-edge scientific research on campus or at one of our research institutes, or intern at a global corporation or a New York City arts institution. And we are dedicated to increasing the number of internships and research opportunities for students both domestically and internationally. We want students to be able to apply what they have learned in the Core and in their majors, and expand their academic training through research and professional experience. We want to ensure that Columbia College students continue to have the best possible undergraduate education and have access to an unlimited number of opportunities on campus, in New York City and around the world.

Roar, Lions, Roar,




**Interim Dean James J. Valentini speaks with College alumni at the Columbia Alumni Leaders Conference on October 22.**

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

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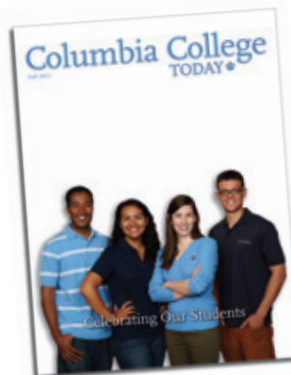


# Letters to the Editor

## ROTC

David Stern '66 may well not be "stuck in a '60s mind-set," as he claims in his letter opposing ROTC's return to Columbia (Fall 2011, [college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/letters_to_the_editor)). However, he is not in command of current facts about the new relation between Columbia and ROTC.

For decades before the Vietnam War, ROTC officers were routinely, often thoughtlessly, granted faculty status, and academic credit was given for courses that did not meet academic standards — a result of Cold War culture and legislative requirements. ROTC is returning — not only to Columbia but also to Stanford, Yale and Harvard — on wholly different grounds. These universities have full control of faculty appointments and the award of credit for courses, as stated in newly rewritten agreements with the Department of Defense. Drill in uniform — certainly with weapons — has long not been held on campuses that do not wish it. Uniforms are not routinely worn. Columbia students in ROTC programs are not under military discipline. They enter the military after graduation, when commissioned as officers. In all relevant respects, they are indistinguishable from fellow students and have all the formal and informal rights enjoyed by other students.



Stern is certainly right that the Vietnam War was initiated and managed by civilians with the highest educational qualifications, including degrees from Ivy League institutions. Indeed, the invasion of Iraq was promoted by civilian advisers with the same qualifications, almost all of whom escaped military service during the Vietnam War while pursuing advanced degrees. Militarized civilian intellectuals

are more dangerous than a professional military that knows firsthand the strategic and personal nature of war.

It is a good idea to have an officer corps that includes those educated at excellent civilian universities in addition to the service academies. It also is a good idea that students who never enter military service have firsthand experience of fellow citizens who do serve in the military. Mutual comprehension between these groups is better for the nation than the reciprocal stereotyping and suspicious ignorance that has prevailed. ROTC at Columbia is a contribution toward those goals.

*Allan Silver*

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY  
NEW YORK CITY

## Jenik Radon '67

I have known Jenik Radon '67 (Fall 2011, [college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/alumni\\_profiles3](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/alumni_profiles3)) and some of his students since 1993. The breadth of his interests and concerns remains jaw-dropping. His discipline and focus in getting things done is awe-inspiring. But I would commend him most for his devotion to *his* students. He is if anything devoted. I am certain that in every city and country he travels to he finds a student to help.

*Bohdan A. Oryshkevich '68*

FOUNDER, USA/USA PROGRAM  
NEW YORK CITY

## Piero Weiss '50, '70 GSAS

Piero Weiss '50, '70 GSAS, an immensely talented pianist, musicologist and teacher at Columbia from 1964-85, passed away on October 2 at 83. I was privileged to

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Piero Weiss '50, '70 GSAS

have Professor Weiss (who later joined the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory) as my instructor in the Music Humanities survey course in the spring term of 1968, when he was a teaching assistant and doctoral candidate.

I was then a teenager whose knowledge of music was confined to the rock and pop genres, but Weiss opened up a miraculously entertaining and incredibly diverse world. Beginning with the awe-inspiring power and grace of massed, unaccompanied human voices in Gregorian chant, Weiss unveiled a panoply of Western music ranging across the baroque and romantic eras. His insistence that our class avail itself of music venues in New York City and report on our experiences resulted in my first visit to Carnegie Hall and a lifelong love of baroque orchestral works.

Weiss' class that semester was one of the defining experiences of my time at Columbia, and I greatly mourn his passing.

Peter H. Jacoby '71  
BEDMINSTER, N.J.

## Real Medicine

I was puzzled by a letter from Dr. Samuel M. Salamon '74 (Fall 2011). He returns to the old "socialized medicine" as a club to obscure the tragedy and crisis in the health delivery system in the United States. He repeats the philippic that this country is the mecca of medicine.

Only the other day my medical student class interviewed a 54-year-old woman (the objective was to teach the students the biopsychosocial model). Her leg had been amputated. Why? Because her income was above Medicaid and she wasn't old enough for Medicare. She had gone to a city hospital where there was no continuity of care, no education for diabetes. Her depression was missed. She ate candy for lunch. Her sugar (glucose) was 400mg (normal ought to be 90–120). The consequences are amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness. She did not have insurance, as she couldn't afford it.

In Belgium, she would have been followed; a nurse would have visited her repeatedly; and her physician, called "doctor," not "provider," would have been engaged with a patient, not a "consumer." There would be no CEO of an HMO getting \$20 million a year and attempting to stop physicians from treating patients in order to save money for his salary and investors.

As for new drugs, Salamon appears mistaken. Insulin came from Canada. Psychopharmacology medications (Thorazine) came from France. Anti-depressants came from the Swiss pharmaceutical industry, along with dozens of drugs used in cancer and so on. The cost of drugs in the European single payer system is half the amount we pay in this country. Salamon needs a vacation in France, Germany and/or Switzerland to experience real medicine dedicated to the ill.

Dr. Jay Lefer '51  
LARCHMONT, N.Y.

## Climate Change

I was dismayed to read Dr. Aaron Gleckman '88's letter (Fall 2011) attacking Michael Gerrard '72, subject of an earlier profile in CCT, as both a "hypocrite" and "enviro-statist" (whatever that is). The science of climate change cannot be dismissed by personal attacks, especially when those attacks are launched against someone such as Gerrard, who is widely acknowledged within his professional and academic community as a true expert. While the letter-writer trumpets his exposure to Plato in freshman CC class, it's unfortunate that he never learned the value of supporting one's argument with facts and logic rather than *ad hominem*.

Ed Scarvalone '81  
BROOKLYN, N.Y.



## Photo ID

Thanks for taking the time to send an enlarged copy of the photo on page 4 of the Fall 2011 issue. I now am quite certain that the midshipman to the left is me and, while the other midshipman and student in civilian dress are harder to clearly identify, I believe they are Joe Smotzer '57 and Ken Skivington '57, '58E.

Paul Frommer '57 was, I think, correct in identifying Smotzer as the other midshipman.

I sent a copy of your enlarged print to two classmates to see if they could corroborate my identification. Dick Guiton, my former roommate, and Kel Thomson '57, who was a fellow midshipman, both agreed that I was identifiable in the photo. Neither had any difficulty identifying Alexander Hamilton.

I would date this photo about November 1956 and am still trying to get my mind around the concept of being in a "historical photo."

Richard A. Drever Jr. '57, '63 Arch.  
SEBASTOPOL, CALIF.

## CORRECTIONS

Frederick C. Stark Jr. '51, whose letter was published in the Fall 2011 issue, was listed with an incorrect class year.

The island in the title of the book by Martin Margulies '61 listed in the Fall 2011 Bookshelf was incorrect. The correct title is *Mhør and More: Hill Walks in Uist*.

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 and clarity. Please direct letters for publication "TO THE EDITOR."

# Building Bridges and Rebuilding Lives

**D**onald Keene '42, '49 GSAS came to Columbia from Brooklyn, Ashley Hayes '06 from Atlanta, separated by some 64 years. On Morningside Heights, a passion for the culture of Japan — a country some 6,760 miles away — blossomed in both.

Keene (page 28) was browsing the discount shelves at a bookstore when he came across a two-volume edition of *The Tale of Genji*. He invested 49 cents and became fascinated by the story and its hero. He went on to study under cultural historian Ryusaku Tsunoda and developed a close friendship with Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, '53 GSAS, with whom he helped build Columbia's program in East Asian languages and cultures.

Keene spent summers in Japan during the early part of his teaching career, then developed an arrangement where he taught fall semesters in Japan and spring semesters at Columbia. He became far more famous in his adopted homeland than he was in the United States. "You can't go anywhere in Japan and utter the words 'Donald Keene' and not have everybody know him," says Carol Gluck '77 GSAS, Columbia's George Sansom Professor of History.

After Keene became ill last winter, he announced his retirement from teaching and his plan to become a Japanese citizen and live full-time in Tokyo, where he has kept a home for more than 30 years. When he taught his final class at Columbia in the spring, the classroom was overflowing with Japanese journalists and camera crews.

Hayes (page 34) spent two weeks in Japan while in high school and became intrigued by its culture, past and present. She was attracted to Columbia because of its outstanding East Asian studies program. She learned Japanese and spent her junior year in Japan.

After graduation, Hayes worked in Nagano and later in Tokyo, which is where she was when the earthquake and tsunami hit on March 11. With the U.S. and other countries urging its citizens to leave Japan, she returned to Atlanta for about 10 days, but her heart was still in Japan and she knew she had to return as soon as possible. She spent the next four months there, and although she again returned to Atlanta in August, she says she still loves Japan, reads Japanese newspapers and blogs every day and would live there again if that is how life unfolds.

Hayes says, "I'd like to be one of those Americans like Donald Keene who's a bridge between Japan and America."

**O**ne of the great things about a large research university like Columbia is the vast array of possibilities it affords. Wherever you go you will find a renowned expert on something or other.

One of Columbia's experts on Japan is Gerald Curtis, the Bur-

gess Professor of Political Science who concurrently is visiting professor at Waseda University and senior research fellow at the International Institute for Economic Studies in Tokyo and the Tokyo Foundation. He directed Columbia's Weatherhead East Asian Institute for 12 years and has held appointments at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London; the College de France, Paris; the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore; and in Tokyo at Keio and Tokyo Universities, the Research Institute for Economy, Trade and Industry, the Graduate Research Institute for Policy Studies, and the International Institute of Economic Studies.



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Curtis visited the disaster zone on Japan's Northeast Pacific coast in May to prepare a documentary for Japanese television, and he returned there numerous times in the subsequent months. In our cover story, "Tohoku Diary" (page 20), Curtis describes the devastation he saw on his visits and takes us to the towns and villages and inside the evacuation shelters and temporary housing to hear of the impact the disaster had on people in the region.

Some of the stories are heart-wrenching. A woman says her only possession is the cell phone she had with her when she fled the tsunami, yet she still manages to smile and say she will be OK. Another woman speaks of her husband, who was swept away by the tsunami, the tears in her eyes betraying the smile on her lips.

Yet in the face of disaster, there is hope. Mayor Sato of Minami Sanriku speaks of consolidating ravaged fishing ports into larger centers with more modern equipment. The owner of a fish packing plant in Ofunatu wonders where he will raise the \$5 million–\$10 million he says it will take to recover from his loss, but adds that he is determined to get his plant up and running again and to rehire employees he had to let go.

Curtis describes the excessive government regulations and segmented bureaucracy that often hampers recovery efforts. But he also says the story is "one of resilience, community solidarity and self-help," of a people determined to rebuild their lives.

What does this have to do with the College? In this age of globalization, what affects one part of the world often impacts the rest of it, or at least carries global implications. The November economic crisis in Europe is a perfect example, its impact being felt by the U.S. and other countries around the world. We all can learn from the tragedy in Japan and the response of that country's people, companies and layers of government. And Curtis and Keene are examples of the quality of faculty members who have taught, and in Curtis' case continue to teach, these lessons to Columbians throughout the years, something that should never be taken for granted.

*Alex Sathare*

“I’m looking forward to helping other students enjoy the same opportunities I received at Columbia.”

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Javi Plasencia '11CC  
Kluge Scholar

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# AROUND THE QUADS

## Five Accomplished Alumni To Receive 2012 John Jay Awards

BY KAREN IORIO

**O**n Wednesday, March 7, five accomplished alumni will be presented with 2012 John Jay Awards for distinguished professional achievement at the annual John Jay Awards Dinner at Ciprani 42nd Street in New York City.

This year's honorees are Dede Gardner '90, Ellen Gustafson '02, Ben Horowitz '88, Daniel Loeb '83 and Li Lu '96, '96L, '96 Business.

Proceeds from the dinner benefit the John Jay Scholarship Program, which aims to enhance academic and extracurricular experiences for outstanding first-year College students. John Jay Scholars are invited to participate in panels, discussions and outings. A John Jay Scholar will speak at the dinner, along with President Lee C.

Bollinger, Interim Dean James J. Valentini and the honorees.

As president and producer of Plan B Entertainment, Gardner oversees a wide range of the studio's films. Her recent productions include *The Tree of Life*; *The Time Traveler's Wife*; and the Academy Award-nominated drama *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*. Previously, Gardner was e.v.p. of production at Paramount Pictures.

Dedicated to fighting hunger and malnutrition, Gustafson is founder and executive director of the 30 Project (30project.org), which addresses the current crisis in the global food system that has led to both hunger and obesity. She also is co-founder and a board member of FEED Projects and the FEED Foundation, a nonprofit that raises money to benefit the United Nations' World Food

Programme's School Feeding Program through the sale of its iconic "FEED" bur-lap bag and other products. Gustafson's work has provided more than 65 million meals to children around the world.

Horowitz is co-founder and general partner of the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz. He began his career as a software engineer after earning a master's in computer science from UCLA. Horowitz quickly rose to v.p. and general manager of Netscape and is credited for the company's revenues of more than \$100 million. He founded the software company Opsware, which he sold in 2007 to Hewlett-Packard. In June 2009, Horowitz co-founded Andreessen Horowitz, which holds stock in high-valued tech companies including Facebook and Twitter.

Loeb is CEO of Third Point Management Co., an employee-owned hedge fund managing more than \$7.5 billion in assets. Also an activist, Loeb is known for his public letters to other financial executives — and government leaders — denouncing their financial misconduct. Before founding Third Point, he worked at Citicorp.

Prior to simultaneously receiving three Columbia degrees, Lu was a leader of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations, organizing protestors to encourage political reform in the People's Republic of China. He is chairman and founder of Himalaya Capital, a fund focused on publicly traded securities and venture capital. Lu was named a global leader for tomorrow by the World Economic Forum in 2001.

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



Leeza Mangaldas '11 spoke on behalf of John Jay Scholars at the 2011 dinner. A current John Jay Scholar will speak at the 2012 dinner.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

# Gergiev Speaks at Core Music Event

**R**enowned Russian conductor Valery Gergiev spoke to a group of Music Humanities students and other members of the College and University community at Miller Theatre on October 7. The World Leaders Forum event was sponsored by the Center for the Core Curriculum, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Miller Theatre.

Gergiev is the director of the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, home to the Kirov Opera and Ballet. Under his leadership, the Kirov Opera has come to be recognized as one of today's great opera companies. Gergiev is also principal conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic and principal guest conductor of the Metropolitan Opera. He was in New York to conduct the Mariinsky Orchestra at Carnegie Hall's Opening Night Gala.

Gergiev participated in an hour-long discussion with Elaine Sisman, the Anne Parsons Bender Professor of Music and chair of Music Humanities, followed by a question-and-answer session and a reception at Faculty House. Students from Saint Petersburg State University also took part in the discussion via video conference.

Gergiev spoke of the emotional qualities that draw audiences all over the world to the music of Tchaikovsky and of the emotional connections and happiness people feel when they hear the powerful voices and moving performances of opera singers. He also answered questions about getting along with opera directors, conducting different genres such as symphony and ballet, and pursuing a career as a conductor. He said he did not understand the concept of a "career" before he had one, but that he knew he wanted to be a conductor when he first heard a great orchestra as a teenager.

"For me, being 18 years old, 19 years old, it was a total shock to hear great orchestra, great conductor for the first time in a great hall ... to hear great opera and ballet performances," he said. "So my destiny was clear. I knew even then, in 1972, that I will never change course. I will go and become a conductor."

"You learn and learn, and suddenly you have a career," he added. "Because I learned something, my destiny helped me. At some point I was standing in front of the Vienna Philharmonic saying good morning."

At Miller Theatre, Sisman said, Gergiev was "in his element" surrounded by at-



*Elaine Sisman, the Anne Parsons Bender Professor of Music and chair of Music Humanities, hosted a one-hour discussion with noted Russian conductor Valery Gergiev for Music Humanities students and others at Miller Theatre on October 7.*

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

tentive students. He asked many students their names and interests when they asked him a question. "He packed the house, with many hundreds in the audience, and it is clear that music excites him to his core," she said. "He is genuinely interested in communicating with and encouraging young people."

The event was geared toward students in Music Humanities, which has been a

required part of the Core since 1947. "Concert and opera attendance is a rich part of the Music Humanities experience," said Sisman, "so for students to hear such a vivid musician and personality and to be able to ask him questions is an exceptional opportunity. He told wonderful stories and revealed details about the 'miracles' that can happen in a concert hall."

*Sydney Schwartz Gross '05*



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## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ **Alisa Weilerstein '04** has been named a 2011 MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The foundation's website calls the renowned cellist "a consummate performer, combining technical precision with impassioned musicianship." Chosen for her exceptional creativity and promise, Weilerstein will receive \$500,000 across the next five years to pursue a project of her choice. Weilerstein made her professional debut at 13 and, as a student at the College, was both a soloist and chamber musician. She has performed with prestigious orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Orchestre National de France and the Boston Symphony. CCT profiled Weilerstein while she was student: [college.columbia.edu/cct\\_archive/may02](http://college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/may02). To see a video of her performing today, go to [macfound.org](http://macfound.org) and search for "Weilerstein."



Alisa Weilerstein '04

PHOTO: COURTESY THE JOHN D. & CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

jointly commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, presented a unique challenge for the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer. "So many in the audience of this piece will have images of the frightful day itself burned into their retinas," Corigliano wrote in the program notes. "How can one hear music of any dramatic surges without imagining these events accompanying the music? Obviously, then, I needed to write a piece with words. I needed other

images both to refute and complement the all-too-vivid ones we'd bring with us into the concert hall."

For his words, Corigliano chose four poems, including a section of Homer's *The Iliad* chronicling a massacre led by the Greek prince Patroclus. "Each kill is described in detail; the music, too, strives for the brutal and unsparing," Corigliano wrote about that section. Edward A. Weinstein '57, who attended one of the debut performances, describes the music as "electric, powerful and intense" and suggests, "Appar-

ently, John was affected by what he read as a freshman."

The College honored Corigliano in 2003 with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. CCT profiled him the same year: [college.columbia.edu/cct\\_archive/sep03](http://college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/sep03).

■ **Beau Willimon '99, '03 Arts'** play *Faragut North* ([college.columbia.edu/cct/may\\_jun09/alumni\\_profiles2](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/may_jun09/alumni_profiles2)) has been adapted for the screen as the film *The Ides of March*, starring George Clooney and Ryan Gosling. Originally an Off-Broadway hit, Willimon's show tells the story of a Presidential candidate and his press secretary on the eve of the Iowa caucus. Willimon was inspired by his own experience on the campaign trail—he volunteered for Charles Schumer's (D-N.Y.) senate run during his senior year and later worked for Hillary Clinton and Howard Dean.

■ **John Corigliano '59's** *One Sweet Morning*, an orchestral song cycle that commemorates the 10th anniversary of the attacks of 9-11, had its world premiere on September 30, with Alan Gilbert conducting mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and the New York Philharmonic. The work,



George L. Van Amson '74

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

■ **George L. Van Amson '74** was confirmed on October 22 as the new head of the Columbia Alumni Association. Van Amson is a trustee emeritus and a board member of the Columbia-based nonprofit Community Impact, which aids disadvantaged members of the Morningside Heights community. Formerly a financial analyst for Citibank and Goldman Sachs, Van Amson now is a managing director of Morgan Stanley. As chair of CAA, which serves nearly 300,000 alumni from all University schools, Van Amson succeeds James Harden '78 Business, '83 PH.

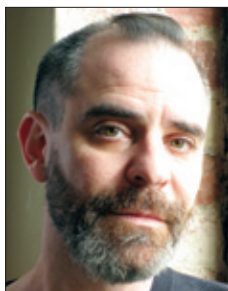


Ed Schlossberg '67, '71 GSAS (far right) participated in a panel, "Innovation: Columbians Break Through," with (left to right) Kelly Golnouch Niknejad '06J, Charles Renfro '94 Arch. and Anna Lappé '01 SIPA at the Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend on October 21–22. The Columbia Alumni Association event featured a lunch discussion between President Lee C. Bollinger and Trustees Chair Bill Campbell '62, '64 TC and the awarding of alumni medals to Mark Momjian '83, '86L; Neil Selinger '75 (in memoriam); and nine others at the Saturday gala. The event also included the annual Columbia College Fund Volunteer Leadership Conference featuring best-practices discussions on topics such as "Making the Ask for Young Alumni," "Peer-to-Peer Fundraising" and "The Power of Reunions," plus a lively talk on the state of the College with Interim Dean James J. Valentini.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

■ **Kai-Fu Lee '83**, a v.p. at Google from 2005–09 and original head of Google China, founded Innovation Works ([en.chuangxin.com](http://en.chuangxin.com)), a firm dedicated to supporting China's next wave of high-tech companies. Lee, who earned a Ph.D. in computer science at Carnegie Mellon, hopes to encourage young Chinese entrepreneurs in Internet, mobile Internet and cloud computing start-ups. Thus far, Innovation Works has raised \$180 million to support start-ups and also offers advising ranging from marketing strategies to legal assistance.

■ **David Rakoff '86** won the 2011 Thurber Prize for American Humor for his third collection of essays, *Half Empty* ([college.columbia.edu/cct/sep\\_oct10/bookshelf1](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/sep_oct10/bookshelf1)). Rakoff, a writer and humorist who was born in Montréal and now lives in New York, has described himself as a "New York writer" who also happens to be a "Canadian writer," a "Jewish writer," a "gay writer" and an "East Asian Studies major who has forgotten most of his Japanese" writer. The \$5,000 prize is sponsored by the Thurber



David Rakoff '86  
PHOTO: PAUL ROOSIN

House, a nonprofit literary center housed in the boyhood home of author, humorist and *New Yorker* cartoonist James Thurber in Columbus, Ohio. It first was presented in 1997. Previous winners include Comedy Central host Jon Stewart and humorist David Sedaris.

■ **Danielle Evans '04** has been named one of the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35" outstanding fiction writers. Evans also is a co-winner of the 2011 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for her debut story collection *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self* ([college.columbia.edu/cct/nov\\_dec10/bookshelf1](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/nov_dec10/bookshelf1)). She earned a master's in creative writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and her stories

have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *A Public Space* and *The Best American Short Stories 2010*.

■ **Matt Weiland '92** has been named senior editor at W.W. Norton. He previously worked at the Ecco imprint of HarperCollins, where he edited books including Padgett Powell's conceptual novel *The Interrogative*

*Mood: A Novel?* and Philip Connors' nature memoir *Fire Season: Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout*. Weiland said of Norton in *The New York Observer*, "It's a firm I've hugely admired for 20 years and whose books line my shelves." The feeling was mutual and Norton's president W. Drake McFeely told the *Observer*, "Matt first captured everyone's attention here as the exceptionally talented young editor of an anthology we published in 1997. It's a thrill to bring him into the fold as an editor, at last."

Karen Iorio

## 25 Years of Coeducation

In May 1987, the first fully coed class graduated from Columbia College. As we approach the 25th anniversary of this occasion, we want to hear from alumni about this turning point in the College's history. Share your memories of the transition on campus and in the classroom, and let us know about the impact that Columbia has had on your life.

Please share your memories at [college.columbia.edu/coeducation](http://college.columbia.edu/coeducation).



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Classes

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- 👑 "Back on Campus" sessions featuring Core Curriculum lectures, Public Intellectual lectures and more as part of Saturday's Dean's Day;
- 👑 New York City entertainment options including Broadway shows and other cultural activities;
- 👑 All-class programs including: Wine Tasting and Starlight Reception with dancing, champagne and sweets on Low Plaza; and
- 👑 Camp Columbia for little Columbians, ages 3–12.

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

Watch your mail and email for details.

**Questions?** Please contact Fatima Yudeh, [fy2165@columbia.edu](mailto:fy2165@columbia.edu) or 212-851-7834.



**SAVE THE DATE** 👑 **THURSDAY, MAY 31–SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2012**

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Katherine Marshall '12 Nurtures Passion for Japanese Culture

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

**F**or Katherine Marshall '12, thrills often take the form of unconventional challenges, such as mastering Japanese as a fifth language or taking to the skies behind the controls of a Cessna 172 aircraft.

Marshall, an East Asian languages and cultures major and licensed pilot, has accomplished both feats. But while she knew from a young age that she wanted to fly a plane — a hobby her father inspired and cultivated — she did not foresee her undergraduate career revolving around a passion for all things Japanese.

Marshall already was fluent in Spanish and French and advanced in Italian when she opted to learn a non-Romance language as a College first-year, a decision that set her current trajectory.

"I wanted to try a more intensive language at Columbia and chose Japanese, which was way more intense than I ever had imagined," says Marshall, for whom acquiring languages became "addictive" after she studied in Mexico and France as a high school student.

In her sophomore year, Marshall took two courses that cemented her choice of major: "Colloquium on Major Texts, East Asia," with Paul Anderer, the Fred and Fannie Mack Professor of Humanities, and "Millennial Futures: Mass Culture and Japan," taught by associate professor of anthropology Marilyn Ivy.

"It was language-driven for me, but then I found that I was fascinated by Japanese history and Japanese culture," Marshall says.

Marshall first traveled to Japan in summer 2009 as an American delegate to the Japan-America Student Conference, a monthlong cultural exchange program run by the nonprofit International Student Conferences (iscdc.org). She returned for the first semester of her junior year through the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies Study

Abroad Program. In Kyoto, she took courses on language, sociology and religion and signed up for cooking classes at a community center. Having stayed with a local family for part of her first trip, Marshall lived in an apartment the second time.

"It is more challenging because you have to fend for yourself in terms of getting food, taking yourself to the doctor, everything," she explains.

The summer before her semester abroad, Marshall conducted research on East Asian economic policy at the Business School's Center for Japanese Economy and Business. Since April, she has been editor-in-chief of the *Columbia East Asian Review*, an undergraduate re-

search journal that publishes annually. Her senior thesis examines the evolution of Japanese fashion from the '90s to the present. Colin Jones, Marshall's thesis tutor and a Ph.D. candidate in the history department, notes the discipline with which Marshall has approached her project.



**Katherine Marshall '12 has used her time in the College to cultivate her interest in Japan and prepare herself for a business career.**

PHOTO: BARBARA BENTON

search journal that publishes annually. Her senior thesis examines the evolution of Japanese fashion from the '90s to the present. Colin Jones, Marshall's thesis tutor and a Ph.D. candidate in the history department, notes the discipline with which Marshall has approached her project.

"Katy is dedicated to her work and preternaturally organized," says Jones. "Her ability to set deadlines for herself and to meet those deadlines astonished me when we met, and it has made working with her an absolute pleasure."

Initially inclined to pursue a degree in business elsewhere, Marshall, who was born in New York and moved to Minneapolis with her family when she was 9,

speaks with fervor of the student-led tour of Columbia's campus that prompted her to apply early decision to the College.

"As the tour guide was describing the Core, I had this epiphany that even if business was what I wanted to do down the road, there was still so much I didn't know," recalls Marshall. "It came down to the Core and being in the city."

To Marshall's good fortune, in 2010, the College introduced a special concentration in business management. "It's exciting to have the ability to fulfill my intellectual interest in East Asia and gain more practical knowledge as well," she says.

At press time, Marshall had accepted a post-graduation offer to join the New York City office of The Boston Consulting Group, a global management consulting firm where she worked last summer.

In her spare time, Marshall enjoys running, skiing and, of course, flying. Having flown in small aircraft for years as a passenger with her father at the controls, Marshall became a private pilot at 17 after logging approximately 60 hours of flight training. The certification process required a solo cross-country flight without a GPS or other modern equipment. Marshall references the mixture of trepidation and pride she experienced when she found herself in the air alone for the first time.

"I often think about that before exams," she says. "You can find it within yourself to do what you need to do, even if it is literally life or death."

"That's why I chose to be a pilot and why I chose to study Japanese. These challenges are fun. They are fun to work through and they are even more fun when you can look back and say, 'Wow, I did that.'"

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

# Food, Fun and Football at Homecoming 2011

**M**ore than 1,200 alumni, students, family members and friends of all ages gathered on October 15 at the Baker Athletics Complex for Homecoming 2011 under bright, sunny skies.

The Big Tent was livelier than ever with a gourmet barbecue and carnival, music and camaraderie. The Cleverest Band in the World, supported by the Columbia cheerleaders, got the group singing such Columbia favorites as "Roar, Lion, Roar" and "Who Owns New York?" and even a rousing non-Columbia tune, Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child o' Mine."

Alumni had more time than usual to mingle with classmates and friends, as the football game against Penn at Robert K. Kraft Field started at 3:30 p.m. instead of the usual 1:30 p.m. because it was televised on the Versus channel. A boisterous crowd of 9,124 saw the Lions lead most of the way before succumbing to the Quakers 27-20 on a touchdown with just 25 seconds left to play.

To view more Homecoming photos, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).



PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO



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THE 1754 SOCIETY

**Courtney Bender is an associate professor and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Religion. She is the author of several books, including *The New Metaphysicals: Spirituality and the American Religious Imagination*, which won a 2011 Association of American Publishers PROSE Book Award. She was co-chair of the Social Science Research Council's Initiative on Spirituality, Political Engagement and Public Life and will chair SSRC's new interdisciplinary research initiative on prayer. Bender earned a B.A. from Swarthmore and a Ph.D. from Princeton.**

**Where did you grow up?**  
Until I was 11 I lived in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and then my family moved to Lancaster, Pa.

**What did you want to be?**  
I wanted to be an architect or an archaeologist. I wanted to build things or dig things.

**How did you become interested in studying religion?**  
By the time I went to college I had abandoned my architecture plans and thought I would be an English major, maybe write poetry. I needed a fourth course to fill out my first semester, so I took a course called "War and Peace" in the Department of Religion. The professor lectured standing on one leg, which kept our attention. He was a very brilliant, very odd man, and it was gripping material.

Religion also interested me personally. I grew up in a Mennonite community that went through a rather big schism when I was a teenager, which effectively split a community that had been tightly tied together by family and cultural traditions. "How could this happen?" I wondered. With encouragement from professors, I

spent my senior year writing an ethnography of the split-off group. By then, I was hooked on both ethnographic method and religious studies.

**How did you end up at Columbia?**

I was living in New York and finishing my dissertation when I received a call from a friend in Columbia's sociology department who was going on leave. His department needed someone to teach his "Mass Media and Popular Culture" course. I had never taught a class, but I said I would do it, and they agreed to let me. One hundred undergraduates appeared on the first day — they thought they were getting him. Most of them stayed, and I learned how to teach pretty quickly. The year after that, a job opened up in religion.

spiritual, or about the institutions — secular or religious — that support them. As the percentage of Americans in this category continues to grow, the questions about how spiritual identity comes to make sense, and how it comes to be connected to particular social and political aspirations, seem important to pursue. The questions that this research posed to me have subsequently led me in a number of directions, including explorations into the legal and political implications of American religious pluralism and the role of mid-century art museums in shaping certain secular-spiritual dispositions.

**What are you teaching these days?**

This fall, I'm teaching an un-

**What do you do to unwind?**

I hang out with my kids in New York. We try to take one day a week out of the neighborhood and if possible out of Manhattan. I also garden in the corner outside my office on 120th and Claremont — I guess I haven't fully given up my interest in digging!

**If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would you be?**

I'd be nowhere but here. I appreciate the opportunity to leave the city sometimes, but this place has such wonderful, challenging energy.

**What's your favorite spot in New York?**

This will be different in a few months, but right now, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Park on the Hudson, which is always cool and has a gorgeous vista.

**What's the last book you read for pleasure that**

**you really enjoyed?**

*Great Expectations*, which I read for the first time this summer, and Teju Cole's novel *Open City*.

**What are you most proud of on your resume?**

My most recent book. It's won some awards, and it's being read in classrooms and discussed publicly, so I am glad that the ideas are getting out there. But more importantly, I felt truly alive when I was researching and writing it — I hope each of my students has that experience at least once, and hope I will again, soon.

*Interview and photo:*

*Ethan Rouen '04J, '11 Business*

*To watch videos of Bender discussing additional topics, including her upcoming Mini-Core class, "Religious Pluralism and Secular Society," which will be taught in February, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).*

## Five Minutes with ... Courtney Bender

**What have you been working on?**

I'm starting up some projects and finishing some others. My most recent book, *The New Metaphysicals*, asks how spiritual identities take shape in the United States. Scholars of all types have tended not to ask good questions about people who call themselves

dergraduate seminar on religion in urban life, "Religious Worlds of New York." Each student is conducting a study of a religious site or community; we are primarily concerned with investigating how the city shapes religious practice, and in some cases how religious action impacts city life. In the spring I will teach "Sociology of Religion" and a graduate field methods class.

**What's your favorite food?**

I will eat almost anything, as long as care and attention has gone into its preparation.

**Where do you live?**

Claremont Avenue.

**Are you married? Do you have kids?**

I am married. My husband is an associate professor in the microbiology and immunology department uptown. I have two kids, 13 and 7, who attend the School at Columbia.



## CC Fund Welcomes New Executive Director

**A**llen Rosso has joined the Alumni Office as executive director of the Columbia College Fund ([college.columbia.edu/alumni/fund](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/fund)). Rosso is an industry leader in annual giving with 17 years of experience. He started at Columbia in mid-October after working at Mindframe, a startup that develops technology and social media solutions to enhance relationship-based fundraising. Prior to joining Mindframe, Rosso was executive director of annual giving at Chicago and Vanderbilt.

At Chicago, he managed the college's and the university's annual giving campaigns, raising in excess of \$18 million annually, and led a staff of

25. He managed the college reunion program, launched a revamped class-based volunteer program that resulted in a threefold increase in the number of volunteer solicitors and made major strides in increasing participation from alumni and from seniors. At Vanderbilt, Rosso managed the annual giving programs for eight schools and the library system, increasing annual fund dollars by 27 percent and participation by 9 percent; managed a faculty, staff and community giving campaign; created a consistent donor stewardship program; and managed recruitment and renewal for an annual giving society.

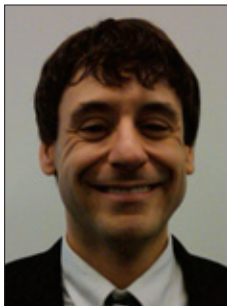


PHOTO: MERIDETH KERBY '04 GS

### Contact CCT Online

**I**t's easy to get in touch with CCT via the web ([college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus)). Update your contact information, let us know what you think in a letter to the editor, send us an email or submit a Class Note, Class Note photo, information for an obituary or a classified advertisement.

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We greatly appreciate your support, and ask that you stay in touch and share news at [college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus).

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## R O A R , L I O N , R O A R

## Injury to Agho Clouds Men's Basketball Picture

BY ALEX SACHARE '71

**C**oach Kyle Smith, in his second season at Columbia, had planned to take men's basketball back to basics. Prior to the start of the 2011–12 campaign, he declared, "When in doubt, we'll go back to our ABCs — that's Agho, Barbour and Cisco."

Smith's plan took a huge hit in the second game of the season, the home opener against Furman on November 14, when defending Ivy League scoring champion Noruwa Agho '12 suffered an injured left knee. He is expected to miss much, if not all, of the remainder of the season. "We're planning on not having him anytime in the near future, or the late future," Smith told *Spectator*.

Agho had been expected to team with fellow guard Brian Barbour '13, the team's top two in scoring, assists and steals last season, and center Mark Cisco '13, who showed flashes of talent while battling a string of injuries and illness last year, to form the core of this year's Lions. Without Agho, it will be up to Barbour and Cisco to provide the nucleus if Columbia is to improve on the 15–13 record it posted in Smith's debut season, including an impressive 10–4 at home. Columbia was 6–8 in Ivy play and tied for fifth place in the league.

While some teams look for easy opponents for the non-conference portion of their schedule, Columbia went the other way, opening its season by traveling to Storrs, Conn., to face defending national champion Connecticut on November 11. "It's always good to play against the best," said Smith. "For the players, it's an awesome atmosphere. For the head coach, it's terrifying."

The Lions fell behind early, trailed 25–10 midway through the first half and never really caught up, although they cut the deficit to single digits before bowing 70–57. "We competed," Smith said after the game. "There were a lot of positives for us. This should be a confidence builder."

Three nights later, Columbia led most of the way against Furman before Agho suffered his injury with 6:19 to play. The visitors rallied to beat the Lions 62–58, but the bigger loss was Agho, an All-Ivy First Team selection last year after averaging



*Columbia's basketball fortunes could hinge on the progress of center Mark Cisco '13, seen here boxing out for a rebound against Connecticut in the season opener.*

PHOTO: GEOFFREY BOLTE

16.8 points per game. "There's an emotional shot that your team takes," Smith said of losing his star player. "We just have to bear down on the fundamentals — the little things — because that's really what you can control."

The Lions, whose 70.8 ppg last season were the most for a Columbia team in 18 years, will begin the Ivy League portion of their schedule on Friday, January 13, by hosting Penn.

Barbour emerged as a starter last season and averaged 13.3 points and 3.2 assists per game. But with the departure of last season's leading rebounder, Asenso Ampim '11, and 7-footers Max Craig '11 and Zack Crimmins '11, a key to Columbia's success could be the play of Cisco, a 6-foot-9, 245-pounder who was hampered last season by appendicitis, a knee injury and a concussion. Despite being limited to 17.1 minutes per game, he averaged 6.8 ppg and 4.6 rebounds per game.

As for the Ivies, Smith downplayed the preseason media poll in which the Lions were picked to finish seventh, saying, "You could throw a blanket over teams 2 through 7, they're really that close." The team everyone will be chasing is expected to be Harvard, last year's co-champion, which received 16 of 17 first-place votes from the media panel.

■ **FALL ROUNDUP:** Football coach Norries Wilson was relieved of his duties after the Lions completed a 1–9 season, one in which the Lions came close to winning

several times before finally beating Brown in double overtime 35–28 in the season finale. In six seasons, Wilson's teams compiled a 17–43 record.

Highlighting the fall season, Columbia's men's soccer team finished just one point away from the Ivy championship. After Brown and Dartmouth had battled to a scoreless draw on the final day of the season, Columbia needed a win over Cornell to leapfrog both and capture the crown, but could only manage a 1–1 tie at Ithaca on November 12. Columbia finished 8–7–2 overall and 4–2–1 in Ivy play, its best league record since 2002, but one point behind Brown and Dartmouth, who were 4–1–2.

Volleyball and field hockey both enjoyed winning seasons. Volleyball was 15–10 overall and 9–5 in the league, while field hockey finished 9–8 overall and 5–2 in Ivy play, missing the league title by just one game. Women's soccer did not fare as well, going 6–10–1 overall and 3–3–1 in the league.

The men's and women's cross country teams fared well, both finishing second in the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships and placing third and fourth, respectively, at the NCAA Northeast Regionals.

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

■ **COACH JONES:** Joe Jones, who coached Columbia's men's basketball team from 2003–10 and spent last year as the associate head coach at Boston College, is now the head coach at Boston University. Jones inherited a Columbia team that went 2–25 and was winless in Ivy play in 2002–03 and built it to respectability, compiling an 86–108 record in seven seasons as the Lions' head coach.

■ **RUGBY @ 50:** The men's rugby club held a reunion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding as well as the women's rugby club's 20th. A three-day event, it commenced with a reception on April 15 at the Dodge Fitness Center where club president Thomas Timberlake '12, captain Derek Lipscomb '11 and women's captain-president Juliette Conte '12 introduced their

teammates to about 50 attending alumni, including Friends of Columbia Rugby Alumni Board members Brian Murphy '84, Lewis Fischbein '72, Richard Coppo '69 and Richard Luthmann '01. Among others in attendance were John Sidtis '73; Bradford Higgins '74, '78L; James O'Donnell '74; Dr. Luke Vaughan '76; Dr. Peter Beller '77; Christopher Sheridan '90 GS; Peter Hatch '92; Stuart Dearnley '01; Mathew Hughes '01, '07 Business; Ikenna Ibe '01E; Jeremy

Mangion '01E; Christopher Miller '01, '08 GSAS; Dr. Daniel Wetmore '01; Nicholas Elkins '02; Augustin Llona '02; Michele Connolly '01; Jessica Grodstein-Kennedy '01; Becca Parks '01 Barnard; and Rebecca Brafman '04.

A match was played the next evening against Yale RFC at the soccer stadium to commemorate club founders John Wellington '57; Patrick Moran '63, '64 Business; William Smith '57; and Bill Campbell

'62, '64 TC in a reprise of their initial match at the old Squadron A Armory a half-century earlier. As in their inaugural encounter, Columbia emerged the victor. Heavy rains could not dampen spirits as the Old Blue RFC, the club's alumni benefactors, hosted a post-match barbecue in the shelter of Wien Stadium. The weekend concluded on a sunny Sunday with the traditional social match between the club and its alumni.

## IN MEMORIAM

■ **Kathleen McDermott**, a senior administrator known for her kindness, laughter and wisdom, died on October 16 after a four-year battle with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. She was 67.

McDermott was born in the Bronx and earned an R.N. degree from St. Clare's Nursing School in New York, graduating first in her class, as well as a B.A. from Lehman College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. She spent many years teaching and working in Hong Kong, Wales, Vermont and England.

Among the highlights of her 21-year tenure with Columbia, she was the College's first residential dean in 1991, hired by then-Dean of Students Roger Lehecka '67, '74 GSAS; she was an adviser for study abroad and fellowships; and she was on the board of Community Impact from 1991–2006. In 2007 McDermott was named a.v.p. and director of global programs, a position from which she had recently retired. A trained psychiatric nurse, colleagues said McDermott spent many late evenings at St. Luke's Hospital, tending to students.

"She was one of those individuals whose life was her job, and hundreds and hundreds of students benefited from her commitment," Susan Mescher, McDer-

mott's friend and deputy v.p., strategic planning in the Vice President's Office for Arts and Sciences, said in a *Spectator* article.

In 2010, the NAFSA: Association of International Educators selected McDermott as the recipient of the Education Abroad Leadership Award, which recognizes one member each year for "distinguished service to the education abroad profession."

Beyond her professional achievements, McDermott was admired for her commitment to family and friendship. "She's known for having been unaffected, tough — in a good way — wise and extraordinarily energetic with a good sense of humor," Mary Dooley, public safety administrative coordinator, told *Spectator*. "She was known for her loving and caring heart and her ability to reach anyone in time of need."

McDermott was predeceased by her son, Paul Grandpierre '87, and a nephew, Michael. She is survived by her daughters, Claire Grandpierre and Caitlin Bell; granddaughter, Charlotte Soubriou; sister, Eileen; and brothers and sisters-in-law, Gerry and his wife, Eleanore, Dan



Kathleen McDermott

and his wife, Kathy, and Jim and his wife, Pam.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kathleen McDermott Scholarship Fund, c/o Eleanor L. Coufos '03, Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025 or 212-851-7483; or to the Eleanor and Lou Gehrig MDA/

ALS Center, Office of Development, 100 Haven Ave., Ste 29D, New York, NY 10032. A memorial service was held at St. Paul's Chapel on November 5.

■ **Tian Bu '13**, from Greenville, S.C., died on October 23. Known to friends as Tina, Bu studied psychology. She also was a talented writer and a gifted artist and musician; in a *Spectator* article, former roommate Jason Han '12 recalled hearing her practice violin when he walked past her room. "I'd stop and appreciate it for a moment," Han said. "That's how I got to know Tina, moments in passing."

Bu also was involved in Quest, a national leadership organization, and was active in a campus bible study group.

Alexis Tonti '11 Arts

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## CAMPUS NEWS

■ **ON THE RISE:** Columbia's endowment rose 23.6 percent, to \$7.8 billion, in Fiscal Year 2010–11, the second year in a row that the University has achieved the largest percentage increase in the Ivy League. Harvard announced an increase of 21.4 percent, to \$32 billion, while Yale and Princeton announced increases of 22 percent apiece to \$19.4 billion and \$17.1 billion, respectively. Columbia was the only Ivy to surpass the S&P 500's 22 percent gain for FY11. "For every measurable period, since the Investment Management Co. was established in 2002, Columbia has produced excellent returns," said Senior E.V.P. Robert Kasdin, who sits on the board of the company that manages the University's endowment. For example, during the past decade, Columbia has had annualized returns of 9.9 percent, just behind Yale's 10.1 percent but ahead of Harvard's 9.4 percent.

■ **NO. 4, AGAIN:** For the second consecutive year, Columbia placed fourth in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual ranking of national universities. Princeton moved up one spot from a year ago into a tie with Harvard for No. 1, with Yale remaining third. Five schools tied for fifth: Caltech, MIT, Stanford, Chicago and Penn. Duke completed the top 10. *U.S.*

*News'* ratings are based on peer evaluations, graduation and freshman retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance and alumni giving rate. For more information, go to [usnews.com](http://usnews.com) and search for "best colleges."

■ **GLOBAL CENTERS:** Columbia has opened two new Global Centers, in Santiago, Chile, and Istanbul, Turkey, and plans to open another center in Nairobi, Kenya, in early 2012. They join existing centers in Beijing, China; Amman, Jordan; Mumbai, India; and Paris, France. According to a University statement announcing the opening of the center in Istanbul on November 1, "Columbia Global Centers provide flexible regional hubs for a wide range of activities and resources intended to enhance the quality of research and learning at the University. They establish interactive partnerships across geographic boundaries and academic disciplines by bringing together scholars, students, public officials, private enterprise and innovators from many fields. ... The centers also support a significant expansion of opportunities for Columbia students to do hands-on research and service-learning abroad, particularly those who may not want to

spend a full semester or academic year off-campus."

■ **REPRIEVE:** A freak snowstorm blanketed the Northeast on October 29 and knocked out power for more than one million people in the region, among them many high school students who were facing November 1 deadlines for their early decision applications to many schools—including the College. As phrases such as "nervous breakdown" and "if the power doesn't come back I'll cry" began to appear on social media sites, Columbia and about 75 other schools responded by extending the deadline, in Columbia's case to November 4. Columbia also extended the deadline for early decision financial aid to November 18.

■ **TRUSTEE:** Rolando T. Acosta '79, '82L was elected to the Board of Trustees, the University's 24-member governing body, at the trustees' meeting last June. He began his six-year term at the start of the 2011–12 academic year in September. Previously, he was on the boards of the College and the Law School alumni associations.

Acosta was elected as a New York State Supreme Court justice in New York County in 2002. He was selected, along with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor,



A ceremonial groundbreaking was held at Homecoming on October 15 for the 48,000-square-foot Campbell Sports Center at the Baker Athletics Complex. Wielding the shovels (left to right) are President Lee C. Bollinger, lead architect and faculty member Steven Holl, Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy, Trustees Vice Chair Philip Milstein '71 and Trustees Chair Bill Campbell '62, '64 TC, the facility's lead benefactor.

PHOTO: GENE BOYARS

as a 2004 Judge of the Year by the National Hispanic Bar Association. A star varsity baseball player at the College, Acosta has long been active in the community development of Upper Manhattan. He was a founding board member of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, where he spearheaded human capital and quality of life proposals.

## IN LUMINE TUO

■ **HISTORY:** Professor of History Elizabeth Blackmar is the winner of the American Historical Association's Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award for undergraduate mentoring. Blackmar, who specializes in social and urban history, will receive the award at the AHA's meeting in Chicago on January 6. "This prize honors not just innovative pedagogy but also mentoring long after the classroom experience is over," noted Merlin Chowkwanyun '05, who was among a group of two dozen former students who wrote letters on Blackmar's behalf and organized a campaign for her.



*Richard Sun '13 has received Ireland's prestigious Undergraduate Award for academic excellence and innovation. The economics major's paper, Triple Bottom Analysis of Sustainable Urban Development, earned him a trip to Dublin, where President of Ireland Mary McAleese presented him with the Oscar Wilde Gold Medal in the sustainability category at Dublin Castle on October 28. As a recipient in the Undergraduate Awards' new international category, Sun was selected from students at top universities in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. He became interested in environmentalism when he served on the city council's recycling advisory committee in his hometown of Summit, N.J. in 2006-09; he also is a 2011 Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Scholar for excellence in national environmental policy.*

PHOTO: MARC O'SULLIVAN

## Were You Married in St. Paul's Chapel?

Every year, about 60 couples get married in Columbia's St. Paul's Chapel, and in more than 90 percent of the cases, one or both members are alumni of the College, Barnard or Engineering. If you were married at St. Paul's, please share memories of your wedding — we look forward to hearing from you (chaplain@columbia.edu).



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

St. Paul's is a historic NYC landmark and an architectural gem, with original furnishings including an Aeolian Skinner organ, one of the finest examples of 20th-century organ building. For inquiries about weddings in St. Paul's, please contact Robert Doyle, assistant director, Earl Hall Center: rd2521@columbia.edu or 212-854-6242, or visit [columbia.edu/cu/earl](http://columbia.edu/cu/earl).

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*A woman whose house was washed away stands amidst debris in the Shinhamacyo area of Japan following the earthquake and tsunami of March 11.*

PHOTO: KUNI TAKAHASHI/POLARIS

# *Tohoku Diary*

BY GERALD CURTIS  
THE BURGESS PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



*A member of the Columbia faculty since 1968, Gerald Curtis is the author of numerous books on Japanese culture and politics, written in both English and Japanese. He was director of Columbia's Weatherhead East Asian Institute for a total of 12 years between 1974 and 1990. In 2004, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by the Emperor of Japan, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Japanese government. Curtis visited the disaster zone on Japan's Northeast Pacific coast in May to prepare a documentary for Japanese television and he returned there numerous times in the subsequent months.*

protect people and property in the event of a major earthquake. For example, Japan's bullet train system has a network of 97 earthquake detectors; about 15 seconds before the earthquake hit the tracks, automatic brakes stopped all 27 bullet trains that were running. There was extensive damage done at many places along the route to stations, bridges and tunnels — but no lives were lost. In Tokyo, high-rise buildings swayed — and did so for so many minutes that it made some people feel as though they were seasick — but none collapsed. In the north, the earthquake knocked out electricity, gas and water lines, but power was restored relatively quickly in areas that were beyond the reach of the tsunami, and deaths and injuries were relatively few.

If there had not been the tsunami, the lead story about March 11 would have focused on the remarkably successful earthquake disaster prevention measures Japan has adopted.

Earthquake damage to the train station at Sendai, Miyagi prefecture's capital, had been repaired by the time I got there on May 4, a few days after bullet train service resumed along the entire Tokyo-Aomori route. Neither at the train station nor anywhere else in the city center was there evidence that Sendai had been violently shaken by the strongest earthquake in its history.

The landscape had been turned into an endless vista of debris punctuated by the occasional presence of a boat or car perched on the roof of some concrete structure that somehow did not collapse.

There are towns along the Pacific coast in Tohoku, the region northeast of Tokyo, with names like Ofunato and Rikuzen Takada in Iwate prefecture and Minami Sanriku and Watari in Miyagi prefecture, that until March 11 of this year meant little more to most Japanese than the names of towns along the Maine coast mean to most Americans. Many people knew these towns only as places from where Japanese got a lot of their fish, and that they have a harsh winter climate and hard-working people of few words.

The 9.0 magnitude earthquake and the ensuing tsunami that struck Tohoku on March 11 changed all that. Now the names of these towns — towns that I visited over several days at the beginning of May — and others on the northeast coast evoke images of miles upon miles of devastation where houses, ports, fishing boats, merchant shops and small factories, rice fields and hot houses for vegetables and strawberries have disappeared. The landscape had been turned into an endless vista of debris punctuated by the occasional presence of a boat or car perched on the roof of some concrete structure that somehow did not collapse under the incredible force of the tsunami that left more than 20,000 people dead or missing. The tsunami damaged or destroyed 125,000 buildings and spread an estimated 27 million tons of debris over a wide expanse of the northeast Pacific coast. In Miyagi prefecture alone, the debris tonnage was the equivalent of 23 years of the prefecture's garbage.

Few lives were lost as a result of the earthquake itself. Japan has gone to extraordinary lengths to adopt strict building codes, early warning systems, evacuation drills and other measures to

As soon as I arrived in Sendai, I headed to the airport. Driving toward the ocean from the city center, everything looked normal for the first 10 kilometers or so. Then the scenery suddenly turned bizarre: a smashed car sitting in the middle of a rice field, wood, metal and other debris scattered here and there. The closer I got to the ocean, the more destruction I saw: a two-story building, for example, whose walls were still intact but without any windows on either the first or second floor. The tsunami had blown them out, washing away most of the things that had been inside and drowning people who were living there. I could see large characters painted at the top of what had been the building's entrance. They indicated that this had been a community old-age home.

There was an incredible number of cars tossed about helter-skelter throughout the area along the coast, many so crushed and mangled that it looked as though they had been involved in head-on collisions. One car was perpendicular, with the front half of its hood buried in the ground as though someone had tried to plant it. Others were upside down; one looked as though it was trying to climb a tree. The Self Defense Forces (SDF) had been collecting and sorting the debris and piling it up — wood here, scrap metal there — for eventual disposal. Every so often along the side of a road there would be a stack of ruined automobiles piled on top of each other and taking up the equivalent of half a New York City block. Since automobiles are virtually the sole mode of transportation for people who live in this coastal part of Sendai, it is not unusual for a household to have several cars for family members to commute to work. Never have I seen so many ruined automobiles.

The area around the airport, the large Sendai shipping port, the Wakabayashi ward that suffered the most death and destruction in Sendai, and everything in between was a scene of utter



The tsunami, measured at one location at 128 feet, washes away cars as it approaches Miyako City.

PHOTO: HITOSHI KATANODA/POLARIS

devastation. It is going to take imagination, money, bold planning and strong political leadership to rebuild this area. The rice fields have been inundated with salt water and the land in many places has sunk 70–80 centimeters. Restoring this land to agricultural use will be difficult and expensive. The port will be restored and airport repairs will be completed, but in the absence of some development scheme, the population of this corner of Sendai and even more so in the affected towns along the coast undoubtedly will decline, leaving behind mostly elderly people who cannot or do not want to leave the only place they have ever known, even if there is nothing there.

The tsunami had rolled across the Sendai airport, washing mud and debris onto the runways and doing extensive damage to the terminal building. With the bullet train system down, the airport not functioning, boats unable to enter the Sendai port and roadways cracked and covered with debris, it was a monumental task to get relief supplies and rescue workers into the region.

In the days immediately following the earthquake, the U.S. military in Japan launched Operation Tomodachi (*tomodachi* meaning friend), ferrying supplies by helicopter from the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Ronald Reagan*, which had changed course to go to Japanese waters to assist the humanitarian effort. A team of Air Force special forces flew from Okinawa to a Japanese SDF airbase near Sendai and then traveled to the airport in Humvees they had brought with them. Within a few hours the team had enough of one of the runways cleared for C-130s to land with emergency supplies. When I got to the airport 1½ months later, the runways were open for limited domestic civilian traffic but the passenger terminal building had been so badly

damaged that there was only one small area being used for ticketing and passenger check-in.

The Japanese press and television coverage of the activities of the American troops no doubt reinforced Japanese public support for alliance with the United States. U.S. military personnel, in addition to their work in opening the airport and ferrying in supplies, worked with the SDF in the offshore search for victims. They also cleared the debris at one of the many damaged train stations.

American participation in efforts to help people in Tohoku has not been limited to the military. There are American and other foreign volunteers working with Japanese and international NGOs throughout the disaster zone. One of these is an international disaster relief organization, All Hands, which is active in Ofunato city in Iwate prefecture. What the American volunteers working with All Hands are doing is a reminder that the U.S.-Japan relationship is far more than a military alliance.

The great majority of Americans working in Tohoku with All Hands and with other NGOs are people living in Japan. A typical case is that of a businessman who has been in Kanazawa for more than 15 years, who took time off from work to volunteer with All Hands, saying that after all Japan has done for him he could not stay away and do nothing.

Another American there turned out to be a student of mine from 20 years ago. (Teach long enough and former students show up in all sorts of unexpected places.) Having gone from Columbia to a successful career as an investment banker, he became prosperous and was enjoying retired life in Tokyo until the earthquake struck. Able to set his schedule as he likes, he decided to do volunteer work with All Hands, and this subsequently became his calling. He heads



Professor Gerald Curtis visits the disaster zone as part of a documentary for Japanese television.

PHOTO: COURTESY GERALD CURTIS

the All Hands operation in Tohoku, and when he is not shoveling mud and debris along with other volunteers, he gives financial advice to government leaders as well as to businessmen and fishermen trying to get their businesses up and running again.

When I caught up with the All Hands volunteers, they were working on a house that had been badly damaged by the tsunami. Mrs. Chiba, the owner of the house, was watching them work when I got there. She was staying in an evacuation center with her husband, who is confined to a wheelchair, and her son. She said that a couple of nights earlier she had slept soundly through the night for the first time in the nearly two months that she had been at the evacuation center. "I went to bed thinking that in the morning those nice volunteers would be back at my house," she said. "I felt so relieved."

**T**here are countless uplifting stories about the foreign volunteers and the reception they have found, but there also have been problems with government bureaucrats telling volunteer organizations that their help wasn't needed or that there were no accommodations for them. These frazzled functionaries seem incapable of doing anything for which there is no precedent, to think "outside the box," and they find dealing with NGOs, Japanese or foreign, to be more trouble than it is worth.

All Hands got lucky in Ofunato. The mayor, who had worked for the Shimizu Corp. before deciding to run for mayor of his

able to grab onto a steel pole and hold on as the tsunami washed over him. Most of the others were pushed to the other side, where there was only a flimsy metal fence. The fence broke under the force of the water, and they were swept away to their deaths. Only 10 people working in the town office, including the mayor, survived.

Photographs and television footage do not do justice to the incredible scale of the devastation that struck Minami Sanriku town. There is almost nothing left of the homes and businesses that were there. The fish market, the seafood processing plants and canneries along the wharves, and almost all the boats that had anchored in its harbors were badly damaged or destroyed. According to the Miyagi prefectural government, about 90 percent of the 13,400 fishing boats in the prefecture were damaged or destroyed. Most of the boats that survived were those that fishermen sailed out into the open ocean as soon as the earthquake struck to ride out the tsunami.

When I visited evacuation centers in Minami Sanriku and other towns, the first thing that struck me — and which is immediately apparent to anyone who has seen television footage of the evacuation centers — is how orderly they are. This is Japan, after all, and people are incredibly — that is, incredibly to someone who is not Japanese — neat and polite. Shoes are taken off before entering the room, there are special slippers to wear at the immaculate bathrooms, there is no one playing loud music that might disturb someone else and people keep their voices down so as not to bother their neighbors (in

**One woman told me that her only worldly possession is  
the cell phone she had with her when she fled the tsunami.**

**But she smiles and says that she will be OK.**

hometown, had spent time at the architecture school at Harvard. He met with the representative of All Hands, discussed the situation with him in English, and not only welcomed the volunteers to his city but also found a place for them to live. Although there have been glitches, on the whole the Japanese government and local communities have welcomed foreign volunteers and have been grateful for their help.

There has been an outpouring of sympathy for Tohoku's victims from across Japan. Innumerable ad hoc groups have emerged to collect donations of money, clothing and other needed items. More than a million people have traveled to Tohoku to volunteer their services. Many companies made special arrangements to make it easier for their employees to take time off to do volunteer work. Mitsubishi Corp., for example, has established an employee volunteer program whereby employees go to Tohoku in groups of 20 for three nights and four days, and receive their regular salaries during this time. Other companies also have programs to make it possible for employees to volunteer.

**I** met many people and heard many terribly sad and terrifying stories. I spent a couple of hours with Mayor Sato of Minami Sanriku town. He was in the town office with more than 30 town officials when the earthquake struck. They all ran up to the roof, anticipating that a tsunami would come. What they could not know was that this tsunami would be so powerful — it was measured at one location at 128 feet and it wrought its destruction as far as six miles inland — that it would be higher than the town hall. Sato and a few others were thrown by the wave toward one end of the roof, where he was

this case, people living on the other side of a cardboard partition). Whatever meager belongings they have are arranged neatly along the outer perimeter of the small space that these people have had to live in for the past months, ever since their homes and possessions and, in all too many cases, their loved ones perished.

At the end of June there were still nearly 90,000 people living in evacuation centers. By September the government had completed the construction of temporary housing, leaving only a few people still in evacuation centers. But moving homeless and elderly people — an estimated 30 percent or more of the population in the tsunami-affected areas is more than 65 years old — into temporary housing was not a simple matter.

One elderly lady drove the point home to me. When I talked with her in May, she said that she did not want to leave the evacuation center if it meant moving to temporary housing somewhere where she would be separated from her friends in the village where she has lived all her life. She would prefer to stay there until all the people in her village could be resettled together. She is afraid of the loneliness and worries about becoming entirely dependent on her son to drive to wherever she might be relocated to take her to her doctor. She was not alone in this view; I heard the same lament from others. But the government, anxious to move people out of the evacuation centers as quickly as possible, used a lottery system to relocate them into temporary housing, where the conditions also were problematic.

Although there are variations in the quality of the housing across the region and in the size of the units, the rule of thumb is that a couple or a family of three gets two rooms that are each 4½ mats in

size, about 70 square feet. A person living alone gets a "IK," a 4½-mat room with a refrigerator and two-burner stove in the entranceway that doubles as the kitchen. The government was in such a hurry to erect the housing that it did not use sufficient insulation or double-paned windows. Now, with winter approaching this cold and snowy part of the country, the government is spending an estimated \$30,000 per unit on winterization.

The government's stated goal to move people into permanent housing within two years seems unrealistic. In Minami Sanriku town, for example, the plan to move everyone who had lived in the tsunami zone to new housing on higher ground is still being discussed rather than acted upon. Given this reality, the government needs to do more to create a community structure for people living in these probably less-than-temporary housing facilities. Having a common room where people could meet for a cup of tea, having a nurse on site, a community garden and so on would help make life more bearable for people while they wait for the opportunity to move.

Many observers have noted the bravery, stoicism and resilience of the victims of the Tohoku earthquake. They have a dignity about them, an instinctive readiness to band together to help each other, a courage and an inner strength that has impressed the entire world but that perhaps has impressed no one more than the Japanese themselves. People who thought that cherished core traditional Japanese values had weakened or disappeared stared at their television screens, transfixed, as they watched people forming long lines to wait patiently for water and for a single rice ball for dinner; as tens of thousands of people who had crammed into evacuation centers got themselves organized, chose leaders and formed groups to perform the various tasks needed to make their refuge as civilized and comfortable a place to live as possible. The pictures and stories coming out of Tohoku were heartbreaking and at the same time inspiring. They have given the Japanese a renewed sense of pride.

It is important, however, not to exaggerate and idealize the stoic, patient, resilient Tohoku victim. You do not have to spend much time talking with people in the evacuation centers before you are overwhelmed by how frightened they are and how hopeless they feel. They are disappointed in their government's inadequate response to their predicament and desperate about their future. These are brave people who have nothing and have no idea what the future holds.

One woman told me that her only worldly possession is the cell phone she had with her when she fled the tsunami. But she smiles and says that she will be OK. Another lady, perhaps in her mid-60s and with the sweetest, softest smile, told me that she shares her small space in the evacuation center with three other people. I assumed that one of them was her



**Homes were reduced to rubble in Arahama in Sendai, Miyagi, one of the hardest hit prefectures.**

PHOTO: KUNI TAKAHASHI/POLARIS

husband and asked what his occupation is. "Oh, my husband," she said very gently, "he got swept away by the tsunami and died." As she spoke she strained to keep her smile on her lips, but there were tears in her eyes and every muscle in her face seemed pulled taut.

**I**n May I visited an evacuation center in Watari, a town about 30 kilometers south of Sendai that is famed for its strawberries, accompanied by a local town assemblyman whom I had met through a mutual friend. It was the middle of the afternoon and there were

perhaps 100 people sitting around chatting quietly, napping or just staring into space.

The assemblyman went over to three men who were sitting together, introduced me and asked one of them to talk to me and tell me what he thought the government should be doing to deal with their situation. The man said that he did not have anything to say and turned away. I would have given up but the assemblyman persisted. Being friends from the same village, he asked the man to do him a personal favor and just answer a question or two.

I sat down on the floor next to him and tried to engage him and his companions in casual conversation. For the first few minutes all I got were short, guarded replies and a kind of when-are-you-going-to-get-out-of-here look from the three of them. But in this and other interviews I had in Tohoku, it was not uncommon for people to spend the first few minutes trying to figure out who this Japanese-speaking American was and deciding whether they wanted to talk to him.

It did not take long before their guard came down. Usually it was sparked by some innocent question, as happened when I asked the lady what her husband's occupation was. In this case, I asked the man sitting next to me what he did for a living before the tsunami hit. He said that he was a strawberry farmer. When I asked whether he planned to go back to strawberry farming, the floodgates opened up. "How can I?" he said. "I am 70 years old, my house is gone, the strawberry hothouses have all been destroyed, the land is full of salt water and has sunk 75 centimeters and I still have a loan on equipment I bought that is ruined. I have no income and no way to take out another loan on top of the one I already have."

The other two men were sitting across the table from us. One of

them had been sitting there stone-faced, but suddenly he too became animated and chimed in to tell me that to buy a new thresher costs more than 8 million yen, or roughly \$85,000. He does not have that kind of money and at his age he is not going to get a loan. So he sits there with little more to do than contemplate the dead-end predicament he finds himself in.

The third man told me that he is 43 years old and also is a strawberry farmer. His facial expressions and body language left me with



**Damaged cars were swept together at the port of Hitachi in Ibaraki Prefecture.**

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS/XINHUA/POLARIS

the disquieting feeling that he was perhaps the most stressed and depressed person of all I had met. I tried to be encouraging and said that he was still young and physically fit and what did he think about moving to Sendai or somewhere else where there were job opportunities and getting a new start? He answered that he has lived his whole life in the village where he was born, that he never wanted to move away and does not want to now, that growing strawberries is all he knows how to do and is the only thing that he loves to do, and that he has no idea what is going to become of him now that everything is gone.

There is no place for him to turn for well-informed advice. He can get a temporary job cleaning up debris or fill out an application at one of the “Hello Work” employment centers. He might have the opportunity to talk with a psychiatrist or one of the other mental health specialists who have been going to Tohoku from around the country to offer their services. But since they stay for only a few days at most and are not familiar with local conditions, it is questionable how helpful their counseling is. More than a psychiatrist, what this strawberry farmer and others like him need are government policies that give them some reason to have hope about their future.

There was a lively old lady at the Watari evacuation center who started out our conversation by saying with a chuckle that she got divorced when she was 37, raised her children by herself, made

and everything else is gone, and in many cases they have loans on no-longer existing homes and on factories and machinery that are beyond repair, with little or no insurance to cover their loss.

There are local political leaders who have innovative ideas about how to rebuild their communities. The mayor of Minami Sanriku, the man who barely missed being swept off the roof of the town hall, would like to turn this disaster into an opportunity to reshape the fishing industry that is the heart of the economy of this town. Minami Sanriku has 23 ports, which means that there is a port in just about every inlet with just a few fishermen in many of them who eke out a meager income. Mayor Sato would like to consolidate them into two or three ports equipped with modern equipment and have the fishermen band together in a corporate structure that could buy and lease a modern fleet of boats and equipment.

The owner of a fish packing plant in Ofunato showed me the battered remains of a machine for smoking fish that he purchased the previous fall for \$1 million, and other now-useless machinery. He said that it would cost somewhere between \$5 million and \$10 million to recover from his loss. He is determined to get his business up and running again and hire back the employees whom he had to let go. He is investing what money he has and getting bank loans wherever he can, but getting back into business without government assistance seems like an almost insurmountable

**The first thing that struck me — and which is immediately apparent to anyone who has seen television footage of the evacuation centers — is how orderly they are. This is Japan, after all.**

a living all these years growing strawberries and that she would survive this tsunami disaster, too. But after several minutes the bravado disappeared as she told me, in a very heavy Tohoku dialect known as *zuzuben*, that she has no hope. “You have no hope?” I repeated, partly to make sure that I did not misunderstand what she had just said in her Tohoku accent. “None,” she said, “no hope or anything.” She added that she is 80 years old and strong and was planning to work until she is 100. But she was afraid that just sitting here in the evacuation center day after day with nothing to do except worry about the future was going to kill her. When I asked what was most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about moving to temporary housing. “There are so many things, but what is most important is that all of us [from her village] can live together and bring our farmland back to life.”

I had planned to be at this evacuation center for about an hour but ended up staying for almost three. These brave people are neither as stoic nor as resilient as others who do not share their plight might like to believe. They try their best to be positive but cannot hide their stress and the grief that lines their faces. Nor are they as reticent and reserved as many people seem to think they are. Give them an opportunity to talk with a sympathetic listener, Japanese or foreigner, and they give eloquent expression to their fears. Their homes are destroyed, the land has sunk 70 centimeters or more so they cannot rebuild where they once lived even if they wanted to and many of them do not want to rebuild where a tsunami might hit again. They have no jobs, their fishing boats, farm equipment

hurdle. He and other local businessmen have been urging adoption of a program through which the government would purchase the equipment that is needed and lease it to people like him who want to restart their businesses.

The opportunity to create a new Tohoku development model exists. The key is to designate Tohoku as a special economic zone and transfer power and money to the prefecture and local governments. Domestic and foreign businesses would be offered tax holidays and other incentives to invest in the Tohoku SEZ and prefectural governments would have the authority to decide whether to apply or suspend ministerial rules and regulations and whether to impose restrictions of their own, for example on rebuilding in the tsunami danger zone. The people who best understand what is needed are those who are there on the ground, not politicians and their advisers in Tokyo who fly in for a few meetings with local officials and fly right back to Tokyo again.

The three Tohoku prefectures of Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate account for only about 4 percent of Japan’s GDP, and the areas directly affected by the tsunami for less than half of that. The truth is that if nothing much is done to give Tohoku a new start, Japan will not suffer appreciably as a consequence. That, of course, is a good reason to make a bold and radical policy shift. The downside risk is small, and if it were to succeed, a Tohoku development model would become a beacon for Japan’s future.

I have returned to the disaster zone five times since making the trip in early May. During these visits, I have met with many mayors, the governor of Miyagi prefecture and other politi-

cians. These local leaders wrestle with what is a crisis situation day in and day out. They do not enjoy the luxury to engage in the kind of political squabbling and gamesmanship that consume the energies of so many politicians in Tokyo.

Japan has a parliamentary system at the national level but a system of direct election of government leaders in the localities, where governors and mayors are elected directly for four-year terms. They have local assemblies to contend with but are not beholden to their legislatures for their very existence, as is the prime minister. There is great variety among them in terms of personality and political skill but in Tohoku and around the country there are increasing numbers of governors and mayors who are not hesitant to express their views and criticize the central government. They have their own ideas about how to rebuild their communities, administrative experience as their government's chief executive and a realistic appreciation of what is doable. Since they are there working on the ground, they understand what the issues are in a way that bureaucrats and politicians in Tokyo do not. Observing the situation in Tohoku has given me a new appreciation of the advantages of decentralization and of the disadvantages of Japan's overly centralized governmental system.

It is the private sector that responded quickly and decisively to the disaster in Tohoku. Within days of the earthquake and tsunami, Japanese automobile manufacturers sent upward of 2,000 engineers to Tohoku to assist companies that they depended on for parts to get them back in operation. Electronics companies responded with similar speed to get companies that had been knocked off-line back in business. The severe disruption of supply chains in Tohoku has lasted for a much shorter time than many observers anticipated; they are expected to be resolved before the end of the year.

Humanitarian assistance by companies large and small has been of unprecedented scope, and continues. Several firms have set up funds in the \$100 million range, and many others have made large contributions as well. Having no faith in the ability of the bureaucracy to distribute their funds quickly and efficiently, businessmen have been channeling their funds through various nonprofit organizations or have taken their contributions directly to the mayor of the town or city they decided to help. Individuals as well as companies have provided money and supplies.

When I traveled to Tohoku at the end of July, I visited with the owner of the fish packaging plant whom I had met in May and who at the time was despondent about his ability to recover without government assistance. This time, he was all smiles. He had secured bank loans to repair salvageable equipment and was proud to tell me that he would begin operating again at the beginning of August. What was most telling was that he did it without any government assistance. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has a program to provide financial support to local businessmen. He has filed the necessary paperwork to receive assistance but as he told me, if he waited for the government to act he would be out of business.

Entrepreneurship, risk taking, individual initiative and community cohesiveness are bringing hope to people in Tohoku. There are other examples of local companies getting back on their feet and of some large companies making new investments in the region. But these actions will be the exception to the rule in the absence of government policies to foster investment in the tsunami zone that would create jobs and keep young people from fleeing the area. There is a pressing need for the government to create an incentive structure that will attract private investment to the region. That is what local political, business and community leaders are asking for. What is impressive about the situation in Tohoku is how much local communities are fending for themselves and how much support they are getting from the private sector and from volunteer groups around the country.

NGOs that had been accustomed to operating on a shoestring and managing a small number of volunteers suddenly have found themselves inundated with cash and people. They are struggling to recruit managerial talent and strengthen their organizational infrastructure and to better coordinate among themselves and with local governments. These are the inevitable growing pains of a newly vibrant civil society.

The Tohoku story is one of resilience, community solidarity and self-help. It is also the story of weak and divided politics and of the difficulty of fostering innovation and quick response in the face of excessive government regulations and a segmented bureaucratic system. And herein lies the story of the promise and the perils of Japan in the aftermath of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake Disaster.



An evacuation center in Kahokucyo in Miyagi. The centers were closed as temporary housing was built.

PHOTO: KUNI TAKAHASKI/POLARIS



# *Sensei and Sensibility*

After 73 years, Donald Keene '42, '49 GSAS leaves Columbia for Japan



Donald Keene '42, '49 GSAS (far right) received the Order of Culture from Emperor Akihito during a Culture Day ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on November 3, 2008. Other honorees included (left to right) Makoto Kobayashi, a winner of the Nobel physics prize; maestro Seiji Ozawa; novelist Seiko Tanabe; Hironoshin Furuhashi, chairman emeritus of the Japan Swimming Federation; and Toshihide Masukawa, a winner of the Nobel physics prize.

PHOTO: KYODO VIA AP IMAGES

Donald Keene '42, '49 GSAS arrived on Morningside by subway as a shy 16-year-old from Brooklyn. He leaves the Columbia faculty 73 years later as a globally renowned scholar and translator of Japanese literature, and a beloved figure in Japan, where he has now chosen to live as a citizen.

BY JAMIE KATZ '72

**I**n the wake of the Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster last March, it came to light that the eminent Columbia University professor Donald Keene '42, '49 GSAS had chosen to retire to Japan.

His decision became a major news story there, cheering a nation that appreciated the gesture of solidarity from a revered *sensei* — teacher — at a time when many foreigners were leaving Japan.

Ever faithful to truth, however, Keene notes that he had actually formed his intention many weeks earlier, as he lay in a Tokyo hospital bed. On December 31, Keene had been stricken with an unusually severe case of gout, which eluded initial diagnosis. "It was serious enough to be life-threatening," Keene says. "When I came back to myself, I thought about how I was going to live the rest of my life, and I decided that it would have to be in Japan. I also decided I would take Japanese citizenship." His choice was deeply personal, born of an attachment that goes back to his student days at Columbia more than 70 years ago. But after the earthquake he felt even more committed, and when letters of gratitude poured in from Japanese admirers, he says, "I was, of course, pleased."

A modest, soft-spoken scholar and teacher, the 89-year-old Keene is virtually unknown to the broad American public. In the realm of Japanese letters, however, his reputation could hardly be more stellar. As a teacher, essayist, literary and cultural historian, critic, anthologist, memoirist, editor and translator — with some 25 books in English and another 30 in Japanese — he is perhaps the quintessential figure in his field.

Keene, who began teaching at Columbia in 1955, was named the Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature in 1981 and attained the institution's highest academic rank, University Professor, in 1989. The University's prestigious Donald Keene Center for Japanese Culture, named in his honor at its founding in 1986, sponsors instruction, research, exhibits, prizes and other public programs. Somehow the major College alumni awards have eluded Keene, however. Perhaps he feels as Duke Ellington did in 1965 when the Pulitzer Prize board denied him the award its music jurors had recommended: "Fate is being kind to me," Ellington dryly remarked. "Fate doesn't want me to be famous too young."

**K**eene certainly has not lacked for recognition on the western side of the Pacific. He has received a number of Japan's most distinguished prizes, most recently the Order of Culture (*Bunka-Kunsho*), which the Japanese government awards for significant contributions to the nation's culture; he was the first foreign national to be so honored.

"He's almost the most famous man in Japan," says Carol Gluck '77 GSAS, Columbia's George Sansom Professor of History, herself a well-known scholar and commentator there. "You can't go anywhere in Japan and utter the words 'Donald Keene' and not have everybody know him, whether you're in the middle of the paddy fields or the mountains in the north," she says. "Intellectuals and scholars are media celebrities in Japan and always on television. Even I'm always on television."

Fred Katayama '82, '83J is a news anchor for Thomson Reuters television in New York and a former student and longtime friend of Keene's. Katayama remembers switching on NHK — the BBC of Japan — and watching in awe as his teacher interviewed then-Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone one-on-one. Keene so engages the Japanese public, Katayama observes, that his memoirs

were serialized in *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the nation's (and the world's) leading daily newspaper, with a paid circulation of more than 14 million. "I think they feel that he knows and understands Japan more than perhaps any foreigner," Katayama says.

A third-generation Japanese-American from Los Angeles, Katayama spent a number of years in Tokyo as a correspondent for *Fortune*, the Associated Press and the program *Japan Business Today*, seen on CNBC in the United States; he sits on the board of the Japan Society and the U.S.-Japan Council, in Washington, D.C. Yet it was Keene who inspired him to embrace his own cultural ancestry.

"Japan didn't have the greatest image when I was growing up," Katayama says. "It was mocked — 'Made in Japan' and all that stuff. I didn't want anything to do with the country." But as a student in the College, Katayama recalls, he happened to read Keene's *Landscapes and Portraits: Appreciations of Japanese Culture*, and a spark was ignited. "He talks about Japanese aesthetics in daily life — the beauty of irregularity. The misshapen tea bowl is more interesting and something to behold than a perfectly symmetrical piece of porcelain."

Katayama followed his curiosity and signed up for Japanese classes, gradually committing to a major in East Asian languages and cultures. Eventually he landed in Keene's famed course, "Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature."

"The amazing thing about Professor Keene is that he does not use notes," Katayama says. "His lectures are all in his head, and he's extremely passionate. You can feel it in the tenor of his voice, his mannerisms, the way he holds himself. There's a Japanese sensibility to him — modest, quiet, extremely diligent, but never patronizing or condescending. He always came in a suit; he was old-fashioned in that sense. You're not going to see him in a polo shirt. And he ended perfectly on time — he would be out the door."

Katayama feels deeply indebted to Keene. "I was a Japanese-American who had an identity crisis at a Jesuit prep school and

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be in Japan.

swore he would never go to Japan," he says. "And I wind up spending a good chunk of my career tied to Japan. What if I hadn't read *Landscapes and Portraits*?"

Keene's approach to teaching and writing bears the imprint of his freshman Humanities instructor, Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS. "He was a scholar and poet and above all someone who understood literature and could make us understand it with him," Keene writes in *Chronicles of My Life: An American in the Heart of Japan*. "Van Doren had little use for commentaries or specialized literary criticism. Rather, the essential thing, he taught us, was to read the texts, think about them, and discover for ourselves why they were ranked as classics."

The experience of taking the College's general education courses was "incredible," Keene says, and he fondly remembers the great teachers he encountered as an undergraduate. Among them were the "learned and gentle" classicist, Moses Hadas '30 GSAS; Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS and Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS, who led Keene's Senior Colloquium; and Pierre Clamens, a French instructor "who was very stern, but gave everything to his students," Keene says.

His chief mentor, however, was cultural historian Ryusaku Tsunoda, a pioneer of Japanese studies at Columbia whom Keene often refers to, simply, as *Sensei*. "He was a man I admired completely," Keene says, "a man who had more influence on me than anyone else I can think of."

As a senior, Keene enrolled in Tsunoda's course in the history of Japanese thought. Fifty years later, in a *CCT* interview (Winter 1991) with David Lehman '70, '78 GSAS, Keene remembered: "The first class, it turned out I was the only student — in 1941 there was not much pro-Japanese feeling. I said, 'Wouldn't it be a waste of your time to give a class for one student?' He said, 'One is enough.'"

Born in 1922, Keene speaks with some sadness of his boyhood in Brooklyn's Flatbush section. In 1934, he lost his sister, which left him an only child. Keene's father, who sold radio parts and later real estate, left his mother "under very unpleasant conditions" when he was 15, Keene says. "And then he disappeared from my life altogether for a period. I didn't even know where he was." Keene himself has never married.

Lonely and, by his own reckoning, exceptionally unathletic, Keene found solace in stamp collecting, which opened his eyes to a wider world of nations and languages, and in movies, which opened his eyes even wider. Years later, as a professor, Keene escorted Greta Garbo, a friend of a friend, to the Broadway production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. "After emerging from the theater, we waited briefly for a taxi, and the drivers of passing cars halted their vehicles for a better look at the famous face," he later recalled.

In 1938, Keene attended his first performance of the Metropolitan Opera; it was *Orfeo ed Euridice*. The following year, as a birthday gift, his mother gave him a subscription to 16 successive Friday nights at the Met. The teenaged Keene sat in the last row of the uppermost tier, where tickets cost \$1, and was hooked for

life. One of Keene's chief regrets in leaving New York is giving up his Met Opera subscription.

It was also in 1938 that he graduated from James Madison High School, a Brooklyn public school that also has produced four Nobel laureates, three U.S. senators and a Supreme Court justice — Ruth Bader Ginsburg '59L (not to mention Judge Judy, songwriter Carole King and comedian Chris Rock). Thanks to a Pulitzer scholarship, Keene was able to attend Columbia.

A part from his studies, college proved to be rough going for the commuter student. "I had no campus life," Keene says. "Other people were living in the dormitories or near the University. But my mother was pretty hysterical at that time; she depended on me, and I had to make the long journey every day. The subway cars were badly lit and I ruined my eyes. I knew very few people, had almost no friends."

His closest acquaintance was a Chinese student named Lee who happened to have been seated behind him in Van Doren's class. The following summer, in 1939, they took to swimming together at the Riis Park beach in Rockaway, Queens. Lee taught Keene some

Chinese characters, which he practiced drawing in the sand. It was his introduction to Asian languages. For the next two years, they ate lunch together every day at the New Asia restaurant at Broadway and West 111th Street, which became Moon Palace.

One day in fall 1940, Keene was browsing the remainder shelves at a Times Square bookseller when he spotted a two-volume edition of the classic work *The Tale of Genji*, selling for just 49 cents. He bought it and was so enchanted by the story, and by Arthur Waley's elegant translation, that he yearned to read it in the original Japanese.

At a time when news of mounting violence overseas dominated the headlines, the tale offered a more peaceful vision. "The hero, Genji, unlike the heroes of European epics, was not described as a man of muscle . . . or as a warrior who could single-handedly slay masses

of the enemy," Keene wrote. "He knew grief, not because he had failed to seize the government, but because he was a human being and life in this world is inevitably sad." Keene says today: "The book became, literally, my salvation from the newspapers, from the horrible things that were going on in the world."

Chance continued to play a part in Keene's turn to the Orient, as it was then commonly called. In spring 1941, a stranger approached him in the East Asian Library, housed in what is now the Faculty Room in Low Library. He introduced himself as Jack Kerr, and mentioned seeing Keene often at the Chinese restaurant. Kerr was forming a small group to study Japanese that summer at his house in the North Carolina mountains, and wondered if Keene might care to join them. Keene accepted. It was Kerr — who went on to teach Japanese history at other universities — who recommended that Keene register for Tsunoda's class for the Fall 1941 term.

On December 7, 1941, Keene went hiking on Staten Island. When he returned to lower Manhattan, he saw the news: The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. Tsunoda was detained the



Keene accepts flowers upon arriving in Japan on September 1.

PHOTO: THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN VIA AP IMAGES

next day as an enemy alien. He was accused of espionage, but a judge dismissed the charges a few weeks later and Tsunoda returned to teaching.

Keene graduated the following spring, wondering what the war would bring. He had been a pacifist since childhood; he remembers how he felt visiting a Vienna museum with his father in 1931 and looking at the automobile in which the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife had been assassinated in Sarajevo in 1914, touching off WWI. The sight of the archduke's blood-stained uniform and the white plume in his ceremonial helmet "crystallized my hatred of bloodshed," Keene wrote in his *Chronicles*. So when he learned that the U.S. Navy needed intelligence officers and was training Americans to speak Japanese as well as shoot guns at them, he signed up.

Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, '53 GSAS was just a year ahead of Keene at Columbia, but they met at the Navy's Japanese Language School in Berkeley, Calif., which later moved to Boulder, Colo. The pair became roommates and close friends. "We just took to each other right from the beginning," says de Bary, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus, Provost Emeritus and Special Service Professor in East Asian Language and Culture, who still teaches in the Asian Humanities and Civilizations program of which he was the principal architect. "I think we were soul brothers, because we shared a Columbia soul."

When they finished their training in 1943, both men were assigned to the headquarters of Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific fleet, at Pearl Harbor. They rented a house in Honolulu to serve as home base while they were sent out on different missions, in different campaigns. Keene and de Bary crossed paths in the Aleutians and at Okinawa in 1945, and they remained in touch as their tours wound down after the war. (Their correspondence later was published in *War-Wasted Asia: Letters, 1945–46*, edited by the late historian Otis Cary, who served with Keene in the Pacific.) De Bary's postwar plan was to continue graduate work at Harvard, but Keene had a better idea. "Donald persuaded me not to return to Harvard," de Bary says, "but to come back and join him and study with Ryusaku Tsunoda." As a scholar, teacher, academic statesman and defender of principle, de Bary has become one of the most significant figures in the history of the University; now 91, he has taught at Columbia in eight different decades.

During his service in the Pacific theater, Keene acted as an interpreter, translated documents and conducted prisoner interrogations. He was moved by some of the diaries of captured or killed soldiers he encountered, and felt empathy for some of the POWs he questioned.

"I had to fill out a form — color of hair, color of eyes . . . idiotic questions to be asking a Japanese," he says. "But then we could start on other questions, and I discovered these people had read the same books that I had — the kind of books one got in the Humanities course at Columbia. They knew them very well. And I felt they were closer to me than some of the rough-and-tough Americans I had to deal with, like the lieutenant commander

who asked me to get him a pair of Japanese ears."

Keene does not minimize the extraordinary cruelty the Japanese visited on so many during that era. "I can't justify it," he says. "The Americans in Hawaii, where I spent much of the time, treated the Japanese extremely well. But the Japanese didn't. They were proud of the fact that they had their own traditions, which did not include mercy towards foreigners. There's no way of excusing that. I think almost any people are capable of it. It depends a great deal on their strength of belief — whether in religion or in decency — that leads them to say no when they're asked to do something under orders."

Keene returned to Columbia after the war to study with Tsunoda, earning an M.A. in 1947 and a Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and cultures in 1949 (sandwiched around a year of graduate study at Harvard). He then earned a second master's at Cambridge University in England, where he lectured from 1949–55.

On Keene's first night at Corpus Christi College — in the "coldest rooms in Cambridge," he was told — a porter brought him a dinner of whitefish with a white sauce and white potatoes and white cabbage on a white plate. "I had never realized before how important color is to food," he later wrote.

He found sustenance in other ways: in the splendid architecture, the library, the sound of proper English, and of course, his scholarship and teaching, which he pursued despite a marked lack of encouragement. At one point, he considered abandoning Japanese in favor of Russian literary studies, a notion he dropped when he found that "the vocabulary refused to enter my brain."

One who did encourage him was de Bary. In 1948, College Dean Harry Carman '19 GSAS had asked de Bary to develop an Oriental Studies program, which spawned Columbia's ground-

breaking courses in Asian Humanities and Civilizations. When the real work began in 1949, de Bary sought out Keene to produce translations of significant Japanese texts. "He was a key figure, because we couldn't have done it without the translations," de Bary says. "He's extremely gifted, both in Japanese and as a writer."

Those gifts earned Keene increasing renown in the years that followed. While teaching at Columbia in the 1950s and '60s, he spent summers in Japan coming to know many of the country's leading literary and cultural figures — among them Yukio Mishima, Kanzaburo Oe and Kobo Abe — while deepening his own knowledge and appreciation of their world.

"Japanese are always saying Donald Keene knows more about Japanese culture than they do," says Gluck. She recalled a New Year's party at which Keene's good friend, Abe, raised a toast: "I'd like Keene to make a resolution," Abe said. "I want him to forget one thing he knows about Japanese culture every day for the coming year."

Fortunately for Japanese studies in the United States, de Bary was able to persuade Keene not to emigrate in the early '70s. In a unique arrangement, Keene taught in New York each spring while spending the fall semester in Japan. By now, two genera-

There's a Japanese sensibility to him — modest, quiet, extremely diligent, but never patronizing or condescending.



When Keene taught his final class at Columbia last spring, it was a major event for the Japanese news media.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

tions of Keene's Columbia graduate students have gone on to prominence in Japanese literature, among them such leading lights as Karen Brazell '69 GSAS, Susan Matisoff '73 GSAS and J. Thomas Rimer '71 GSAS. Students of Keene also were among the first female tenured professors in the field, Gluck points out. Not that Keene was inclined to make such distinctions. "He encouraged all of us equally," she says. "So as women we didn't feel at all disadvantaged."

Keene's passion and feeling for the subject, his depth of understanding and his prodigious hard work all contribute to the respect and warmth so many feel for him. "He's very close to you when he speaks about Japanese literature," Gluck says. "You don't feel like it's a kind of knowledge. His generosity and spirit, combined with his delight in Japanese literature, generates affection even in people who are very shy and think he's a great man. There's no space between him as a teacher and his subject, and you as students."

After a round of tributes and symposia last spring — covered by dozens of Japanese reporters and camera crews — Keene spent the summer preparing to move from spacious faculty digs on Riverside Drive to a modest Tokyo apartment, where he's finishing a book about 19th-century poet Shiki Masaoka. "My apartment is in a quiet neighborhood where I've lived a long time, so people are accustomed to seeing me there. These streets are narrow and they're not meant for cars, and you can walk pleasantly," Keene says. "And having become very Japanese in my attitudes, I feel happier there."

The subtle virtues of Japanese culture — and the challenges of translating and communicating its beauty — continue to animate Keene.

"The Japanese language is characterized among other things by evocative vagueness," he says. "You try to avoid being too precise. I used to write to a Japanese friend, and he would send back my letters with things crossed out or changed. If I said 'I've been sick for four days,' he would correct me: 'You should say "about four days," or "four or five days." We Japanese never say "four." We never say "five."' And it's true. There's a liking for a fuzziness, which the Japanese find more exciting because it leaves space for the imagination."

Having witnessed Japan's rebirth after the catastrophes of WWII, Keene has faith that his adopted country will heal from this year's natural disasters.

"In 1955 I took a journey to the northern parts of Japan, which was the same one that had been taken in 1689 by the great Japanese poet Basho," Keene says. The haiku master was particularly inspired by Matsushima Bay, with its hundreds of tiny, pine-clad islands.

After the Tohoku earthquake of March 11, a monster tsunami wreaked destruction along that coast, killing thousands. When Keene heard the news, his first concern was for the well-being of his many Japanese friends. But his thoughts also turned to Matsushima's delicate islands.

"I wondered what had happened to that," Keene says. "And I was told that the tsunami cut the pines down, but their roots are still there, and they can hope that in 20 years or so, the islands will be covered with trees again."



Former CCT editor **Jamie Katz '72** has held senior editorial positions at *People and Vibe* magazines and now writes for *Smithsonian Magazine*, among other publications.

# Ashley Hayes '06 Embraces Cultural Exchange

From city to country, alumna experiences many sides of Japanese living

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

**A**shley Hayes '06 was working at a translation agency in Tokyo in March, after working in the countryside for four years. After she felt a small tremble, she asked her coworkers, "So, what's the evacuation plan for this building?" They laughed at the question, she recalls, then pointed to a box containing a drop-down ladder. They worked on the sixth floor of an eight-floor building.

Two days later, when the big earthquake hit on March 11 and the office's rooms started shaking and bookshelves toppled, Hayes' boss, usually unflappable, cried, "We need to get out of here!"

"We ran down the stairs — forget about the evacuation ladder, nobody even looked at that," Hayes says. "We piled out onto the street — cars had stopped — you could see buildings literally swaying. It was frightening and surreal. It's the only time in my life I thought, 'This is it, I could die right now.'"

Cell phones didn't work for calls but the Internet was enabled, and Hayes reached out to her family and friends by posting on her Facebook page that she was OK. Once at home, she packed an emergency backpack with clothes, nonperishable food and a motorcycle helmet to use as a hardhat like the ones she'd seen in the emergency kits sold in Japanese stores.

Hayes and her boyfriend, who is from Nagano, where Hayes had lived for the previous four years, considered retreating back there while things settled down. They awoke to news of an earthquake in Nagano. *There's no escape! Nowhere is safe!* she thought. Despite the urgings of her mother to get out of the country, Hayes initially felt more like a local, one who had to stay and persevere through the country's recovery from the disaster.

Several days after the earthquake and tsunami, with nuclear power plants

leaking unknown amounts of radiation, the American government followed other countries in advising their citizens to evacuate, and Hayes reconsidered. She was surprised to get a flight home just two days later and returned to Atlanta for 10 days, during which she worked remotely and followed the situation closely.

She took flak from some Japanese people, including her boyfriend, and even some expats, who told her she was overreacting and asked why she was abandoning the country. "It was one of the larger cases of culture clash I had there," she says. "I didn't feel I had to question loyalties. I was concerned for personal safety; I wasn't trying to undermine Japanese authority."

Despite being safer and more at ease in Atlanta, Hayes spent the whole time feeling torn and decided to return. "I had responsibilities and people I cared about in Japan," she says. "I had to get back as soon as possible to minimize the gravity of my *faux pas*."

When she got back, she was perplexed by the cross-currents of information from the government and local Japanese about the extent of the radiation leaks. "My biggest concern was radiation in the food and how that would impact my health over the long term," she says. Some locals bought Geiger counters to check the food for radiation; others told her they were drinking local water by the gallon and had no concern.

The government "slipped up" sev-



Ashley Hayes '06 (above) at a traditional inn in Otaru built on the site of a natural hot spring, and (facing page) with a friend on the way to a tea ceremony at Zenkoji Temple in Nagano.

PHOTOS: COURTESY ASHLEY HAYES '06



eral times, Hayes says, not reporting elevated radiation in certain areas and in the food supply. “They released information late — there was a lot of fumbling around,” she says. “There was an aura of calm, but news stories popped up that upset people.” She cites the example of the announcement that school lunches contained potentially radioactive produce from Fukushima; an ensuing argument that the country needed to support the people and farms of that region; and a rebuttal that that couldn’t involve endangering the health of the nation’s children.

Unusual for Japan, anti-nuclear energy protests were held nearly every weekend in Tokyo. “Before, I didn’t even think about how electricity was produced — I assumed Japan was very environmentally conscious,” Hayes says. “Only afterward did we find out how vulnerable the country was.”

**H**ayes’ interest in Japan stems from a two-week visit when she was in high school and stayed with a host family in Fukuoka, the sister city of her hometown of Atlanta. Entranced by the country’s history and its pop culture exports, she knew she wanted to learn Japanese and live there after college.

She was drawn to Columbia by its stellar East Asian studies

fellow American working in Nagano. “Then after seeing her belt out a beautiful song at a mutual friend’s wedding, and seeing her perform a dance routine at an international event, I was amazed to keep finding all of these hidden talents Ashley possessed.” Hayes was a karaoke singer, “then when I went to Japan, all of a sudden people started asking me to sing for real!” she says. “I’ve actually sung at three weddings now courtesy of my karaoke performances — and I’ve also danced in public when asked to. I guess I don’t like to let people down. If someone asks me to do something, I try to rise to the occasion.”

In Nagano, Hayes lived in a traditional apartment with *tatami* rooms and sliding doors — and no central heating, which the Southerner never did get used to. Although she initially questioned whether Nagano, a city of 381,000 in a largely agrarian region, was exciting enough for someone who grew up in East Atlanta and went to college in New York, Hayes came to love apple-picking, riding her bicycle around town and appreciating locally grown food. “Almost everyone had a rice paddy or a vegetable garden,” she says. “It wasn’t just Old MacDonald on the farm, it was your coworkers.” The Japanese reverence for nature, she says, gave her a new perspective on rural living.

## Entranced by the country’s history and its pop culture exports, Hayes knew she wanted to learn Japanese and live there after college.

program and the legacy of scholars such as Ivan Morris and Edward Seidensticker ’47 GSAS. She started taking Japanese language classes her first year and became active in the Japan Club (now the Columbia Japan Society), of which she became v.p. in her senior year. “It was awesome to be in a city with Japanese speakers and Japanese cultural events I could attend regularly,” Hayes says. She adds that there also were plenty of Japan-related events on campus, such as the annual spring Matsuri festival on Low Plaza, with its noodle-eating contest, mock wrestling in inflatable sumo suits and thunderous *taiko* drum performances. For her junior year abroad, Hayes studied in a yearlong program run by the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies and lived with a local host family.

Following graduation, she joined the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) program, which places recent college graduates from around the world in schools or government offices. Hayes was posted as coordinator of international relations at Nagano City Hall.

In that job, she acted as an interpreter for local foreign residents who didn’t speak Japanese, helped plan cross-cultural events and arranged visits for Americans from Nagano’s sister city of Clearwater, Fla. She wrote an essay on the importance of international exchange that won her a local contest to run with the Olympic torch when it passed through Nagano in 2008 on its way to the summer games in Beijing. (Many people asked her, “Are you training?” “You walk briskly and wave,” she says. “It wasn’t a marathon or anything.”)

“She’s about as smart as they come. When we met, I was pretty blown away by her Japanese ability,” says Grant Peterson, a

**A**fter four years working in Nagano in the JET program (which allows renewals up to five years), Hayes decided to move to Tokyo, which she’d always wanted to experience. She started work at the translation agency in summer 2010. While she had thought she craved urban living again, she says the 9–5 grind left her feeling more like a beleaguered worker bee: “You get on a very cramped train and work all day and take the train home. People on the train during rush hour disregard all concepts of personal space. People think of the Japanese as very polite and noble, but they also push you and jab you and step on you.”

Following the chaos and uncertainty of the earthquake and its aftermath, Hayes eventually decided to return to the United States. She arrived in Atlanta in August, and is moving to San Antonio, Texas, to teach high school ESL as part of Teach for America. To further her own language abilities, she is studying Chinese and Spanish.

“I loved living in Japan and still love Japan and would consider living there again,” she says. She reads Japanese newspapers and blogs every day, and plans to get a rice cooker to try to make rice the same as it is in Japan. Her boyfriend, who won’t finish undergraduate studies until 2014, might come to graduate school here. Hayes adds: “I’d like to be one of these Americans like Donald Keene [’42, ’49 GSAS; see feature in this issue] who’s a bridge between Japan and America.”



**Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA** is a contributing writer to CCT. Her most recent feature was a profile of environmental lawyer Michael Gerrard ’72, in the May/June 2011 issue.

# POWER PLAYER

Abbe Lowell '74, '77L is Washington's go-to lawyer

BY ALEX KINGSBURY '04J

**A**bbe Lowell '74, '77L has a modest office by Washington standards. That's surprising considering that he is one of the most high-profile lawyers in a city that is saturated with high-profile lawyers: the head of the White Collar Defense, Regulatory Investigations, and Litigation Group at the prestigious firm of Chadbourne & Parke.

The office walls are adorned with the standard Beltway accoutrements: pencil drawings of the advocate arguing before the Supreme Court, political cartoons in which he appears, tokens from appreciative colleagues after his service with the United Nations, framed family photos. There's a special name in the nation's capital for such collections of personal and professional memorabilia: the power wall.

To the left of Lowell's desk is a small bookcase holding a few dozen binders, his notes from cases involving the likes of President William Jefferson Clinton, actor Steven Seagal, lobbyist Jack Abramoff and former Sen. John Edwards. "Those are what I would grab if this place caught fire and I had to escape," Lowell says with a grin. "There are copies of the family photos at home, but not those notes."

Those binders are the tabulation of a professional life spent defending the powerful, either from the consequences of their own actions or from others in power who are out to get them. And wildly successful work it has been.

Lowell is best known for his service as Chief Minority Counsel during impeachment proceedings against President Clinton, but he's represented dozens of other high-profile clients as well in cases dealing with spying, public corruption and racketeering. In 2011, he was named one of the country's top five white-collar

defense lawyers on the *National Law Journal's* Most Influential Lawyers list and referred to as the "go-to lawyer when it comes to constitutional issues stemming from leak investigations and prosecutions."

Lowell is practiced at keeping numerous balls airborne. One day in October, he was simultaneously arguing that the criminal case against former presidential candidate Edwards should be dismissed in a North Carolina courtroom (he lost that motion); filing a lawsuit in Boston on behalf of the spouses of gay military servicemen denied health and other benefits because of the federal Defense of Marriage Act; and arranging logistics for the return from

Egypt of his law student client, American Ilan Grael, who had been held there for five months on charges of spying for Israel.

It's hard to find a high-profile spy case in Washington that hasn't somehow involved Lowell. In 2009, after four years in court, prosecutors dropped charges against two Lowell clients, Steve Rosen and Keith Weissman, lobbyists for the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), who'd been accused of passing classified information to journalists and the Israeli government. Ever the advocate, Lowell had harsh words for the American Jewish community for not backing his clients more forcefully. "Everybody was worried

that this is [convicted Israeli spy] Jonathan Pollard again," Lowell said in a radio interview in 2008. "Everybody was worried that we would stick our neck out and get it chopped off like the kosher duck. Well, we know better now, and the public knows better."

It was a case that was closely followed by both government officials and journalists because it was the first time that the Justice Department had launched a prosecution under the Espionage Act of 1917, which criminalized the receipt of classified information. Were that act enforced, many journalists and politicians inside the Beltway could face prosecution.



*One journalist describes Abbe Lowell '74, '77L as "high-octane and incredibly loyal to his clients."*

In the wake of the AIPAC case, Lowell has been more forceful in his defense of clients accused of leaking information, asserting that it is inconsistent to punish some leakers while the leaking is encouraged.

"[The] Executive Branch leaks classified information often to forward several of its goals and then prosecutes others in the same branch for doing the same thing," he wrote in a filing in defense of Stephen Kim, a State Department contractor accused of leaking information about North Korea to a journalist.

Lowell, the consummate insider, explained to the court the way that Washington really works: "As the government has imposed ever-more stringent restrictions on information, while simultaneously broadening its definition of what constitutes classified information, leaking has become essential to provide context for messages delivered to the public through official channels. Although reliance on a 'leak system' is counterintuitive for a nation that prides itself on open government and places immense value on democratic traditions, it has become a necessary practice, facilitating the exchange of information between the government and its constituency."

That case was only Lowell's most recent brush with the Espionage Act, a statute that he's been grappling with since his time as a special assistant to the Attorney General in the early 1980s, when he helped draft some of its associated language. His background put him on the short list of expert witnesses called before Congress as it grappled with how to deal with WikiLeaks, when an Army soldier was accused of leaking hundreds of thousands of classified military reports to a website.

Lowell studied political science at Columbia but it was the classics that caught his interest. He had his "moment of truth" during his junior year, when he shifted his focus from politics to Elizabethan literature after a series of particularly engaging classes with Professor Edward "Ted" Tayler. "Even then he had real intellectual integrity," recalls Tayler. "He never wrote cacoelia, the great vice of both undergraduates and those in my profession." Lowell wrote for *Spectator*, too.

The 1970s were a time of upheaval and social unrest, coming after a decade of even more unrest. Lowell remembers that he couldn't wait to start doing something with his career that could help make a difference. "It wasn't that radicalism or demonstrations had lost credibility, but I was looking for something else," he says. "The idea was to work within the system to change the system. The law allows people a chance to do that. But it doesn't come easily. It is hard work."

Lowell graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude before heading to the Law School as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and serving as editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. Perhaps predictive of a career that would see him defend politicians from both parties, Lowell says he split his time between The Gold Rail (the bar favored by athletes and more conservative students) and The West End (preferred by the more liberal crowd) during the early 1970s. And then there was the iconic Tom's Restaurant: "I remember those ageless waitresses who served breakfast to weary students like us," he says.

Lowell is an equal opportunity lawyer. Throughout his career, he has split his time between Democratic and Republican col-

## Lowell's background put him on the short list of expert witnesses called before Congress as it grappled with how to deal with WikiLeaks.

In December 2010, Lowell appeared before the House Judiciary Committee. "A meaningful debate about the Espionage Act and changes to the law are long overdue. However, a current scandal or crisis is not the time to act too quickly," Lowell warned lawmakers. "There is often an urge to address the clamor of the crisis to show that Washington is listening and doing something and taking a problem seriously. This can lead to ill-conceived laws that have unintended consequences that infringe on rights and cause decades of needless litigation."

Unlike other Beltway insiders, but like many veterans of the Core Curriculum, Lowell lives up to the Renaissance Man ethos. He still reads Shakespeare and sits on the board of trustees for D.C.'s Shakespeare Theatre Company. He's an officer at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. And he's run four marathons, the quickest in four hours.

"I describe him as high-octane and incredibly loyal to his clients, whoever they are," says Anne Kornblut '94, a White House correspondent for *The Washington Post* who has known Lowell for years. They met when Lowell interviewed her when she applied for admission to Columbia in 1989.

For a young, Bronx-born Lowell, there wasn't much of a choice when it came to college. He knew that he wanted to be in the Naked City, and he knew that he wanted to be at the center of the action. Even before he enrolled in 1970, he'd organized anti-war rallies, worked for politicians and come to the conclusion — somewhat antithetically for a young man of his era — that one of the best ways to fight The Man was to don a suit and join forces with him.

leagues. They include Democratic Rep. Gary Condit, Republican Rep. Charlie Wilson, ImClone CEO Sam Waksal and actor Seagal. When the GOP swept into office in 2010, Lowell went on *The Colbert Report* television show and joked that he'd ordered ample amounts of blue and red business cards.

But for all his celebrity, the case he's most known for is the defense of President Clinton during his impeachment hearings. In the case's final days, Lowell delivered an impressive closing statement, surely bound for inclusion in some legal textbook. "Impeachment is not a means to punish the President," he said in December 1998. "Impeachment is not a means to send a message to our children that the President isn't above the law. There are better ways to do that. Impeachment is not a vote of confidence for independent counsel [Ken] Starr. Impeachment is not a penalty for the President not answering the 81 questions as some of you would have wished." Lowell urged the House of Representatives to find another way to sanction President Clinton for his misdeeds, but the GOP-led House pushed for impeachment anyway. Two of four articles of impeachment passed the House by narrow margins, but both were defeated in the Senate.

For Lowell, defending the rich and powerful has been a "fascinating experience." In front of the cameras, celebrities and politicians are enlarged beyond their stature, but when they are in trouble and discussing their cases in his modest office, "they are just as scared and insecure and worried about what will happen as anyone else. And everyone's entitled to a fair trial."

Alex Kingsbury '04J wrote for US News & World Report from 2004–11. A native of Maine, he currently lives in Washington, D.C.



*High-profile clients are routine for Lowell, who has defended accused spy Steve Rosen (top right) and former lobbyist Jack Abramoff (far left), among others. He is perhaps best-known for serving as Chief Minority Counsel of the House Judiciary Committee during the 1998 impeachment inquiry against President Clinton.*

PHOTOS: (FIRST PAGE) SCOTT J. FERRELL/CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY/GETTY IMAGES; (THIS PAGE, FIRST ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) LUKE FRAZZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES; (SECOND ROW, BOTH PHOTOS): LUKE FRAZZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; (THIRD ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT): TOM WILLIAMS/ROLL CALL/GETTY IMAGES, AP IMAGES

[COLUMBIA FORUM]

# The Bauhaus Group: Six Masters of Modernism

Wassily Kandinsky's creative journey from  
figurative realism to abstract painting

Nicholas Fox Weber '69, longtime director of The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation ([albersfoundation.org](http://albersfoundation.org)), de-



Nicholas Fox Weber '69  
PHOTO: MARION ET-  
TLINGER

veloped an important friendship with Josef and Anni Albers while studying art history in graduate school at Yale. In the 1920s and '30s, the artist couple had been the only husband-and-wife pair of artists at the Bauhaus, Germany's pioneering art school.

After grad school, Weber went on to write numerous acclaimed

books on art, including *Balthus: A Biography* and *The Clarks of Cooperstown: Their Singer Sewing Machine Fortune, Their Great and Influential Art Collections, Their Forty-Year Feud*. Now he has trained his art historian's eye back on the Bauhaus and six of its main protagonists: architect Walter Gropius, Paul Klee,



the Alberses, Mies van der Rohe and the great Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky.

In this excerpt from *The Bauhaus Group: Six Masters of Modernism* (Yale University Press, 2011 in paperback), Weber follows Kandinsky on his

adventurous artistic journey from the familiar world of figurative realism to the unexplored frontier of abstract painting.

Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard

Shortly after the Bauhaus moved to Dessau, Wassily Kandinsky wrote a letter to Lily Klee. This was in the period when Lily preferred to remain in the pleasant apartment in Weimar rather than move to temporary digs near the school's new location.

Lily had given Kandinsky some polenta. Addressing her with a Russianized version of her name, he wrote,

Dear Elisaveta Ludwigovna,

For years I have wanted to eat polenta — so you will easily understand what pleasure you have given me. My heartfelt thanks. For me polenta is a synaesthetic delight, for in some strange way, it stimulates three senses perfectly harmoniously: first the eye perceives that wonderful yellow, then the nose savors an aroma that definitely includes the yellow within itself, at last the palate relishes a flavor which unites the color and the aroma. Then there are further "associations" — for the fingers (mental fingers) polenta has a deep softness (there are also things which have a shallow softness!) and finally for the ear — the middle range of the flute. A gentle sound, subdued but energetic . . .

And the polenta which you served me had pink tones in its yellow color . . . definitely flute!

Kind regards to you, dear Pavel Ivanovitch, and dear Felix Pavlovitch, with best wishes for you all,

Yours,  
Kandinsky

Kandinsky's paintings of the period have elements of the marvelous Italian cornmeal. The word "synaesthetic" was key; the Russian invented it to describe the commingling of the various senses that was one of his artistic goals. The soft explosions of polenta cooking, the repetitive popping noise, conjured a realm that increasingly obsessed him: the sonic effects of visual experience. Beyond that, the abstract forms that appear to be in continuous motion — growing, bursting, and condensing — are like polenta when it is being cooked, with the delicate grains absorbing water and air and transmogrifying. Inevitably, too, Kandinsky's oils and watercolors have a sphere of the same vibrant yellow that the painter admired in the cornmeal, which evokes a spiritual force.

The smells and tastes of food were less directly connected to Kandinsky's art, but his alertness to their subtle unfolding in the polenta reflects



Murnau, 1907



Improvisation XIV, 1910

PHOTOS: © THE GALLERY COLLECTION/CORBIS

his priorities. Sharp observation of everyday experience was fundamental. A keen appreciation for the processes perpetually occurring in the kitchen, the human body, and the wooded parks where he and Klee and Albers took their daily walks, governed his life. What was essential was to stop and look. In his pervading appreciation of existence and his overwhelming desire both to celebrate and to add to the world's store of beauty, he was possessed by a determination to make the most of every source of wonder; he would rest only in order to gain strength for action.

Those same desires ruled the lives of several of his colleagues, but Kandinsky was distinguished among them in bringing to the mix "the Russian soul." He had the particular intensity that fired Pushkin and Tolstoy, that permeates the chants of the steppes and the icons of the Russian Orthodox Church, and that has characterized an entire people through all the transformations of their nation. Will Grohmann, who observed Kandinsky firsthand at the Bauhaus, writes, "His uncompromising attitude to life and art, his faith in the unconquerability of the human spirit, came with him from Russia." Although Kandinsky spent most of his life in Germany and Paris, he not only retained his fervent belief in Orthodox Christianity,

Kandinsky's face rarely came into focus behind the cloud of smoke from the cigarettes he puffed all day long. The screening served him well. By the time he was at the Bauhaus, he had effectively excised from his story the woman who had been his truest partner, the brilliant painter Gabriele Münter; all that one could glean about Münter from the elusive Kandinsky was that, in her bitterness over his having left her and, shortly thereafter, taken up with the young playgirl who was now his wife, she had refused to return a lot of the art he had left in her care a decade earlier.

But even if Kandinsky would not discuss the details of his past, students and teachers of every level and a range of styles admired him immensely. He was the voice of reason in Bauhaus disputes, where his ability to keep his personal reactions hidden set him apart, and he was respected for his balanced perspective on complex issues. While establishing careful perimeters around his private self, he was open to infinite approaches in most matters. Anni Albers recalled, with a broad smile, "Kandinsky often said, 'There is always an and.'" Grohmann refers to Kandinsky's wish "to express mystery in terms of mystery." There were layers beyond and beneath the layers; that complexity inspired extraordinary thinking and completely original art.

*He was possessed by a determination to make the most of every source of wonder.*

remained immersed in Slavic literature and music, and continued to speak his native language with his wife; he also guarded his secrets, and relished a sense of inexplicable mysteries.

Of the Russian types, he was a nobleman out of Turgenev. He looked every bit the aristocrat, and struck people "as more like a diplomat or a widely traveled scholar than as an artist." While Johannes Itten wore his outlandish costumes and the Bauhaus students flaunted their bohemianism, Kandinsky dressed with meticulous elegance. This was true not just in society but also when he painted. Unleashing his furies as he brazenly applied vivid pigments to canvas, he wore, at his most casual, a bow tie and jacket. "I could paint in a dinner jacket," he once quipped. But Kandinsky was marked by correctness and reserve rather than dandyism. In his appearance and demeanor, he had no wish to attract attention; he "spoke quietly and attentively, and was never wounding. He behaved impeccably even in painful situations." He had genuine style; he was not a showman.

His propriety teetered at the edge of aloofness. For his students and colleagues, there was always the sense that Kandinsky, however amiable and cheerful he might appear, had some very private issues he was deliberately keeping from view. He was older than everyone else by at least a decade, but it wasn't just age that kept him apart. What was that veneer meant to guard? Grohmann thinks it was masking an overriding instability. "The more Kandinsky became aware of his psychic constitution, the more he developed a capacity to control himself . . . to save face." Kandinsky was so eager to conceal the vagaries of his mind that he preferred "chance acquaintances to half friendships." The person at the Bauhaus to whom he was closest was Klee; this suited him in part because Klee, too, eschewed intimacy. It was like befriending a flock of birds or an image of St. Christopher — highly rewarding, but without threat to the privacy Kandinsky guarded so carefully.

Wassily Kandinsky was born in Moscow, on December 4, 1866 — in the same decade that Tolstoy's *War and Peace* and Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* were published, and Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* was first performed. His earliest memories consisted of shapes and colors of the sort that would eventually become the substance of his art. When he was three years old, the family's coachman would strip spirals of bark from thin branches, "cutting away both layers of bark from the first spiral, and from the second only the top layer." Little Wassily saw the forms as abstracted horses, with the outer bark a "brownish yellow . . . which I disliked, and would gladly have seen replaced," and the second layer a "juicy green . . . which I loved most particularly and which, even in a withered state, still had something magical about it." The wood of the now-naked branch was "ivory-white . . . which smelled damp, tempting one to lick it, but soon withered miserably and dried, so that my pleasure in this white was spoiled from the outset." Colors would induce intense emotions in him for the rest of his life.

Bright hues made him rapturous; black induced fear. At age three, he also went to Italy with his parents and his Russian governess, and retained an impression of a frightening black carriage in which he and his mother crossed a bridge over "dirty yellow" water in Florence when he was on his way to kindergarten. Even more terrifying were "steps leading down into black water, on which floats a frightening, long, black boat with a black box in the middle. . . . I . . . bawled my head off."

When Wassily was five, his family moved to Odessa, where he spent the rest of his childhood. He had not been there long when he painted a watercolor of a horse. His aunt — his mother's older sister, Elizaveta Ivanovna Tikheeva, who lived in the house and helped him with his art — had asked him to hold off doing the hooves until she was there to advise him. Initially, the boy was con-

tent to comply. Then, suddenly, he couldn't wait a moment longer.

He loaded his brush with black paint and globbed it onto the bottoms of the horse's legs. "I thought, if I make the hooves really black, they are bound to be completely true to life. I put as much black on my brush as it would hold. An instant — and I was looking at four black, disgusting, ugly spots, quite foreign to the paper, on the feet of the horse. I was in despair and felt cruelly punished." The repulsion fascinated him. "Later, the prospect of putting black on the canvas would still put the fear of God into me," he said. That fear carried an excitement. In the night scenes and landscapes he would start making when he was in his twenties, and in the abstractions he crafted at the Bauhaus, he would often slather black on — perhaps deliberately to conjure what was disturbing, or else because he relished a certain victory in having overcome his fear of it. In the house in Dessau where the Klees occupied the other half, he and his young Russian wife painted a wall of their dining room pure, unadulterated black.

**I**n a portrait painted in Rome, Kandinsky's mother, Lidia Ivanovna Tikheeva, has a majestic stare. Her face is perfectly proportioned, with aquiline nose and rosebud lips framed by a complex chignon, and her gown and jewelry are splendid. "Characterized by inexhaustible energy and marked nervousness," Lidia was a force to reckon with. Wassily, however, did not have to deal with her most of the time, because when he was a small boy she divorced his father, who was left to bring him up. In a memoir he wrote in 1913, Wassily Vasilevic Kandinsky portrays his father as "a deeply human and loving soul." Wassily Silvestrovich Kandinsky, a tea merchant, fostered his son's interest in making art. He hired a private drawing tutor for young Wassily and let him, at age ten, choose between a school that emphasized the humanities and one that focused on science. When Wassily picked the former, his father was delighted.

Wassily's maternal grandmother, a Balt who spoke German, and Elizaveta Ivanovna indulged him in Lidia Ivanovna's absence. The boy had a penchant for a horseracing game and loved being read fairy tales — mostly in German, his first language. It was a magical childhood, except when he suffered from "inward trembling" and terrifying dreams. To escape, and go "beyond space and time" — his words — he latched on to drawing as the sole solution. Like the young Paul Klee, he made pictures as instinctively as he breathed and ate.

At age thirteen, Wassily bought a paint box with money he had saved up from his allowance. He later described the sensation of the pigments being extruded from their tubes: "One squeeze of the fingers, and out came these strange beings . . . which one calls colors — exultant, solemn, brooding, dreamy, self-absorbed, deeply serious, with roguish exuberance, with a sigh of release,

with a deep sound of mourning, with defiant power and resistance, with submissive suppleness and devotion, with obstinate self-control, with sensitive, precarious balance." He "longed to be a painter" and "loved art above all else." Yet when Kandinsky left Odessa at age nineteen for the University of Moscow, he decided that "art was an unallowable extravagance for a Russian." He studied economics and law, even though he painted in his free time. The "intricate, conscious, refined 'construction' " of Roman law "enchanted" him, but left him unsatisfied "as a Slav because of its far too cold, far too rational, inflexible logic." He turned to the old peasant code in Russian law, which was unusual for its flexibility and the way it treated the same crimes differently according to a measurement of the good or evil at their root. This less rigid approach fascinated him, and when Kandinsky

was twenty-three, it inspired him to go on a trip to Vologda, a northern province full of monasteries and medieval towns, so he could write a report on peasant laws and paganism in the Syryenian tribes.

The journey was funded by the Society for Natural Science, Ethnography, and Anthropology. Kandinsky traveled from village to village studying folk art and sketching peasant architecture and people dressed in traditional costumes. Visiting the colorfully carved houses with profusely ornamented furniture and icons, and traveling through the woods, marshes, and sandy desert, he felt as if he were "living inside of pictures."

Kandinsky's report was published, and he had the rare distinction of being elected a member of the society. In 1892, now twenty-six, he passed his law exam and married a cousin, Anja Shemyakina, one of the few female students at the University of Moscow. The following year, a paper he wrote on the laws concerning workers' wages won him an appointment as instructor at the university.

What Wassily Vasilevic Kandinsky desperately desired, however,

was to paint "the most beautiful hour of the Moscow day. . . . To paint this hour, I thought, must be for an artist the most impossible, the greatest joy." He was fixed on the moment when the sun is "getting low and has attained its full intensity which it has been seeking all day, for which it has striven all day."

That craving to make paintings of comparable force would eventually provide the basis of his teaching at the Bauhaus. "The sunlight grows red with effort, redder and redder, cold at first, and then increasing in warmth. The sun dissolves the whole of Moscow into a single spot, which, like a wild tuba, sets all one's soul vibrating."

In Kandinsky's mind, there was not just "always an and"; there was often a however.

No, this red fusion is not the most beautiful hour! It is only the final chord of the symphony, which brings every color vividly to life, which allows and forces the whole of Moscow to resound like the *fff* of a giant or-



*Kandinsky dressed with meticulous elegance, not just in society but when he painted.*

PHOTO: © BETTMANN/CORBIS

chestra. Pink, lilac, yellow, white, blue, pistachio green, flame red houses, churches, each an independent song — the garish green of the grass, the deeper tremolo of the trees, the singing snow with its thousand voices, or the allegretto of the bare branches, the red, still, silent ring of the Kremlin walls, and above, towering over everything, like a shout of triumph, like a self-oblivious hallelujah, the long, white, graceful, serious line of the bell Tower of Ivan the Great.

In the limited time Kandinsky could devote to painting given his obligations as a law professor, he did his best to evoke those sights. But it would be a while before Kandinsky's art could begin to live up to what he saw in his mind. "These impressions . . . were a delight that shook me to the depths of my soul, that raised me to ecstasy. And at the same time, they were a torment, since I was conscious of the weakness of art in general, and of my own abilities in particular, in the face of nature." It would require him to have a totally different approach if his art was to match the forces inherent in the universe.

Two decades later, Kandinsky would develop a form of painting that completely eliminated the idea of representing known sights. Abstraction "put an end to the useless torment of the use-

"Every still and every moving part (= line) became for me just as alive and revealed to me its soul. This was enough for me to 'comprehend,' with my entire being and all my sense, the possibility and existence of that art which today is called 'abstract,' as opposed to 'objective.'"

In the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the young lawyer came to believe that "the great divisions of light and dark" in Rembrandt's paintings resonated like "a mighty chord." They evoked for him the trumpets in Richard Wagner's *Lohengrin*, a performance of which he attended at the Court Theatre. Listening to Wagner, Kandinsky envisioned the Moscow twilight as he wanted to paint it: "The violins, the deep tones of the basses, and especially the wind instruments . . . embodied for me all the power of that pre-nocturnal hour. I saw all my colors in my mind, they stood before my eyes. Wild, almost crazy lines were sketched in front of me."

He still was not ready to let those forces determine his life's course, but he recognized that his internal storm needed an outlet. "Even as a child, I had been tortured by joyous hours of inward tension that promised embodiment. Such hours filled me with inward tremors, indistinct longings that demanded something incomprehensible of me, stifling my heart by day and filling my soul with turmoil by night."

*In 1910, Kandinsky painted a watercolor that went one step further than his previous work . . . possibly the first entirely abstract painting.*

less tasks that I then, despite their unattainability, inwardly set myself. It cancelled out this torment, and thus my joy in nature and art rose to unclouded heights. . . . To my enjoyment is added a profound sense of gratitude." As the senior figure in Weimar and Dessau, he would invoke that redolent sense of gratitude and the specter of those "unclouded heights."

Such intense feelings had a hefty price. In his reminiscences about his craving to express his feelings through art, Kandinsky alludes to the inner turmoil that Will Grohmann considered the clue to his comportment at the Bauhaus. "My soul was kept in a state of constant vibration by other, purely human disturbances, to the extent that I never had an hour's peace," Kandinsky acknowledged. The slightest visual event triggered either overwhelming joy or intense anguish in him: "Everything 'dead' trembled. Everything showed me its face, its innermost being, its secret soul, inclined more often to silence than to speech — not only the stars, moon, woods, flowers of which poets sing, but even a cigar butt lying in the ashtray, a patient white trouser-button looking up at you from a puddle on the street, a submissive piece of bark carried through the long grass in the ant's strong jaws to some uncertain and vital end, the page of a calendar, torn forcibly by one's consciously outstretched hand from the warm companionship of the block of remaining pages."

**I**n that period in Moscow, even if Kandinsky did not feel entitled to devote his life to art and release that extraordinary responsiveness, to enjoy rather than repress his fiery nature, he was developing the sensibility that would determine his life's course and become the substance of his Bauhaus teaching.

Then Kandinsky experienced a powerful moment of relief from his suffering. He was in front of a Monet in a show of French impressionist painting in Moscow. Standing close to the canvas, he could not recognize its subject as a haystack, although the catalogue listed it as such. Initially, he "found this nonrecognition painful." But then "I noticed with surprise and confusion that the picture . . . gripped me." He succumbed to "the unexpected power of the palette, previously concealed from me, which exceeded all my dreams. Painting took on a fairy-tale power and splendor."

The law professor abruptly decided to start anew and to head to Munich to throw himself full-time into painting. "At the age of thirty, the thought overcame me: now or never. My gradual inner development, of which until now I had been unconscious, had progressed so far that I could sense my artistic powers with complete clarity, while inwardly I was sufficiently mature to realize with equal clarity that I had every right to be a painter."

**A**nja accompanied her husband to Munich in 1896, but she disliked the artistic life. She left Kandinsky in 1903, although they did not divorce until 1911 and always remained on perfectly civil terms. Kandinsky, meanwhile, began his new life. He studied art in a traditional academy, with the same Franz von Stuck who had taught Klee and would teach Josef Albers, and about whose teaching of figure drawing the three would commiserate at the Bauhaus. Kandinsky also studied art at the Munich Academy, but often cut class and worked at home or outdoors, painting with such intense colors that, over a quarter of a century later, when the Bauhaus moved

to Dessau and he needed to describe his credentials to the Municipal Council, he told the officials that he had been in deep trouble at the Munich Academy for being so “intoxicated by nature” that he tried to express “everything through color,” and that he failed a drawing test there. He believed that this conflict with the establishment in Munich a quarter century earlier was one of his main qualifications for teaching at the Bauhaus.

Between those confrontations with the hidebound art establishment and his joining the Weimar Bauhaus in 1922, Kandinsky altered the course of world art. In 1901, he founded “the Phalanx,” an organization to advance new artistic methods that was named after a word invented by Homer for the battle line in ancient Greece, where heavily armed soldiers, working in unison, vanquish their enemy with heavy swords and twelve-foot-long pikes. The Phalanx showed work by Monet as well as other impressionists, while Kandinsky pushed his own work into a new realm by using tempera to create vibrant colors.

Teaching a breakthrough approach to painting and drawing, the Russian led his students to Bavaria by bicycle and summoned them for critiques with a police whistle. In 1902, one of the students who cycled in agreeably when the whistle was blown was Gabriele Münter, a quiet and thoughtful twenty-five-year-old woman, of slight build and almost Japanese looks with her smooth dark hair and porcelain skin. The mutual attraction was immediate, and once Anja moved out, Kandinsky and Münter began to live together; they traveled to Venice in 1903, and, in the winter of 1904–5, to Tunis. Kandinsky returned to Odessa and Moscow on his own, but afterward he and Münter moved to Sèvres, near Paris, for a year, then for nearly another year to Berlin, before returning to Munich.

In this period, during which Kandinsky became one of the principal painters in the Blue Rider movement, his work went from animated woodcuts based on Russian folk art and fairy tales to landscape paintings in unprecedented combinations of saturated colors. Münter worked similarly: there are paintings from 1908 and 1909 where it is difficult to tell who painted which one. She had extraordinary natural gifts, and was one of those rare people who could spontaneously make dazzling art, almost primitive in its untutored freshness yet revealing complete competence, that evoked natural sights with unequivocal joy. Kandinsky learned an immense amount from her approach — more than he would ever acknowledge. At the Bauhaus, he would be with a woman who had no such artistic skill, who worshipped him giddily; it would be as if there was something intolerably threatening about having once been with a fellow artist who had direct access to her own brilliant instincts.

Münter and Kandinsky’s apartment on Munich’s Aismüllerstrasse was two houses away from where the recently married Paul and Lily Klee were living. The moment that Klee and Kandinsky met, they enjoyed a remarkable rapport. Each was delighted to meet another person who cared so deeply about making art, and who was so bent on exploring new means to imbue that art with vitality. The rare sense of comfort and pleasure Kandinsky experienced with Klee, in spite of Klee’s apparent remoteness, would over a decade later be a lure to the Bauhaus.

There were halcyon evenings when Kandinsky and Münter would go over to the Klees’ to hear Paul and Lily perform violin and piano duets. Kandinsky adored little Felix, who, starting at the age of two, in 1909, would spend time in the Russian’s studio when his parents were busy. Felix Klee would never forget Kandinsky’s and Münter’s apartment, which was larger and more elegant than his parents’ and distinguished by its white doors.

Once they were based in Munich, Kandinsky and Münter spent their summers in the Bavarian Alps, in the picturesque country town of Murnau, where Münter bought a house in 1909. There, Münter’s natural skill as a painter became all the more evident. Her exuberant renditions of idyllic life in the countryside seemed effortless, spontaneously evoking the sweet local church, apple trees bursting with fruit, and farmhouses bathed in summer sunlight. Kandinsky was more of a struggler, perpetually intellectualizing and pushing himself to the next step, although he benefited immensely from his exposure to Münter’s forthright style. Kandinsky and Münter were both affected by the *hinterglasmalerei* — small folk art pictures with the images painted on the reverse side of glass — that they collected together. With their simplified forms and vibrant colors, these anonymous works had



In his early abstract paintings, such as *Improvisation XXXI*, 1913, Kandinsky pushed the limits and produced artworks that seemed to convey sheer energy.

PHOTO: © THE GALLERY COLLECTION/CORBIS

a charm and an immediacy that both painters sought to retain in their more sophisticated work.

But the Russian could not stop his inner wheels from turning. By 1910, he was determined to explode the boundaries of painting. He started to improvise compositions that convey sheer energy. Their charged, dark lines of scant representational value, and their sequences of fantastic yellow, red, indigo, and mauve biomorphic forms, pulse in deliberate dissonance. With these paintings simply named *Composition* or *Improvisation*, Kandinsky unleashed a way of painting that was unlike anything that anyone else had ever done or even considered.

While Kandinsky’s fellow Blue Rider artists — Auguste Macke, Franz Marc, and Klee — adhered to figurativism, they admired his independence as well as the consuming zeal with which he approached the task of painting. As Grohmann observed, “Kan-



Colors affected Kandinsky profoundly, like pure emotions. Even at an early age, bright hues made him rapturous; black induced fear. Above, *Dunaberg, 1909*.

PHOTOS: ABOVE, © CHRISTIE'S IMAGES/CORBIS; RIGHT, COURTESY GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM/© BETTMANN/CORBIS



dinsky himself was a very unusual, original type, uncommonly stimulating to every artist who came in contact with him. There was something uniquely mystical, highly imaginative about him, linked with rare pathos and dogmatism." It was impossible not to respond to him and his work.

In 1910, Kandinsky painted a watercolor that went one step further than his previous work by eliminating any reference whatsoever to known subject matter. This is possibly the first entirely abstract painting — as opposed to objects with abstract decoration — by anyone, ever. That same year, he wrote *On the Spiritual in Art*. This book, which declared painting "a spiritual act," embraced the supernatural and irrational as valid components of art. In advocating what was sensory and intuitive and opposing materialism, *On the Spiritual in Art* liberated many readers; following its initial publication at Christmastime of 1911, it went through two more printings within a year.

Observing Kandinsky firsthand, Grohmann had the opinion that the artist's beliefs derived directly from his own mental state.

According to all who knew him, his was a complex mind, given to violent contrasts, and his deep-rooted mistrust of rationalism drove him in the direction of the irrational, that which is not logically graspable. We know that he suffered from periodic states of depression, imagining that he was a victim of persecution, and that he had to run away. He felt that part of his being was closely tied to the invisible; life here and now and in the hereafter, the outer world and the inner soul, did not seem to him opposed.

Although the stated goals of the Bauhaus stressed the practicality of objects and the utilization of modern technology for aesthetically worthy results, Kandinsky's presence there would cause many people to explore mystical realms and to accept the inevitability of neuroses as an aspect of creativity. Kandinsky declared his purpose to be the creation of "purely pictorial beings" with their own souls and religious spirit. He believed that

such art would have major ramifications. At the same time that he bravely accepted the reality of the mind's tortures, Kandinsky had "an absolute faith in the onset of a new era, in which the spirit will move mountains" and in which painting would defeat materialism "by asserting the primacy of inner values, and by directly appealing to what is good in man."

In *On the Spiritual in Art*, Kandinsky conceives of a "spiritual triangle" divided into three tiers, with atheists in the lower segment, and, in the layers above, "positivists, naturalists, men of science, and art students." This middle category does not have an easy time; "they are dominated by fear," for they grapple with "the inexplicable" while remaining unable to accept it, and thus suffer great "confusion." He writes of the plight of these people as if he were narrating the plight of the damned at the Last Judgment: "The abandoned churchyard quakes, the forgotten grave yawns open. . . . All the artificially contrived suns have exploded into so many specks of dust."

Denizens of this middle tier suffer from their illusion that it is possible to create or live in an "impregnable fortress." The occupants of the highest realms of Kandinsky's triangle recognize the fallacy of that assumption. Among this select group of "seers" and "prophets," creative geniuses who have entered the realm of "light" and "the spiritual," Kandinsky names Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Claude Debussy, Arnold Schoenberg, Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, and Pablo Picasso, explaining how each eschewed superficial beauty in preference for a true representation of "inner life" as well as "the divine."

Kandinsky considered music the ultimate art form, which is why he included more composers than painters in his pantheon. But he attributes to color some of the same transformative effects he cherishes in music. To chart the process of the impact of color on the viewer, he draws an analogy to the workings of a piano: "Color is the keyboard. The eye is the hammer, while the soul is a piano of many strings."



From the book: THE BAUHAUS GROUP: Six Masters of Modernism by Nicholas Fox Weber. Copyright © 2009 by Nicholas Fox Weber. Published by arrangement with Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of The Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc.

# Alumni News

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PHOTO: COLIN SULLIVAN '11

## C C A A B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S

# Message from the President

Fellow Columbians,

While we were at Columbia for only four years, we are part of the Columbia community for life. We all benefited tremendously from our time at the College, and an important part of the Columbia College

Alumni Association mission is to ensure that today's students receive the exceptional education we did as well as to constantly improve experiences outside the classroom. This is a powerful responsibility that our board members take seriously as we establish our agenda and work throughout the year.

Board members keep themselves up to date and educated about what is happening on campus. Most recently, CCAA leadership worked closely with the administration on the transition in the Dean's Office and will continue to support Interim Dean James J. Valentini in his leadership of the College.

The board's ongoing efforts also include leadership of and support for the Columbia College Fund and board committees that strive to improve the student and alumni experience. We support the College Fund by leading the Class Agents Program and the Fund Development

Council as well as advising the development staff.

The CCAA currently has five working committees. Through robust discussion on these committees and close counsel with College and University administrators, faculty and students, CCAA board members are able to help advise the dean and his staff on priorities. Recent initiatives include the new workout facilities in dormitories and the establishment of a pilot program of alumni-sponsored summer internships.

Throughout the coming year, we will focus on improving alumni communications, advising on alumni programming for alumni 10–25 years from graduation, deepening our understanding of alumni achievement in their professional careers, and meal plan/dining services on campus as well as supporting a smooth transition for College leadership.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Columbia College Alumni Association, please contact us at [ccalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:ccalumni@columbia.edu) or 212-851-7488.

We hope to hear from you and see you at Columbia soon.



Kyra Tirana Barry '87

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

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CLASS AGENT PROGRAM ■ MENTORING ■ INTERVIEWING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS  
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# Obituaries

1 9 3 3

**Clarence S. Barasch**, attorney, New York City, on August 31, 2010. A 1935 alumnus of the Law School and a member of the New York Bar since that year, Barasch was a WWII veteran stationed at Bletchley Park, United Kingdom; he was commended by Her Majesty's Government in 2010. He was a lecturer and a frequent contributor to the *New York Law Journal*. Barasch was a member of The Real Estate Board of New York for more than 42 years, where he wrote numerous articles for the *Annual Diary*, including the "Outline of Real Estate Broker's Rights and Duties." Each year, Barasch reviewed and updated the articles as changes in the law occurred. He is survived by his sons, Lionel and Jonathan '88 P&S; daughters-in-law, Lili and Lisa; four grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

1 9 3 6

**Herbert M. Olnick**, retired radiologist, Blue Ridge, Ga., on July 25, 2010. Olnick earned a degree from P&S in 1939 at 21 and specialized in radiology at Emory University Grady Hospital in Atlanta. He began practicing radiology in Macon in 1949, then went to the Middle Georgia Hospital, from which he

retired as president in 1974. Olnick and his first wife, Praise, were avid golfers and members of the Idle Hour Country Club. She, and his son, Richard, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife, Doris; daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Terrance Lightbourne; daughters-in-law, Mary Irvin Paz and Helen; brother and sister-in-law, Jay and Catherine Olnek; six nieces; one nephew; five grandchildren; six stepchildren; and four step-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

1 9 4 0

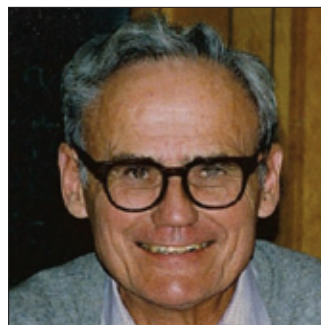
**Robert Benjamin**, retired textile executive, New Rochelle, N.Y., on August 27, 2010. Benjamin was born on June 6, 1919, in New York City. He served with the 5th Air Corps in the Pacific and returned from Japan in 1945. He is survived by his wife, Betty K.; sons, John and Richard; and one grandson.

1 9 4 1

**Cecil H. London**, magazine executive, Greenbrae, Calif., on August 21, 2010. London was born in 1920 in North Georgia. He was inducted into the Navy Air Corps and piloted blimps, conducting coastal surveillance on the East Coast and in South America, retiring in 1945. London went to San Francisco as an advertising salesman for *Time* magazine. When *Time* introduced *Sports Illustrated*, London opened and managed the office. He later managed the San Francisco office of *National Geographic*. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters, Dana and her husband, Kevin, and Barrie; son, Terry, and his wife, Teri; and six grandchildren.

1 9 4 2

**George C. Thompson**, retired Columbia professor of business law and accounting, Greenwich, Conn., on October 12, 2010. Thompson was born May 3, 1920, in New York City. After graduating from the Business School in 1943 with honors, he was recruited by Arthur Andersen and Co. to open its Paris office, then earned a J.D. from the Law School in 1949. Thompson held the James L. Dohr Chair of Business Law and Accounting at the Business School



**George C. Thompson '42**

and was best known as an expert in taxation. He also taught accounting for lawyers at the Law School. Thompson was recognized both by students and peers as an outstanding performer in the classroom. He co-authored a number of law books and had a private investment, taxation and consulting practice for more than 50 years. He also was on the boards of the Greenwich Country Day School and the Ellis Phillips Foundation. Thompson was the longest-standing active member at Indian Harbor Yacht Club, having joined in 1945. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Barbara Churchill Thompson; daughters and son, Elizabeth Baird and her husband, Jay, Annie Masillo and her husband, Chris, and Stuart '87, '89 Business and his wife, Tiffany; and four grandchildren.

1 9 4 3

**Edward M. Marwell**, business executive, Mount Kisco, N.Y., on September 7, 2010. Born on June 16, 1922, in Brookline, Mass., Marwell grew up in New York City, where he graduated from Stuyvesant H.S., and then from the College and Engineering, simultaneously earning degrees. During WWII he served as an officer in the Army Air Forces and was chief engineer of the Fifth Air Force Factory in Showa, Japan, as part of the Army of Occupation. Marwell settled in Mount Kisco and during the 1950s became active in local government. In 1968, he was elected as a McCarthy delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Marwell worked at General Precision Laboratory prior to co-founding, in 1960, Curtis Instruments. He was president from 1960–2000 and

chairman from 1960–2003. In 2003, Marwell received the Order of the Madara Horseman (First Degree) from the Republic of Bulgaria. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Grace Glass Marwell; sons, Stuart '70 and his wife, Vicki, David and his wife, Judy, and Joshua and his wife, Chitra Bopardikar; daughter, Emily; eight grandchildren; and one granddaughter-in-law. Memorial contributions may be made to Mount Kisco Day Care Center, 95 Radio Cir., Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

1 9 4 7

**Edward B. Gold**, retired writer and editor, New York City, on September 9, 2010. Gold was born in the Bronx. At the College, he was editor-in-chief of *Spectator*, associate editor of the *Columbian* and secretary of the Student Council. He earned a degree in 1948 from the Journalism School. His first job was as a caption writer for Acme Newspictures. In 1949 he joined the staff of the *Gallup*, N.M., *Independent*, where he was a reporter, sports editor and columnist. Gold returned to New York in 1952 and joined Fairchild Publications. From 1960–65 he specialized in management news for all the Fairchild papers and from 1965–91 was manager of Fairchild Books. He then retired but wrote first-person pieces for *The Villager*. Columns by Gold twice helped *The Villager* win Best Editorial Page in the New York Press Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest. Gold was a leading member of the Reform movement that wrested Democratic leadership from Carmine DeSapio, the last head of the Tammany Hall political machine to be able to dominate municipal politics, more than 50 years ago, and a member for more than 40 years of the community board that covers Greenwich Village. He was predeceased by his wife, Annalee Kram, in 1998.

**Robert H. Marshall**, retired business executive, El Paso, Texas, on August 20, 2010. Marshall was born in New York City on July 11, 1923, and resided in White Plains, N.Y., until he moved to El Paso in 2002. He was a decorated WWII veteran, serving as a military intelligence interpreter doing liaison work with

## Obituary Submission Guidelines

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

French counter-intelligence units as a member of the 6th Armored Division during the combat campaigns in Normandy and Northern France. He later earned a B.A. and then an M.A., from Johns Hopkins, and pursued an advanced degree at Harvard. He retired in 1988 after 35 years at IBM Corp. but continued working with a private contractor. Marshall is survived by his brother, Richard; niece, Abigail; and nephew, Stanley. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, PO Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011 or alz.org/join\_the\_cause\_donate.asp.

## 1 9 4 8

**Thomas E. Murray Sr.**, retired advertising executive, Venice, Fla., on August 5, 2010. Murray was born October 27, 1924, in the Bronx and graduated from Long Beach H.S. He served as a tech sergeant in the Army Air Corps, flying 35 missions over enemy territory during WWII. He was a master radio operator and bombardier on B-17 Flying Fortresses. Murray was a retired advertising executive of Thomas E. Murray Preprints. He was a pioneer in the field of newspaper free-standing inserts. Murray was a member of Epiphany Cathedral of Venice, the VFW and the American Legion and was a lifetime coach and advocate of children's sports and the CYO. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 63 years, Joan; daughter, Susan Snyder and her husband, Will; sons, Tom Jr. and his wife, Jane, and Don and his wife, Louise; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to Venice Hospice House, 210 Wexford Blvd., Venice, FL 34293 or tidewell.org/donors/how-can-i-give.

**Marvin A. Schlaff**, United Nations official, New York City, on August 18, 2010. Schlaff was born in New York City on August 14, 1926, and educated at public schools and Birch Wathen. He spent two years at Engineering, then joined the Army as a radio/radar mechanic. Under the G.I. Bill, he earned a B.A. from the College. He next studied in Paris and spent two years in the Labor Division of the Marshall Plan. In 1952, Schlaff returned to the United States with the intent of becoming a union leader. In 1953, he refused to sign a loyalty oath as required by the Bell System and told union members that they did not have to

sign it, as it was not a condition of employment; he retained his job but lost his next union election and abandoned a union career. Schlaff then earned an M.A. in 1962 from SIPA, worked for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Labour Organization and in 1965 joined the U.N. Secretariat. After retirement, Schlaff worked part-time as secretary of the joint appeals board/disciplinary committee, the UN's internal justice system. He is survived by his wife, Marcia; children, Elizabeth, Anthony and Abigail; sister, Ruth Meyers; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the New York Public Library (nyp.org/support).

**Irwin F. "Woody" Woodland**, retired attorney, Seattle, on August 25, 2010. Woodland was born in New York City on September 2, 1922, and graduated from Benjamin Franklin H.S. in 1940. He served in the Army Air Corps as a navigator, flying missions over Germany and Italy. He was a POW at Stalag Luft III and was released in 1945. After earning a degree from the College, he graduated from the Law School of Ohio State University in Columbus in 1959. Woodland joined the law firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher as an associate in 1960 and retired a partner in 1992. He became a member of the California State Bar Association in 1960 and the Washington State Bar Association in 1991. Woodland was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Sally Duffy, in 2005, and is survived by his children, Connie Woodland and her husband, Robert Peterson, Patrick and his wife, Lisa, Joseph and his wife, Katherine, Rev. Stephen, William and his wife, Linette, David, and Duffy and his wife, Tricia; 12 grandchildren; and sister, Catherine Howley. Memorial contributions may be made to Music Department, St. James Cathedral, 804 9th Ave., Seattle, WA 98104.

## 1 9 4 9

**Francois D. Vaillant**, teacher, Pensacola, Fla., on September 14, 2010. Vaillant was born in 1926 in New York City. He graduated from the Edgewood School in Greenwich, Conn., served in the Air Force at the end of WWII and then attended Columbia, where he earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1953. He enjoyed the teaching profession in independent schools in Connecticut, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Florida; he

worked variously as coach, schoolmaster and headmaster. His love for sailing drew him to Pensacola Yacht Club, where he was fleet captain and secretary in the 1980s. Vaillant also was involved with the Gulf Yachting Association in the 1990s, becoming commodore in 1998. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Susan; children and their spouses, Frank and Patty Vaillant, Michelle and David Bell, and Madeleine and Jim Simmons; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to Manna Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Christ Church Parish or Covenant Hospice.

## 1 9 5 2



**Donald J. Bainton '52**

**Donald J. Bainton**, business executive, Boca Raton, Fla., on June 13, 2010. Born in New York City, on May 3, 1931, Bainton was a naval officer during the Korean conflict. After the war, he married Aileen Demoulins and began his corporate career with Continental Can Co., eventually becoming president. Following the sale of the company, Bainton acquired the name and formed a second Continental Can. In 1998, with sales nearing \$600 million, he sold the company to Suiza Foods (now Dean Foods). Bainton again acquired the name, and a third Continental Can was formed, resulting in a recent acquisition in the United Kingdom. Bainton was a Knight of Malta. He is survived by his wife of 56 years; children, Kathryn Sarka, Stephen and William; and three grandchildren. Bainton was predeceased by a daughter, Beth, in 1998. Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities USA (800-919-9338).

**Eugene C. Thomas**, attorney, Boise, Idaho, on September 13, 2010. Thomas was born in Idaho Falls on February 8, 1931. He earned a degree in 1954 from the Law School and began his legal career as U.S. District Judge Fred Taylor's first



**Eugene C. Thomas '52**

law clerk. He next worked in the Ada County prosecutor's office, first as an appointed chief deputy, and later, at 24, was elected to the office of Ada County Prosecuting Attorney. In the early '50s, Thomas and Willis Moffatt began the firm of Moffatt Thomas, now known as Moffatt Thomas Barrett Rock & Fields. Thomas was elected president of the Idaho State Bar at 40 and in the 1980s was the State Bar delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates; he rose to chair of the House of Delegates in 1985 and was elected president of the ABA in 1986-87. He held honorary LL.D.s from the University of Idaho and the College of Idaho. He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Jody; sons and their wives, Mike and Martha, and Steve and Maureen; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's School, Mountain States Tumor Institute, the Boy Scouts or the Idaho Humane Society.

**Harold H. "Hal" Wanamaker**, retired otolaryngologist, Syracuse, on August 29, 2010. Born on May 18, 1930, in Suffern, N.Y., Wanamaker went to Syracuse for medical school and stayed for his internship and residency in otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat). Following a fellowship in otology at the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, he was director of ENT at the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, for two years before returning to Syracuse to join the ENT practice founded by his mentor, Gordon D. Hoople. Wanamaker was a pioneer in the combined surgical approach with neurosurgery for acoustic neuromas. He practiced for 30 years at Crouse Hospital and was a clinical professor at Upstate, where he was instrumental in establishing several endowed chairs. He retired in 1993 and enjoyed gardening, collecting and repairing antique clocks, root-

ing for Syracuse and spending time at his cottage on Gananoque Lake in Canada. Wanamaker is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara; four children; 11 grandchildren; and two sisters. Memorial contributions may be made to the Crouse Health Foundation, 736 Irving Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210 or the Barbara and Harold Wanamaker Scholarship Fund at the Upstate Medical Alumni Association, 750 E. Adams St., Syracuse, NY 13210.

1 9 5 3

**William M. Bason**, pediatrician, Chesapeake, Va., on September 18, 2010. Bason was born in Yonkers, N.Y., on March 19, 1932. He went to Downstate Medical School and earned an M.D. in 1957. Following an internship at the Naval Hospital in Philadelphia, Bason had a brief tour of duty in Camp Lejeune, N.C., with the Fleet Marine Force, then went on to a residency program at the Chelsea NH and tours of duty in the United States and abroad. As chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Philadelphia NH, he established the first military neonatal and pediatric intensive care unit and received the Presidential Medal for Meritorious Service. Bason completed his 26 years of military service in 1979 as a captain. He then assumed the position of director of Ambulatory Care at the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, Norfolk. He later became medical director for Sentara Medical System. Bason was active in education throughout his career and published in a number of journals. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Elizabeth; twin sons, Keith, and Kent and his wife, Yvonne; daughter, Kimberly, and her husband, J.P.; four grandchildren; and brother, Robert, and his wife, Paula. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

**Erik D. Wensberg**, writer and editor, New York City, on June 5, 2010. Wensberg was born May 16, 1931, in Omaha, Neb. He was an editor of the *Columbia Alumni News* and founding editor of *The Columbia Forum*, a quarterly of fact and opinion. He returned as editor of *Forum* in 1971 and stayed until 1975. Wensberg reviewed books and wrote articles for *The New York Times Book Review*, *Vogue*, *Commentary* and other magazines. He developed a reputation as an expert

on the American language, and in 1998, Hill and Wang, the publisher of Wilson Follett's *Modern American Usage*, selected him to revise and update the book. Wensberg was a longtime Greenwich Village resident who, as a founding member of the West Village Committee, worked with the late Jane Jacobs in the successful efforts to prevent the destruction of the neighborhood some 40 years ago; he later joined her in the successful effort to block an urban renewal project that would have destroyed 14 blocks of the Village. Wensberg also was part of the fight to block Robert Moses' 1963 plan for the Lower Manhattan Expressway from river to river on Broome Street. His brother, Peter, died in 2006. In addition to Wensberg's sister, Eleanor Pelcyger, six nephews and a niece survive him.

1 9 5 4

**Daniel R. Thompson Jr.**, retired insurance executive, Queensbury, N.Y., on June 17, 2010. Born on December 31, 1932, in Port Chester, N.Y., Thompson graduated from Mamaroneck H.S. and earned a B.S. in economics from the College; he was active in the Air Force ROTC. Thompson had a long career working for Continental Insurance Co., formerly Glens Falls Insurance Co. He was an innate woodsman, Boy Scout leader, camper, skier, snowshoer, boater and fisherman, and was ahead of his time recycling and repurposing "nothings" into "somethings." Thompson was active in the Catholic Church, spending many years affiliated with St. Alphonsus in Glens Falls. In retirement, he and his wife traveled more; they took cruises, visited Maine annually and, in 1999, drove to Alaska to visit their son Dan III as he worked on an archeological dig site at Sitka. Thompson is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ellie; children, Brian and his wife, Tammy, Annie Thompson Murphy, Chris and his wife, Maria, Kevin, Katie Elazar and her husband, Don, Dan III and his wife, Margan, and Elizabeth Bott and her husband, Eric; and four grandchildren.

1 9 5 6

**Seymour Wallace**, anesthesiologist, Los Altos, Calif., on August 25, 2010. Born in New York City on June 4, 1929, Wallace was a navigation officer in the Merchant Marine from 1947-53. He earned a degree in 1959 from P&S and specialized

in anesthesiology. Wallace was a member of the faculty of Stanford University Medical School and subsequently practiced anesthesia at El Camino Hospital. He was president of the California Society of Anesthesiologists and for two terms was president of the Northern California Anesthesia Society. Wallace was an avid sailor, stunt kite flier, gardener and supporter of the arts. He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Flora; and daughter, Linda.

1 9 6 2

**Lawrence I. Lubkin**, retired high school teacher, Tucson, Ariz., on September 27, 2010. Lubkin was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. He earned a master's in biology from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Lubkin taught high school chemistry and biology in New Jersey until his 1996 retirement. In 2002, he and his wife, Alice, vacationed in Tucson and decided to stay. It was in Tucson that Lubkin could enjoy his favorite pastime, cycling. He is survived by his wife of 27 years; daughters, Jennifer Lubkin and her husband, James May, Margaret Lubkin, and Andrea Maricich and her husband, Mitchell; one grandson; and brothers, Saul and Elihu. Memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Service, PO Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

1 9 6 4

**Leslie M. "Les" Pockell**, publishing executive and literary anthologist, White Plains, N.Y., on July 26, 2010. Pockell was born in Norwalk, Conn. He was a v.p. and associate publisher at Grand Central Publishing during the decade before his death. In a long publishing career, Pockell worked at St. Martin's Press, Doubleday and the Book-of-the-Month Club before joining Warner Books, which became Grand Central, a division of Hachette Book Group USA. He edited a diverse group of authors, from mystery writer Donald Westlake to literary critic Harold Bloom to actor and children's writer John Lithgow. Pockell also compiled numerous anthologies, including *100 Essential American Poems* and *The 101 Greatest Business Principles of All Time*.

1 9 8 7

**Gregory C. Giraldo**, stand-up comic, New York City, on September 29, 2010. Giraldo was born in New York in 1965. He earned

a law degree from Harvard and worked briefly as an attorney but made a career as an irreverent and sharp-tongued comic. He was a judge on the NBC reality television show *Last Comic Standing* and was a frequent guest on Comedy Central's celebrity roasts. He performed more than a dozen times on *The Late Show With David Letterman* and *Late Night With Conan O'Brien* and became a radio regular on *The Howard Stern Show*. Off-stage, Giraldo was nothing like his caustic on-stage persona, according to John Trueson, a comic and a promoter at Governor's comedy club, who said he had known Giraldo for about 20 years: "He treated everybody with respect, like they were his friend. He certainly wasn't a performer who had any attitude with anyone. He was a brilliant man, one of the smartest guys I ever met and one of the funniest guys I've ever met." Giraldo owned a home in Hampton Bays and enjoyed boating. He is survived by three sons.

2 0 0 2

**Irina Shekhets**, attorney, Fair Lawn, N.J., on August 24, 2010. Shekhets was born in Kiev, Ukraine, and came to America in 1989, settling with her family in Brooklyn, N.Y., and later Fair Lawn, N.J. Upon starting college, Shekhets was awarded a spot in the prestigious J.P. Morgan Scholar Program. She double-majored in economics and computer science, and after graduation joined J.P. Morgan-Chase, where she was an a.v.p. in the Competitive Intelligence Department. Shekhets graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 2010; she earned her J.D. while working full-time. At Brooklyn Law she was associate managing editor of the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*. Shekhets died on her 30th birthday. She is survived by her husband, Guy Beider; parents, Boris and Tatyana; and sister, Marianna Shamis, and her husband, Felix. Memorial contributions may be made to ZAKA ([zaka.org.il/index\\_e.php](http://zaka.org.il/index_e.php)) or Chabad House of Kathmandu, Gha-2-516-4 Thamel, Kathmandu Nepal, 977-980-324-1294.

Lisa Palladino



To read the "Other Deaths Reported" box, go to [college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/obituaries](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/obituaries).

# Bookshelf

**Jacques Barzun '27: Portrait of a Mind** by Michael Murray. This biography, written by a longtime friend, offers an affectionate account of the life and work of legendary Columbia professor, historian and critic Barzun (Amazon Digital Services, \$7.99).

**Finding Wisdom in East Asian Classics** edited by Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus, Provost Emeritus and Special Service Professor in East Asian Language and Culture. This collection of essays about the foundational texts of East Asian civilization and culture focuses on their central role in the shaping of Asia's history and the humanities at large (Columbia University Press, \$29.50).

**Athletes** by Kirby Congdon '50. This collection of poems goes beyond the notion that sports is only a physical excursion and focuses on the fragility of the human form, with a healthy dose of spirituality (Presa Press, \$9.95).

**The Hydra Chronicle** by Charles Young '50. Set during the occupation of the Greek island Hydra during WWII and its aftermath, this novel follows characters Ido and Philip as they go to Hydra to find the last man and a huge treasury of Jewish assets (Cosmos Publishing, \$19.95).

**When the World Spoke French** by Marc Fumaroli, translated by Richard Howard '51. In this first English translation from French, Fumaroli profiles Francisco Goya, Benjamin

Franklin and other foreigners who used French as the political and intellectual language of Europe (NYRB Classics, \$18.95).

**The Fate of Greenland: Lessons from Abrupt Climate Change** by Philip Conkling, Richard Alley, Wallace Broecker '53, the Newberry Professor of Geology, and George Denton. Due to periods of acute climate instability, Greenland's ice sheet has been melting. The country's warming is shown here with vivid color photographs and is accompanied by the authors' investigations into the effects abrupt climate changes have had on the world (The MIT Press, \$29.95).

**Rethinking the Other in Antiquity** by Erich S. Gruen '57. The author challenges longstanding notions that Greeks, Romans and Jews contrasted themselves with foreigners and shows instead how they found connections and shared roots with diverse peoples (Princeton University Press, \$39.50).

**A March of Liberty: A Constitutional History of the United States, Volume II: From 1898 to the Present** by Melvin I. Urofsky '61 and Paul Finkelman. This comprehensive overview of the American Constitution discusses in detail not only how the Supreme Court handles major cases but also the impact these cases have on society and on American culture (Oxford University Press, \$49.95).

**Blood Trust** by Eric Van Lustbader '68. In this novel, Alli Carson, one of

the best FBI agents at the Fearington Institute, becomes a suspect in a murder that leads her and the national security adviser, Jack McClure, to a secret international slave trade run by a powerful Albanian crime lord (Forge Books, \$25.99).

**The Essential Belloc: A Prophet for Our Times** edited by Scott Bloch, Rev. C. John McCloskey '75 and Brian Robertson. Belloc was considered one of the champions of the Catholic faith, and in his writings he addresses topics such as the limits and dangers of science without faith in God and the love of good food and camaraderie (Saint Benedict Press, \$17.95).

**Harlem: The Four Hundred Year History from Dutch Village to Capital of Black America** by Jonathan Gill '86. Beginning with Harlem's early days of Dutch settlements and farms, Gill documents how Harlem transformed itself into a major site of influential music and literary works, especially for African-American art and intellectual development (see "Columbia Forum," Fall 2011: [columbia.edu/cct/fall11/columbia\\_forum](http://columbia.edu/cct/fall11/columbia_forum)) (Grove Press, \$29.95).

**Racing in the Rain: My Life as a Dog** by Garth Stein '87. In this kids' adaptation of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, Enzo, the dog of a racecar driver, dreams of racing against cars and learns that life isn't simply about going fast (HarperCollins, \$6.99).

**Gluten-Free Cupcakes: 50 Irresistible Recipes Made with**

**Almond and Coconut Flour** by Elana Amsterdam '89. These recipes offer an alternative that fits into many dietary lifestyles and still satisfies anyone's cupcake fix (Celestial Arts, \$16.99).

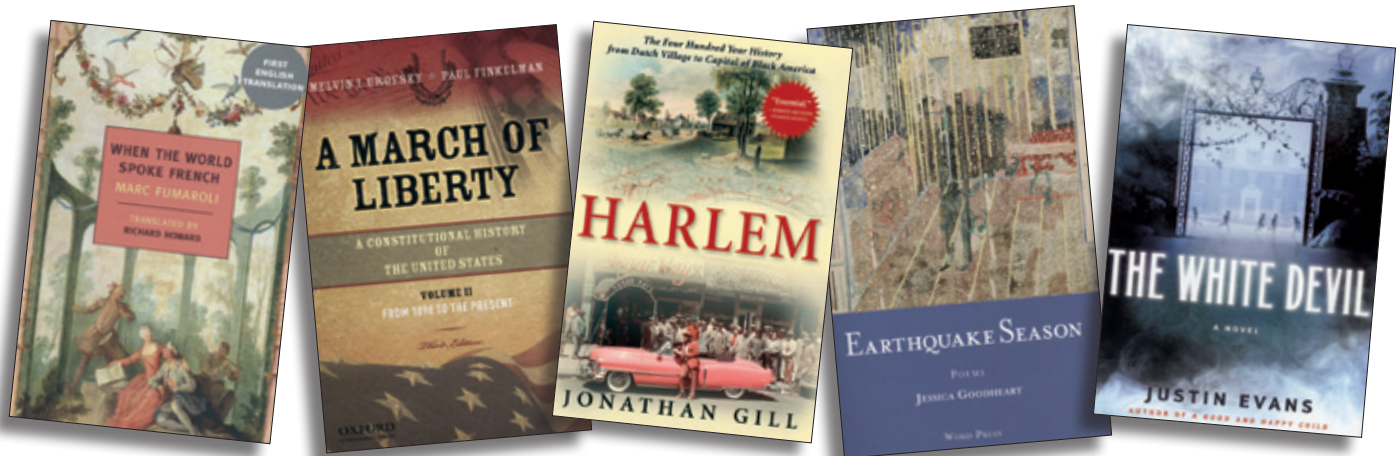
**Earthquake Season: Poems** by Jessica Goodheart '89. Through her poetry, Goodheart explores how copying machines, dry cleaners and other things have come to be the way they are (WordTech Communications, \$18).

**The White Devil: A Novel** by Justin Evans '93. American teen Andrew Taylor is enrolled at Harrow, a British boarding school, where he is haunted by a ghost as he tries to figure out a centuries-old literary mystery that involves Lord Byron (Harper, \$24.99).

**Inside the Insane** by Erica Loberg '99. A depiction of the life and minds of people living with mental illnesses in a psychiatric crisis ward in Los Angeles, this book also features episodes from Loberg's personal journey with Bipolar II (Chimpunkapublishing, \$21).

**Living Music Conversations With Pandit Dinkar Kaikini** by Priya Puroshothaman '03. This book explores Pandit Dinkar Kaikini's theories of sound, melody, rhythm and creativity while following him during his life of uncompromising devotion to music and constant spiritual enquiry (Popular Prakashan, \$34.95).

**Palaces of Time: Jewish Calendar and Culture in Early Modern**



# Christopher Bollen '98's Love-Hate Letter to New York City

BY ETHAN ROUEN '04J, '11 BUSINESS

**Y**oung, smart, creative people continue to flock to New York City like the Lost Generation did to Paris, seeking the exhilarating success they fight each other for and often encountering the painful heartbreak that may inspire that success.

In his first novel, *Lightning People* (Soft Skull Press, \$25), **Christopher Bollen '98** captures that quest by populating his post-9-11 Manhattan with ambitious, jealous young adults who attempt to cling to their moral compasses while competing with their closest friends for what they most desire.

*Lightning People* is a love-hate letter to the city that shaped Bollen from his childhood, a city that remains a stranger yet is filled with so many coincidences that it sometimes seems almost caring.

"The city dominates the characters," Bollen says. "They are all trying to get free of this bigger beast preying on them."

The novel follows Joseph Guiteau, a somewhat successful and handsome actor from Ohio who is dealing with a difficult marriage, an enraged best friend and his 31st birthday, the age at which every Guiteau male has died for generations.

He finds solace in conspiracy theory group meetings and spends long hours in a dark hotel room talking to a mysterious and paranoid older woman whose dead husband he resembles.

Joseph's wife, a Columbia College graduate, is trying to escape an unhappy job while dealing with the death of her best friend, who is one of two characters in the book who relish their lives and morality, even though her job saving the world has also made her rich.

"I didn't want it to be about the coolest people in New York," Bollen says. "I wanted it to be more honest. I wanted interesting characters that actually could exist."

As the characters encroach on adulthood, their successes and failure intermingle, often with violent and tragic results as they fall out of love, face failure and harm those who most care about them in fits of uncontrollable rage. As the characters fall deeper into despair, it becomes more difficult to find any redemption, but Bollen is able to successfully pull off an ending that leaves the reader satisfied even though many characters remain unsaved.

Writing a book about such morally ambivalent characters was a risk for Bollen, both professionally and personally. He shares similarities with Joseph, to the point that the author has had to repeatedly make clear to family and friends that the similarities stop at a superficial level.

Raised in suburban Cincinnati, Bollen, the son of a college professor and the owner of a flooring installation company,

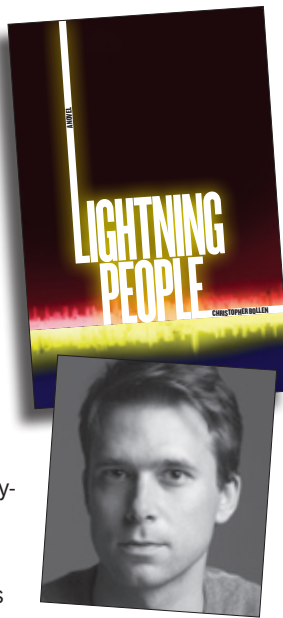


PHOTO: DANKO STEINER

spent childhood summers in New York City with relatives who lived there.

"New York was like a book to me, a way to escape and think outside my dull suburban surroundings," he says.

Columbia was his first choice of colleges, and from the moment he arrived, "I don't think I slept," he says.

He threw himself into his studies. An English and American literature major and self-described nerd, he spent his waking hours reading and writing, worshipping poetry professors Kenneth Koch and Colette Inez and University Professor Gayatri Spivak.

"She taught comp lit like it was as important as a U.N. resolution," Bollen says of Spivak. "The lessons I learned from that were as much about life as about these texts on literature. Years later, I would quote her and pretend they were my own insights."

After graduating summa cum laude, Bollen hung around the Lower East Side for a year, waiting tables and working at an art gallery to cover the rent. The gallery job led to an internship in Italy with the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

He returned to New York soon after and started a career in magazines, rising through the ranks at a variety of publications as a writer and editor before becoming editor-in-chief of *Interview* in 2008.

"I was too young and didn't have the ability to write novels at that time," he says. "It was the only way I knew how to make money writing. I regret that I waited so long."

In his 20s, Bollen had taken notes to prepare to write *Lightning People*, but when he turned 30, he realized that he needed to start the serious process of completing the book. He spent four years writing after work and on weekends.

Two years ago, he stepped down from his position at *Interview*, taking the title of editor at large, a part-time position where he still does interviews and writes articles but which allows him to spend more time focused on writing fiction.

Although Bollen does not plan to give up magazine writing completely, he will continue writing fiction, striving for the creative and commercial success that would drive so many of his characters insane with jealousy.

"My agent made me start writing my second book before the first one came out," he says. "I didn't want the reviews to influence or terrorize me."

**Ethan Rouen '04J, '11 Business** is the former associate editor at CCT and now works in strategic communications for Columbia. A former crime reporter at The New York Daily News, he is a regular contributor to *Fortune.com*, *American Way* and other publications.

**Europe** by *Elisheva Carlebach*, the Salo Wittmayer Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture and Society. This book examines how *sifrei evronot*, European Jewish calendars/almanacs of the 15th–18th centuries, reflected both Jews' values and beliefs and their interaction with Christian society (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, \$35).

**EyeMinded: Living and Writing Contemporary Art** by *Kellie Jones*, associate professor of art history and archaeology. Jones brings awareness to the work of women, African-American, African and Latin artists who have created their own art practices, through selections of her writings from the past 20 years (Duke University Press, \$27.95).

**Perspectives on the Performance of the Continental Economies** edited by *Edmund S. Phelps*, the McVickar Professor of Political Economy, and *Hans-Werner Sinn*. Leading economists use various methods to explain Europe's economic underperformance in productivity and other metrics against real-world data (The MIT Press, \$40).

**Scribble, Scribble, Scribble: Writing on Politics, Ice Cream, Churchill, and My Mother** by *Simon Schama*, University Professor. In this collection of essays and speeches, Schama writes about an array of topics from art to history and everything in between (Ecco, \$27.99).

*Samantha Jean-Baptiste '13*



# Class Notes

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**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
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New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

**Armen Matigan '35** is 99 years young. He retired from dentistry in 1986 and has a son, Robert. Armen spends much of his time relaxing at home in Glendale, Calif. He recalls a favorite Contemporary Civilization professor, Walter, whose last name he can't remember, whom Armen says became president of City University.

Can anyone help with the professor's last name?

**Irwin Grossman '36** wrote from Roslyn, N.Y., "I noticed that my oldest friend, **Arnold Saltzman '36**, carried the 1936 banner at the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day in May. The 'perfect '36,' as we used to say. On October 1, Arnold celebrated his 95th birthday. He is still going strong and goes to work in New York every day. He is active in the local museum and lots of other matters. He comes to visit me, as I can't get around anymore.

"The only other classmate I hear from is **Sol Fisher '36**. We went to high school, college and law school together. He lives in California and keeps the lumen lit. He bombards the world with wild email, semi-left-wing. He was that way in high school and hasn't changed though he became a corporate lawyer.

"I am past 96, beat-up and biodegrading at a rapid pace. However, I feel better when I recall the rainy day we beat Stanford in the bowl and **Al Barabas '36** made the sole touchdown on a Statue of Liberty play with **Cliff Montgomery '34** as QB faking. Them wuz the days."

From class president **Arnold Saltzman '36** himself, "I marched at the head of the procession of the past classes carrying our '1936' banner honoring the current graduating class. I was wearing the sweater with our class numerals awarded to those who played on a freshman team. The second class was 20 years later than I.

"A roar of approval from the seated graduates greeted me, with fists raised and kisses blown, as I moved by their ranks. We were, as you remember 'the perfect '36.'"

**David Perlman '39**, of San Francisco, wrote, "I'm still working for a living — science editor at the *San Francisco Chronicle* — daily and sometimes nightly." [Editor's note: CCT profiled Perlman in Novem-

ber/December 2009: college.columbia.edu/cct/nov\_dec09/features.]

**Jerome Kurshan '39**, of Princeton, N.J., wrote, "The Latin inscription on my Columbia diploma says I received honors in math and physics. I earned a Ph.D. in physics from Cornell in 1943 and spent the next 44 years at RCA Laboratories in Princeton, first doing research in electronics and then in various management and administrative positions. Since retirement I have remained active as treasurer of the Princeton Macintosh Users' Group, as recorder for 55PLUS, as librarian for the Jewish Center of Princeton and as president and board member of the local Jewish Federation.

"My wife, Phyllis, and I celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary this year. We have two children; five grandchildren, including Ariella Kurshan '06; and three great-grandchildren.

"I had some excellent instructors at Columbia and it is hard to single out any one. Instead, let me mention Dr. Edward Hodnett, who was the faculty adviser and director of the Debate Council, of which I was manager in my junior year. He took over after the death of longtime director Arthur W. Riley and guided the group to new heights of activity. He also gave me personal assistance in crafting my address as class salutatorian at Commencement."

Share your memories and news with friends and classmates by sending a Class Note to the postal or email address at the top of the

bia functions. He and I met on the freshman track team and had been friends ever since. Bob served in the Army during WWII, graduated from the Law School and worked for North American Philips for almost 40 years. He was e.v.p. and general counsel.

**John McDonald** passed away in June in Allentown, Pa. Jack had practiced law in Pennsylvania during his working days.

This kind of column is depressing. How about forcing me to write an interesting one by sending me info and news about yourself that we can distribute to your classmates? Otherwise I might start writing about my 12 great-grandchildren, two of whom are now away at college.

## REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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**Melvin Hershkowitz**

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On August 3, *The New York Times* reported the August 2 death of Dr. Baruj Benacerraf '42 GS, Nobel Laureate in Medicine, at his home in Boston. Benacerraf won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1980, with Dr. George Snell of the United States

**The U.S. Court House in Newark, N.J., honored Judge Leonard Garth '42 by inscribing his name on the atrium entrance of the building.**

column, or, even easier, by submitting it online through CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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**Robert Zucker**

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Roslyn, NY 11576

rzucker@optonline.net

A loyal classmate and good friend, **Bob Dettmer**, died at 92 in August at home in Kendal-on-Hudson. Bob and Suzanne, his bride of 63 years, were regulars at our annual Arden House reunions, at the irregular NYC lunches and at other Colum-

and Dr. Jean Dausset of France, for their discoveries of how the human immune system enabled people to defend themselves against infection and why others were susceptible to autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and lupus. Benacerraf discovered what he called immune response genes while conducting research in the 1960s in his laboratory at the NYU School of Medicine, where he was a professor of pathology. His father, born in Morocco, and his mother, born in Algeria, had settled in Paris to conduct his father's textile business and then emigrated to the United States at the start of WWII.

After earning a B.S. in biology, Benacerraf earned his M.D. at the Medical College of Virginia in 1945 and later served as a medical officer in the Army in Germany and France in 1946-47. After leaving NYU School of Medicine in 1966, Benacerraf was chief of the immunology laboratory at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Md. He then became chairman of the Department of Pathology at the Harvard Medical School in 1969 and from 1980-91 was president of the Harvard-affiliated Dana-Farber Cancer Institute until his retirement.

This correspondent met Benacerraf in 1946 at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, where we were assigned to adjacent bunks in our barracks while training as medical officers for overseas assignments. Also in our barracks was my former Livingston Hall roommate, lifelong friend and my predecessor as CCT class correspondent, the late Dr.

**Herbert Mark.** The three of us spent considerable time together before departing for our overseas destinations (Benacerraf to Germany and France, and Herb and myself to Japan). At that time, I spoke fluent German, after intensive studies at Horace Mann and Columbia, and requested duty in the ETO, where I might have joined Benacerraf, but the Army, in its wisdom, sent me to Japan. We had only occasional contact with Benacerraf in subsequent years as our careers progressed. After Benacerraf won the Nobel Prize, Herb and I sent him our congratulations and good wishes. He responded with a gracious note of thanks, which typified his modesty and fine character.

With sadness and great respect, we say farewell to our friend and distinguished GS '42 alumnus, Dr. "Benny" Benacerraf, and we send condolences to his daughter, Beryl; brother, Paul; and his two grandchildren.

On August 2, I received a note from Clara Carli, judicial assistant to Judge **Leonard Garth**, reporting on the June 24 ceremony at the U.S. Court House in Newark, N.J., which honored Len by inscribing his name on the atrium entrance of the building. Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., Third Circuit Chief Judge Theodore McKee and Third Circuit Judge Maryanne Trump Barry escorted Len to the bench and spoke of his exceptional career during his 40 years on the Federal Court. More

than 170 guests attended the proceedings. (See my prior comments about Len in the Fall 2011 issue, page 67, or [college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/class\\_notes](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/class_notes).)

In addition, more than 100 of Len's present and former law clerks met in New York City to celebrate his 90th birthday (April 7). At this gathering, Alito spoke of his clerkship with Len and his service as Len's colleague on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals as well as his current service on the United States Supreme Court.

We send warm congratulations and good wishes to Len, a truly distinguished member of our Class of 1942, and his wife, Sarah.

I have kept in touch via phone calls, email messages and occasional old-fashioned snail mail with **Bob Kaufman** (Scarsdale, N.Y.), **Dr. Gerald Klingon** (New York City), **Don Mankiewicz** (Monrovia, Calif.), **Dr. William Robbins** (Grand Island, Fla.) and **Dr. Arthur "Wizzer" Wellington** (Elmira, N.Y.). Despite numerous and varied physical ailments, all are cognitively intact and actively interested in Columbia affairs. Bob, Gerald, Bill and Art already are members of the Nona-genarian Club and Don will join in January. As Shakespeare told us in *King Lear*, "Ripeness is all."

My plans to attend Homecoming on October 15 were derailed by Middlebury College's Family Visiting Day on that same date. My grandson, Sam Hathaway, is a senior at Middlebury, majoring in physics. This was my last opportunity to see him on that pristine campus, and so there I was, watching the Middlebury-Williams football game, while my thoughts and good wishes were with friends, classmates and CCT's fine staff under the tent at Wien Stadium and at our game versus Penn on Kraft Field. I'm hoping to see some of you at Homecoming in 2012, the 70th anniversary of our graduation from Columbia.

Speaking of our graduation anniversary, our Alumni Reunion Weekend is scheduled for Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. Take a look at the reunion website ([reunion.col](http://reunion.col)

[lege.columbia.edu](http://lege.columbia.edu)) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

I can be reached at the addresses at the top of the column or at 413-586-1517.

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#### G.J. D'Angio

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I first read of Boalsburg, Pa., in a Columbia publication decades ago. It is near the Penn State University campus. The justification for calling attention to the town in this column is this: It contains a direct tie to the word "Columbia." In Boalsburg are to be found the chapel, desk and other accouterments of Christopher Columbus himself. It is well worth a visit.

The town has other claims to fame: the remarkable Boal family, descended from Columbus. It is also said to be where Memorial Day was started by concerned ladies. They feared the Civil War dead were being forgotten. Go to the web for more information.

On a trip to the Hudson Valley I visited Clermont, the Livingston estate and grounds in Germantown, N.Y. R.R. Livingston (Class of 1765), one of the founding fathers, lived there.

My wife and I have been traveling; first to England in early September to attend the funeral of her sister. We then doubled back to Amsterdam later in September for a medical meeting and extended our steps to Sittard in the South to revisit her brother Pat's grave. He is buried in the British War Cemetery there and was but 21 when the tank he was commanding was destroyed. It was during the 1944 Battle of Geilenkirchen in Germany. We later went to Auckland, New Zealand, for another medical meeting, after all, funds for the trip having been secured. It's a great country, particularly the southern island, but a long way all the same.

Please send me a note regarding whatever you think might interest our classmates: your trips, hobbies or maybe discovery of a notable Columbia graduate. Challenge: Can anyone top my 1765 King's College alumnus mentioned earlier; in other words, find an earlier grad?

Sending a note is easily done either through this link: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) or directly to me through my email: [dangio@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:dangio@uphs.upenn.edu).

Sad news:

**Leon Komoroski's** wife of 67 years informed us from Brightwaters, N.Y., that he died on April 22. Leon was 90 and had served as a radar officer in the Navy during WWII. He returned to teach mathematics at Bay Shore H.S., where he also was the football coach. **Charles C. Cole Jr.**, of Columbus, Ohio, died on June 18, 2010. He was a retired professor and past president of Wilson College in Pennsylvania. **Alvin Lukashok**, of New York City, died on June 20. **Theodore E. Plucinski**, a physician who lived in Brooklyn, N.Y., died on April 1. And **Sidney Warschausky**, a teacher from Ann Arbor, Mich., died on April 9.

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#### Henry Rolf Hecht

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September saw publication of prolific writer **Joseph Cowley's** ESL adaptation of Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* as well as a separate Japanese version (with cover and intro copy in Japanese, but contents in English). It involves

AAF sent me to MIT — a plus for a math and physics major. After I was commissioned, I forecasted weather for the Air Transport Command and later worked with a P38 photo squadron on Leyte. Claim to fame: lucky me, I never lost a pilot or plane for which I did the forecast.

"After much transfer credit from MIT, I got my B.A. from the College and an M.A. and Ed.D. from Teachers College. I taught math for eight years and I got into school administration for seven years. The next seven years I spent with an educational consulting firm serving more than 100 school districts at the time. Finally, I spent 17 years as a superintendent.

"My wife of 61 years, Joan, and I have three children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Joan swims laps at YWCA every weekday and volunteers at the church and library. She's also found time to write four cookbooks. I play golf twice a week with a large local senior group, shoot handguns in matches and raise bonsai.

"So there you have a quick summary of much of my life."

### Joseph Cowley '44 published an ESL adaptation of Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* as well as a separate Japanese version.

"basically abridging and simplifying the novel," primarily for foreign students coming to study here, "but any student — and, for that matter, any adult — interested in literary works might find it interesting and helpful. And that includes my grandchildren in college and high school." Next for Joe is an adaptation of Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. The tasks are "challenging, but interesting."

Share your memories and news with friends and classmates by sending a Class Note to me at the postal or email address at the top of the column, or, even easier, by submitting it online through CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). It will come right to me.

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#### Enoch Callaway

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**James Boyd** wrote: "We last got together in the Delta Phi house on 116th Street. Tracy Scudder recommended that I get into the Army Air Force meteorological program, so I enlisted on January 6, 1943.

**Albert Rothman**, also '44E, wrote: "It is gratifying at my late age to continue to be published. Recently, I was informed that *End of the Affair*, a poem, was published in the online July issue of *Front Porch Review* ([frontporchrvw.com/issue/july-2011/article/end-of-the-affair](http://frontporchrvw.com/issue/july-2011/article/end-of-the-affair)). My story *A New Traveler in the Adventure of Love* has been accepted for publication in the anthology *Heartscapes: True Stories of Remembered*."

Your class correspondent has moved. Please note my new address, at the top of the column, and my phone number: 415-888-3715.

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#### Bernard Sunshine

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**Peter Rogatz** continues a distinguished career in medicine and public health, and I asked for his thoughts on issues that are particularly relevant to our generation. They follow.

"After my retirement from a career in health care administration, I became actively involved in issues that had been a matter of in-

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University.

creasing concern to me throughout my professional career: end-of-life problems faced by patients and their families. Scientific and technological advances in medical care have altered the dying experience for many patients. Death, which often came almost unheralded after an acute medical episode, is now more likely to be postponed for many years. This is a welcome development when it means added years of vitality and enjoyment of life. In some instances, however, the technical skills available in the medical armamentarium take the patient beyond these enjoyable added years into a prolonged period of difficult-to-control symptoms and what has come to be known as 'existential suffering.' How society deals with such problems has become a major issue in end-of-life care.

"The confrontation with death can be difficult for all of us in our various roles as physicians, nurses, parents of children and children of parents — uneasy at best and terrifying at worst. I have been struck by the observation that persons nearing the end of life may come to terms with death more readily than family and friends — more readily even than nurses and physicians.

"Is it always in the best interest of the patient to do everything possible to extend life? Are there some occasions when our energetic efforts with ventilators, dialysis and tube feeding are merely prolonging the dying process, rather than extending life in a way that is meaningful for the patient? Such questions are being asked with increasing frequency. The answer is different for every patient but, whenever possible, the answer must come not from those who love the patient or are providing professional care but directly from the patient.

"Even the best physicians using the most advanced technical tools cannot defeat death, but the instinct to hold death at bay as long as possible is strong in the medical profession; some of us want to fight to the bitter end — an end that may indeed be bitter for some patients. Happily, in recent years, a more nuanced approach has evolved. The growing number of hospice programs represents a major resource committed to caring for patients at home and helping them to get the best out of their final months and weeks. Hospitals are developing palliative care programs that offer control of symptoms at a stage when persistent efforts to combat disease may result in pointless suffering.

"More than a decade ago, shortly after my official 'retirement,' seeking an opportunity to contribute to society's approach to such prob-

lems, I co-founded Compassion & Choices of New York ([compassionandchoicesofny.org](http://compassionandchoicesofny.org)), an affiliate of the national organization Compassion & Choices ([compassionandchoices.org](http://compassionandchoices.org)). A small team of professionals and volunteers, supported by a dedicated board of directors, is helping to make a difference. We work with patients who are nearing the end of their lives, helping them and their families to cope with many problems they face.

"What does the patient understand about her/his illness? What does she feel about it? What practical problems must be addressed? Has she completed an advance directive (health care proxy and a living will)? Is she suffering pain, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, anxiety, fear? Has she sought hospice care? Occasionally a patient in an advanced stage of disease experiences distress that cannot be relieved even by skillful palliative techniques and will seek to hasten the moment of her death. What can be done within the limits of the law to advise and help such patients? These are among the problems that our organization seeks to address.

"Beyond one-on-one relationships with patients and families, Compassion & Choices is active in community education and in promoting legislation in New York that will strengthen society's ability to address these problems. We were instrumental in developing the Palliative Care Information Act and the Family Healthcare Decisions Act, both of which became New York State law in 2010. These current multi-pronged efforts, including individual counseling, legislation and education of the public and health care professionals, represent significant steps toward a more thoughtful and humane approach to end-of-life care."

Join the discussion and send your comments and thoughts on this subject to me. They will appear in this column.

**Irving Ackerman** wrote from Los Angeles: "I listened to the conversation (on TV; also available online: [video.pbs.org/video/2008416709](http://video.pbs.org/video/2008416709)) with **Richard Heffner** and former Dean Michele Moody-Adams and found it most interesting. I, too, felt the four terms of the Core Curriculum were eye-openers and mind-enhancers that I thoroughly enjoyed taking and that have made a great and good difference in my subsequent thinking and how I view the world."

Irv practiced medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and for many years with Kaiser Permanente in Los Angeles. He recalls medical school at P&S with **Warren Glaser** and **Martin Silbersweig**.

I ran into **Fritz Stern**, whose dis-

tinguished Columbia CV includes University Provost and University Professor (emeritus). Author of highly regarded works on Germany and Europe, he continues globe-hopping for lectures and conferences and keeps adding to his list of awards and honors.

I received a note from **Paul Rotondi**, who now is retired as CEO and chairman of Washington Savings Bank in Hoboken, N.J.

#### REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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**Merton Reichler**, of East Setauket, N.Y., writes, "At 85, after a career of college teaching (since 1962 at SUNY Stony Brook), I now teach Roman history and the early U.S. Supreme Court in our large (800-plus) senior citizen organization, which used to be called The Round Table but is now (due to a large grant) called the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

"I have had three wives (all deceased) and have three adult children and six grandchildren, plus a wonderful companion; she is retired from college teaching of English and American literature. So far, as you can see, my health is good enough to permit these activities, so I need no others.

"My favorite professors at Columbia were Larry Chamberlain, Dwight Miner '26 and Lionel Trilling '25. In essence, they taught me to read critically. When I was at the College, there was no 'Core' — or, in a way, it was all Core."

CCT also heard from **Charles (Chuck) Greenwood Wootton** of San Diego. "I'm a retired American diplomat and Chevron international public affairs coordinator. I'm an active volunteer, currently as an Oasis Reading Tutor of second-graders, and was honored to be named 2011 Volunteer of the Year by the San Diego Unified School District.

"I consider the Core the high point of my undergraduate experience."

**George L. Kline** '50 GSAS wrote: "I can't pick a single favorite Columbia professor. Let me rather mention half a dozen professors whose courses I recall with special warmth and gratitude: Joseph Wood Krutch '24 GSAS (18th-century English

literature); Rose Raskin and Leon Stilman '52 GSAS (Russian language and literature); André von Gronicka '42 GSAS (Goethe and Schiller); Meyer Schapiro '24, '35 GSAS (20th-century painting); and John Herman Randall Jr. '18, '22 GSAS (history of philosophy). Von Gronicka, born in Moscow of a Russian mother and a Baltic German father, taught my first college course in Russian. Later both Randall and von Gronicka were helpful members of my dissertation committee. I was happy to be able in 1967 to contribute an essay to Randall's *Festschrift*.

"Another Columbia professor whom I recall warmly and admiringly, though I never took a class from him, was F.W. Dupee. We co-taught Senior Colloquium in 1958-59 and took turns introducing the works to be discussed. Thus, Dupee, the English professor, would introduce Hegel, and I, the philosophy (assistant) professor, would introduce Dickens. We had a brilliant group of students, among them David Rosand '59, '65 GSAS, now the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History Emeritus at Columbia, and Erwin Glikes '59, alas no longer with us, who was president and publisher of Basic Books.

"The Core Curriculum was a treasure. As a returning veteran, I fell in love with the sweep of Humanities A (from Homer to Dostoevsky). Teaching that course several times between 1950 and 1959 was for me a tough but exciting 'learning experience.'

"As for my current work: 1) I'm trying to complete the Kline Archive at Yale's Beinecke Library: correspondence with Joseph Brodsky (Nobel laureate 1987) and with other Russians, drafts of talks and translations and so forth; 2) I'm revising my *Joseph Brodsky: Selected Poems* (with foreword by W.H. Auden, 1973) for republication by Farrar, Straus and Giroux; and 3) I'm working on the 40th article I've produced since retiring from Bryn Mawr College in 1991. Meantime, my patient wife, Virginia, has put up with me for almost 69 years."

Former CCT correspondent **Bert Sussman**'s wife, Shirley '46 GSAS, passed away on October 30. She earned a master's in public administration from Columbia, and her mentor was Professor McMahon. In 1946, Shirley was administrative assistant to first-term Rep. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) and at JFK's request set up his office as she did the Javits office across the hall from JFK. She was part of the team that wrote the Marshall Plan. Says Bert, "Understatement of the century: It was my privilege and pleasure to have loved her."

Share your memories and news with classmates by sending a Class

Note to the email address at the top of the column, or, even easier, by submitting it online through CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

If you are interested in becoming CCT's Class of '47 class correspondent, please contact Alexis Tonti '11 Arts, Class Notes editor, at [alt2129@columbia.edu](mailto:alt2129@columbia.edu) or 212-851-7485 for more information.

Please mark your calendar for the class' 65th Alumni Reunion Weekend, scheduled for Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. Take a look at the reunion website ([reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu)) for some preliminary information. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

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I'm sorry to say that the only news I have to share this time is an obituary.

**Harry E. Ekblom**, a banker, attorney and management consultant, died on August 28 at his home in Osterville, Mass. He was 83 and the husband of Elizabeth H. (Betty) Ekblom for 61 years. Harry was born in New York City. He graduated from the NYU School of Law and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1957. He attended the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School in 1970.

During his 33-year banking career, Harry spent 20 years as a senior officer at The Chase Manhattan Bank, now known as JPMorgan Chase Bank. At Chase, he held a number of diverse positions including general manager, London Branches, and officer-in-charge of Western Europe, as well as leading the bank's business in the Caribbean and Canada and head of the Commodities Lending Division. Following his career at Chase, Harry was elected chairman, president and CEO of European American Bank in New York in 1970. Upon the bankruptcy of the Franklin National Bank in 1974, EAB purchased the branches and other viable assets of Franklin from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and thereby became the largest bank on Long Island. EAB was later acquired by Citigroup.

Harry retired from EAB in 1983 and became an independent contractor to A.T. Hudson, a management consulting firm in New Jersey, where he spent 10 years as a non-executive adviser.

He fought with the 40th Infantry Division in Korea during 1951–52 and was awarded the Commenda-

tion Ribbon with Metal Pendant for meritorious service.

In addition to his wife, Harry is survived by their children, Harry E. Jr. of Wellesley, Mass., Maryann E. Cudd of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Neil H. of Ridgewood, N.J.; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Please share *your* memories and news with classmates by sending a Class Note to me at the email address at the top of the column.

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Writing in September for December perusal presents an interesting platform. As you read this, events about which there is speculation may have found resolution. At the very least, the weather will provide us with more or less ammunition for the arguments regarding climate change. And with respect to that matter, let us hope that politics takes a back seat to science and also that a new iceberg, larger than some countries, crumbles to less ominous bits of floating hazards.

Perhaps the most interesting news of the new school year has been the situation regarding the Dean's Office. While there has been considerable on-the-record inquiry and testimony, the consequences of the changes will only be clear over time. We wish the interim dean success in his efforts.

Most significant is the interest and email exchange among our class members. It is so very heartening to note that regardless of graduation having been more than 60 years ago, we remain strongly attached and involved. Those four years as undergraduates gave us a gift that we continue to repay enthusiastically with interest and concern. I thank **Bill Lubic** and **Joe Russell** in particular for their lively and informative exchanges.

A "first ever" submission to this column arrived in my email from the CCT website ([college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note)) submitted by an "anonymous user." The vagaries and mysteries of our digital age have created a new language among many other alterations to our perception of events. I certainly would never have tried to hide my identity in submitting the following:

"**Burton Silverman**, whose portrait of now-deceased Dr. **Robert Butler** '53 P&S was presented at the 60th class reunion in 2009, will be having a retrospective exhibition of his work at the Hofstra University Museum. The exhibition will run until December 16 and includes 28 works executed over the last decade. Burt has had a 60-year career

as an illustrator and painter with numerous distinguished awards and presence in major museum collections."

We are all in debt to Burt for his contribution to our last reunion as well as for the work of his career, now currently on exhibit. We offer our congratulations.

Winter is nigh and with it, the promise of spring. That allows

landscape."

Showing no inclination to retire, Buddy has been active with numerous professional associations and continues to strive to improve the lives of his clients and the legal landscape in which he operates.

**Ed Kessler** writes from Oklahoma to report the death of his wife of nearly 61 years, Lottie Catherine Menger, last May. Ed and Lottie

## The New York Real Estate Journal designated **Hubert (Buddy) Brandt '50** in May as its "Executive of the Month."

ample time for all of you to send me your notes, scribbles, pictures, whatever ... CCT is now on schedule with the seasons, so get on board!

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Special recognition was accorded **Hubert (Buddy) Brandt** as the *New York Real Estate Journal* designated him in May as its "Executive of the Month." Buddy's professional status is that of partner in the law firm Brandt, Steinberg & Lewis in Manhattan, but his connection with real estate is based on his firm's concentration in property-tax appeals and condemnation. It is a path he has followed since 1954 with the firm founded by his father in 1932. The *Journal's* citation reads: "Attorney Hubert Brandt has been molding the legal landscape in Manhattan for over 50 years." And he has been, the *Journal* went on, "a staple in the ever-changing

were classmates in high school in Corpus Christi, Texas, where Ed lived during WWII while his father served in China under General Claire Lee Chennault, who commanded the famed "Flying Tigers."

**Bernie Prudhomme** reminisces that his four years at Columbia were among the more memorable events in his life and he sends best wishes to all classmates. Retired since 1991, he noted that there have been ups and downs but he is grateful for good health that has allowed him to remain active.

**Rudy Weingartner's** second edition of his book *Fitting Form to Function: A Primer on the Organization of Academic Institutions*, referred to in a previous Class Notes, was published in June. Readers can check out [rowmanlittlefield.com](http://rowmanlittlefield.com); enter keyword "Weingartner."

Sadly, we report three deaths: **Dr. Arthur S. Campbell** of Upper Saddle River, N.J. (July); **William J. Hill** of Weston, Conn. (September 2010); and **Rev. S. Neale Morgan** of Shepherdstown, W.Va. (April 2010).

## Help Support CCT

**C**olumbia College Today brings you news of your alma mater and profiles of its people you won't find anywhere else. Wherever you are — Los Angeles, Louisville, London or the Lower East Side — CCT is the best way to stay connected with your classmates and with Columbia.

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We greatly appreciate your support, and ask that you stay in touch and share news at [college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus).

**51** **George Koplinka**  
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The resignation in August of Dean Michele Moody-Adams, after her relatively short tenure at the College, surprised many in our class. During last June's campus activities, the dean delivered a presentation on "Morality and the Claims of History." She explored some of the most serious moral obligations that we have as members of our communities and what arises out of choices made not by ourselves but by others. Her thought-provoking conclusions will no doubt further her successful career in the field of education. We all wish her well in her future endeavors and thank her for her significant contributions to Columbia.

Here are some concluding comments and reflections on our 60th reunion. At the Friday cocktail party at the Columbia University Club, **David Zinman** staged a reading of an original work, "Pig-tails in the Outfield." The story described a Little League coach who gets a young girl on his team and they go through a baseball season that changes both their lives. The cast included David as the coach, **Elliot Wales** as a kibitzer in the audience and Elliot's wife, Fran, as the "pigtailed" Little Leaguer. David's books include *The Day Huey Long Was Shot* and *Strom in Limbo*, a story about the late Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

On June 4, the ever-popular Austin Quigley, a former dean of the College and now a member of the faculty, served as our after-lunch speaker. His reputation for keeping an audience spellbound is world-renowned. Once again his remarks about his tenure as dean, campus life, the Core Curriculum at Columbia and conclusions about the future of education in America were philosophical and thought-provoking. When asked if he ever thought about becoming the president of a college or university, Dean Quigley was quick to point out that such a position would remove him from close contact with his students and deprive him of what has really given him the most satisfaction in his career.

During reunion festivities, classmates and friends enjoyed a Saturday afternoon panel discussion as members of the class shared their professional talents and led lively discussions. Many thanks to panelists **Ralph Lowenstein**, **Myron "Mickey" Winick**, **Andrew Sarris** and **J. Mason Gentzler Jr.** for their leadership and participation. Later in the evening, following the class dinner, Columbia's basket-

ball coach, Kyle Smith, presented plaques honoring the members of the Class of 1951 "Columbia Hall of Fame" basketball team. Recipients included **John Azary** and **Robert Sullivan**, who are no longer living, as well as **Frank Lewis**, **Tom Powers Sr.** and **Gerry Evans**, team manager. In his comments, coach Smith discussed the opportunities to lift the Lions to the next level and move ahead of Penn and Princeton as perennial Ivy League champions. Hopefully, his successful tenure at St. Mary's on the West Coast, along with some 20 years of coaching experience, will continue to invigorate future basketball activity in Levien Gym.

Here is a short story about **Robert Sullivan**, who died on April 12. "Sully" was an ardent Catholic and supposedly this anecdote could be called "Sin and Redemption." During the championship year, in the final seconds in the game against Princeton, when the Lions were protecting a narrow lead, Bobby mistakenly called for a timeout when Columbia had none. The referee's penalty gave the Tigers the opportunity to score the go-ahead points to win the game. During the ensuing in-bound pass, Sully stole the ball, ran the length of the court and scored the winning field goal as time expired. Redemption at last!

In a recent letter to CC '51 alumni, **Robert Snyder**, class president, reported that 106 class members together contributed more than \$102,500 to the Columbia College Fund, placing us second among all previous 60th anniversary classes in this regard. Congratulations to the donors. In addition, gifts to the class treasury have covered incidental expenses related to the reunion and left a balance of \$337 to use as a kitty for our 65th reunion in 2016. Can we increase the attendance at the next reunion from the 123 classmates, family and friends who attended this year?

Dean's Pins are given to members of each class' Reunion Committee who have demonstrated particular dedication and involvement in their reunion. The members who received Dean's Pins this reunion were **Joseph Ambrose Jr.**, **David Berman**, **Willard Block**, **Joseph Buda**, **Robert Flynn**, **J. Mason Gentzler Jr.**, **Mark Kaplan**, **George Koplinka**, **Harvey Krueger**, **Robert Osnos**, **George Prozan**, **Stanley Schachter**, **Robert Snyder**, **Leonard Stoeher**, **Elliot Wales**, **Myron Winick** and **David Zinman**.

**Jim Lowe** has worked diligently since the Vietnam War for the return of the NROTC program to the Columbia campus. On May 26, Columbia President Lee C.

Bollinger and U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus signed an agreement of their intention to reinstate the NROTC at Columbia for the first time in more than 40 years. It's a start. Midshipmen would begin training at SUNY Maritime College and hopefully the NROTC program would return to the Morningside campus some day.

Jim, from those of us who understand that the rift between American citizens and the military is neither preferable nor permanent, thank you for your perseverance.

*Columbia College Today* is now published quarterly, with the seasons. You are reminded that you now have more time to submit information to your Class Notes correspondent. If you would like to have a photograph of the 60th reunion attendees, please send me an email, or download and print it from here: [college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/reunion#classphotos](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/reunion#classphotos). A few 60th Reunion Directories are still available, too.

Please support *Columbia College Today*. Send a check, made payable to *Columbia College Today*, in care of Karen Iorio, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 1st Fl, New York, NY 10025, or give online: [college.columbia.edu/cct/giving](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/giving). It would be helpful in covering the expenses for this great publication. Every little bit helps!

Meanwhile, holiday greetings and best wishes for the New Year!

#### REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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December 22, and the winter solstice arrives. The Northern Hemisphere ushers in winter. The cold winds blow, the snowflakes fly. Hats, coats and gloves we must apply. The days are short, the nights are long. It seems more difficult for people to get along.

We spend much more time indoors and we turn up the heat. However, reading a good book, in a warm easy chair, is hard to beat. Many of us love to ski, and ice skating is really a lot of fun. My wife and I have decided to run, to Florida.

Everybody "keep cool" and stay warm.

**Geoffrey Brown:** Retired after 35 years teaching theater at Marlboro

College in Vermont, he is writing and performing one-man shows on various quintessential Americans including Nathaniel Hawthorne, Theodore Roosevelt, Jackson Pollock and Dr. Benjamin Spock.

Here's a guy we haven't heard from in a long, long time: **Don Roermann**, who for the first two years at Columbia did the commute to 116th Street in his 1930 Model A Ford! While Don majored in geology and went on to graduate from Indiana with an M.B.A. in petroleum geology, he ended up in the NYC suburbs as a v.p., commercial lending, with The Bank of New York. He retired in the late '80s and has kept himself busy playing lots of bridge and doing some volunteer work. For many years, Don was an instructor in AARP's safe driving class. Feeling lucky to have continued to live in the beautiful Hudson Valley region near West Point, Don, with his wife of 56 years, Betty, spends much time with their two daughters and sons-in-law, who also live in the Northeast. Of four grandchildren, one is married and another will take the vows next year. Betty and Don are looking forward to being great-grandparents. Let's hope it happens soon!

**John Krajcir** writes, "In 2002 I received a surprise gift in the mail from Chicago. It was a beautiful album, titled *Columbia Fencing: The Golden Years 1951-1955*. Teammate Ted Reuter '54 painstakingly put together copies of all the articles on fencing published in *Spectator* from 1951-55. I was honored to be part of those golden years in '51 and '52 as well as in '48, when I was awarded a full scholarship to Columbia. In 1951, we won both the Eastern Intercollegiate and the NCAA in Champaign, Ill., with Bob Nielsen '51 (foil), **Dan Chafetz** (epee), yours truly (saber) and our great coach, Joe Velarde, who recently was named to the US Fencing Coaches Hall of Fame. It was a great trip down memory lane. But the best was yet to come!

"Ted informed me that coach Velarde was living in Northern California, just 70 miles away. I called him, and my wife, Nora, and I got together for lunch with the coach and his lovely wife, Carol. This was our first meeting in 50 years, since we both left Columbia in 1952.

"We spent three wonderful hours catching up and reliving some of those great memories Ted put together. We plan to meet again and continue the journey.

"Thanks to Ted for bringing us together.

"I am retired after a 38-year career with DuPont as a West Coast marketing manager in the Polymer Products Department. Nora and I

# Joe Sirola '51 Is an Actor for All Seasons

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

**T**he lights come up. The gravelly voice rumbles from behind the curtain.

"All the world's a stage," intones **Joe Sirola '51**, strolling into view, black pullover and dark slacks highlighting his rough-hewn, tanned face and silver hair. "And all the men and women merely players ..."

It is, of course, Jaques' soliloquy from *As You Like It*. Before the evening is out, Sirola will deliver 23 monologues from 11 of Shakespeare's plays, assaying characters as diverse as Caliban, Petruchio, Hotspur, Macbeth, Hamlet, Lear and Prospero. For good measure, he will dispense three sonnets as well.

This is *Ages of Man*, a solo piece first performed by John Gielgud in 1957. Today, Sirola does it for free in school auditoriums, libraries, private clubs and other venues for students, scholars and anyone else who craves a dose of the Bard. (Those who can't catch him live can always get the DVD.)

It is the culmination of some 50 years of acting, during which time Sirola has worked with Clint Eastwood, Rock Hudson, Eve Arden, Ed Begley Sr. and Gina Lollobrigida, and appeared in such familiar fare as *NYPD Blue*, *Rhoda*, the original *Hawaii Five-O*, *The Untouchables* and *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*

*Ages* also is a sly evocation of Sirola's undergraduate days. "At Columbia they said to me, 'Go home on Wednesday, read *Julius Caesar*, and come back on Friday,'" he recalls, laughing. "If I'd had this DVD in class, I would have appreciated it more."

Sirola was not a natural-born thespian. In fact, he says, "I had no desire to act in my life." The son of Croatian immigrants — his father was a carpenter and his mother ran a 15-room boarding house at 363 W. 19th St. in Chelsea — Sirola graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. At the College he majored in business



Actor Joe Sirola '51 (left) with fellow actor David McCallum (NCIS, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*) on Sirola's terrace in Manhattan in June at his annual "Champagne and Roses" party, where guests greet the blooming of his 18 bushes.

PHOTO: RUSS WEATHERFORD

under what was then called the professional option; outside of class he was on the swimming and freshman baseball teams. He also played football; his position, he recalls, was "on the bench."

After a 15-month stint in Korea, Sirola joined Kimberly-Clark as a sales promotion manager. But the work was boring and his girlfriend told him, "You're much more than a salesman." So at 28, he quit and took several arts courses at Hunter College, including one in acting and directing. "We worked eight hours a day and my instructor said, 'Make your mistakes on stage.'"

And he did. In 1958, Sirola debuted Off-Broadway for \$15 a week in *Song for a Certain Midnight*. "It was terrible. One reviewer called it *Song for a Wrong Key*. But Brooks Atkinson said, 'Attention should be paid to Joe Sirola, who combined brutishness with tender remorse.'" Almost immediately Sirola's career took off; within two years he was on Broadway in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* while also starring in the CBS soap opera *The Brighter Day*. "Tallulah Bankhead said I was her favorite

actor. She had it written into her contract that during her rehearsals, she had to stop working between 3:00 and 3:30 so she could watch the show."

Since then, Sirola's motion pictures have included *The Greatest Story Ever Told* and *Hang 'Em High*; among his small-screen roles have been two villains on *Get Smart* (notably the evil Bronzefinger, who paints his victims to death) and the voice of Dr. Doom on the animated *The Fantastic Four*. Sirola is proudest, though, of two appearances on Steve Allen's talk show, *Meeting of Minds*, which depicted historical figures engaging in verbal sparring: He played both Tom Paine and Sir Thomas More.

One thing that has eluded him is a continuing TV series. Sirola had high hopes for his part as the patriarch of an Italian-American family in the 1975 series *The Montefuscos*, the brainchild of Bill Persky and Sam Denoff, who created *That Girl*. "I thought it was a sure thing. We did eight shows and got great reviews. But they put us opposite *The Waltons*. Then in 1989 I was in *Wolf* and they put us opposite *Roseanne*. So

my luck hasn't been too good."

Actually, it has been very good in another area: *The Wall Street Journal* once dubbed Sirola "King of the Voiceovers" for his ubiquitous narration of radio and TV commercials. He has pitched for Mobil, Ford, GE, Hertz, Vicks, Boar's Head, Wendy's and many others. He is even the voice of the Empire State Building Tour. He broke through, he says, by eschewing the avuncular tone that other pitchmen had used. "Not knowing any better, I used the mic as a person. I spoke to the audience rather than at them. I went from \$3,200 a year to a million a year for 20 years."

"Joe, as far as I know, is the most successful voiceover artist ever," says Morrow Wilson '61. "I met him 30 or 40 years ago when we were both doing voiceovers for Prell. He had the 60-second spot and I was doing the 30-second one. Enter Joe with a box full of every kind of imaginable muffin and donut, plus coffee. In that effervescent way of his, he offered it to everyone in the room. I remember thinking, 'My God, no wonder this guy works all the time. Apart from having this wonderful, sonorous voice, he gives everyone breakfast!'"

These days, when not declaiming as Richard III or serving as VW spokesperson "Sluggo Patterson," Sirola can often be found holding forth with Wilson and other friends at the Players, a private theatrical club on Gramercy Park. When he is dressed up, he often sports a red rose in his lapel that he has clipped from one of the bushes in his penthouse garden on East 66th Street. "I wear one all the time," he says. "Except when I do cowboys."

**Thomas Vinciguerra '85, '86J, '90 GSAS** is a regular contributor to *The New York Times* and editor of *Backward Ran Sentences: The Best of Wolcott Gibbs from The New Yorker*.

have three sons, Mike, Steve and Paul, and three grandchildren, Chris, Kaylee and Ryan."

Our 60th Alumni Reunion Weekend is scheduled for Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. Take a look at the reunion website ([reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu)) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

Your reporter thanks you for your contributions and wishes you good health.

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Our exuberant, musically enthusiastic and talented classmate **Howard Pettebone** passed away at his home on July 28 surrounded by his wife, Barbara, and his health aide and friend, Sam Agebese, after an 18-year battle with transverse myelitis and Lewy body dementia.

After graduating from the College, Howard served three years in the Navy as a supply corps officer and then became a C.P.A. at Arthur Young & Co. In 1959, Howard joined the First National Bank of Central Jersey as an installment loan officer. In 1966, he was named v.p. He retired as the president of Bank of America in 1991.

Howard and Barbara had been married since 1955 and their family includes Elaine Ford and her husband, Edwin; Charles Pettebone; and Bonnie Carden and her husband, Tom. They have six grandchildren.

At our 55th reunion in 2008, our classmates were thrilled to hear a recording of Howard's blowing his trumpet at the class dinner under a tent and the stars in Van Am Quad. His triumphant sound recalled happy memories of football games at Baker Field.

One of Howard's many friends, **Jim Higginbottom**, sent me the following email about our special classmate.

"Howard's service was well attended by friends from all stages of his life, including from Columbia. As you might have guessed, he occupied a huge space in the lives of all who knew him, and his trumpet will resound in our ears as long as we are alive. My wife, Patti, and I and our family were tightly bound to him and his family all of our lives, and we all were there to be with them. I visited Howard a month before and all he wanted to do was sing Columbia and SAE songs. We should be glad he came to our 55th via telephone and gave us a memory we can carry to how-

ever many reunions we have left. We know he will be there in spirit."

Howard's vibrancy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed at our 60th reunion in 2013.

I'm terribly sorry to also report that at the age of 80 one of our distinguished, and highly articulate, classmates, **Rolon W. Reed**, passed away on September 18 near his home in Lake County, Fla. Rolon was always famous for his one-liners, and he is reported to have said that he wanted the following carved on his gravestone: "I had a ball."

Quite a few years ago, Rolon retired as a partner in the prominent Manhattan law firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. For nearly 10 years in the 1970s and early 1980s, he also served as the mayor and trustee of the Hudson River village of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., until New York Gov. Mario Cuomo appointed him as a Westchester County Court judge.

Rolon will always be remembered as the crusading, hard-working, dedicated classmate we knew as undergraduates. Who could forget that as the managing editor of *Spectator*, Rolon participated in the controversial editorial decision

Rolon is survived by Diana and by his children from his previous marriage to Ann, Rolon A. III of Athens, Greece; Hillary Yeo of Cary, N.C.; and Jennifer Simon of Camden, Maine; by sister Marilyn Mellor of Flowery Branch, Ga.; by grandchildren Samuel Reed, Jordan and Molly Yeo; and Ella Simon; and by his beloved dog, Jesse.

I'm certain we'll remember Rolon as a towering, talented, exciting classmate. Life was always alive when he was in the room!

If you have stories about Howard or Rolon, would you take a moment to email your anecdotes? I'll be delighted to insert them into the next column.

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#### Howard Falberg

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I have been so pleased to hear from a good number of our classmates, who responded to a survey I sent out.

**Bob Schaefer** went on to P&S and then interned at Stanford Hospital & Clinics. After completing military service, he went to Switzerland and "while there got married

### Ed Cowan '54 and his wife have completed their campaign to see a baseball game in each of the 30 major league ballparks.

to endorse Adlai Stevenson against Dwight Eisenhower in the 1952 presidential election? Those of us who were members of Phi Gamma Delta will never forget his superb intellect, quick wit, passion and creative thinking. He told us then and throughout the years, "There are two types of people in government: those who want to do good, and those who want to do well." Even as an undergraduate, Rolon showed signs of becoming a "charismatic contrarian" who thrived on crusading and controversy.

As the mayor of Dobbs Ferry, Rolon set out to fight corruption and championed reasonable development and the preservation of open space. Never losing his endearing sense of humor, townspeople fondly remember Rolon presiding over board meetings wearing a navy blue T-shirt that said "Irate Taxpayer" in large white letters. Voters appreciated his courage and far-sighted leadership by overwhelmingly reelecting him to two additional terms.

Following his court service, in 1989, Rolon and his wife, Diana, relocated to their country home in the Lake Jem area outside Mount Dora.

to my wife of 49 years, Doris." After military service, Bob did advanced medical work in both California and later in the state of Washington. He was on the faculty of the University of Washington for seven years and then went into the private practice of radiology in Bellevue, Wash. Bob retired in 1994. He has been involved with volunteer work with the Seattle Opera. His fond memories at Columbia are "some really excellent professors — Jack Stein (German) and Douglas Moore (music) and laughing my head off in geology class while listening to **Saul Turteltaub**."

**David Williams** retired in 1998 and is professor emeritus at the University of Memphis. He wrote a book that was published in 2007, and he collects information on the history of music theory (his specialty). David wrote, "I have many fond memories of Columbia, but I have drifted apart from my roommates: **Larry Gartner, Mike Naver, Brian Tansey** and **Dan Wakefield** '55."

I know that David would love to hear from those four.

Speaking of **Saul Turteltaub**, he recently had his second knee replacement, and things are going

well. "I guess I am retired, not having a series to write or produce after 50 years, but I am still writing freelance — a novel and memoirs. Send my best wishes to all classmates. Can't think of one I didn't like."

**Ed Cowan** and his wife, Ann Louise, have completed their campaign (which began in 2000) to see a baseball game in each of the 30 Major League ballparks. They are both great fans of the sport and as Ed says, "The collateral benefit was that we took in a great deal of America on side trips, such as Minneapolis and Lake Superior, Houston and the Texas Hill Country, Atlanta and a stunning museum display of quilts from southern Alabama."

Ed adds that they enjoy summering in northern New Hampshire. While back in Washington, he plans to continue his occasional pro bono writing about D.C. government as well as editing. "In D.C. I see several classmates — chiefly, **David Bardin, Don Crabill** and **Herb Hagerty**. I am pleased to note that the youngest of our three children, Rachel Cowan Jacobs '90, writes her class' Class Notes for this magazine."

I was pleased to hear from Norma Dallal, wife of **George Dallal**. George had a fall and broke his left hip. He has been active in the Albuquerque community, interviewing applicants for the College and serving as board member of the Albuquerque International Association and the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. Norma writes, "On his behalf I send regards to all his classmates of the Class of '54. Our daughter, Melissa, is a member of the Class of '93."

Get well soon, George!  
**Jack Bloom** responded beautifully to my request for fond memories of his experiences at Columbia. "My freshman year, I was walking with Nick Poulos, who was only at Columbia for his freshman year, along 116th Street toward Morningside Drive and we were both wearing our freshman beanies when who should come by but Dwight D. Eisenhower, at that time the president of Columbia, who upon seeing our beanies stopped and solicitously inquired of us how we were doing, and so on. The whole thing took only a few minutes and ended with his wishing us well ... this event has stuck in my mind all these years. I was never bored at Columbia. Who could be with teachers like Fritz Stern '46, '53 GSAS, Charles Frankel '37, '46 GSAS, Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS, Andrew Chiappe '33, '39 GSAS and Douglas Moore, among others? It has been a good path. Thank you, Columbia."

**Hank Buchwald** continues to work "full time as professor of sur-

gery and biomedical engineering at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. I have cut back on my operating room time and increased my dedication to research, writing, meetings and other academic activities, avoiding administrative responsibilities.

"I have fond memories of all my academic studies at Columbia and continually reminisce about my time on the swimming team. I have one major regret about my time at Columbia; namely, that I left after my third year on professional option to attend P&S, and then returned to graduate with our class. That fourth year, which I would have devoted solely to non-pre-med studies, would have represented a year of pleasure. My advice to Columbians today would be to enjoy the full four years and not be in such a hurry to start a professional lifetime."

If any classmates either live in or near Minneapolis, I would suggest that they contact Hank. He is extraordinary in many ways.

**Serge Gavronsky** is semi-retired from the faculty at Barnard. He will teach a final semester in the spring. He is the author of several novels, poetry in French and in English as well as a translator of Louis Zukofsky's *A*. Serge also has been involved with painting. His daughter graduated from Barnard. He remembers with satisfaction "seminars with Lionel Trilling ['25, '38 GSAS] and Jacques Barzun ['27, '32 GSAS] ... working on WKCR and tiny roles in the CC theatrical production ... and I mean *tiny*."

**Tom Paonessa** has a full life despite being retired. He is involved with "investments; listening to classical music; an interest in wines including visiting wineries, tasting and collecting; and travel. We have been to New Zealand, Australia, Alaska and Israel. Through the years we have visited most of the National Parks in western United States and Canada. We have been east once to see a childhood friend in New Jersey and visit relatives in Virginia as well as historical sites in Pennsylvania and Virginia."

Tom's fond memories of Columbia include "being manager of the varsity baseball team, working in the College cafeteria and a snack bar at Baker Field during football seasons, and enjoying going to classical music concerts at Carnegie Hall."

It's always good to hear from **John Timoney**, who now is fully retired. He writes, "After more than 20 years with W.R. Grace & Co. in South America and in the United States, I joined Applied Science International, where I was employed until 1997. From 2000–11 I was a director of Omnicare, an

institutional pharmacy, originally a subsidiary of W.R. Grace. I am now a director of International School Services, a nonprofit in Princeton where my wife, Ana, and I live. ISS operates schools in China and the Caribbean.

"Ana and I have four children — all attended Columbia. Two sons graduated from the College, one from GS and our daughter graduated from Barnard. They also attended Columbia graduate schools. Our grandson is now a freshman at Engineering."

John adds, "One of my fondest memories was a conversation with Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS in fall 1950 in Hamilton Hall. We talked about the British cardinal, John Newman."

If you haven't read John's book, *From La Paz to Princeton*, I strongly recommend it. If you want a copy, please let John know; he'll send it by "snail mail."

I feel sad about ending this class report by having to tell you that **George Fadok** passed away on July 17. He was a warm, caring individual and will be missed greatly by his family and friends.

I have a good number of responses to my request for information. If you haven't responded yet, please do so. If there is not enough room in one issue of Class Notes, I will add the responses to the next issue.

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As most of you already know, *CCT* has become a quarterly publication — "new and improved," as they call it. Don't think that Columbia has forgotten you. The other "hot news" on campus during the past few months was the resignation of Michele Moody-Adams as Dean of the College. James J. Valentini has settled in quite nicely as the interim dean. Before assuming his new position, Professor Valentini was chair of the chemistry department and was one of the faculty members of the Columbia College Alumni Association.

If you are making plans for 2012, have your "Experiences of a Lifetime by Private Jet" — an unforgettable adventure in Egypt, Rwanda, the Maldives and the Kingdom of Bhutan among other lands. The plane is leaving shortly — in late February. Also in February, don't miss "Expedition to Antarctica" through Buenos Aires in February (bring your parka) — penguins galore! In April, you can travel to the historic cities of Southern Spain and Morocco with General Studies Dean Peter Awn on the "Fabled

Andalusia & the Imperial Cities of Morocco" cruise. It should be an invigorating time for all (depending who you go with). [Editor's note: Learn more about alumni Travel Study Trips here: [alumni.columbia.edu/research-learn/travel-study-trips](http://alumni.columbia.edu/research-learn/travel-study-trips).]

Back in warmer New York, President Lee C. Bollinger's annual "Fun Run" kicked off the new academic year. Despite a strong finishing kick, our president could not overtake the leaders.

The Columbia University Club was the venue for a special event hosted by the Columbia Alumni Association directed toward entrepreneurs. More than 300 got advice, offered help and made connections with Columbia alumni entrepreneurs. The event was more than outstanding.

Another success for our class: We were informed by the College that our Class of 1955 Scholarship Fund recently generated a one-time increase in income — a tremendous benefit in meeting the financial needs of the student body.

The University Senate will be quite active this year with various items at the top of its agenda including the review of the "Conflict of Interest" policy, the finalization of bringing ROTC back to campus and the opening of several Global Centers ([globalcenters.columbia.edu](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu)). There is always something emanating from Morningside Heights (and the Medical Center, farther uptown).

What's going on with the guys in our class, you may ask? As reported a couple of issues ago, **Norm Goldstein** is back east as

a senior faculty member in the Department of Dermatology, Mount Sinai Medical Center. For many years Norm practiced his trade in Honolulu. **Jack Freeman** reports on the "Annual Boys of Summer" festivities held in the late summer. Attendees (who brought their mitts) were **John Naley** and **George Raitt**. Absent were **Ron McPhee** and **Tom Brennan**. Where was **Tony Palladino**? All missed their late teammate **Don Schapert**. Some members of the Class of 1956 also made it to the event. **Walt Deptula** was on the West Coast finishing his autobiography, which makes for some interesting reading: *The Path Less Followed: Walter Deptula — A Short Biography*. It includes a lot of interesting pictures from days gone by.

We heard from the perennial traveler, **Don McDonough**, who stopped off in Bethesda, Md., to see **Lew Mendelson** before embarking for Paris (France, that is). Other news from the D.C. area: **Sven Johnson** continues to follow Columbia athletics from afar, especially the football team.

In New York City, former Lt. Gov. **Richard Ravitch** was honored on September 15 by Friends of the Upper East Side at the group's annual Upper East Side Award Dinner. Much toasting and glasses held on high. **Jack Stupp** is not only a terrific artist but he also has become a great marketer of his paintings. His latest endeavor was used in a calendar (2012) called "Songs of the Earth."

The "Class of Destiny" continues to have monthly gatherings in restaurants around the greater

## Columbia School Designations

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

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

New York City area. **Don Laufer** has done a great job in coordinating these get-togethers. We even have gotten **Jeff Broido** to fly in from the West Coast, plus we have regulars **Ron Spitz**, **Herb Cohen**, **Chuck Solomon**, **Larry Balfus**, **Bill Epstein**, **Bob Schiff** and **Alfred Gollomp**, and from time to time **Anthony Viscusi**, **Bob Brown**, **Roland Plottel**, **Dick Ascher**, **Aaron Hamburger**, **Tony DiSanto**, **Alan Hoffman** and **Marty Dubner**. We cannot forget our Hood Marshall, **Allen Hyman**, who recently returned from Israel, where he biked 250 miles in a charity race for Alyn Hospital.

Some sad news to report: **Ferdie Setaro** passed away a couple of months ago on Staten Island. His good friend **Abbott Leban** from Wilmington, Del., attended the funeral. Ferdie will be missed by all.

Beloved classmates. Although *U.S. News* ranks Columbia as No. 4, we definitely know better. The best and the brightest entered the College in fall 1951. Nothing has changed. You guys are still the best. Remember, the 60th is rapidly approaching — 2015 is your lucky date.

Love to all! Everywhere!

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Hello Classmates,

Traveling seems to be an activity that many of our classmates (retired or otherwise) are enjoying. My wife, Elke, and I have recently returned from a tour of the Adriatic that started in Istanbul and included visiting eight ports in 12 days. Istanbul, Turkey, and Santorini in the Greek Isles were particularly impressive. We finished by going to Munich for five days and managed to attend the last day of Oktoberfest. It was like going to Walt Disney World with lots of great beer drinking. We all remember that from our College days ... Skol. **Larry Cohn** and his wife, Judie, recently returned from four-plus weeks in Italy and two weeks in Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia/Herzegovina. He was looking forward to spending two weeks in Nuevo Vallarta, hopefully attending our Florida get-together in early March and celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary in June with a trip to Alaska. Now that is some travel schedule.

In that light, it would be interesting to hear from any of classmates as to their travels and their recommendations for any of us who are retired (or not) and who may be interested in spending their remaining years visiting interesting places. If you have any trips that are particular fa-

vorites, and you would like to share recommendations, please contact me with details.

As the new College school year now has been under way for three months, it may be a good time to reflect on last year. We had a successful 55th reunion (as you have read in previous Class Notes). We had a successful Columbia College fund drive, reaching the goals we had set, and in fact funding the Dr. Alan N. Miller Class of 1956 Scholarship. We had two of our monthly get-togethers, one in July and one in August, both at **Daniel Link's** country club, **Bonnie Briar**, which a number of our class members attended, including **Gerald Fine**, **Mark Novick**, **Lou Hemmerdinger**, **Jack Katz** — the tennis-playing attendees — along with **Al Franco '56E**, **Alan Broadwin** and **Ron Kapon**. In that regard we continued these monthly luncheons beginning in October at Faculty House (check your email for exact time and details), and will continue through the winter at either Faculty House or the Columbia University Club for our midtown attendees. It is always good to see new faces at our luncheons, so for any of you who are in the New York area and have never attended, or who will be traveling to New York at some time, please email me and I will make sure that you will get the time and location of our next luncheons.

Further, we had a Class of '56 table at Homecoming, where Columbia nearly defeated Penn on October 15. We had an after-game dinner at a well-recommended New York restaurant.

More classmates attended Homecoming this year than they have done in quite some time.

**Nick Coch** was in attendance, just back from Italy where he has been representing a Swiss client. Nick, who is a patent lawyer, has been spending a great deal of time flying back and forth to Europe and at his homes in Rhode Island and Florida. He was staying in his New York apartment just long enough to attend the game, but I suspect it will be quite some time before he decides to suffer through any more defeats.

Some of the regulars were there as well as some classmates we hadn't seen for a while. **Ron Kapon** remains busy teaching about the pleasures of wine; **Jesse Blumenthal '60 P&S** is still working part-time as a surgeon, having recovered fully from heart surgery. **Murray Eskenazi**, who has retired from the business world, told us something of which we were unaware — that he invented Super Scrabble. **Dave Orrik** also was in attendance. You may remember Dave as one of the

stars of Columbia's swimming team. That experience appears to have come in handy, as Dave is a retired SEAL, retired Navy captain and, most impressively, served as a nuclear regulatory team leader in terrorist protection. **Axel Heyman** joined our loyal band of supporters. He was in the construction and construction lending business and now is retired.

Another of our merry band of stalwarts was **Ed Villanueva**, who has been a regular at Columbia events. As he himself put it, he still is pushing forward, albeit a little slower. **Stanley Klein** was an attendee, fresh from his weekly Saturday tennis game at Columbia's Dick Savitt Tennis Center. Stan continues to practice law in New York and New Jersey and talks about retirement.

**Leonard Wolfe** was in attendance, having just completed his book *Easy Economics: A Visual Guide to What You Need to Know*, which he produced with a former *Fortune* magazine colleague. The book was scheduled for publication on November 22 and is the hot item on Amazon. It also is scheduled to be featured in Barnes & Noble bookstores.

The weather was perfect and it was great for all who attended to catch up on recent developments. Sadly, Homecoming this year was little different from so many others to which we in the Class of '56 have grown accustomed since our freshman year some 59 years ago. We managed to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory and lost to Penn to keep our winless record intact.

**Mike Vozick** wrote in an email that the dialogue that we have with classmates regarding changes at Columbia, including the resignation of Dean Michele Moody-Adams and the naming of an interim dean, James J. Valentini, is a good thing and shows how each one of us has a stake and a caring interest in our alma mater. Mike's key words were "creatively critical," "self-criticism" and we as "stakeholders," all things we have learned from our Columbia education (I trust).

One of the things that Columbia offers for its alumni is the New York City Core Curriculum Mini-Course Program, which Columbia initiated in January 2007. **Ralph Kaslick**, who is an active member of our class in using these worthwhile programs, writes of his experiences as follows:

"The Columbia College Alumni Association implemented the first New York City Core Curriculum Mini-Course Program in January 2007. It allows College alumni to reinterpret Core Curriculum topics from their undergraduate years in

light of their real-life experiences and encourages dialogue between several generations of Columbia alumni. Class space is capped at 30 participants to create an intimate setting that inspires discourse and debate reminiscent of the undergraduate Core Curriculum. In fact, classes seem to be even livelier in this alumni version, since students are not examined or graded and do not necessarily feel compelled to impress or agree with the professor. All instructors are current or former teachers in the undergraduate Core Curriculum.

"Each course consists of three two-hour sessions held every other week on the same weekday evening from 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Reading assignments are carefully limited to accommodate the busy schedules of working alumni. Supplementary materials are provided for those with more free time. Generous alumni host these Mini-Courses in their midtown offices and provide food and beverages. Midtown locations allow attendance by those who work or live in the area and cannot conveniently travel to up-town campus sites in the evening.

"Alumni in the New York metropolitan area receive email invitations with course descriptions for the various Mini-Core Curriculum classes. Some previous Mini-Courses have had relatively traditional Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization formats. Samuel Moyn (history) has taught 'Individual and Society' featuring Constant, Mill, de Tocqueville and Nietzsche. Other courses have transcended the conventional boundaries such as Christia Mercer's 'Crossroads of Literature, Philosophy and Art.'

"Still other presentations have attempted to bring music and art into modern perspective such as Chris Washburne's 'Jazz in the Core' and Robert Harris's 'Art Humanities and Beyond,' which included recent Columbia neuroscience research into the esthetic experience and the human brain's empathic response to art.

"Science is the newest addition to the Core and has been represented by such presentations as David Helfand's 'Other Worlds: The Frontier of Extrasolar Planets,' Terry Plank's 'The Birth of the Earth' and Peter deMenocal's 'Understanding the Global Warming Forecast.'

"The mini-courses in New York City have met with great success, and the Alumni Office looks to cultivate interest outside the metro area. Alumni interested in more information about this innovative program fostering intellectual curiosity should contact Jennifer Freely, assistant director, alumni affairs: jf2261@columbia.edu or 212-851-7438."

Those who are interested may also contact **Ralph Kaslick** or **Jerry Fine**. By the way, wives are welcome to attend.

Unfortunately, I'm sorry to report that **James Vincent (Jim) Cuff Jr.** passed away in August at St. Paul's Health Care Center in San Diego, where he had been since suffering a stroke in 2004. Jim had been a beloved member of our class as well as class president during our senior year. We send our condolences to his family members.

With the 2011–12 fund year now at the halfway point, I'm sure you will hear about Columbia's fundraising activities. In that regard, **Dan Link, Stan Soren** and **Al Franco '56E** have agreed to continue acting as Class Agents for the year. Our class' success in fundraising is a direct result of each of our class participants and the work of our Class Agents, in conjunction with the Alumni Office. If you have an interest in being a Class Agent, please contact Allen Rosso, executive director, Columbia College Fund, ar3152@columbia.edu or 212-851-7947.

This year, I suggest that all our gifts be directed to the Class of '56 Scholarship Fund, where we currently have more than \$600,000 (this is separate from the Dr. Alan N. Miller Class of 1956 Scholarship, for which we have \$150,000). By adding to the Class of '56 Scholarship Fund we continue to support financial aid for worthy students attending Columbia.

Let's make 2012 a special year to keep in touch. That means updated emails and letting **Lou Hemmendinger** (lhemmer@aol.com) or myself know what part of your life you may want to share in our Class Notes.

Wishing you all continued good health, successful investments and pleasant times with the children and grandchildren.

#### REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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**Ken Bodenstein** "[competed] in the USTA National Grass Court Tournament for men over 70 at the Philadelphia Cricket grounds. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate, with rains playing havoc all week. I lost to the No. 1 ranked player from the East Region, the match being played in-

doors. My [other] indoor matches were called off because of flooding roads. With the weather forecast remaining gloomy, my wife, Diane, and I decided to get back to sunny California.

"We did enjoy two days at the US Open the previous week. I look forward to 2012 as I move up to the 75 and over tournaments and will be one of the 'young guys.'"

**Marty Fisher:** "School was finally out on June 28 in NYC as I walked north on Park Avenue past the Waldorf on my way to our class luncheon. The air was warm and humid; another New York summer had finally arrived. I made my way past the Villard Houses (built in 1884 by McKim, Mead, and White for the president of Northern Pacific Railway) and the Helmsley Palace Hotel, which nestles between them and which brought to mind the ever-present shade of Leona Helmsley on guard. Then [I passed] the rear of St. Pat's on the day after New York's legislature had passed the Marriage Equality Act (gay marriage). I stopped in the welcome air conditioning of the Olympic Tower atrium, where wall-size TV screens showed the destruction wrought by Greek anarchists demonstrating against government austerity measures brought on by the three- to four-year-old economic downturn. If one knows where to find them, the public atria and mid-block 'cut-throughs' can make a summer stroll through noontime midtown bearable. My destination, the University Club, was almost in sight.

"Fifteen old friends and acquaintances met there for our long-postponed luncheon. We divided into two tables. At table No. 1 were **Dave Kinne, Jim Barker, Pete Anker, Carlos Muñoz, Mike Lipper, Alan Brown, Ed Weinstein** and **Stan Barnett**, who traveled from Rhode Island on the very day that Whitey Bulger was arraigned. At table No. 2 were **Ted Dwyer, George Lutz, Paul Zola, Bob Klipstein, Marty Fisher, Sal Franchino** and **Mark Stanton**. The latter two came together and survived the Lincoln Tunnel. We missed **Alvin Kass**, who was detained at a funeral, and **Martin Brothers**.

"We hope to see other regulars like **Steve Ronai, Joe Diamond, Neil McLellan, Art Meyerson** (who was enjoying Shelter Island breezes), **Bob Lipsyte, Ron Kushner, Joe Feldschuh, Steve Fybish** and **Bob Flescher** as well as the vaudeville team of [**David**] **Fink** and [**Jerry**] **Finkel** (or is it Finkel and Fink?) later in the fall.

"Have I missed anyone? Undoubtedly, for which I apologize.

"My trip back to Grand Central featured a stop at Versace's Fifth Avenue boutique, where men's



**Several members of the Class of 1957 met in July at the Columbia Alumni Center to begin planning for their 55th Alumni Reunion Weekend (sitting, left to right): Paul Zola, Rabbi Alvin Kass '58 GSAS, Martin Brothers and CCT class correspondent Herman Levy; and (standing, left to right) Michael Gold and Steven Fybish.**

PHOTO: NICK MIDER

thin ties were marked down to \$55, and in Saks Fifth Avenue, where more fragrances were being sold on the main floor than one could shake a stick at.

"That day's news from Wimbledon carried the twin disasters of the losses by both Williams sisters in the third round. The women's competition whetted my interest in taking in the US Open tennis tournament in late August or early September, which would have bookended another summer for me.

"All in all, [it was] a lovely late June day among old friends in the heart of the world's greatest city (owned by OUR alma mater!)."

a week with our best man and his wife, then to a student wedding in Berkeley, where I recited poetry for the occasion. We drove to Mount Rushmore and the Cascade Mountains in Washington State, where we settled into a wilderness retreat center, and we just came back from our first cruise to Alaska with two of our teenage grandchildren. Next on our list (for many years, actually) is to tour the autumn leaves of New England.

"We have duplicated what we could from our days of courting and made our season tickets to the opera and theatre into romantic events with cozy dinners before-

#### **Ken Bodenstein '57** competed in the USTA National Grass Court Tournament for men over 70.

Marty then reported on the CC '57 luncheon held at the University Club on September 7, also attended by **Mark Stanton, Sal Franchino, Joe Feldschuh, Mike Lipper, Stan Barnett, Alan Brown, Art Meyerson, Bob Klipstein, Neil McLellan, Dave Kinne, George Lutz, Ted Dwyer, Jim Barker** and **Ed Weinstein**. Marty said, "We all had a good time and are looking forward to our BIG 55th in June [and] hope to hold one more luncheon before winter sets in."

**Mac Gimse**, professor emeritus of art at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, sculptor and poet, writes: "Jackie and I are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary in 2011, so we decided to do 50 romantic events, one for each year, about one a week. We have been to our 50th state, Hawaii, where we spent

hand. Depending on how you count, Jackie says we are up to 75, one for each of our ages. It's been a great year so far.

"Jane and **Ed Heiser** have a lovely retreat on Green Lake, Wis. For the last few years **Gary Angleberger**, Ed and I have gotten together to reminisce about our Columbia days, but also to keep our intellectual, aesthetic, theological, and magical minds tuned up.

"Reverend Doctor Gary brought CC and Hum Core into Union Seminary years ago and continues to carry a keen interest in developments in the world of religion. When he is not behind a pulpit, Gary commutes with his pastor wife, Judy, to Geneva or Minneapolis for sessions of the World Council of Churches and on Presbyterian governance.



**Class of 1958 members (standing, left to right) Rudy Hradecky, Stu Huntington, Ira Carlin '64L, Rick Brous '60 Business, Jack McGroarty and Irv Michlin and (sitting) Hal Wittner got together on July 23 at the home of Carlin and his wife, Jane, at a party they hosted for their Southern California classmates and their guests.**

PHOTO: CHERYL HRADECKY

"Ed has created an impressive array of magic tricks, which dumb-founded us, and he performs mainly for children ... hmm. Yes, he goes to hospitals, camps and even Alzheimer's units to bring smiles to folks without much hope. Ed and Jane are engaged in a wide range of charitable organizations. It's always fascinating to hear how they devote their time and resources to worthy causes.

"I piled bronze sculpture into my car and also rehearsed/recited my latest poetry, a test run for Cambridge and D.C. ... I'm glad to be creating sculpture and poetry at my age.

"The three of us went through our CC '57 yearbook page by page for most of the evening and pulled precious memories from ancient history. I hope to see classmates in Cambridge or D.C., or both, or at least next spring. It sounds as though we all plan to journey to our reunion in May-June 2012.

"Several young composers [have set] my poetry to music ... for a performance where I recited new poetry written for a bronze sculpture at a music program on September 24, which was Homecoming at St. Olaf. I love doing this sort of thing with young people ... The poetry recitation and music performance seemed to go well."

Nick Rudd '64 tells us, "Columbia's newest alumni group, Columbia Alumni Singers (columbiaalumnisingers.org), performed at Alumni Reunion Weekend in June. [Among them were **Robert Klipstein, Jerry Weale and Paul Zola.**] Anyone interested in getting news of other activities from this new group can sign up for its mailing

list by updating his or her Alumni Directory profile and choosing Columbia Alumni Singers on the first available email list (alumni.columbia.edu/alumni-directory)."

**Tony Vlahides** tells us, "We have had a place on Longboat Key (Sarasota, Fla.) for seven years. Sold our house a year ago May and moved to an apartment in New Jersey, which we use in the summer. We have now made the decision to give up the apartment and just rent something short-term when we come up ...

"I am working with a partner in Europe representing a couple of companies; so as long as I have a laptop and a phone, I am in business. I still make five or six trips a year."

**Gene Wagner:** "Celebrated our back-to-school luncheon on September 10 at beautiful Parkers' Lighthouse, on the water in Long Beach, Calif. Attending were **Lew Schainuck, John Taussig, Ken Silvers, Gerry Werksman, Jon Lubin, Mike Gold, Bernie Lynch** and myself.

"Mike, our program coordinator, led the discussion of current events pertaining to the financial crisis and the economy. It's so good to be among so many bright and intelligent classmates conversing comfortably on subjects that could be construed as controversial at times and still walk away with a strong feeling of companionship.

"Columbia taught us how to think rationally, and we still know how to do it."

On July 12, **Martin Brothers, Steve Fybish, Mike Gold, Alvin Kass, Paul Zola** and yours truly met at the Columbia Alumni Cen-

ter to begin planning for our 55th reunion. [See photo.] Present also were Alumni Office staff members Nick Mider, events coordinator, and Paul Staller, then-director, reunion giving. **Ken Bodenstein** and **Dan Davidson** participated by telephone.

Nick discussed a summary of the 55th reunions of the Classes of 1955 and 1956. On that basis, he estimated that attendance at the 55th reunion would be about one half of that at the 50th. Nick further noted that the Class of 1955 had six events running from Thursday evening to Saturday evening; the Class of 1956 had three events running from Friday evening to Saturday evening. Both classes held a Friday dinner, Saturday luncheon and Saturday wine tasting and dinner as well as the Saturday Starlight Reception, all on campus. The Class of 1955 also held a Thursday cocktail reception at the Columbia University Club, a Friday tour of the American Museum of Natural History and luncheon at Citrus, and a Saturday discussion on campus. Nick said that available on-campus sites included Casa Italiana, Low Library, SIPA and Faculty House. He also said that the Alumni Office probably could obtain tickets to Broadway shows or the Philharmonic at about half-price.

The discussion then turned to suggestions for speakers. Suggestions included **Robert Alter, Mac Gimse, Erich Gruen, David Kinne** and **Bob Lipsyte**; former provost Alan Brinkley, former dean Austin Quigley, professors Eric Foner '63, '69 GSAS, Fritz Stern '46, '53 GSAS, Henry Graff '49 GSAS (2012 elections), Walter Metzger '46 GSAS, Samuel Moyn (human rights) and James Shapiro '77; and ABC news correspondent Claire Shipman '86 (transition to coeducation). Dan, Alvin, and yours truly volunteered to serve on the subcommittee to select speakers. Subject matter suggestions included our activities in our middle '70s; Nick said, however, that classes have not wanted panels or lectures on health. In any event, Ken recommended against having a too-crowded agenda; out-of-towners want to visit friends and go to shows as well as to attend reunion events.

Steve then suggested inviting widows of deceased classmates, which **Paul Zola** thought was a good idea. Ken recommended that such invitations be done through classmates who have known the widows. Alvin suggested that the reunion include a moment of remembrance to deceased classmates.

Paul Staller then discussed our Class Gift to the Columbia College Fund. He said that he would speak to **Carlos Muñoz**, noting Carlos'

success in raising funds for our 50th reunion class gift. **Paul Zola** noted that we are ahead of other classes in view of one especially large contribution. Paul said that fundraising activities will approach all classmates. He would be glad to provide lists to volunteers, who in turn would call 10 classmates.

Those present tentatively agreed to meet again in the fall.

Take a look at the reunion website (reunion.college.columbia.edu) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

**Ronald H. Boorse**, a retired business owner in Houston, died on July 6, 2010.

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**Barry Dickman**

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We are sorry to report the deaths of two classmates.

**Joachim Neugroschel** died on May 23. Joachim was a well-known and prolific translator who translated more than 200 books into English from Yiddish, French, German, Russian and Italian. He is survived by his former partner, Aaron Mack Schloff.

Joachim followed a family tradition of sorts; his father was a Yiddish poet. Born in Vienna, Joachim immigrated with his family to the United States via Brazil, and he graduated from Bronx Science. Joachim didn't speak Yiddish at home; he was self-taught. He translated works by authors such as Sholem Aleichem, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Sholem Asch, Chekhov, Dumas, Hesse, Kafka, Mann, Moliere, Maupassant, Proust, Albert Schweitzer and Nobel Prize Winner Elias Canetti. His Yiddish translation of S. Ansky's play, *The Dybbuk*, was widely produced. He developed a sub-specialty in Yiddish folklore; his published books included *The Golem*; *Great Tales of Jewish Fantasy and the Occult*, *The Dybbuk and Thirty Other Classic Stories*; *The Dybbuk and the Yiddish Imagination*; *Radiant Days and Haunted Nights: Great Tales From the Treasury of Yiddish Folk Literature* and *The Shtetl: A Creative Anthology of Jewish Life in Eastern Europe*.

Joachim also was a critic and poet and co-founded and edited the poetry journal *Extensions*, which was published from 1970-75. He won three PEN Translation Awards, the 1994 French-American Translation Prize and the Guggenheim Fellowship in German Literature. In 1996 he was also made a Chevalier

Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

**Anthony Tobin Layng** died on June 12 in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was a professor emeritus of anthropology, having taught at Washington University, Tougaloo College, Rollins College, Oberlin and Elmira College, from which he retired in 1997, and was an adjunct professor at Wake Forest. He is survived by his wife, Donna; daughter, Kristin Szakos; stepchildren, Maria Greer, Ben Bodewes and Andy Bodewes; and six grandchildren.

Tony was a Korean War vet and was awarded a Purple Heart as a Marine. He transferred to the College from Rollins and earned an M.A. from Indiana and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve. A tennis enthusiast and a lifelong religious skeptic, Tony devoted his professional career to promoting critical thinking and challenging biblical literalism. He was the author of a book on the Carib Indians of Dominica and numerous journal and magazine articles. He served on the Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission and was a board member of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Congratulations to **Ed Feige** on the marriage of his son David to Robin Gail Steinberg. Ed is a professor of economics emeritus at the University of Wisconsin. David is a Hollywood writer and producer who has been involved with several TV series. Robin is the executive director of the Bronx Defenders, a legal aid organization where David was formerly the trial chief. He proposed to Robin under a full moon in the Sahara Desert.

**Joe Dorinson's** latest published work is *O'Neill and Paul Robeson: Climbing Jacob's Ladder*, which is included in the anthology *Eugene O'Neill and His Early Contemporaries: Bohemians, Radicals, Progressives and the Avant Garde*, edited by Eileen J. Herrmann and Robert M. Dowling.

Joe included a reference to a criticism of O'Neill's writing skills by Eric Bentley; both Joe and your reporter took his "Modern Drama" class. Joe also sent us a preview copy of an as-yet unpublished article, *The Premature Sanctification of Steinbrenner*.

From **Stu Huntington**: "Jane and **Ira Carlin** threw an afternoon garden party for their CC '58 Southern California friends: **Stu Huntington**; Cheryl and **Rudy Hradecky**; Marcia and **Rick Brous**; **Jack McGroarty** and his friend **Patty Kelly**; Harriet and **Irv Michlin**; and Helen and **Hal Wittner**. [See photo.] We all enjoyed the delicious salmon dinner and bountiful refreshments, but most of all the camaraderie of our classmates and their partners. The weather was balmy, especially compared to the oven [in the rest

of the United States this summer]. But, Paradise is not without its risks either. Four years ago, the Carlins had to evacuate their home for three days while a wildfire destroyed a huge swath in nearby Rancho Bernardo, then came to Ira and Jane's Rancho Santa Fe neighborhood and incinerated several homes close to theirs. They suffered some smoke and water damage, but their beautiful home survived and, No. 1, so did they!"

Speaking of **Rick Brous**, he writes "Marcia and I left directly for the airport from our 50th reunion celebration for a new life in Los Angeles. We [joke] that we moved here because our three children tried to get as far away from us as possible, by resettling here in Los Angeles. They are all happily married and have presented us with six grandchildren. But we fooled them, and we came out here to be with them. The good news is that we see a lot of our grandchildren; the bad news is that we see a lot of our grandchildren. All three of our kids have Columbia degrees: Sharon '95, '01 GSAS; Michael '98; and Deborah '01 GSAS. And I'm the executive director of the Columbia University Alumni Association of Southern California. As you may recall, I had been president of the Columbia Alumni Club of Northern New Jersey for many years. So my Columbia affiliations now stretch from coast to coast."

Rick was interviewed by NBC News on the stock market's gyrations. The producer of the 1½ hour session (about a minute of which aired) was a College grad.

As readers of this column (and of *The New York Times*) may recall, a couple of years ago **Bernie Nussbaum** represented Judith Smith Kaye '58 Barnard, then the chief judge of New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals, in a suit against the state legislature to increase judicial salaries. The legislature had decided that the judges could not have a raise until the legislators received one. Bernie's claim that this violated the separation of powers was upheld in court, and the legislature has now delegated the determination of judges' pay to an independent commission. Bernie's argument did not mention the Declaration of Independence, which includes in its list of grievances against King George III that he had "made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices and the amount and payment of their salaries." As a result, both the federal and New York state Constitutions provide that judges' pay may not be diminished during their terms. However, Seth Lipsky, the founding editor of *The New York Sun* and a former senior editor of *The*



Spending time together at the "Dining in the Dark" fundraiser for the Foundation Fighting Blindness, held on May 17 at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, were (left to right) Alan Kahn '59; his wife, Linda Parnes Kahn '71 Barnard; their daughter, Amanda Kahn-Kirby '95; former San Francisco mayor and former Speaker of the California Assembly Willie L. Brown Jr. and Kahn-Kirby's husband, Mason Kirby '94. Kahn is a longtime member of the foundation and a major force in its growth and fundraising, and Brown was the evening's honoree.

PHOTO: LUIGI LUCACCINI '59

*Wall Street Journal*, recently wrote an article for *Imprimis* magazine, "The Floating Dollar as a Threat to Property Rights," in which he argues that the legal tender law (established during the Civil War), requiring that paper money must be accepted in payment of debts, is the "greatest threat to property in America."

And bringing us to Bernie's case, Lipsky asks: If judges are paid in paper money that has decreased in value against gold, is their pay being unconstitutionally diminished? So he called Bernie to ask why he didn't challenge the legal tender laws. "Too heavy a lift," replied Bernie. Too bad he didn't respond, "According to Jim Shenton '49, William Jennings Bryan said, 'You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.'"

Please note: CCT is now on a quarterly schedule, which means a longer wait before you see your notes in print. Over the next year issues will appear in March, June, September and December.

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

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**Kenneth Scheffel** writes, "I've become a world traveler in my old age. Quite an accomplishment

for someone who never flew until coming to New York for our 50th reunion. Last summer, I went to Germany, France and England, and this May to Russia, spending 5½ days each in Moscow and St. Petersburg with a high-speed train ride in between. Found the Russians amazingly candid. They have some of the same concerns as we do: a growing concentration of wealth, a lessening of democracy, an increasing anti-immigrant feeling, a consolidation in the media that limits dissent, a growing religious right that aligns with the economic oligarchs, a rising pollution problem (especially from automotive congestion in the cities) and so on. Arrived in Moscow at the international airport, where damage from a Chechnyan bomb was evident. On the drive into town, saw a large wall graffiti proclaiming 'White Power' (in Western, not Cyrillic, letters). At the subway entrance across from our hotel, we passed a memorial to victims of another Chechnyan bombing. At the site of the 1980 Olympics, our guide commented wryly: 'You didn't come to the 1980 Olympics because we were fighting in Afghanistan; now, you are fighting in Afghanistan.'

"The Russians have a rather grim sense of humor. As an example, do you know what the tallest building was in the Soviet Union? Answer: the KGB (secret police) headquarters. Can you guess why? Answer: from its basement, you could see Siberia. They also have some rather strange customs. On the subway, men actually get up and give women their seats. You don't see that [often] in New York. "Of the cities, I liked St. Petersburg better. It's far more cosmopol-

itan and has the magnificent summer and winter palaces, including all that great art at the Hermitage. The architecture also is far nicer (none of those ugly Stalinist structures like Moscow). Even the Mariinsky Theatre was more impressive than the Little Bolshoi (the Big still undergoing reconstruction after an error in diverting the Moscow River). Still, I wouldn't like to be in St. Petersburg during the winter when instead of the 20 hours of daylight (we were there during the 'white nights'), it has 20 hours of darkness.

"I headed back to Ann Arbor to attend Michigan's major home football games. But in mid-October (between the Little Brown Jug and Homecoming games), I took a diversion by going to Prague, Vienna and Budapest.

"My best as always."

**Bruce Stave** writes, "The two years since I had to miss the 50th reunion because of serious surgery have been good ones. My wife, Sondra, and I recently celebrated our 50th anniversary with family and friends at a leading restaurant near our home in Coventry, Conn. Sandye, as she's known, who attended the Bronx H.S. of Science and City College, spent a great deal of time on the Columbia campus between 1957-59 and should be an honorary class member. We have a granddaughter, Sabrina Eden (21 months), who joined her brother, Stratton, (8). On a recent trip to NYC, driving past Columbia on Amsterdam Avenue, our son, Channing '92, and I sang a terribly off-tune version of 'Roar Lion Roar.' As we pointed out where we had lived, Stratton wanted to know if he could go to Columbia also. We told him he would have to be a very good student!

"As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, Sandye and I traveled to Brunei, where we had never been, Malaysia, where we were relatively recently, and to Singapore, which we had not visited in 40 years. It has changed! In Singapore at the National University, we did a presentation on oral history. We operate a consulting firm, The Stave Group (oralhistorybythestavegroup.com), and I am co-general editor of the Palgrave/Macmillan *Studies in Oral History* series, which has published more than two dozen books to date. I keep my office at the University of Connecticut, although I am not teaching. My institutional history of the university, *Red Brick in the Land of Steady Habits: Creating the University of Connecticut, 1881-2006*, continues to attract interest after publication in 2006. I am writing from San Diego, where we are beginning a trip through southern California, to conduct oral

histories about the Albacore submarine, the prototype for the nuclear fleet, and to visit several friends. By the time this is published, we will be back to snows of Connecticut. It's been fun, and continues to be."

From **Michael Marks Cohen** we hear that he "is still practicing admiralty law in New York" and still with his wife, Bette Cohen, the cantor emerita of a Long Island synagogue; the couple dated throughout his years at Columbia and hers at Juilliard (which you will recall was only a few blocks away in the 1950s). They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary earlier this year. And their son Daniel, who was elected in 2010 as a member of the Democratic State Committee, is engaged to be married in January.

**Robin Motz** has "written a blog for more than two years that is published at gthomas.blogspot.com and has more than 350 subscribers. It discusses current medical issues and problems from the point of view of a practicing internist. My home web site is drrmotz.com."

**Jay Neugeboren's** recent short story collection, *You Are My Heart and Other Stories*, was reviewed in *Columbia* magazine (magazine.columbia.edu/reviews/summer-2011/online-only-jay-neugeborens-latest-short-story-collection). I read the review, and it is highly laudatory.

Jay also has a new novel, *The Other Side of the World*, scheduled for publication in fall 2012. He also is an adviser to grad students in the Writing Program at the School of the Arts.

From **Ben Janowski** we hear, "I am keenly aware that many, if not most, of our classmates have retired by this point. I understand the urge, as the body no longer can keep pace with fantasies of the mind. We can no longer do what we imagine. For me, life as a consultant proceeds at a manageable pace, a very nice mix of work, time with family and plenty of quiet days. I have been a consultant in the diamond and jewelry business for almost 20 years now, after 20 more as a jewelry manufacturer. I do not pursue work at all, but it keeps coming in the door. Some I reject (or find a way to gently refuse) and other, interesting projects are accepted. The major piece of work over the last couple of years has been assisting in the conceptualization and merchandising of a new jewelry website, Jewelist.com, that recently opened. (No promo intended here!) That has involved travel all over the world to seek out unknown, high quality designers. My mobility has been helped by a full knee replacement last fall, which has been successful. The surgeon, Bart Nisonson '62, '66

P&S, was on the Columbia fencing team for a couple of years during my fencing days, so I have known him for 50-plus years. He is great. My family is doing well. My wife, Karen, works at Tiffany in New York, and loves it. My three children are all eminently successful in their careers, and have brought us two delicious granddaughters. [It is forbidden to eat children! NMG] All in all, I feel greatly blessed. I will be happy to hear from any classmate at benjanow@gmail.com."

**Stephen Trachtenberg** wants you to know that "I got a personal trainer and work out three times a week. Becoming buff in a 74-year-old way — 70-year-old women come on to me. My wife, Francine, laughs."

You may have been following Steve's remarks in *The New York Times* in its section "Room for Debate."

**Paul Winick** writes, "My wife of 48 years, Dotty, and I had a wonderful, hectic summer. In June, I was ward attending on the pediatric ward at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, where I am a full professor of clinical pediatrics. In July we spent time with my daughter and her 15-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son, and then spent a week at Club Med with my son, daughter-in-law and 7-year-old triplet grandchildren. We had a blast. In August, my wife and I visited family in New York and London, then took a 16-day cruise around the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. We stopped in France, Portugal, Spain, Morocco, Monaco and Italy. The stops were fascinating and illuminating. While we were gone, my second passion, creative writing, bore the fruits of my labor. My second book, *Cancer Dreams*, was published, as was my seventh story in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. This one was in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Inspiration for the Young at Heart: 101 Stories of Inspiration, Humor, and Wisdom about Life at a Certain Age*. I hope all my classmates had as rewarding a summer as we did."

From **Matthew J. Sobel**, "During successive weekends this summer I drove into high heat and humidity southwest of my home, which is east of Cleveland. First, I traveled to Terre Haute to bicycle 160 miles across Indiana the following day to Richmond. This annual event ('RAIN') draws more than 1,000 bicycle zealots, and this year the afternoon temperatures varied from 100 degrees on concrete to 105 degrees on tarmac. Although it is not a race, finishing times are recorded up to 9 p.m. I squeezed under the wire and finished at 8:59 p.m.

"A week later my wife, Susan,

and I drove to St. Louis to rendezvous with my daughter, Elizabeth, and her family, who live in Springfield, Mo. We had a grand time together but the weather was awful — the lowest daily maximum THI [temperature humidity index] was 115 degrees!

"I am an active member of the faculty at Case Western Reserve University. It was a productive and satisfying summer in research because I shepherded toward publication some work on the logical foundations of preferences regarding risk and timing. This topic has fascinated me for more than 20 years and the research results challenge the orthodoxy.

"As you see, I remain preoccupied with family, outdoor pursuits and research."

**Allan Franklin** let us know, "The highlight of our summer involved classmates. First a quick trip to New York for the wedding of Stephen, the son of fellow physicist **Joseph Krieger**. **Bob Nelson** and his wife, Pam, joined my wife, Cyndi, and me for a dinner in Boulder. The food was great and the company even better. My usual bike trip took me to the Canadian Maritime provinces for a 600-mile ride. The scenery was spectacular. I'm now back to teaching history and philosophy of physics here at the University of Colorado."

Perhaps Matt and Al can get together for a bike ride.

**Mike Tannenbaum** moves in exalted circles. "I was asked to present the great contributions made by the United States in the field of subnuclear physics at Brookhaven National Laboratory and its Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider. The talk was at a symposium of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences on the subject of 'Subnuclear Physics: Past, Present, Future,' and discussed the origin, the status and the future of the subnuclear world, in other words, quarks and gluons. It was held at Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Casina Pio IV, Vatican City, October 30-November 2. I stayed at the Domus Sanctae Marthae inside the Vatican, which is where the cardinals stay during the conclave when they elect the pope."

Mike, perhaps you can tell us what it was like, as we are unlikely to visit the places that you do.

On a personal note, Linda and **Gene Appel** invited my wife, Yona, and I to join them at their condominium in Puerto Vallarta. We spent a delightful week with them and with Billy Host '60 and Billy's family. I also had breakfast with **Steve Trachtenberg** in Chicago and lunch with **Joe Krieger** at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden — all very pleasant occasions.

On a sad note, **Dick Donelli**

has died. His obituary will be published in a future issue of CCT.

Please note that my class email list does not include everyone, and some addresses are invalid. If you do not receive email correspondence from me, chances are you fit into one of those two categories. If you want to be included in class emails, please send me your email address; only with your permission will I share it with Columbia.

Or, you may send it to CCT at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu) (subject line: "CC'59 email"), and the CCT staff will update your record and then share it with me, but again, they will share only with your permission.

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**Terrence McNally's** play *Master Class* had a Broadway revival this summer starring Tyne Daly as Maria Callas. Considered by critics to be Terrence's finest work, it was first presented in November 1995 and won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding New Play and the 1996 Tony Award for Best Play. Two members of the original cast, Zoe Caldwell (in the role of Callas) and Audra McDonald (in the role of a student), won 1996 Tony awards for acting. The play, based on a series of master classes held by Callas at the Juilliard School in the early 1970s after her voice had faded and her career had come to an end, integrates opera selections, the diva's penetrating dissection and reshaping of the performances of three aspiring opera singers, and lapses into reflections on her own rise, fueled by her intense ambition, from a performer criticized for being overweight and unattractive at the beginning of her career to the triumphant pinnacle of achievement, acclaimed as *La Divina*, the most brilliant and glamorous soprano of an era. Callas' desires, insecurities and vulnerabilities, a burning hatred of her rivals and of a press that derided her early performances, and an exposition of the commitment and sacrifices that are the price of achieving excellence, are exposed in impassioned and oft-times humorous monologues.

Terrence fell in love with Callas' voice when he was a youth growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas; he found himself moved by its haunting and unique beauty. At a time when he was teaching playwriting at Juilliard he stopped in to observe a master class being conducted by Leontyne Price, and the idea formed from which *Master Class* evolved. Although recordings existed of Callas' master

classes, Terrence never listened to them. "The play," he said, "is my projection of Callas' life, not a documentary."

**Doug Morris** assumed the post of chief executive of Sony Music Entertainment in July. After serving as chief executive and then as chairman of Universal Music Group, the label he helped found in 1995, Doug was granted an early release from his contract at Universal to join its biggest rival. Doug has been regarded as a skilled manager of executives as well as an artistic talent. In his tenure at Universal its roster of artists has included U2, Eminem, Jay-Z, Kanye West, Amy Winehouse, Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber and Rihanna; it has commanded the industry's largest market share, with about 31 percent of sales, and generated revenues exceeding \$6 billion a year. The eyes of the industry are on Doug to see whether he can achieve the same success for the Sony label.

that knowledge. He assembles the telescope that arrives in a kit and affixes it to its wooden tripod. Sky-map in hand, he focuses on an object in space. The object appears, a pinpoint of light in the eyepiece. Adjust the lens to draw it closer ... but it's gone. Focus again, sight the object ... the waft of the gentlest of breezes seems magnified through the lens to the intensity of a gale, and multiple images in the eyepiece are in violent motion; perhaps it is only that single point of light, but it refuses to hold still. The necklace lights of the bridge, the beacon of the Empire State Building, the brilliant nightscape of Manhattan and the glow from the stadium all compete with and overwhelm the sparkling specs in the firmament. A succession of futile efforts and the telescope is retired to a place that time has forgotten.

The man, now much closer to the end of his string than its beginning, smiles wistfully at this mem-

### Hillel Halkin '60 appears in the critically acclaimed documentary *Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness*.

**Hillel Halkin**, author, scholar and translator, appears as one of several distinguished talking heads in a critically acclaimed documentary released this summer, *Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness*. The documentary examines the life of the humorist and storyteller (born Solomon Rabinovich) using archival material and, as a *Los Angeles Times* film critic put it, "perceptive interviews with some of the best thinkers in the Yiddish world, including academics Dan Miron, David Roskies and Ruth Wisse; translator Hillel Halkin; the National Yiddish Book Center's Aaron Lansky; and author Bel Kaufman, Sholem Aleichem's 100-year-old granddaughter." In the words of another critic: "Hillel Halkin proves to be the movie's sharpest, funniest, most Sholem Aleichem-like commentator."

A young man's gaze moves in an arc, west, south, east, over the Hudson River, the George Washington Bridge, on to the spires of Manhattan, then the Bronx with its bank of lights from Yankee Stadium that illuminate the field as the night game progresses; he scans the sky from the terrace of his new apartment high above the palisades of Spuyten Duyvil. His knowledge of the stars and nebulae, informed by visits to the Hayden Planetarium and overnight hikes with the Boy Scouts as a youngster, is limited. Now, an opportunity to expand

ory as he reads **Tom Hamilton's** latest book, *Useful Star Names: With Nebulas And Other Celestial Features*. Tom, a professor of astronomy for 32 years, now retired, says that his students always preferred to learn a star by its name, rather than its catalog number. "Teegarden's Star is so much nicer sounding than SO 0255790.5." The book is a wonderful, useful guide for any stargazer; a compendium in four parts, listing, alphabetically, the 88 constellations, providing the names of the stars, nebulae and galaxies within each, their brightness and their location according to the two coordinates of Declination and Right Ascension. This old man enjoyed perusing the lists and finding the brightest star, Sirius, which has a -1.46 magnitude and is one of the closest stars to us at a distance of 8.6 light years; that it is in the constellation Canis Major (one of the smallest constellations — 71st of the 88); and, that its Declination is -16°42'58" and its Right Ascension is ... but I'll let you have the fun of finding that out in Tom's book. Tom advises that he is now at work on his next astronomy book. And this old man, inspired by *Useful Star Names*, is contemplating the purchase of another telescope.

**Ivan Koota** sends his regards to all and advises that his work was exhibited in several group shows in 2011: The Albany Institute of Art Regional Exhibition; the Roberson

Regional Art Exhibition at the Roberson Museum in Binghamton, N.Y.; the Albany Center Gallery Regional Competition; the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum in Woodstock, N.Y.; and the Van Brunt Projects in Beacon, N.Y. Ivan advised some months ago that he was working in collaboration with published author Lenny Mintz on a book to include Ivan's Brooklyn paintings and his collaborator's Brooklyn stories. Check Ivan's website ([brooklynplaces.com](http://brooklynplaces.com)) for more information as to its availability.

A somewhat belated advisory to classmates from **Nathan Gross** that the souvenir compact disc of the "Sweetest Sixty Suite," received after Nathan's cabaret at our 50th reunion, will indeed play on a computer even if a regular CD player refuses it. Nathan spent his summer, as he has through the years, "teaching French in Paris for the University of San Diego Institute on International and Comparative Law. My students in the past several years have included, beyond the usual Californians and Midwesterners, young lawyers from Russia, Italy, Mexico, Spain — from all over the map. They are culturally savvy than our homegrown varieties; they enliven the class atmosphere and keep me returning. I also carry out the duties of a guide — my training as a 17th-century specialist comes in handy during walks, especially in the Marais neighborhood where the institute is located. I conduct a favorites tour of the Louvre in English, encouraging discussion as we stand before objects of special interest to lawyers — the Code of Hammurabi, for example — and paintings that have grown on me over some 40-very-odd years. Humanities A comes in handy as we examine a Rubens based on Herodotus and one of Rembrandt's *Bathshebas*. (We used to read extensively in the Old Testament in my own Humanities sections, including the Books of Samuel as an example of historiography.) I am constantly reminded of how Philip Gould taught how to look and to see in that one class in Art Humanities I took. We also visit Reims where somehow (hardly somehow, of course: it all comes from listening closely to the guides in many past visits, and, mostly, from my good friend the Internet) I have become an expert, amateur but knowledgeable nonetheless, on the history and sculptural programs of the gothic cathedral and the basilica of Saint Rémi. It seems a far cry from Molière and Racine, but in essence observing and asking the right questions is the practice I learned in college, at graduate school and while leading

humanities and French literature discussions (all of the French lit courses considered an extension of Humanities A); I continue that practice for five weeks each summer. During the autumn, winter and spring months I also devote a full academic year to a single major project, such as the Proust novel (again!) and Hugo's incomparable *Les Misérables* (for the first time). I recently completed a painfully slow and happily most rewarding reading, with the help of two excellent dictionaries, of *Doctor Zhivago*. As for September ... Something will turn up. The Janáček operas? You never know."

**Bill Tanenbaum** and **Ira Jaffrey** spent several weekends together hiking and enjoying the Colorado outdoors in Aspen, Glenwood Springs and Beaver Creek. Bill continues his mountain conquests, gaining an altitude of 10,200 ft. on Beaver Creek Mountain; then white water rafting on the Arkansas River, a nine-mile ride in category 4-5 rapids, water at 55 degrees breaking over the bow. Bill attended a wedding in Arkansas and met a friend for lunch in Tulsa, Okla., and that now closes the ring, visiting every state.

At the memorial service for Joe Coffee '41 held at the campus on April 28, three members of the class were in attendance: **Bob Berne**, **Richard Friedlander** and **Art Delmhorst**. "Joe," Art writes, "was the first or nearly the first director of alumni relations and founded the Columbia College Fund, the Alexander Hamilton Medal, the John Jay Awards for distinguished professional achievement and CCT. I thought it was neat that he had touched three members of our class in different ways. In my case, he was a fellow trustee of the Columbia University Club Foundation."

We mourn the passing of **Dr. Robert J. Capone** and **Ronald Kane**.

Robert, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2008, died peacefully on June 29 at St. Peter's Hospice Inn in Albany, N.Y. He earned his M.D. at Cornell, did his internship at Vanderbilt and completed his residency at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Robert served in the Navy as a lieutenant commander and practiced at the Oakland Naval Hospital from 1968-70. Thereafter, he spent two years at UC Davis, 19 years as a professor of medicine at Brown and a cardiologist at Rhode Island Hospital, and four years as a cardiologist at Strong Memorial Hospital and a professor at Rochester University. In 1994, he became a cardiologist at Albany Medical Center Hospital and was a professor at Albany College of Medicine until 2008, when he retired due to his

diagnosis. Robert is survived by his wife, Emilie, whom he married in 1964 and with whom he celebrated more than 46 years of marriage, two sons and four grandchildren.

Ronald was a certified appraiser of antiques and real estate. He was a generous benefactor of museums, to which he donated antiques. He died on May 30 and is survived by his sister, Louise Trotman, and nephews Adrian and Julian.

The class sends its sincerest condolences to the families and friends of Robert and Ronald. Please forward your recollections of our late classmates for inclusion in Class Notes.

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**Dr. Jeffrey Rudell's** book was published in August: *Exercise Physiology for Swimmers & Divers: Understanding Limitations*. It is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

**Rich Mace's** granddaughter Ahrielle Felicity Mace is appearing as a principal dancer in *Footloose*, the 1980s movie remake that came out this fall. She also appeared at half-time at the Atlanta Falcons' September 17 game. Parents Richard Ririk Mace and his wife, Jen, are rather proud, as is Rich. Rich spends his time playing piano ensemble music with a fine bunch of pros, playing bridge twice a week under the tutelage of a grandmaster and tending to every wish his still-hard-working United Nations International School teacher wife, Ingeborg, requires to be fulfilled. Of such pleasures is the stuff of retirement made. The couple recently returned from a two-week vacation to Norway's four major cities, where the people are still in shock from their own particular brush with tragedy. The scenery was magnificent.

Joyce and **Stuart Newman** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. They married weeks after their respective graduations from Barnard and Columbia. Joyce maintains her ob/gyn practice in Manhattan, and Stuart is as busy as ever practicing corporate law, also in Manhattan.

**Gerry Brodeur's** wife, Judy, died on April 1 after a long illness. A memorial service was held at St. Jude Parish, Londonderry, N.H. Gerry visited with Sue and **Jack Kirik** in Moline, Ill., on the drive from Las Vegas to New Hampshire with Judy's ashes. **Bob McCool** and **Wayne Hatfield** attended the service with their wives, Pat and Fran.

Wayne and Gerry developed a close friendship while playing football at Columbia. Wayne flew

to Las Vegas to provide company on the drive to New Hampshire, a great act of friendship. He also rode back to Las Vegas with Gerry and his dog and then flew back to Leominster, Mass., via a side flight to Denver to see his brother.

**Harold Cohen** was a regular attendee at class reunions but missed our 50th. **Stuart Newman** attempted to track Harold down after the reunion but couldn't reach him by phone or email. In July, he received a letter from Harold's wife, Karen, informing him that Harold passed away on March 12.

Harold was an All-State basketball player in high school, an active member of AEPi and one of the most enthusiastic scholars in our class. He sought out the best lecturers, inhaled their courses and was transformed by professors such as C. Wright Mills.

## REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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You will receive this in December. But as I write on September 20, the late summer sun is glowing on Vermont. A week ago, my sweetheart, Kathryn, and I returned from a sensational bicycle tour in Hungary with my old firm, VBT. The highlight of the trip was being infused with the sad history of Hungary, especially the recent history of Hungarian Jews. Time and again I stumbled onto local citizens and places that impelled me to see and feel more about those heart-wrenching times. During the trip I read Joseph Kertes' fine novel, *Gratitude*, about the Hungarian Shoah. I am still filled with visions of that horrendous time.

The most important news is that our 50th Alumni Reunion Weekend — Wednesday, May 30—Sunday, June 3 — is only a few months away. Your classmates are working to create a wonderful experience. But the key to the occasion is your participation. The more of us who attend, the more each of us will enjoy it. Take a look at the reunion website (reunion.college.columbia.edu) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

I have an idea about our reunion I'd like to ask you about. To me it

is most important that the reunion provide uninterrupted opportunities to talk and laugh with classmates. But I worry that the enticing attractions of Morningside Heights and NYC will tempt us to scatter. (The usual events, such as formal dinners, lectures and campus tours, often do not lend themselves to casual interaction.) So it occurred to me that we could have a wonderful time together by chartering a boat and taking a cruise for two or three hours, during which time we could mix and mingle and also enjoy unique views of Manhattan. Other classes have done this. Does this idea appeal to you?

**Hal Watson** (halprof39@aol.com), **Horace Spaulding**, **Carl Rauh** and **Richard (Dick) Evans** had a one-day reunion in 2008 in Denver and resolved then to attend our 50th. In 1961-62 they lived together on Riverside Drive. Hal advises us to wear our reunion nametags. "None of us look like we did in 1962," he says. [Editor's note: All reunion attendees and guests are provided with lanyards and nametags.]

Hal has retired from Southern Methodist University, where he was a professor of mechanical engineering. He consults on cases involving patent disputes. Horace is a retired investor in TV cable programming and lives in California. Carl practices law in Washington, D.C. Dick is a retired Air Force colonel and aerospace engineer; he now works in private military contracting and lives in Denver.

**Howard Felperin** (hfelperin@live.co.uk) is "keen to attend our 50th class reunion." He recently moved to the Isle of Wight. From 1977-95, Howard taught English literature (mainly Shakespeare) at two Australian universities, the University of Melbourne and Macquarie University. In 1996 he retired to England, where he's lived ever since. He's published several books on Shakespeare and literary theory and now spends much of his time walking the beach and writing poetry — both his own and translations from Latin, most notably the *Aeneid*.

**Barry Leeds** (bhleeds01@snet.net) writes that he, too, is "looking forward to seeing many old friends" at our 50th.

**Anthony Valerio's** new e-books include *Lefty and Her Gangsters: A Novel of Sex and Power*; *The Little Sailor*; *Toni Cade Bambara's One Sicilian Night*; and *BART: A Life of A. Bartlett Giamatti*.

In early August, **John Boatner** wrote, "Here in Tennessee we are living in hell after hell with record-breaking temperatures." John recently produced five new CDs of his compositions: a concerto for cello and orchestra, two choral works,

a children's choir performance of his original settings of three poems from *Alice in Wonderland* and his solo piano performance of several popular tunes. John muses: "It seems that, somehow, the older I get to be, the more I actually am able to accomplish. Is there a moral in that realization?"

Have you experienced such recent spurts of accomplishment?

From Red Hook, N.Y., **Frank Stoppenbach** (frankst@attglobal.net) writes: "In a career as a strategist at IBM, several times what seemed like 'Mission Impossible' jobs came my way.

"After retiring, I worked on several advocacy efforts, not realizing at the time that they, too, had a bit of 'Mission Impossible' about them.

"More than one actually got done. In 1994, the government approved the use of an artificial growth hormone, rBGH, in milk and also approved rules permitting manufacturers to sue dairies that labeled their products with language saying they were made without the use of that technology.

"That seemed unfair, and led to a 10,000-signature petition. The labeling law we sought never came about, but thanks to many similar efforts nationwide, and informed consumers who voted with their feet and dollars, the manufacturer eventually sold the business, and major grocery chains now carry rBGH-free milk.

"That advocacy led me to a run for Congress on a platform of renewable energy jobs (non-nuclear) and single-payer/Medicare for All health care. My borrowed \$15,000 versus \$1 million for the incumbent took 'Mission Impossible' to even higher levels.

"Indirectly, it also led to one more effort, surely the gold standard for impossibility — seeking an open review of AIDS policy and the questions surrounding it. That didn't sound so difficult, because most policies get reviewed and science normally resolves concerns through debate and experimentation. But HIV/AIDS has transcended science and is now almost beyond questioning. This is due to HIV/AIDS' dual role: 1) as an explanation for certain illnesses and 2) as a cautionary tale to promote sexual responsibility. Questioning the first undermines the second, so we are caught in what might be termed a policy trap, doomed to continue spending, in New York state alone, \$500 yearly for each resident on HIV/AIDS alone.

"Two years ago, I put what I had learned about HIV/AIDS into a presentation and took it to policymakers. It seemed to get a good reception. Those interested

can check a brief published letter that nets things out, and has links to the presentation and correspondence with officials: [aidspetition.org/letter](http://aidspetition.org/letter). A documentary, *House of Numbers*, also may be helpful.

"On the fun side, we live in a great area in a partially passive solar house, with a large garden that I enjoy. We have three great grown children, a wonderful granddaughter in Australia and an upcoming wedding."

After graduation, **John Phillips** (jop@me.com) remained on Morning-side Heights to earn an M.Arch from the Architecture School. He then spent two years in the Peace Corps in Micronesia. After that and three years of apprenticeship, John became a licensed architect. However, his Peace Corps experience led him to realize that he was not as interested in designing buildings as in designing the fabric of the city. As a senior urban designer — first with the Mayor's Office of Midtown Planning and Development and then with the New York City Department of City Planning — John, in his own words, "was actively involved in the plan to save 45 landmark Broadway theaters while allowing development that preserves the vibrant character of Times Square and the theatre district. When I retired as director of the Bronx office, I was proud to have been part of the borough's rebirth."

He continues: "My work provided a framework upon which I've built a full life: one part a love of public service and another a passion for food. On a couple of occasions, work coincided with passion as when I co-founded the 9th Avenue International Festival, which brings millions of foodies to the city's annual, mile-long movable feast. Also, almost on a lark, I earned a degree in hotel and restaurant management, which led to my creating and teaching a course in hospitality planning and design at CUNY. I love to share the joys of cooking, whether through private lessons or in crowds on the National Mall as part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival."

John has been featured in several cookbooks, including two by Joan Nathan. Through the years he has traveled widely in the Pacific, Asia, Central America, the Caribbean and the United States, but mostly in Europe. While on a trip to France in February, he joined Algernon Phillips '64 and his family to visit Algernon's daughter (John's goddaughter), who lives in Lyon.

John continues: "On a personal note, after New York state passed its Marriage Equality Act, my partner, John Green, and I decided that we would formalize our 36-year

relationship. So, around noon on July 29, we went downtown to get a license with the intent of getting married in September. However, when the clerk told us we could do it the same day if we got a waiver of the one-day waiting period from the judge, we said, 'Why not?' So, as of 2:55 p.m. July 29, John and I are spouses in the state of New York. Until recently, we spent most weekends away from the city at our home in Millbrook, N.Y. However, as part of a long-range retirement plan, we decided to sell that home and expand our Manhattan apartment. To our minds, Gotham is still the best."

**Bernie Oxman** spent the summer at his newly built vacation home overlooking the Oregon coast. He is a chaired professor of law at the University of Miami and is halfway through his second five-year term as co-editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of International Law*, widely regarded as the leading professionally juried journal in its field. Recently the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea appointed Bernie as judge *ad hoc* on a maritime boundary dispute between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Hearings were scheduled for September at the tribunal's headquarters in Hamburg. This is the second time Bernie has been appointed to this tribunal. Previously he served as judge *ad hoc* at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in a maritime boundary dispute in the Black Sea between Romania and Ukraine. He is the only American to have served on both courts.

**Armando Favazza** reported that **Sylvain Fribourg** passed away suddenly on April 24 in California. Armando wrote: "Sylvain was my closest college friend, and we spent many happy hours putting out issues of *Jester*. He had a long and successful career as an ob/gyn at Kaiser Permanente in Los Angeles and was an avid writer of letters to the *Los Angeles Times*. Through the years we shared long, monthly telephone conversations during which we solved many world problems. In our last call we discovered that each of us was reading a new translation of Herodotus! Sylvain was a kind and brilliant person. After retiring he was a docent at several museums and was president of his Kiwanis club. More than a decade ago he was fortunate enough to meet his soul-mate, a lovely woman named Michelle Rodrigues, with whom he shared his life and traveled the world. We all shall miss him greatly."

I must also report the sad news of the deaths of two other classmates. **Robert Maddox** passed

away on April 2. While at Columbia he played football, ran track, was a member of Delta Phi and met Helen Warwick, whom he married on June 9, 1962. Robert was first in his class at the Fort Knox Armor School and then pursued a career in the Marine Corps. In 1967–68 he served in Vietnam, where he commanded A Company, 3rd Tank Battalion, 3rd Marines in Que Son Valley. Stateside he was an instructor at The Basic School for Marine Corps officers in Quantico, Va. He retired from military service in 1982.

After that Robert and his family settled on the eastern shore of Maryland. An avid bicyclist, he medaled in the Maryland Senior Olympics and rode regularly with a local cycling group. Helen, his wife of 48 years, daughter Leigh, and sons, Robert and Michael, survive him.

**Brian O'Gorman**, a retired attorney and past president of the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, died in San Diego on May 24.

Please make your plans to come to our reunion and let me know your suggestions for it.

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Tons of news this issue! I've had to brutally edit to get it into this space, so go to [cc63ers.com](http://cc63ers.com) to read full copy (and see pictures). You'll also find notes from **Howard Spodek**, **Paul Lehrer**, **Harley Frankel**, **Ezra Cohen** and **Jerry Kessler**, which, because of space, I've had to hold for the next issue.

**David Alpern** won a \$25,000 grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation, matching a \$25,000 challenge grant from the Carnegie Corp. of New York, to continue and expand the hour-long *For Your Ears Only* weekend radio and podcast program that he has produced and hosted since 1982 and which up until last year was known as *Newsweek On Air*. The new funding, along with promised support from The Paley Center for Media in New York and the Council on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington, will permit efforts to continue operations for at least another six months. But more donations and grants are required to add new stations, more college interns and new presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

**Zev bar-Lev** (né **Rob Lefkowitz**) writes, "My challenging year, too good to keep private: In December of last year, after a difficult open-heart operation — complicated by my asthma, a long-standing chronic cough and my corpulence (225

lbs.) — I had a stroke and went into a coma. My wife, Shoshana (née Jane Wirth '63 Barnard), sat by my bed, urging me to wake up. And I did ... just five months later! It's rare enough to wake up after one month in a coma. I had 'slept through' my final semester of teaching, but had also lost 55 lbs. ... and my asthma and cough were mysteriously gone. After several months of rehab, I'm almost as good as when I was 30: I can walk upstairs and down. My mind and memory were miraculously unaffected by the coma and stroke; I'll be teaching my adult-ed Hebrew course, for which I recently wrote a new version of my textbook (this version brings my innovative 'key-letter' system to the beginning of elementary Hebrew study). Although fully retired now, I'll also teach my 'Language & Politics' course at San Diego State University in the spring."

**Peter Gollon** and his wife, Abby Pariser '67 Barnard, are delighted at the birth of their daughter Kate's son, and their first grandson, Blake. Being retired allows them to travel between Kate's family in Rhode Island and their son, David, and 3½-year-old granddaughter, Olivia, in Burlington, Vt.

When not visiting friends or family or otherwise on vacation, Peter continues to advance his liberal politics through activity in the New York Civil Liberties Union, on whose Board of Directors he served for 25 years and was recently elected director emeritus.

He's also putting his physics background to good use as the energy chair of the Sierra Club: Long Island Group, from which position he's trying to move the local electric utility to faster implementation of its energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Peter is motivated by his knowledge that "climate change is real, and is driven by human-produced carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. What we and other countries do or don't do to limit it will have a profound effect on the world we leave to our children and grandchildren."

**Michael Bumagin** writes, "I have 36 hours left in my seventh decade, and my favorite birthday present so far is a scrub suit embroidered with the Columbia Lion! If I'd known I'd live so long I'd have taken better care of myself!"

**Byron Cohen** writes, "I have had a contemporary art gallery for 16 years. We have closed our physical space and now do all of our shows on the Internet. We advertise in *ARTnews* and represent some great contemporary artists. Our new website is byroncohen.gallery.com. I would love to hear from my classmates."

**Peter Slocum** writes that he "was married between freshman and sophomore years at Columbia College. Went to Cambridge University for grad degree and stayed in England with Merrill Lynch. Subsequently was CEO of three banks in London, Beirut and the Bahamas. Now working in investment business in Carefree, Ariz., with oldest son. Portfolio consists of four children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild."

Peter, great name for a town. I hope it is.

**Carey Winfrey** retired on September 30 after 10 years as editor of *Smithsonian Magazine*. Asked his plans by *The Washington Post*, Carey replied: "Something between writing the Great American Novel and a lot of emails." He was only the third editor in the magazine's 40-year history.

After more than 35 years in the Washington, D.C., area, **David Chessler** Ph.D. '74 GSAS is moving to Waltham, Mass., to be closer to his children and grandchildren and farther from hurricanes and earthquakes.

**David Orme-Johnson** writes, "We are spending summers in Fairfield, Iowa, where some of our kids and many friends live and where the university we helped found, Maharishi University of Management, is located. Winters are in the Florida Panhandle, our main residence, between Destin and Panama City, a beautiful area."

"I write papers, mainly reviews and meta-analysis of research on transcendental meditation, and paint. I learned pastel painting this past summer and now am taking a watercolor class. What a joy. We do long, daily meditations with a group of about 2,000, working on personal enlightenment and ostensibly creating coherence for the United States, and go to a lot of concerts and musical events. Yes, in Fairfield, population 10,000. I tell my New York and West Coast friends that this is where the action is!"

**Jack McMullen** writes, "I am on the boards of three venture-backed companies and also on the boards of three civic organizations in Vermont. I was in New Zealand for adventure hiking last November and in a few months plan to go to Patagonia for another outdoors-oriented trip, this time with my fellow J.D.-M.B.A. classmate, Ed Savage. I've attached a picture from the New Zealand trip. I'm the one in the green shirt in the foreground." (Visit our website to see.)

**Benita and Henry Black** recently returned from a trans-Atlantic crossing on the *QM2*, where they were enrolled in a Road Scholar course, "An Insider's Perspective of London Theatre Aboard the

*Queen Mary 2*." The course continued on land in London, where they were able to live what they had learned aboard ship. Henry reports that his Columbia class in modern drama with Bentley and Brustein stood him in good stead on the trip.

**Robert Smith** writes, "I am active in psychiatric research and practice. I continue research in biological mechanism and treatment of schizophrenia and autism as a research psychiatrist at the Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, where I lead a research group, and I am a research professor of psychiatry at NYU Langone Medical Center. I also have a part-time private practice in Woodmere, N.Y., where I live with my wife, Sultana. I recently retired from clinical and research duties at Manhattan Psychiatric Center after 20 years and was chief of psychopharmacology consultation from 2000–11. I have current research grants from the Stanley Medical Research Foundation and other philanthropic sources and am working on studies of metabolic side effects of antipsychotic drugs; biological and clinical studies of smoking in schizophrenia; effects of varenicline in schizophrenia; and effects of yoga on metabolic, epigenetic, hormonal and psychopathology changes in schizophrenic patients. I am a member or fellow of prestigious organizations including the International College of Neuro-Psychopharmacology/Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum."

**Jeff Parson** (alias Jefferson Parson) writes, "My companion, Lauren Oliver, and I recently helped to organize a successful musical benefit for the northern-California-based Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), which is taking California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to court, contesting its plans to widen the highway (101) through Richardson Grove, a state park just south of Garberville, Calif., that has one of the most beautiful remaining stands of ancient redwoods. We raised around \$7,000 for EPIC's legal fund. The event included well-known environmental troubadours such as Joanne Rand and many local musicians, including my band, Raspberry Jam, which performed 12 of my original songs, five of them specifically about Richardson Grove. We also made a compilation CD of Richardson Grove-inspired songs. Concurrently, I came up with the concept for a billboard that we installed on Route 101, near Richardson Grove. The sign has four identical panels of artist Marc Arceneaux's rendering of giant redwoods, with a headline that says

'Richardson Grove — Our Future,' but underneath each panel are the separate captions: Tourism? Lumber? Development? Inspiration?, asking viewers to decide what these ancient trees mean to them. For more information about the movement to protect Richardson Grove and other 'Redwood Curtains,' please contact EPIC: wildcalifornia.org. Anyone wanting a copy of the compilation CD (for a \$10 donation) or copies of my other two CDs, *The Baby and the Bathwater* and *Jefferson's Laments*, please contact me at jefferson@asis.com. Class of '63 discounts available!"

**Yoshiharu Fujisawa** writes, "One big change took place recently. On June 20 I relinquished my chairman and CEO position at Internix, which I founded in September 1970, and got listed in the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in 2004. I retain the honorary chairman title but basically am retired and no longer am a board member. I plan to concentrate on the nature and biodiversity preservation activities that I have been involved in for almost two decades. After **David Cohen** passed away, I have not kept in touch with any classmates and I certainly look forward to knowing how they have been doing."

You'll find pictures of Yoshi and his family on our website.

After eight years of serving the U.S. Department of Justice as a pseudo-special master, monitoring and enforcing Microsoft's compliance with the 2002 final judgment in the long-running antitrust case, **Harry Saal** is "retired" once again, seeking the next big thing. Having two young grandchildren living nearby in Palo Alto seems to be filling all his free time in the interim. Harry's wife, Carol, has had quite a challenging year due to multiple rounds of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant for mantle cell lymphoma. She is participating in a clinical trial of personalized immunotherapy that promises lifelong immunity against a recurrence of MCL.

**Ira Malter's** wife, Cynthia, recently completed a set of five murals for the new Sarabeth's restaurant in Tribeca at Jay and Greenwich Streets. "Have a look," Ira says. "We live in Arizona in the winter and Vermont in the summer."

**Lee Lowenfish** turned summer into a paradise of baseball travel and baseball writing for his blog (leelowenfish.com) and also the booktrib.com and lovemyteam.com blogs.

He made two trips to Coopers-town, N.Y., once to speak about his new project on baseball scouting, "Competitors and Colleagues," and the other to attend the annual late July Hall of Fame inductions.

Lee continues to speak on many campuses about his award-winning biography, *Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman*, and is slated to talk baseball in December before Columbia alumni groups in Tampa and Sarasota, Fla.

After 40 years, **Burt Brody** is retiring as professor of physics from Bard College. He's keeping his home upstate (an 1817 farmhouse overlooking the Hudson) but spending most of his time residing in his apartment near Lincoln Center, enjoying New York City.

Our regular Second Thursday lunches are a great place to reconnect. If you're in NYC, try to make the next Class of '63 lunch, scheduled for December 8, and then on January 12 and February 9. Check [cc63ers.com](http://cc63ers.com) for details.

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

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**Norman Olch**  
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I write as the first fall chills hit New York City. But the passing of summer has its rewards.

The informal, once-a-month class lunches have resumed. **Howard Jacobson, Fred Kantor, Beril Lapon, Steve Rodner** and **Allen Tobias** attended in September and we discussed everything from Beril's three weeks in China to the resignation of the College dean, all while enjoying the food and drink at the Columbia University Club in Manhattan.

After lunch, walking toward the subway with Howard and Fred, I recognized Richard Heffner '46, the host of public television's long-running and informative interview program, *Open Mind*, which first broadcast in 1956. As the crowds pushed past us on the street the four of us discussed *Open Mind* and Columbia.

Remember, we meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month (December 8 this year), so join us.

**Ivan Weissman** reports on Class Day: "On a rainy May day, **Howard Jacobson** and I carried our class banner during Class Day ceremonies. To our amazement, the flag carriers received loud cheers from the graduates. We also were thrilled to receive Columbia College ponchos to help us survive the rain. Five members of our class had signed up to march, but the downpour may have kept our classmates away."

**Richard Muller** has published *The Instant Physicist: An Illustrated Guide*, which incorporates material from his previous book *Physics for*

*Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines* ([college.columbia.edu/cct/jan\\_feb09/columbia\\_forum](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/jan_feb09/columbia_forum)) and his college lectures to answer questions about physics with the use of color cartoons.

**Steve Rosenfeld** has retired from his New York law firm, where he specialized in securities litigation, and now devotes *pro bono* time to representing children in need of legal assistance. A former president of the Legal Aid Society, and a subject of a special *New York Law Journal* report "Lawyers Who Lead by Example," in 2010, Steve contributed 630 hours to helping children. "Representing children is about as different to what I had done in my career as you could imagine. I still wanted to be a lawyer when I retired, but I wanted to do something entirely different. Of all the things Legal Aid does, I thought that children, and particularly children in neglect cases, are among the most vulnerable and most in need of representation."

Steve also is chair of New York City's Conflict of Interest Board and chair of the Board of Visitors at the CUNY School of Law. "For the sixth straight year, New York attorneys have named me a 'Superlawyer' for appeals," Steve says. "Because this comes from my peers, I am greatly honored."

In the late spring my wife, Jacqueline, and I spent 10 days traveling through Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. It was a wonderful trip filled with history and beautiful vistas. We even learned that the Charlottesville area has many vineyards (Thomas Jefferson purportedly said Virginia wines could one day equal those of France). High in the Allegheny Mountains we bathed in Jefferson Springs, whose healthy 98-degree mineral waters have been enjoyed for hundreds of years. It was all great fun.

Send me a note. We all want to hear from you.

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**Leonard B. Pack**  
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For some reason, this column has a particularly literal bent, as the items below were gathered from publicly available information. Future appearances of this column will be enlivened if you would write to me at [packlb@aol.com](mailto:packlb@aol.com) giving me news of your personal doings.

**Jeffrey Bell** has a new book out, *The Case for Polarized Politics: Why America Needs Social Conservatism*. It is scheduled to be published by the time this issue of CCT reaches you. According to the publisher's description, Jeffrey argues that

social conservatism is uniquely American because it is in reality an outgrowth of American exceptionalism. It exists here because the founding principles of the United States — centering on the belief that humanity receives its equal rights directly from God rather than from government — retain a mass following among American voters, even in the wake of abandonment of belief in America's theistic founding by elites and institutions that once espoused it. Jeff argues that a worldwide upheaval in the 1960s set the stage for the rise of social conservatism, which had no earlier political existence. The 1960s upheaval resulted in the triumph of the social agenda of the left, particularly the sexual revolution, among elite opinion in the United States as well as Europe, Japan and elsewhere. In subsequent decades, according to Jeff, the global left has sidelined its century-long drive for socialism and returned to its late-18th-century roots in the thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the radical French revolutionaries known as the Jacobins, who believed human fulfillment depends on liberation from most civilized institutions, particularly organized religion and the family.

Despite the many predictions of its demise, social conservatism has gained and held popular strength in the United States because of its roots in a theistic version of the European enlightenment of the 17th and 18th centuries, which Jeff describes and analyzes as the "conservative enlightenment." It is a rich, optimistic belief system that not only dominated the American founding but also transformed society in the English-speaking world and remains an attractive alternative in the eyes of many of the world's peoples — certainly in comparison to the competing universalisms advocated by the left enlightenment and by the anti-egalitarian Islamic revival. The ability of social conservatism and of its parent, the conservative enlightenment, to revive and spread this natural law-centered democratic vision could reshape the battle of ideas that increasingly defines our post-Cold War world.

Last June, Jeff spoke before a Tea Party rally in Iowa. He said to them, "The people of Iowa have changed our politics. Iowa helps to shape the national debate not only because you are the first state, but because caucus-goers are extremely well-informed." Jeff urged Iowans to get informed and learn how to organize and participate in politics. "It's up to you. You are the type of people who have changed politics in this country the past 30 years. It's urgent. You can change the country

and you can change the world."

According to *Publishers Lunch*, **David Denby** is working on a new book, set in a public high school, about how reading and engaging with literature can build character and create good citizens, and what teachers and parents can do to spark students' passion for reading. We all recall how David's *Great Books* chronicled his return to Columbia for the Core Curriculum. We certainly look forward to David's next work.

**Niles Eldredge** was featured in a recent blog by Ritchie Annand ([blogs.nimblebrain.net](http://blogs.nimblebrain.net), search for "Niles Eldredge"). Niles is a proponent of "punctuated equilibrium" in the evolution of species, meaning that evolution happens in fits and starts instead of smoothly. In a *Los Angeles Times* article, "Alternate Theory of Evolution Considered," which appeared in 1978, Niles was quoted as saying, "If life had evolved into the wondrous profusion of creatures little by little, then there should be some fossiliferous record of those changes; that is, one would expect to find transitional creatures that were a little bit like what went before them and a little bit like what came after them."

"But no one has found any evidence of such in-between creatures. This was long chalked up to 'gaps' in fossil records, gaps that proponents of gradualism confidently expected to fill in someday when rock strata of the proper antiquity were eventually located."

"But all of the fossil evidence to date has failed to turn up any such missing links, and there is a growing conviction among many scientists that these transitional forms never existed. And if this is so, then the gradualist view of evolution is an inaccurate portrayal of how life developed."

The blogger points out that creationists have quoted Niles' article

## 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](http://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.

Class Notes received by **Monday, December 12**, are eligible for inclusion in the Spring 2012 issue.

dishonestly and out of context, claiming that he admitted that “no one has found any such in-between creatures ... and there is a growing conviction among many scientists that these transitional forms never existed.” Of course, what Niles meant is that if evolution proceeds in fits and starts, the chances of finding fossil records from the relatively brief periods of time during which accelerated evolution occurred are remote, but that does not mean that the evolution did not occur. In any event, being misquoted by creationists is a back-handed acknowledgment by them that Niles is a leading thinker in the scientific world of paleontology and evolution.

Steven Millhauser also has a new book, *We Others: New and Selected Stories*, a selection from three decades of work. In a July 1 interview with *Publishers Weekly*, the interviewer noted that five of the seven new stories in the book use the collective voice or point of view. Steven responded: “What’s fascinating about ‘we’ is that it invites conflict. There’s nothing innocent about ‘we’ — it implies a not-we who ... must be dealt with. Sometimes the not-we is a stranger, like my knife thrower, who enters a community and causes trouble; sometimes it’s a hostile group, like the corporation in ‘The Next Thing’ that wants to take over the town. And there’s another crucial thing about using a collective narrator — it’s uncommon. It’s liberating. If you read a story with an ‘I’ or a ‘he’ or a ‘she,’ you’re in familiar territory — but ‘we’ is mostly unexplored. I think of ‘we’ as an adventure.”

The interviewer noted that the earliest stories in the book seem to reflect the real world and realism in a way that the newer work does not. Steven commented, “Strange as this may sound, I consider myself a realist. Or let’s say, I’ve always had a complicated relation to so-called realism. What I dislike is conventional realism — a system of gestures, descriptions and psychological revelations that was once a vital way of representing the world but has become hackneyed through endless repetition. I’d argue that a conventional realist isn’t a realist at all, but a falsifier of the real. The ‘fantastic’ has no interest for me in itself. Its justification is that it’s a way of getting at something real — something that can’t be gotten at in any other way. In this sense, I’d say that I’ve never broken my tie to realism. As a reader, I revere the classic realists, writers like Maupassant and Chekhov and, yes, early Hemingway and his American descendants, right up to the present day. My argument isn’t with realism — it’s with what passes for realism and is actually unrealism.”

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**Stuart Berkman**  
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We have learned of the passing of **Richard Thompson**, retired psychoanalyst and program manager, New York City, this past April.

Other than that sad information, those who believe in the old adage that no news is good news will be delighted to know that we have abundant good news — in other words, absolutely no news at all to report on this go-around. Of course, most of our classmates have been too busy to write, off somewhere collecting Nobel prizes, Pulitzer prizes, Oscars and Palmes d’Or. No wonder they have no time to write and to share with our classmates news about all their spectacular achievements!

We’ll be willing to overlook this temporary epistolary lapse, as long as you promise to make a significant effort to write for the following issue, OK?

Send a note to me at the email at the top of the column, or use CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Your note will come right to me.

[Editor’s note: Brian Hesse ’71, who entered with the Class of ’66, has passed away. Please see the Class of ’71 column for more information.]

#### REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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My wife, Diane, and I were delighted to have dinner with **Cliff Kern**, who was in Santa Barbara for a *Sideways* trip with a group of friends. Cliff is the same charming person who was my study partner as we labored and laughed our way through obscure economics problem sets during our senior year. He enjoys teaching economics at SUNY Binghamton as well as Mahler concerts in New York and his gourmet experiences.

**Peter Miller** writes, “Inspired by those who have recently written in, I break a 44-year silence to report that I’ve been elected a member of the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., for ‘meritorious original work that introduces an important innovation in approach, methodology,

technique, knowledge, vision, or alters perceptions that influence the nominee’s field in science, literature, or the arts.” This relates to the nearly 300 editions of photogravure etchings I’ve done since 1991, many of which are in museums and private collections. They spring from a vision nurtured by 30 years in Japan, unique in both technique and style, but accessible to all. I recognize, from my own experience, that many accomplishments are unaccompanied by overt recognition, titles, awards, and the like, and look forward to reports of such ‘inner-directed’ achievements here.”

**Jeff Newman** wrote to express his profound sadness at the passing of his roommate and friend of nearly 50 years, **Don Krim**. “Don and I met during our first week at the College and became friends at once. We were roommates during our last three years there and during all three years at the Law School. We remained close. I spent much time visiting with Don in the hospital in the final months and at home in the final weeks, after he returned for hospice care. Don faced his final days with the same courage and dignity that he always displayed.

“Don was president for more than 30 years of Kino International and built it into a highly respected and acclaimed film distribution company. Kino was acquired recently by Lorber Films, whose principal is **Richard Lorber**. In the past four years, three of Kino-Lorber’s films were nominated for Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film.

“Don’s funeral service was held on May 23 at Riverside Memorial Chapel. Don leaves his wife, Susan; daughter, Miriam; and son, Simon. I spoke at his funeral service: ‘Don once quoted Emerson in a letter he sent me, “Always do what you are afraid to do.” Don took his own counsel. He chose to forsake a well-trodden corporate path that potentially beckoned and instead to go the far riskier route: by audaciously launching his now universally acclaimed, but then modest, venture. ...

“The same Don Krim who had been troubled by the injustices he saw in the ‘60s was troubled by the injustice he saw only weeks ago. During a hospital visit early last month, Don spoke eloquently, if softly, against one political party’s proposal to balance the budget on the backs of the poor and the elderly.”

We will miss Don.

**Mark Minton** writes, “At the invitation of the Alumni Office and the Columbia College Fund, a small group of your Class of 1967 alumni colleagues met at The Korea Society in New York on June

20 to begin the work of planning for our 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend, scheduled for Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. **Bob Costa**, **Jonathan Kranz**, **Roger Lehecka** and I were the advance-guard in attendance at this preliminary meeting, but we got good advice from Alumni Office staff members Heather Hunte of the Columbia College Fund and Nick Mider of the events team. This session marked the first step, and we plan to meet again and hope to be joined from then onward — in person, online or through conference calls — by others who are willing to help with this important event.

“Our 2012 reunion will coincide with Dean’s Day, with its usual offerings of classes and presentations (Saturday, June 2), so the program offerings will be rich. We are seeking a good venue for an opening reception Thursday evening, May 31. Many of you may remember the wonderful cocktail reception hosted by the late **Jeremy Epstein** at his home in Brooklyn for our 40th reunion. Issues to be decided are the number of separate programs or meals planned for our class and a speaker for a proposed closing dinner on Saturday. As we have done before, we’ll also be recruiting class members to present talks about their careers, experiences or interests.

“We need enough class members to work on preparations and to staff several committees: Events (planning events/recruiting speakers), Communications (getting the word out) and Class Gift (fundraising). If any of you are interested in participating in these preparations, please let me know: mintonmc@gmail.com. Any class colleague wanting to help is very welcome.”

Please take a look at the reunion website (reunion.college.columbia.edu) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

Your classmates want to hear from you, particularly as we approach our reunion. Please do write. Send a note to me at the email at the top of the column, or use CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Your note will come right to me.

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**Arthur Spector**  
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Greetings to the Class of 1968.

I saw **Gordon Harriss**, **John Slattery** and **Seth Weinstein** at my home in September for a little political event. I run into Seth at the

gym; he always looks fit. Gordon sounds like he is busy at Davis Polk and Seth has been swamped with all kinds of activities. And John is at Corcoran and is doing well. I heard from **Ken Tomecki** recently; he was off to Heidelberg, Germany, to do some lectures. He sounded full of energy and spirit. I also spoke to **Jim Shorter**, who was off to a conference in Panama. I heard from **Gregg Winn**, who sounded like he was still teaching and enjoying the west coast of Florida. **Hollis Petersen** reported that he and his wife were off again to Key West (now, there is a great place for a class reunion). I received a long note from **Ed Brennan**, who seems unenthusiastic about domestic political events but sounded in grand spirits. **David Shapiro** continues to write poems and do his artwork. I suspect his art talents will be well recognized in the future. **Paul Brosnan** — **Ed Brennan**'s roommate — constantly sends me great thoughts on the present administration. He seems less ebullient each day. **Bob Brandt** sent me a great series of notes — his warm memory of David Sidorsky's philosophy classes is exceptional. I, too, wish I had a DVD of some of those classes. Talking to Gordon, I wish I had a couple of lectures from his late dad's classes (college.columbia.edu/cct/cctmar\_apr10/around\_the\_quads6), as I am a public finance banker 36 years and counting.

**Paul de Bary** and I were with his dad, Ted '41, at the first football game of the year. I saw men's head basketball coach Kyle Smith there and we talked for a while. I am convinced we have a great coach and recommend your going to lots of games. What he did last year was superb. This year he has six first-years, so good luck coach, and go Lions! When I said 1968, of course, he bowed with august appreciation for what we had our senior year.

I am keeping busy at work, but I do promise to reach out to you more during the next few months. Happy to finally hit 65, along with some of our classmates. We represent the vanguard of the new 45 crowd.

I was pleased to received these next two wonderful notes. Enjoy them as much as I did!

**Peter Janovsky**: "I enjoyed summer in the city, biking to and from work every day on my Dahon folder, ending with a tour around the Central Park loop on the way home. I do commercial litigation and bankruptcy at Zeichner Ellman & Krause. My twin daughters, Geena and Isabel, are in the fifth grade at the Calhoun School on West 81st Street and West End Avenue. Geena is a very talented artist and singer, and, like her dad,

an aspiring film critic. We have our differences — her No. 1 film is *Thor*, while mine is *Kung Fu Panda* (Part 1 of course). Isabel is a budding pianist and ardent devotee of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, especially the elf archer Legolas. A few months ago she donated 12 inches of her hair to the Locks of Love program, which provides hairpieces for kids suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

"I've been in touch with band alumni and others from various classes, including Richard Friedlander '60, **Mike Tracy**, **Steve Bachenheimer**, **Cliff Andrew**, Dan Carlinsky '65, Frank Mirer '66, Stan Adelman '67, Neil Harwayne '67 and Dick Menaker '69.

"For some reason, I have not run into Art on the street in quite some time. For years, every couple of months I'd encounter Art at the Columbus Avenue Häagen-Dazs, Fairway or Zabar's, the movies or even on Broadway in Saratoga Springs. Where are you, Art? I'm sure this will change as our 45th reunion approaches. (By the way, it's not too early to send your updated autobiographies to me at [pjanovsky@zeklaw.com](mailto:pjanovsky@zeklaw.com).)"

Peter, I am looking forward to seeing you and your wife and the twins sledding in the park this winter! And yes, our next reunion is near at hand, but it is the 70th reunion that we should all plan to attend (and do that 10K walk).

And **Jeff Kurnit** wrote: "On June 4, I was on campus for Dean's Day and participated in the first reunion event of the recently organized Columbia Alumni Singers ([columbiaalumnisingers.org](http://columbiaalumnisingers.org)), the newest affinity group of the Columbia Alumni Association. I am part of the organizing committee of this group, and we had a wonderful day. We rehearsed in the morning, took a lunch break, rehearsed a little more and then gave a concert in the late afternoon. Last year there was a similar event, but it was aimed at alumni of the Glee Club. Columbia Alumni Singers is open to anyone who sang in any organization at either Columbia or Barnard. This year my wife, Abby '68 Barnard, and I both sang. Other members of our class who attended were **Jon Bauman** and **Mas Taketomo**. We had the opportunity to meet up with friends and make new friends from other classes.

"Anyone who is interested in getting involved in Columbia Alumni Singers can check out the website and/or get in touch with me or with Nick Rudd '64, who is the head of the organization ([RuddNick@aol.com](mailto:RuddNick@aol.com)).

"I am preparing to retire after 43 years as an educator. I've been at Queensborough Community

College since 1985, and I've been chair of my department since 2003. I worked until mid-August, and then Abby, who retired in 2005, and I began to enjoy ourselves. We are looking forward to traveling when school is in session and have scheduled a trip to Italy for next October. Both of our children are married, but there are no grandchildren yet. As we see it, another whole life is ahead of us."

Jeff, great to hear from you. Congratulations to you and Abby. I keep hearing about our classmates moving into new chapters ... sounds great to me. I sing at my piano and enjoy it. I hope all our classmates are singing, laughing — my favorite activity — and enjoying their Kindle, Android or other device, Galaxy Tab or other similar wondrous product, and exercising a little or more than that daily.

Please write. Send a note to me at my new email address, at the top of the column, or use CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Your note will come right to me.

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**John Erickson** emails from the state of Washington: "Hello from the Pacific Northwest! Drop-in visits from classmates have dropped off, so it must be time for an update. For those of you who have not visited, I live just outside Olympia with an old Lab on a quiet cove across from the Evergreen State College beach. There's an old refurbished Pocock double wherry in the carport, available for a row on short notice. My daughter recently started at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., and my wife and I are separating after 20 years, so I am entering a period of relative solitude. My time with Kenneth Koch is still paying off: a good poem should bring a twinkle to your eye. If not a patch. Professionally, I am a senior environmental planner with our state Department of Ecology. It remains good public service and always is challenging. Most of my work these days is budget-related. This year, I am chairing our cross-program Sustainability Team. About 10 years ago I led a state-of-the-art project called 'Pathways to Sustainability': a strategic planning model for how an organization can become environmentally sustainable. Ironically, we're well on our way, but Pathways is still state-of-the-art.

Inquiries welcome, as they say: [ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0201008.html](http://ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0201008.html). Drop me a line: [jeri461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jeri461@ecy.wa.gov). Be well!"

From **Steve Silberblatt**: "I am a supervising attorney at the Criminal Defense Practice of the Legal Aid Society in Queens County. Three years ago I was assigned to represent a defendant named Kareem Bellamy, who had spent 14 years in prison for a crime that most now believe he did not commit. He had other counsel who worked tirelessly for his release, as did highly experienced retired law enforcement officers who became convinced that another person had confessed to the murder for which Bellamy had been convicted. Unfortunately, prior counsel made the mistake of needlessly introducing into evidence a tape recording that turned out to be faked, thus giving the Queens DA the opportunity to argue the court had been victimized by fraud. Prior counsel was forced to withdraw. It therefore fell to me to convince the court to vacate Bellamy's conviction, which was originally based on seriously questionable evidence. After a three-year struggle, we prevailed in both Supreme Court and the Appellate Division, and the Queens DA wisely declined to further prosecute Bellamy. In September, the case was dismissed and sealed, and Bellamy is now a free man. Since the Legal Aid Society is not compensated by the city for this kind of work, and our labors are not commonly recognized, cases of this kind are not widely reported. But I think it's a dramatic and interesting story, particularly in light of the recent execution of Troy Davis.

"Last year I attended convocation at the Law School to commemorate the founding of the University Senate, in whose creation I evidently played a role in 1969. To my delight, one of my favorite teachers, historian Walter Metzger, was present and spoke eloquently. Oddly, though he said he didn't remember me visually, he said he remembered my voice! Upon learning that I had spent my life as a legal aid lawyer, he was so enthusiastic and supportive that I became, for the first time in my life, embarrassed."

**Fredric Fastow** reports: "It has been an eventful year. My daughter, Ramona, who serves as a captain in the Army at the Grafenwoehr base in Germany, on March 27 married Capt. Chad Jones, who also is stationed at Grafenwoehr (last time I looked, the coverage by *The New York Times* could still be found on its website). My daughter Hélène continues her career right here in New York City, where she works for the Daisy Fuentes line of fashions at Regatta, a division of Li & Fung. On a rainy spring day, my

daughter, Sara, graduated from The Hartt School, the performing arts conservatory of the University of Hartford; she recently left the rain behind and relocated to Las Vegas, where she will be dancing in the show *Jubilee!* at Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino. My wife, Judith, continues her social work career at Edenwald residential center, where she works at placing dually diagnosed teenagers in adoptive or foster homes. I am still at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Law Department, where I review and edit construction contracts and related documents. In my little free time I compose music and play occasional solo fingerstyle guitar gigs."

From **Doran Twer**: "Everything I know about football (not that much) I learned from **Jimmy O'Connor**, **Ron Tarrington**, **Marly Domres** et. al., which has stood me in good stead as my now 19-year-old son, Aden (yes, I have a kid that young), has developed into a standout wide receiver. Although Columbia showed great interest in him for the Class of 2014, the academic hurdle was just a little too high. However, I am happy to report that as a sophomore at Gettysburg College, after three games, he leads the Centennial Athletic Conference in receiving with 21 receptions, 430 yards and five touchdowns, including a 32-yard, game-winning reception as time expired versus Ursinus on September 10 (which has gone viral on YouTube). I am sure my classmates in the football program would be surprised that I produced a football player. I certainly am. Maternal genes often rule."

**Mark Wattenberg** writes: "After graduating from the Law School ('73), I began working for a legal aid office in very rural Western New York. In one form or another, I've been there ever since. I mostly handle landlord-tenant, land contract and mortgage foreclosure cases. My wife, Elizabeth, works with volunteer EMS squads. Our son works at an art gallery in Chelsea. My favorite activity is chess."

Mark also shared some recollections of College life: "Every weekend in my freshman year, I looked forward to the bridge games that took place at the end of my floor. It was a diverse group that included a rising academic star, destined for Oxford, who also belonged to an elite college senior society, and his plain-spoken, good-natured, very loyal half-Hawaiian roommate. In a nearby room was a classics scholar from a devout, traditional Catholic family and one of his suite roommates, who was from Florida, very earthy, and had come to the college thinking about a military

career. Occasionally, students from other dorms would sit in, including an African-American student who spoke dreamily about classical music. Unfortunately, my roommate and his buddy from several doors down did not participate. They both had plenty of personality, but they were more interested in trying to find dates at Barnard or the other all-women colleges in the area (usually a doomed effort) than in playing cards. For some reason, no one in the running bridge game picked up that I was Jewish. Possibly as a result, from time to time, there would slip out minor ethnic slurs. Having grown up in Minnesota, I said nothing. Then during one game, the player from Florida made an unusually graphic remark. Something must have registered on my face. Everyone froze. There followed a humble and heartfelt apology. That put an end to the ethnic slurs."

Thanks to Dan Carlinsky '65 — a longtime friend of CCT — for alerting me to a concert listing for **Cam Brown**, appearing at the New York Society Library. Cam performed on bass along with jazz vocalist Sheila Jordan. The program announcement tells us that Cam has appeared on more than 125 recordings (each one, apparently, a missed opportunity for CCT news), and the list of jazz legends with whom he has performed is truly remarkable. Cam was the founder of the Don Pullen/George Adams Quartet, and he currently performs with his own group, The Hear and Now.

As you probably know by now, CCT is being published on a quarterly basis instead of bimonthly. This means, as class correspondent, I have four deadlines per year instead of six, which is a positive. However, it means each column counts more, putting pressure on me to use the allocated space so that our class can stay in touch. For this column, I sent out individual emails to almost 50 classmates soliciting news by my deadline and, at least, a response to let me know if news would be sent. I have a list of our class members, but the contact information includes email addresses for less than half the class; I selected from that part of the class for which I have email addresses some 50 classmates who have not been recently mentioned in the column. John, Steve, Fredric, Doran and Mark answered my call and sent in some news; two other classmates responded to say they would not be sending news. But most of the group did not respond to my email, making it difficult to produce a column classmates will enjoy reading and leaving me to wonder whether it is worth my time to

chase after classmates. I ask those who are not receiving emails from the College to provide me with their email addresses, and I ask those who are solicited to send in news or views on how the College experience has influenced their lives to at least respond to my emails. Better still, readers of the column should send in news without having to be individually asked.

Apart from missing email addresses for many classmates, the College has no contact information at all for some two dozen members of our class. Here is a list; if you can help us locate any of these classmates, please send me an email: **David B. Alger**, **Leslie Barta**, **Steven C. Berger**, **Martin P. Bidmead**, **John M.L. Bryan**, **Hussein F. Chalabi**, **Renee Chinquapin**, **Joseph J. Delisa**, **Hugo Fernandez**, **Walter R. Gelles**, **Gary R. Gunas**, **Steven W. Hecht**, **John S. Lenart**, **William T. Lewis**, **Stephen M. Mark**, **Frank R. Nelson**, **Michael P. Owen**, **Joel K. Rabkin**, **James A. Robins**, **Louis H. Rowen**, **Philip S. Slabosky**, **Roderick G. Smith**, **William T. Taylor**, **Rene B. Wilson** and **Richard L. Wilson**.

Finally, I refer classmates to the Obituaries section of the Fall issue, which sadly reports the passing of **Joseph Okon** and **Joel Ouellet**. Full obituaries will follow in a future issue.

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First, I am happy to report that during Columbia's 2010–11 fiscal year ending on June 30, our class contributed \$132,979 of unrestricted money and \$220,000 in total contributions to the Columbia College Fund. We helped make 2011 a record year for contributions to the College Fund. Thank you to all who helped to make this possible, and keep giving to the College ([college.columbia.edu/giveonline](http://college.columbia.edu/giveonline) or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488).

On the news front, **Phil Russotti** checked in and we had lunch. He is proud of his son, who works with a maritime/shipping firm in London and apparently will be marrying well!

**Dennis Graham** updated me on the success of former football Lions **Terry Sweeney**, **Peter Stevens**, **Bill Poppe**, **Bernie Josefsberg**, **Frank Furillo**, **Dick Alexander** and **Jim Wascara**, who all urge class members to attend Lions football games. I attended last year's Homecoming game and had a wonderful time. Dr. **Barry Franklin** reported on his

son Joshua '10's graduation with honors as a philosophy major. Joshua now is in his second year at NYU Law School and is fluent in Chinese.

The Columbia Alumni Singers, Columbia's newest affinity group ([columbiaalumnisingers.org](http://columbiaalumnisingers.org)), includes among its members **James Marsen**. The Alumni Singers performed at this year's Alumni Reunion Weekend.

I am proud to report that my three children all completed college and all are gainfully employed in different parts of the country. Now that my wife, Merle, and I are empty-nesters, our children feel compelled to send their friends and their friends' families to New York to stay with us.

Keep the news coming in. Send a note to me at the email address at the top of the column, or use CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Your note will come right to me.

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**Brian Hesse** M.Phil '73, Ph.D. '78 passed away on April 2 at 66 ([legacy.com/obituaries/centre-daily/obituary.aspx?n=brian-hesse&pid=149994844](http://legacy.com/obituaries/centre-daily/obituary.aspx?n=brian-hesse&pid=149994844)). Brian appears to have entered with the Class of '66.

Excerpts: "An anthropological archaeologist, Dr. Hesse was director of the Jewish Studies Program at Penn State's College of the Liberal Arts. He was a professor of Jewish Studies, Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, and Anthropology. While at Penn State, Dr. Hesse chaired the College of Liberal Arts Committee on Undergraduate Studies, served on the Committee on Academic Integrity and the School of Languages Outreach Committee, and was a member of the Faculty Senate. ...

"For more than 35 years, he participated in extensive field work in the Middle East and South America, excavating and analyzing material from many sites, most notably in Ganj Dareh in western Iran and at Ashkelon and Tel Mique-Ekron in Israel. Dr. Hesse brought his compendious knowledge to the classroom and conveyed his enthusiasm for the study of animal bones to hundreds of appreciative students. A devoted, gifted, and multi-talented public educator, Dr. Hesse developed the exhibit, 'Western Civilization: Origins and Traditions,' at the Smithsonian Institution of Natural History. Through his research, Dr. Hesse greatly advanced knowledge

# Mark Allen '71 Guides NASA to Mars Research

BY ROBERT E. CALEM '89J

**I**t takes nine months for a spaceship from Earth to reach Mars, but don't let that fool you into thinking the two planets are really so far apart. What actually separates one from the other, says **Mark Allen '71**, is a measly 25 miles; that's the distance above Earth where the chemical and physical composition of this planet's atmosphere most closely resembles that of Mars.

Allen, principal scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, is the NASA chief scientist behind the planned 2016 launch of the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, a spacecraft whose mission is to study the chemical composition of the Martian atmosphere and to try to find evidence of primitive life, or of magma and geothermal processes, in the planet's subsurface.

It is a tremendously ambitious pursuit — the first truly joint planetary mission between NASA and the European Space Agency — and it would, if successful, herald the first detection of life or a habitable region outside of the Earth. All evidence to date has marked Mars as a dead planet, both on its surface and in its interior.

Outcomes aside, though, for Allen the ExoMars mission represents something more: the culmination of a long and impressive career first formulated amidst the turbulence of Columbia in the 1960s.

"The story starts with my entering Columbia knowing I wanted to be a research chemist," yet not having much more than a vague notion of a career, Allen says. Guided by people such as physical chemistry professor George Flynn '64 GS, '66 GSAS, "the strong Columbia chemistry department allowed me to see what world-class research was like" and, with graduation looming, a scientific breakthrough in space finally

spawned one of his own.

"In my senior year, I learned about the discovery of molecules in interstellar space (the region between the stars), an environment where conventional wisdom at the time would suggest that molecules shouldn't exist," he says. "I chose this burgeoning field of astrochemistry as my future research interest."

Columbia led to a Ph.D. in

a mission proposal to NASA for orbiting Venus and studying the chemical composition of that planet's middle atmosphere, which bears much resemblance to Earth's middle atmosphere.

Although NASA subsequently did not undertake the Venus mission, Allen says, the experience was instrumental in shaping his work. Building on that mission proposal, 10 years

tributed to Allen's successes, especially in the late 1960s, when Columbia was engulfed in the societal and political turmoil of the times.

"We were at Columbia during all the turbulence, [but] he was a serious science student and he didn't let any of that distract him," recalls his friend and dormmate in what was then known as Livingston Hall, Richard Fuhrman '71, a former member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors. "He took the industrial-strength courses, and that's frankly what got him to what he's doing today. But, despite the pocket protector, he was a regular guy who had a sense of humor. He was very sweet, very thoughtful." The two get together once a year when Allen returns to Long Island, where he grew up and Fuhrman now lives, to visit family and friends.

Allen gives the most credit to his parents for setting him in the right direction. "I was admitted to MIT, but my parents really didn't want me to go because they thought it too specialized," he remembers. "I think they were remarkably on the ball."

When it launches in 2016, the ExoMars orbiter will travel for nine months to reach the outer limits of Mars' atmosphere. "Aerobraking," reducing its orbit radius to where observations can commence, will add another seven months. Those observations, once begun, will stretch the mission out another two "Earth years," Allen says. "That takes me to [age] 71" and may make this the last project he undertakes — the zenith of a journey that began in Morning-side Heights and extended to the heights of outer space.

**Robert E. Calem '89J** is a freelance journalist based in Hoboken, N.J., who has covered a wide range of technology and business subjects for 25 years.



**Mark Allen '71 chairs a meeting of the joint European Space Agency/NASA mission to Mars.**

PHOTO: THOMAS (DUTCH) SLAGER

chemistry from Caltech in 1976, where Allen completed one of the earliest research papers to present "model simulations" of the molecular clouds in interstellar space, which was published in 1977.

Not staying away from Columbia for long, he returned to New York for a two-year fellowship at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, a Columbia collaborator, where he met Yuk Yung, a visiting researcher from Harvard, and Gordon Chin '70, '78 GSAS. Both would later play key roles in shaping Allen's career.

In 1978, Yung drew Allen to return to Caltech as a postdoctoral fellow in planetary sciences, preparing him for a move to JPL in 1981. In the mid-1990s, Chin resurfaced with a new opportunity: to jointly develop

ago he was the first to create the concept of a Mars trace gas mission and led a team (including Chin) to write a new mission proposal to NASA. Through a variety of twists and turns, this proposal gave rise to the ExoMars orbiter project last year.

In hindsight, Allen credits the College for the foundation that made it all possible. The Core Curriculum "honed my skills in articulation of points of view orally and in writing," he says, adding, "I was told by a very senior JPL program manager that I prepared the clearest mission proposals he had ever read." Four years on the Ferris Booth Hall Board of Managers, of which he was president in his senior year, taught him leadership skills that he still uses today, he says.

Great study habits also con-

of animal domestication and its significance for the development of civilizations. He published hundreds of articles and manuscripts in professional journals. Many of these works, along with his book, *Animal Bone Archaeology: From Objectives to Analysis*, were co-authored by his wife, Paula Wapnish Hesse. ...

"But most of all he was devoted to his wife, Paula, and his daughter, Arielle. ...

"From 1967 to 1969, Dr. Hesse served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam as a communications specialist. ...

"In lieu of flowers, please direct inquiries to the Penn State Jewish Studies Program, 814-865-1369."

**David Harrah:** "I'm retired after 30 years in the computer industry; 15 years with IBM in New York, then Apple, the late Sun Microsystems and HP. The last 20 were all in press relations. Now living near Santa Cruz, Calif."

**Gary Rotenberg:** "Having recently relocated to London with my wife, Jane J. Dickson '74 Barnard, I could not, unfortunately, attend the reunion. Jane's company, MetLife, asked her to relocate in order to assume responsibility for the legal oversight of all transactions emanating from Europe and Asia. Our daughter, Eloise Dickson Rotenberg '12 Barnard, joined us in London for the summer, and our other daughter, Emma Page Rotenberg '09 Barnard, visited us for three weeks in July, capped off by a well-coordinated meeting of the four of us in Paris and dinner at Laurent. Our son, Thomas Dickson Rotenberg '07 NYU-Tisch, visited us in August before heading to Los Angeles in the fall to further his career in the cinema. Somewhat miraculously, he obtained a job writing and directing commercial videos.

"In the meantime, I pursue corporate advisory work in the energy sector and expert witness assignments in investment banking and corporate finance and help to get our house, in Highgate and dating to 1830, in order. The house has provided lodging for a number of visiting friends and family, at one stretch accommodating visitors for nine straight weeks. I have also reconnected with colleagues from my various investment firms, including Smith Barney, NatWest and Merrill Lynch, and London-based law firms. In light of all the education expenses we have assumed (Tom and Emma went to Loomis Chaffee and Eloise to Interlochen, and then Emma did her graduate work at Johns Hopkins) through the years, we foresee the need for continued employment.

"I hope everyone had a great

time at the 40th [reunion]!"

From a press release from Yale University Press: "On October 15, Yale University Press will publish *Leon Trotsky: A Revolutionary's Life*, the newest book in Yale's highly praised Jewish Lives series. Author **Joshua Rubenstein** is a leading expert on human rights and the former Soviet Union and an acclaimed writer. In his hands, Trotsky emerges as a brilliant and brilliantly flawed man.

"Trotsky was both a world-class intellectual and a man capable of the most narrow-minded ideological dogmatism. He was an effective military strategist and an adept diplomat, yet he staked the fate of the Bolshevik revolution on the meager foundation of a Europe-wide Communist upheaval. He was a master politician, yet he played his cards badly in the momentous struggle for power against Stalin in the 1920s. He was an assimilated and indifferent Jew who was among the first to foresee that Hitler's triumph would mean disaster for European Jews, and that Stalin would attempt an alliance with Hitler if Soviet overtures to the Western democracies failed. ...

"Joshua Rubenstein is the Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International USA and a longtime associate at Harvard University's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. He is the author of *Tangled Loyalties: The Life and Times of Ilya Ehrenburg* and is coeditor of *The KGB File of Andrei Sakharov* and *Stalin's Secret Pogrom: The Postwar Inquisition of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee*, both published by Yale University Press. *Stalin's Secret Pogrom* received a National Jewish Book Award."

**Ed Wallace:** "With both sons — Richard '12 and Will '14 — nearly grown, I have resumed my volunteer participation in NYC civic life. New Yorkers For Parks (NY4P), the former Parks Council, on whose board I served in 1985, has asked me to serve as chair. **Phil Milstein** was quick to support our Fall Gala and I hope other classmates who value our underfunded city parks will also help, either by volunteering in an NYC park or by contributing."

**Bennett Alan Weinberg:** "As co-author of *The World of Caffeine: The Science and Culture of the World's Most Popular Drug*, the definitive book on caffeine, which has been translated into Italian, Spanish and Japanese, I have recently become a media consultant to The Coca-Cola Co., handling media issues and contacts relating to caffeine. I have also launched a website, [worldofcaffeine.com](http://worldofcaffeine.com), featuring the latest, greatest scientific, health care, and cultural information

about caffeine, the most popular psychoactive drug in the world.

"And I have written *The Case of the Missing Rembrandt*, the first of *The Columbia Mysteries*. These novels feature a Columbia philosophy professor who becomes an amateur detective and are largely about Columbia professors and largely set on the Columbia campus. The first novel is centered around the theft of the Rembrandt that hung in the University president's office. I would like to hear from any agents or editors interested in seeing this book: [baw@bawinc.com](mailto:baw@bawinc.com)."

**Steve Ross:** "Left the East Coast 32 years ago for a job teaching history at USC. All my New York prejudices about the West Coast disappeared very quickly. Los Angeles is a great place to live and work. After 10 years of research and writing, I finally published *Hollywood Left and Right: How Movie Stars Shaped American Politics*. The book offers two counterintuitive arguments: first, conservatives have a longer history in Hollywood than liberals, and second, even though the Hollywood Left has been more visible and numerous, the Hollywood Right has had a greater impact on American politics.

"I'll be in New York doing a talk at the 92nd Street Y on January 25 and would love to see any old Columbia friends who might be interested in hearing more about the relationship between Hollywood and politics — from Charlie Chaplin to Governor Arnold."

From a news email from NYU, **Matt Santirocco:** "On August 1, 1994, I arrived at New York University as the new dean of the College of Arts and Science. On August 1 of this year, I [stepped] down from that position to take on new responsibilities as senior vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs. The intervening years have been exhilarating and transformative, both for the college and for the university. They have also been deeply rewarding for me personally. But 17 years is a very long time — both for the college and for me — and I had been considering for a while other ways to contribute to the university's global agenda.

"So it is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I have agreed to take on this new role, in which one of my primary responsibilities will be to lead the development of the liberal arts curriculum for NYU Shanghai, the latest addition to our Global Network University."

**Greg Wyatt** had a solo sculpture exhibit, "Muses and Creators," at Kouros Gallery, in Manhattan, October 6–29. By now you all know of Greg's work, but for anyone from another class reading this column,

Greg, the sculptor-in-residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, bases his work on the philosophy of "spiritual realism," merging realistic images and abstract masses of form, space and energy.

The Class of 1971 gave a Reunion Class Gift, through the June 30 end of the 2010–11 fiscal year, of \$1,243,799 in unrestricted money for the Columbia College Fund, breaking the record previously set by ... the Class of 1971. The class also gave \$8,024,800 in total contributions to the University.

Classmates can submit eNews/Class Notes items directly to me by responding to my emails such as the eNews, or writing to my email address at the top of the column, or via CCT's web submission form: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Please always include your name as you would like it to appear, and the email address at which I should correspond with you regarding editing or follow-up questions. If you refer to other alumni, please include their last names (even if they are your children) and include their class year if they are not our class. If you refer to other Columbia degrees than from the College, please include the specific degree and year.

As for me, I do thank those who include thanks to me in their emails, even as I edit out those thank yous (and usually without acknowledging them) before publishing the senders' items in the eNews and CCT Class Notes. I don't want it to seem that such comments, although appreciated, are necessary or even helpful in getting items published. However, I do include the following item because it is from my CCT boss (and colleague on the Reunion Committee), who could cut my class correspondent salary *in half* with the snap of fingers at any moment he chose, without needing to even draft, edit or file any paperwork.

**Alex Sachare:** "It was wonderful to see such a great turnout at reunion — great to see old friends and make some new ones. Kudos to **Dick Furhman**, **Richard Hsia**, **Phil Milstein** and the other members of the Reunion Committee for planning a terrific weekend, and to **Jim Shaw** for helping get the word out. As CCT editor, I was especially pleased that Jim was feted at our Saturday dinner for his service to the Class of 1971 as our correspondent since day one. Think about it, that's 40 years in one job, at the same salary he was making when he started! Special thanks to **Greg Wyatt** for arranging for our Friday dinner to be at the National Arts Club, a truly amazing venue."

Congratulations to Dawn Queen,

a member of the Class of 2015 and daughter of **Cary Queen**, and to recent alumni Hannah Lepow '11, daughter of **Les Lepow**, and James Mueser '11E, son of **John Mueser**. A heartfelt welcome! (And to any other classmates' children entering or graduating from schools other than the College or Engineering.)

Remember 45 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

### REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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**Paul S. Appelbaum**

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This summer, my wife and I crossed the George Washington Bridge to see a wonderful performance of *Bye-Bye Birdie*, produced by SummerStage in Leonia, N.J. The company, which puts on a full-scale Broadway musical each summer, is the brainchild of **Frank Livelli**, who founded it 12 years ago. Every winter, Frank (who also does the sound design) and his colleagues select a musical and begin the long process of casting and staging it. Cast members come from Leonia and nearby towns, and each play is chosen with an eye toward ensuring lots of parts for children and teens. Beginning with its initial production of *The Wizard of Oz* in 2000, SummerStage has produced such classics as *Oliver!*, *The Music Man* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. In the fall, Frank oversees the distribution of the profits from the shows to school arts programs and other cultural groups in Leonia — more than \$80,000 so far. Frank, who is a cardiologist and clinical professor of medicine at Columbia, plays many other roles in town, including serving on the board of health. But it was obvious from the way his fellow townspeople responded to him that founding and running SummerStage has made him very dear to many of their hearts.

This fall, the **Armen Donelian** Trio played the Pittsfield City Jazz Festival (Mass.), Small's Jazz Club in Greenwich Village and the Cafesjian Center for the Arts for Yerevan, Armenia, among other venues. Having gone to see SummerStage, getting to one of Armen's performances is next on my list.

Our 40th reunion is scheduled

for Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. Take a look at the reunion website ([reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu)) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

Looking for an even easier way than emailing me to send in your class notes news? Now you can submit it online via CCT's web submission form: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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This issue's notes, in order of appearance: **Bill Pollack** is v.p. of global development and marketing at NIKSUN, a leading supplier of cyber security and network performance appliances headquartered in Princeton, N.J. **Chuck Weger** and his wife, Vicki Hayes '74 Barnard, are doing well in rural Vermont, having moved three years ago from the D.C. area, despite "floods, minor earthquakes and the occasional bear in the backyard." Chuck does computer consulting and "hopes to retire soon if the economy isn't sold to the lowest bidder." His new hobbies are sailing, hiking and wood-splitting, and he is just now giving up his dreams of being an astronaut. **David Weinstein** is a freelance writer in El Cerrito, Calif., where he (mostly) writes about modern architecture for *CA-Modern* magazine and its website ([eichler.network.com/camodern.html](http://eichler.network.com/camodern.html)). He founded El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, which leads hikes on local trails and urban paths and also leads Green Team cleanups for the city's Environmental Quality Committee.

### Michael Vitiello '73 has been elected chair of the NIH's Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board.

David's also v.p. of the El Cerrito Historical Society and chair and founder of the Friends of the Cerrito Theater.

**Thom Harrow** lives in New Canaan, Conn., where he owns and runs a network of airport businesses that serve private aviation; his businesses are located in Florida, D.C. and California. Thom worked on Wall Street for 30 years after graduating from the B-School. He is remarried, to Kristen, and has two stepchildren in addition to his own sons. He muses that "the more time passes, the more ... I see that my entire adult journey has been a path that began with the College. It

would have been totally different without it." **Michael Vitiello** has been elected chair of the NIH's Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board, which makes recommendations on research priorities and develops long-range plans for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sleep disorders. He is a professor (of too many disciplines to name here) at the University of Washington in Seattle and a co-director of the Northwest Geriatric Education Center and of the Center for Research on the Management of Sleep Disturbances. Michael's research focuses on the causes, consequences and treatments of sleep disorders and cognitive decline in the context of aging.

Last and somewhat late, **Lorin Walker** has had a busy last five years: moved to Kansas City, Mo.; became chief learning officer for Tercon, an international leadership consultancy; added five grandkids (for a total of seven); went on 20 backpack trips, mostly in the Rockies; wrote a self-help book on personal change; wrote three songs that were performed locally; and, unfortunately, lost his wife of 40 years.

There you have it, gents. May your sails always be full.

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Are you starting to notice a "generation gap" between you and the younger workers around you? It's not just that they don't relate to much about what the hippie movement was all about or why it was a big deal that JFK was Catholic. It is more than that. I recently saw on CNN.com (on my iPad) a *Time*

magazine article called "Top 10 Things Today's Kids Will Never Experience." It said, "The Class of 2014 doesn't wear watches, doesn't write in cursive, and has no idea why Nirvana is awesome." It goes on that today's young adults don't know about camera film (let alone mailing it off and waiting two weeks for your pictures to return), getting lost in the pre-GPS world, or having a 26-volume *World Book* encyclopedia whose data is three years old. I was recently referring to a spreadsheet I had done on one of those green pads and an assistant said, "What do you mean? Spreadsheets are done on Excel."

The times they are a-changin'!

We haven't heard much from Dr. **Joel Halio**, a family practice and geriatrics doctor in Great Neck, N.Y., in quite a while. Then I received a letter saying, "I may be one of the last few solo practitioners in New York, but I find it quite rewarding." He then added the motivation for coming forth. "I had a patient last week who was my student 20 years ago. I made enough of an impression on him to remember me. So I started thinking about teachers I've had who made a lasting impression on me. The one person at Columbia who affected me most was Peter Pouncey, even before he was our dean. So I'm sending a check to the Columbia College Fund in his honor." (Which College professors had the greatest influence on you? No check necessary — but it doesn't hurt! ... [college.columbia.edu/giveonline](http://college.columbia.edu/giveonline).)

From Beverly Hills we learn that **Isaac Palmer** is involved in a new venture. Isaac is a managing director of MESA Global, a boutique investment bank that specializes in media and entertainment transactions. He is now launching a "capital raise" for a new Broadway musical, *Finding Neverland* (it is about the fellow who invented Peter Pan, not about Michael Jackson). This is expected to be the first production in a slate of new musicals produced by Harvey and Bob Weinstein based on their Miramax film library. If you've got a spare million or two, give Isaac a call!

Spanning the two coasts is an update on **Peter Sullivan**, who abandoned NYC for his native Los Angeles. He and his wife, Mary Krueger '74 Barnard, moved to southern California in 1981 to raise a family, but after twin daughters (Hilary '07 and Caroline '07) were in New York, they gave in to their desire for the diverse culture of New York City. It didn't hurt that the law firm he was/is a partner at in Los Angeles, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, wanted him to move to New York to bolster its antitrust practice here. Among Peter's career accomplishments is his 10-volume treatise on antitrust, *Antitrust Laws and Trade Regulation*, which the U.S. Supreme Court has called "authoritative." In addition to being admitted to the New York and California bar, Peter also is a qualified English solicitor and a member of the Brussels bar (which allows him to practice competition law before the European Commission).

A belated "welcome back," Peter and Mary!

A few years back we learned that **Abbe Lowell** had left New York-based Chadbourn & Parke for the Chicago mega-firm McDermott Will & Emory. Then a few months

ago, I got a call from a classmate saying he had just read that Abbe had returned to Chadbourne. I finally was able to catch up with our busy "white collar criminal attorney" between what he described as a "fun trial on Long Island" and preparing motions in the John Edwards case, and learned the reason for his boomerang move. "Bigger was not better for my practice. A somewhat smaller firm, where I know my partners, was more satisfying." Looking on the Chadbourne & Parke website, I saw what Abbe failed to mention: he was recently honored as one of *The National Law Journal's* 34 "most influential lawyers."

Abbe gets a few extra benefits now that he comes to New York (from his home in Washington, D.C.) each week. He is now able to see daughters Alizath (30), a licensed social worker and therapist at the New York Psychiatric Institute (part of NewYork-Presbyterian) and Elana (26), who is in her third year at the School of Dentistry. His third daughter, Reilly (10), is back home in D.C. when he returns. A second benefit of the weekly trip is that he can teach a criminal law class at the Law School. [Editor's note: Read more about Lowell in the feature in this issue.]

Also having spent a lot of time running between New York and Washington, D.C., is portrait photographer and film documentarian **Timothy Greenfield-Sanders**. His 2008 *The Black List Project*, a traveling exhibition of large-format color portraits of politicians, musicians, actors and other well-known black personalities (and two-part HBO documentary on what it means to be an African-American in our contemporary society), moved to the National Portrait Gallery in D.C. as of October 28. While this was being staged, he also was preparing for the late September opening of *The Latino List*, a parallel group of portraits of prominent Latinos along with another documentary on HBO.

From New England comes news from **Stuart Offner**, who is a partner in the Boston law firm Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo doing commercial real estate work (a lot of which brings him to New York). He tells us that his son, Theodore, is an economist with the Analysis Group, an expert witness firm run by Paul Samuelson's daughter-in-law. Ted is applying to business school. Daughter Olivia lives in Manhattan and does corporate communications. I didn't catch what his other daughter, Sophia, is up to, but I bet she is still in school.

These are challenging economic times for most of our class, but Dr.

**Steve Blumenthal** has a special challenge. The good news for the Portland, Maine, pediatrician is that all four of his kids are out of the house. The bad news is that three are in college and one is in law school. Steve is surely working extra hours these days!

A last note to put some salve on those of us facing the daunting event of turning 60. I was checking the spelling of sexagenarian in the *Webster's New Compact Office Dictionary* next to my computer at work. I was pleased to find the word is right between "sex" and "sex appeal." Not a bad place to spend the next decade!

There you have it. Classmates exploring the arts on both coasts, lawyers continuing to redefine their careers and our children showing us the way to the 21st century. Couldn't be better.

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**Randolph M. McLaughlin** recently was named of counsel at Newman Ferrara, a New York firm specializing in real estate transactions.

Several members of the class have communicated condolences to **Henry Bunis** and family at the passing of his father.

**Walter Ricciardi** of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, New York and former deputy director, Division of Enforcement, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, was a member of the faculty of the ABA's American Law Institute's seminar "Accountant's Liability: Litigation and Issues in the Wake of the Financial Crisis." He is an inveterate traveler — he returned from London the week before the quick trip to D.C. for the seminar. (And I am happy to report that no hurricanes or earthquakes marred his trip.) His wife, Clara Ricciardi '75 Barnard, recently was honored at the UJA-Federation of New York's Volunteer Recognition Ceremony for her work and dedication to New York Legal Assistance Group's LGBT Law Project. A volunteer attorney for NYLAG since 2009, Clara's involvement has helped the project expand the number of individuals assisted. Perhaps her greatest contribution to the project's success has been enhancing its ability to draft wills and other life planning documents through its LGBT Life Planning Legal Clinic. There was a great picture of Walter and Clara in one of the announcements.

I had a legal question that I posed to a few of my classmate buddies: **Bob Katz**, **Bob Schnei-**

**der**, **Steve Jacobs**, **Walter Ricciardi** and **Ira Malin**. They confirmed my expectations, but the best response came from Bob K. — "Malin is not a lawyer, so he is the best qualified to answer." Gave me a good chuckle, and it was good to hear from all. (Cards and emails from other classmates are invited and welcome on any topic!)

While this won't appear until winter, I'm writing this at the end of the summer. The mid-Atlantic region has had an earthquake and two major hurricanes in the last three weeks. I know classmates and others up and down the coast had issues as well. I'm ready to dry out! I'm also looking at the stack of books I've read (or have waiting) and many of them remind me of classmates. I recently finished **Neil Selinger's** *A Sloan Product: A Memoir of a Lost Boy*, picked up just before he passed in July (college. columbia.edu/cct/fall11/obituaries2). On one of my antiquing and shopping adventures, I found several of Elaine Pagel's books, which make me think of **Terry Mulry** and **Sigmond Wissner-Gross**. After seeing it reviewed on the front page of *The New York Times Book Review*, I picked up *Absolute Monarchs*, a wonderful history of the papacy. So many seemed like old friends, as I came across many in my Columbia studies in religion. I read it around the time I saw Fr. **John McCloskey**. I think he would approve of it more than the Michael Baignet books I also purchased! And **Bob Schneider** and I do like an occasional James Patterson or other mystery/thriller. Daniel Silva's *Portrait of a Spy* was particularly chilling in light of this summer's events in Europe. I haven't read anything new from **Fernando Castro**, but know he continues to do public readings of his latest, *Redeemable Air Mileage: A Collection of Poems about Travel and Other Journeys*, up and down the West Coast.

What was on your summer reading list?

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**Larry Katz** was close to the reunion but not at the reunion. He had a conference on the Upper West Side on June 2, but had to go home to Providence as soon as it was over. In July, Larry finished his 14th year at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, which recently joined with two other organizations

to become the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. He recently was awarded the degree of doctor of pedagogy *honoris causa* by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

**Charles Martin's** Hong Kong suspense novel, *Neon Panic*, was published in October (neonpanic.com). Charles lived for 17 years in Hong Kong, first as a musician and then as a writer and broadcaster, and now lives in Seattle with wife, Catherine, and son, Toby.

**Michael Musto's** new book, *Fork on the Left, Knife in the Back*, appeared September 1. It's a collection of some of his most memorable *Village Voice* columns about celebrity, nightlife and politics.

After a 30-year career as a trial lawyer, mostly in criminal defense, **Vincent Briccetti** was sworn in as United States district judge for the Southern District of New York in April. He was nominated by President Barack Obama '83 and confirmed (unanimously) by the Senate. Vinnie will preside at the White Plains Courthouse, and says he's excited about starting a new career at the advanced age of 56.

We've lost two classmates. **Josiah Greenberg**, an attorney, died on January 5 in a tragic commuter train accident in Montclair, N.J.; he was a founding partner of Greenberg & Oser and was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court. **Dana Brand**, chair of English at Hofstra, was famous as a Mets blogger and author of *Mets Fan* and *The Last Days of Shea: Delight and Despair in the Life of a Mets Fan*; he died of a sudden heart attack on May 25 in Sandy Hook, Conn. Condolences to both the Greenberg and Brand families.

## REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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And we are back... During the longer-than-previous-year's break between this issue and the last, I have heard from a number of classmates, including **Virgel Aquino**, **Norman Back** and **Gairy Hall**. Norman and Gairy are M.D.s, Gairy in Atlanta, where he has been, on and off, during the past 20 years. Gairy's wife is a nurse in the public school system there; their daughter graduated from Auburn in 2009 and son Gairy Jr. from Columbia in 2011. Gairy Sr. was pleased to march in

the Alumni Parade of Classes on Class Day, May 17. Meanwhile, Norman writes, "I thought it might be interesting to see how many of our classmates really went into medicine or law, how many have retired and how many pursued more sane occupations."

This is a good question, and while it would certainly be impossible to collect this information via the column (though I can assure you that, sane or not, CC '77 includes lots of doctors and lawyers — just really lots). But it seems like there ought to be statistics kept on these things, somewhere.

Virgel hosted a barbecue at his home in southern New Jersey in August attended by **Jose Leites** as well as Domingo Nunez '76, Fernando Ortiz Jr. '79, Rafael Padilla '80 and Walter Rivera '76. "All of these Columbia graduates attended with their spouses," Virgel says, "and we plan to make it an annual event." Incidentally, Virgel has been v.p. and chief compliance officer at MetLife since 1997.

I don't know how I dropped the ball on this, but I meant to report last winter that, in February, **Sam Sweet** was named executive director of the Atlas Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C. Sam earned an M.B.A. from Virginia Tech. He has been managing director at the Shakespeare Theatre (in Washington) and the Signature Theatre (in Arlington, Va.) and, more recently, COO for the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design. He is an adjunct professor in the M.A. management program at George Mason University and also has a consulting practice, aptly named Sam Sweet Consulting, which helps nonprofits build organizational capacity.

Updates department: **Peter Rose**, whom I mentioned in the last column, was recently (September 12–18) in residence at the MICA MOCA project space in Berlin, where he directed as well as performed in *Main Street*. And **David Paterson**, whom I may also have mentioned, is now on the air as an afternoon drive-time radio host. I haven't heard him since I don't live in the New York area, but if you want to, just tune to WOR-AM (710).

Our 35th reunion is coming up, Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. Take a look at the reunion website ([reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu)) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

P.S.: I don't think that I'm hard to find or anything, but if you're looking for a quick way to submit a note, update, mature reflection on life's meaning or senseless-but-oh-

so-cleansing rant, you can now just go to [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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A light news issue this time. Please send in something before the end of the year for the next issue. You can reach me through the email address above or through CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Vet and attorney **Christopher Allen** and his wife, Mary, have been working furiously toward becoming empty-nesters. Son Chris Jr. (24) is working his way up the corporate ladder at Subway Corp., while Mike (22) is in medical school at Tel Aviv University. (Dad has always told the kids that he keeps seeing emergency veterinary cases in the middle of the night "to make a few extra shekels." Now Mike really understands what that means!)

James (17) is in a hotly contested competition for valedictorian of his high school class and is looking at every Ivy except the one in NYC. Go figure.

Mary is in the process of launching her own remedial education company to assist school districts in compliance with constantly more demanding student remediation requirements.

Chris is in his 20th year of practicing law exclusively for veterinarians and veterinary-related companies. "I sort of have my two veterinary hospitals on auto-pilot so I can keep up with the legal case work," he says. His favorite part of the corporate clients is the junkets to board meetings. Last one was in Buenos Aires and another one will be in Havana.

He adds, "I can't wait for the Cuba trip, although the paperwork for Americans is brutal. I went to China as an undergrad, when the only private vehicles were black bicycles. No secret how that place has changed; I am excited to see Cuba before relations are inevitably re-established with that country."

Our classmates' prominence in journalism and print continues with word that **John A. Glusman** now is v.p. and editor-in-chief of the publishing house W.W. Norton & Co., and **Dean Baquet** has become the managing editor for news operations of *The New York Times*. CCT reported both of these appointments in the Fall issue ([college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/around\\_the\\_quads10](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/around_the_quads10)).

The early October death of Steve Jobs brought to light the remarkable relationship he developed with Bill

Campbell '62, '64 TC, who — along with his then-wife Roberta '69 TC — certainly was a dominant fixture on campus during our time at Columbia. In addition to his role as the leader of Intuit software, as a major benefactor to the College and as a leader of Columbia's Board of Trustees, Bill actually is one of the most influential and trusted figures in the entire technology world. While some of the future greatness we rubbed shoulders with while at Columbia may have blossomed unexpectedly, I think any of us who got to know coach Campbell (in my case, through interviewing him for the pre-game shows for WKCR) always knew there was something remarkable and "large" about his humanity and ability to bring his philosophy and perspective to any situation. Now it turns out that the very people who have created much of the modern world at Apple, Google and elsewhere felt the same way. That's neat. [Editor's note: For more on "the coach of Silicon Valley," go to [college.columbia.edu/cct\\_archive/may05](http://college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/may05).]

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**Bob Klapisch** was voted among the nation's Top-10 columnists for the third consecutive year by Associated Press Sports Editors. "I cover the Yankees and Mets for the *Bergen Record* and FoxSports.com (I was with ESPN.com for 12 years before joining Fox in 2009). It all started at *Spectator*, where I was sports editor in '78–'79."

"I'm still playing baseball in New Jersey, pitching for the Hackensack Troasts, an 18-and-up team that was ranked fourth in the country last year. I'm married with two kids (8 and 7) in Westwood, N.J., just a few blocks away from Paul Fernandes, who was my varsity baseball coach at Columbia. Small world. That's the last 30-plus years in a nutshell."

**Steven H. Shapiro**, general counsel and corporate secretary at Cole Taylor Bank, received the Governance Professional of the Year award, presented by *Corporate Secretary Magazine*. Steven was recognized for orchestrating changes that protected the company, helped improve shareholder communications and reduced the bank's overall legal budget.

**Rich Baer** recently joined United Health Group as e.v.p. and chief legal officer. He will be responsible for overseeing the company's legal, regulatory and compliance matters. For the past decade, Rich was general counsel for Qwest Communications International and

also CAO since 2008. Prior to that, he was a partner at the Denver law firm Sherman & Howard and an associate at Rosenman & Colin, a New York law firm. Rich earned a J.D. from Duke.

**Robert Klapper**: "I guess you can say a hobby of mine is trying to find the Columbia College connections in my life. Here's a recent one for me. My father fought in WWII and, typical of his generation, never went into much detail while I was growing up about the battles and heroic actions that he and his buddies perpetrated. He brought back three souvenirs after the war: a Nazi helmet, a German Walther pistol and his corporal uniform that hung in the closet and was never worn again. When he passed away in 2004 at 89, it was only at his funeral that I saw the medals he won and photos from his time in the Army. One of the photos was taken on November 10, 1945, in Paris in front of the Louvre museum, as his troop, after fighting in Germany, was one of the first to free the city. (My daughter is studying for her master's in international business. If those guys didn't win the war, there would be no such opportunity for my daughter in France.)"

"About a month ago a patient of mine, one of Hollywood's iconic stunt men, visited me after his shoulder surgery. He saw a photo of my dad hanging in my office and asked me where in Germany my father fought. I told him he was in the Battle at Remagen. He then tells me of the many movies he worked on. He was the stunt coordinator for a movie made in 1969, *The Bridge at Remagen*. The following week he brought me a DVD of this movie."

"During Memorial Day weekend I sat down and watched the movie. I got to see for the first time my father's uniform with the same army patch actually being worn by a live person. It sent goose bumps up my spine. The movie portrayed the bravery and the life-risking battles fought by these brave men. The leader of this troop, the corporal (in my mind the role my father played) was played by none other than George Segal '55! Wow!"

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I saw some familiar faces this fall at Robert K. Kraft Field. While our Lions football team has taken it on the chin, the fans still hope for brighter days.

Super lawyer **Dave Maloof** and

his son, David, joined me at the Albany game. Dave is running his transportation practice out of Westchester and still rooting on his beloved Jets! Young David is an up-and-coming wrestler at Fairfield Prep who hopes to be a Lion.

Steak dinners are abundant in NYC, and **Bruce Paulsen** and I had a great night at Ben Benson's Steakhouse. Over a New York strip steak, Bruce and I discussed the state of Columbia College, pirates and his daughter's equestrian riding.

Bruce runs his litigation practice from downtown at Seward & Kissel, where he handles complex commercial disputes. He lives near Columbia with his wife and daughter. [Editor's note: CCT profiled Paulsen in May/June 2009: college.columbia.edu/cct/may\_jun09/alumni\_profiles0.]

Homecoming weekend found the **Eric Blattman** family, the Browns, the **Shawn FitzGerald** family and the **AJ Sabatelle** family, along with **Joe Ciulla**, at the Class of '61 kickoff dinner. For those of you who have not visited Faculty House, I urge you to do so. The facility is renovated and the food is good. The night is always filled with fun and great laughs about our playing days. AJ has promised to join us at the golf outing next May!

**David Walker**, with whom I am on the East Harlem Scholars Academy (ehp.org) board, and I attended the opening ceremony this fall of our new charter school. NYC Schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott greeted the 108 enrolled children. The organization has been around for 50-plus years as an after-school tutoring program, and we took a bold step and created an NYS-approved K-5 charter school. It is currently K-1, and the young scholars are flourishing in one of the most economically and educationally challenged neighborhoods in the city. We are giving these children a wonderful opportunity to excel and expect to see them on campus one day.

It was great to see Columbia ranked No. 4 in *U.S. News & World Report*, and we should all be commended. **Jim Gerkis** and I, both on the Fund Development Council, remind you that through your commitment to the Columbia College Fund (college.columbia.edu/giveonline) we are able to provide students with the best education possible in a very competitive environment. Thank you!

Drop me a line at mbcu80@yahoo.com or use CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Your note will come right to me.

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Classmates: It's been an exceptionally quiet six months since the reunion and three months since our last column. Perhaps some of you have been on extended travel (please tell us about it). Or, you wanted to send a letter but forgot to buy stamps. (Note: You can send Class Notes to me via college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.) In any event, we want to hear what you're up to.

One sad report: **Michael Stevenson** passed away following a long illness. If you knew Michael and would like to contribute something about him to the next column, please contact me. I certainly remember seeing Michael around campus, although the passage of time has erased details such as classes we may have taken together.

And one happy report: **Edward T. Mechmann** is the Guild of Catholic Lawyers' Charles Carroll Award recipient for 2011. The award is named after the American patriot Charles Carroll of Carrolltown, the only Catholic signatory to the Declaration of Independence. It is presented annually to a Catholic lawyer who has earned distinction in the profession or in public service by exemplifying integrity and the highest standards of professional conduct in the promotion and advancement of justice.

Ed graduated from the College magna cum laude and from Harvard Law cum laude in 1984. He was an assistant United States attorney in the Eastern District of New York from 1984-93, when he and his wife left to serve as lay missionaries in West Virginia. He earned an M.A. in religious studies from the St. Joseph's Seminary Institute of Religious Studies in 1994 and since then has been employed by the Archdiocese of New York, first as the coordinator of the Public Policy Education Network and now as assistant director of the Family Life/Respect Life Office. Ed has three children and is a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife teach marriage preparation and natural family planning, and volunteer in the church and community.

Ed is the author of *God, Society and the Human Person: The Basics of Catholic Social Teaching* and assisted in the development of the marriage preparation booklet *Partners in Life and Love*. He has written several articles on religion and law and has appeared before several state and federal legislative committees on

health care reform and family life/respect life issues. He writes a blog for the archdiocese called Stepping Out of the Boat: blog.archnyc.org/steppingout.

### REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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Greetings Gentlemen,

After such a fine set of contributions last quarter, I got bupkis . . . Oh, well. As a reminder, our 30th Alumni Reunion Weekend is coming up, Thursday, May 31-Sunday, June 3. This will be a great opportunity to meet up with old friends. Could get awkward, though, if you haven't sent in a submission. So do yourself a favor and drop me a note to the email at the top of the column, or use CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Your note will come right to me.

Take a look at the reunion website (reunion.college.columbia.edu) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

Cheers.

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Greetings, classmates. I am writing this column while returning from Kentucky, where I was attending a juvenile industry trade show. The featured musical group at the industry party was KC and the Sunshine Band. Great nostalgia trip through their hits from the '70s and '80s. I received many congratulations at the show for successfully leading the fight against the passage of NY State bill S5317 mandating warnings on baby bottles and cups regarding sugary liquids causing tooth decay. As the largest manufacturer of baby bottles and cups in New York state, I personally lobbied Gov. Andrew Cuomo to veto this bill, which was passed by the New York State House and Senate. Non-uniform, state specific warning requirements are anathema to business, and issues like this one need to be federally regulated. By exercising

his veto, Governor Cuomo shows that he understands how excessive government regulation can cripple industry.

With the implosion of the housing market, millions of Americans out of work, unprecedented federal, state and consumer debt, extreme stock market volatility, talk of a double dip recession and shattered consumer confidence, this country desperately needs small business to create jobs and invest in our infrastructure. In spite of the challenging economic climate, I have started a new company, Fun King. In January, we are launching a 75-product line of party supplies. We hired outside lawyers to file the articles of incorporation and register our trade name. Our accountants will be filing a separate tax return. Our computer consultants will be upgrading our systems. We hired a merchandising and QC person who was unemployed and formerly affiliated with a major retailer. We will be adding warehouse, design and sales people to our payroll. Ads have been placed with both Barnard and Columbia career services.

We also continue to expand our baby and pet businesses. We recently acquired the rights to Disney Princess and Toy Story in the infant category. We will market these alongside our other Disney properties — Pooh, Mickey and Cars. We were named one of the three finalists for Fisher Price's Licensee of the Year, and have expanded our distribution rights for this license into India and Canada. I firmly believe that business (especially small business) is the engine that creates jobs and drives this economy. Government needs to offer incentives for business owners to take risks, invest their capital, create jobs and stimulate the economy.

I attended the last two Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meetings. The College had 29,393 applicants and a 6.4 percent selectivity rate. Columbia is exploring the possibility of Global Core Curriculum requirements. Unlike other Core Curriculum classes such as Art Humanities, Global Core classes can be applied toward a student's major. Reunion attendance was up 15 percent over last year. This spring's College Career Night was well attended by students and alumni, with more than 86 alumni from myriad industries.

I had the pleasure of meeting interim Dean James J. Valentini at the most recent board meeting. Dean Valentini, who arrived at Columbia in 1983, was appointed the interim dean on September 2. Since Dean Michele Moody-Adams resigned when the students arrived this year,

a quick transition was critical. Interestingly, Dean Valentini noted that his parents never graduated from high school. Currently, 15 percent of College students are first-generation college students. A former chair of the chemistry department, Dean Valentini's interaction with students helped him prepare for his current role. He described Columbia as being the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world. He noted that the 29,393 applicants this year were second to Harvard. Dean Valentini's goal is to figure out what kind of college we want to be and then determine how to raise the money to get there.

President Lee C. Bollinger also spoke at the board meeting. He stated that he was surprised to receive Dean Moody-Adams' resignation, referred to it as a "painful moment" and said he tried to persuade her not to resign. President Bollinger described there being a "sense of mistrust," which he is determined to overcome. As a law student at Columbia in 1968 and having learned about the firing and rehiring of Dean Austin Quigley, President Bollinger understands the historical context for disputes between the University administration and the College. But after 10 years as president, he felt we had moved significantly beyond these differences. There is an extraordinary amount of attention focused on the College, as evidenced by his teaching a class at CC. He stated emphatically, "Columbia College students deserve the very best the University has to offer." President Bollinger strongly endorses the Core Curriculum and maintaining need-blind admissions. He is committed to improving the communication between Low Library and the College and finding real solutions for any mistrust. President Bollinger also thinks the University is as great today as any point in the last 50–60 years. A great University needs space and resources. The Manhattanville expansion is a tremendous opportunity to create a new campus during the next half-century. The \$4 billion capital campaign goal, the second highest amount in the country, was met early and has since been raised to \$5 billion.

**Mark Momjian** was a 2011 Alumni Medalist at the University Commencement. Alumni Medalists are Columbia alumni selected to receive this high honor for their distinguished service of 10 years or more to the University, including its schools, alumni associations, regional Columbia Clubs and University-wide initiatives. Mark is chair of the Philadelphia ARC and a tireless supporter of Columbia College.

From Mark's firm's website ([momjiananderer.com/profiles\\_mark2.html](http://momjiananderer.com/profiles_mark2.html)): "A graduate of Columbia College and the Columbia University School of Law, Mark Momjian's family law practice encompasses all aspects of divorce, support, child custody, and appellate litigation. He writes and lectures frequently about trends in domestic relations, with a special emphasis on biotechnology's impact on family law. A member of the Board of Editors of *The Matrimonial Strategist* since 1994, Momjian has published dozens of articles on specialized aspects of family law, some of which have appeared in the *National Law Journal*, the *American Journal of Family Law*, and *Divorce Litigation*. His articles on family law have been cited in numerous law reviews and journals, including the *Yale Law Journal*, the *Virginia Journal of Social Policy and the Law*, *Law and Psychology Review*, *Law and Inequality*, and the *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law*.

"Listed in *Best Lawyers in America*, *Who's Who in American Law*, and *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*, Momjian has handled family law cases in over a third of Pennsylvania's judicial districts. Momjian is co-author with his father, Albert Momjian, of *Pennsylvania Family Law Annotated*, published by Thomson/West and currently in its tenth edition. Momjian has argued major appeals before the Pennsylvania appellate courts, and in 2006 he successfully defended the constitutionality of Pennsylvania's Grandparents' Visitation Act before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He also successfully argued the first appellate case in the country in which a non-biological parent was directed to pay child support to her former domestic partner. Momjian has been quoted on family law topics in newspapers across the United States, including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and he has been interviewed by Larry King on CNN's *Larry King Live*, as well as by Matt Lauer on NBC's *The Today Show*."

A more complete description of Mark's credentials can be found on the same site.

**Bruce Abramson '87 GSAS:**

"This summer, following nearly seven years flying solo, I brought my practice in to become a partner at Rimon. All of my old contact information will continue to work, but please add [bruce.abramson@rimonlaw.com](mailto:bruce.abramson@rimonlaw.com) to your list of safe email addresses. Rimon's firm structure provides me with the autonomy to continue and to expand my practice in some powerful and exciting directions. Prior to hang-

ing my own shingle, I spent parts of my career as a computer scientist, as a strategic consultant, as an antitrust and valuation economist, and as an intellectual property lawyer. These experiences allowed me to combine expert witness work (in both valuation and computing/software/Internet industry issues) with strategic advising of small businesses and startups, while pursuing my research interests at the intersection of technology, business, law and public policy.

"Rimon lets me continue working on all of these topics. In addition, it provides me with colleagues who can help me augment my valuation, IP, business planning, strategy and negotiation services with a full suite of services critical for corporate growth. Of equal importance, however, is the extent to which the firm's philosophy mirrors my own. One of the reasons that I hung my own shingle was my desire to work with clients large and small, on a variety of matters, in ways that are simply not possible under a standard billable-hour arrangement. Through the years, I crafted a variety of agreements with my clients, including reduced hourly rates, success or contingency fees, equity arrangements and fixed-fee-for-fixed-task agreements. Rimon prides itself on its preference for alternative, value-driven fee arrangements as appropriate to the needs of the clients. As a result, I can continue to say what I have been telling prospective clients for years: If you believe that I can make a positive contribution to your business's growth, to your negotiations or to resolving your dispute, we will find a compensation structure that lets us work together. Along these same lines, I am particularly excited about our forthcoming launch of a program that combines mentoring and legal concierge services, targeting small companies and tech startups. Watch for that announcement soon!"

Bruce holds a Ph.D. in computer science from Columbia and a J.D. from Georgetown. His clients have included The World Bank, the governments of Greece and India, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Procter & Gamble, HotJobs, AOL, RealNetworks, Bandag, Pitney Bowes, IBM, Northrop, Duke Energy and Neopost. Prior to joining Rimon, he developed a practice through his two firms that he founded, Informationism and Gordian Solutions. Bruce has published five books and more than 40 scholarly articles.

**Eric Epstein:** "I live with my wife, Michele Shapiro '85 Barnard, '91J, and daughter, Esme, in Manhattan. I am a manager and senior counsel for the New York City Law Department and Office of Corporation Counsel. Michele is a senior editor for *Weight*

*Watchers* magazine. Esme is a seventh grader at Salk School of Science. I was looking forward to seeing many of my Columbia friends at Homecoming."

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**Dennis Kleinberg**

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**Michael Ackerman**, in his own words: "After working as an entertainment lawyer forever, with the music industry in freefall and thoughts about how I could afford college for my 9-year-old son, Landon, keeping me awake at night, I looked for an escape ladder. I fortunately found one in the class action claims administration business. I recently joined Heffler Claims Administration — a pioneer in the industry, virtually inventing claims administration in the 1960s — and became its first employee outside of Pennsylvania (the company is based in Philadelphia). So if you know any lawyers who have class action cases requiring notice provision or claims administration, I hope you'll send them my way: [mackerman@heffler.com](mailto:mackerman@heffler.com)."

A bit closer to home, **Rich Mack-soud:** "Hurricane Irene threatened to disrupt things, but I dropped off my son, James '15, for New Student orientation on what turned out to be a beautiful morning. James is a graduate of Montclair (N.J.) H.S., where he was involved in Model UN and Model Congress. He also was part of the national championship team in the annual Fed Challenge economic competition sponsored by the Federal Reserve. James plans to focus on the social sciences (economics, anthropology). He is taking Lit Hum and is thrilled that he got a single in Jay versus a double in Carman (which, by the way, looks shockingly the same after more than 25 years). Rich also noted he "was thrilled at the opportunity to actually drive and park on College Walk during the drop off."

Rich recently joined uTest, a startup that provides "crowd-sourced" web and mobile testing, and is a major account manager. Rich and his wife soon will celebrate their 20th anniversary. They live in Montclair with their other son, John.

And even closer to home, in addition to the office address change (which you may note at the top of the column), **Dennis Kleinberg** is proud to announce the recent (and final!) bar mitzvah in his immediate family, that of Jacob Philip. With No. 1 son Adam enjoying a successful freshman year at SUNY New Paltz, and daughters Emma and Sydney shining as thespians and



**Cathy Webster '87 (left), with her children, Meredith and Thayer, spent time in Paris this past summer with Ilene Weinstein Lederman '87 and her children, Hannah and Max. Their family trips overlapped so they met in the Luxembourg Gardens and shared a wonderful afternoon.**

star students at Manhasset H.S., I'm also most proud of my wife, Dana, now an assistant registrar at Teachers College.

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**Denis Searby** is contracted as the visiting professor in ancient Greek at Uppsala University for three years, ending in June, when he returns to Stockholm. "I am running an EU project called Sharing Ancient Wisdoms (Greek-Arabic) in Uppsala, King's College London and Vienna, Austria. The third volume of my translation of *The Revelations of St. Birgitta of Sweden* is being issued by Oxford University Press in December. What else? Yeah, I am 'chairman' (probably being the only choice) of the Alumni Representative Committee ([studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/volunteers.php](http://studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/volunteers.php)) here in Sweden, and we have been active for a number of years. The number of Swedish applicants has been growing for the past 10 years, so they have been keeping the few CC alumni here busy. It's fun to interview them, especially because I have the perspective of a faculty member of a Swedish university."

**Mischa Zabotin** and his wife, Nicole '87 Barnard, live in Larchmont, N.Y. Their boys are in 11th and 12th grade at the French-American School of New York (FASNY), a bilingual, multicultural school in lower Westchester. "Time will tell if they hear alma mater's call and if she'll answer. ... As a result, I'm taking a two-year leave from the Alumni Representative Committee that I've served on for many years and will sorely miss interviewing [more of] those bright applicants I've had the pleasure to meet. When I'm not a banker by day at Credit Agricole Securities, I chair the Board

of Trustees of FASNY. The school recently purchased a 130-acre site in White Plains that will serve as the future home for our campus and also will become a unique 60–80-acre nature preserve, thereby doubling the publicly accessible green space in White Plains. This is a fascinating and transformational project."

For **Daniel Wolf Savin**, "the big news in my life is that I got married on June 26 to Fryda Villars. Fryda is an architect who lives in New York City but works outside of the city. My lab also is located outside of the city, at Columbia's Nevis Laboratories in Irvington, N.Y. We met on the Marble Hill Metro-North train platform commuting to work. After many months of seeing one another on the platform, we started talking one day. Two-and-a-half years later we got married at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford, Conn., in a beautiful outdoor amphitheater overlooking Long Island Sound. Our marriage is definitely part of the upside of public transportation."

Congratulations, Daniel!

A couple of job change announcements: **Brian Cousin** has joined the law firm of SNR Denton, where he represents companies, partnerships and executives in a variety of litigation, employment law, executive contract and real estate workout matters.

And **Tom Scotti** now is a managing director of Consensus Advisers in Boston. Consensus has broad experience advising retail and consumer products companies undergoing significant transformations to their business models. The company has significant industry experience representing and advising companies, entrepreneurs, investors, creditors and lenders in financial and brand equity transactions. Tom's daughter, Anne, is a high school senior and preparing her college applications.

In recent months I have crossed paths with several of my former

Kingsmen leaders ... I had the pleasure of meeting **David Zapolsky** in Seattle for a Mariners game, along with his fiancée, Lynn, and her son, Sam. David recently completed a cross-country trek with his son Ian, culminating in their arrival at Carman for New Student Orientation just as Hurricane Irene arrived.

And because I intruded on the '86ers' space in my last column, it's only fair to go the other way and congratulate Charles Lester '84 upon his appointment as executive director of The California Coastal Commission. Dr. Lester was unanimously voted to the position after being acting executive director since August. Charles has been with the Coastal Commission since 1997 and has been senior deputy director since 2006. The commission chair cited Charles' "unique experience, unwavering integrity and clear vision" that he brings to this position.

Finally, at my 30th high school reunion this fall (what a concept, but tons of fun), I bumped into **Howie Kaye** and **Stephen Manghisi**. Howie lives in Dix Hills with his wife, Toby, and has worked for many years in IT infrastructure at Morgan Stanley. Steve lives in Closter, N.J., and is a radiologist in New York City (affiliated with West Side Radiology Associates, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center and P&S).

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A flurry of updates from our classmates!

After leaving Lazard in late 2009 to run for the United States Senate in his home state of Nevada, **John Chachas** chose to start something new rather than return to a larger banking firm. Together with several former colleagues, John now runs Methuselah Advisors, a merchant banking group focused on digital and media enterprises. The firm is headquartered in New York and "the cloud," according to John. He continues to work with the Republican Party in Nevada as well as maintain an active speaking calendar on domestic economic policy matters.

**John Brynjolfsson** continues to be a booster of the stellar Columbia Lions men's golf team, and their star coach, Rich Mueller, who has kept them in contention for the Ivy's top spot for three out of the last four years (and ready to bounce back from their impressive second place this past spring). John manages Armored Wolf, a successful global macro hedge fund in Orange County, Calif. He's glad his

son found his passion — aviation, which he's pursuing as a freshman in Purdue's world-famous aviation program.

**Eric Fromm** is chief revenue officer and managing director at SPORTIME, which operates 12 fitness clubs in Long Island, NYC, Westchester and the New York capital region. Eric has been married for 24 years to Lori. They have three children: Daniel (21), Carly (19) and Alana (16).

Congrats to **Bennett Gordon** on the birth of his daughter, Mira Rose Jay-Gordon, on April 26!

Here are some notes from '86ers in their own words.

**Meir Feder**: "I live in Manhattan with my wife, Abbe Gluck, and 4½-year-old twin boys, Ollie and Ryan. Abbe is a professor at the Law School. I'm a partner at Jones Day, specializing in appellate and complex litigation. I recently argued and unanimously won a case in the U.S. Supreme Court, *Goodyear Dunlop Tires Operations S.A. v. Brown*."

**John Featherman**: "Doing well. Lost the Philadelphia Republican mayoral primary by 64 votes citywide! The moral of the story is your vote always counts. To quote the Terminator, you can bet 'I'll be back!' I don't mind losing if people understand how important their vote is. Check out my video — it was on the front page of the Drudge Report, and we got national coverage."

Google John and you'll see lots of press and videos.

**Paul Dauber**: My wife, Emily, and I recently had a son, Sam. He's 4 months old and weighs 18 lbs. Eats a lot! We also have three girls: Rosie (6), Chloe (5) and Lily (3). I'm a partner at PWC in business development and live in Chappaqua, N.Y. I still do triathlons and recently finished the Toughman Half Iron triathlon in Croton, N.Y."

**Ted Kenney**: "In a triumph of science and perseverance over infertility, my wife and I welcomed our first child, George Yimpakorn Kenney, on March 1, 2010. At this point he's speaking about equal amounts of English and Thai."

**Joel Berg**: "My biggest news is that the organization I run, the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, which previously worked only in NYC, recently expanded to run a nationwide program in 18 states, helping families obtain food stamp benefits and summer meals. See [nyccah.org/our-work/national-america-corporate-anti-hunger-program](http://nyccah.org/our-work/national-america-corporate-anti-hunger-program)."

**Scot Glasberg**: "I live on the Upper East Side with my wife, Alisa, and my children, Alex (11), Evan (5) and Chloe (1½), our newest addition, born May 28, 2010. I am

president of the New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons and v.p., finance, for The American Society of Plastic Surgeons and Plastic Surgery Foundation."

### REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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With less than six months to our 25th Alumni Reunion Weekend (Thursday, May 31-Sunday, June 3), the excitement is growing palpable, as I am hearing from both frequent column contributors as well as first-time contributors, all of whom I hope to see in May!

Take a look at the reunion website (reunion.college.columbia.edu) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive in the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.

I am so pleased that **Jim McKnight**, a first-time contributor, sent in the news that he and his wife, Betsy, recently had their first child, Katherine Elizabeth. Jim said, "The newest member of the CC Class of 2033 entered the world on April 29 at 4:28 p.m., weighing 6 lbs. and measuring 21 in." Jim, a partner at Mintz Levin, a New York City law firm, lives with his family, including their chocolate lab, Mack, in Atlantic Highlands, N.J.

After nearly 20 years of living in London, **Richard Kramer** relocated to Singapore in August for one year to travel Asia with his family (twin sons and a daughter) and further expand his company, Arete Resarch. Now in its 12th year, and with offices in London, Boston and Hong Kong, Richard founded Arete in early 2000 as the first independent research firm, helping investors understand future technologies free from the conflicts of interest that came to public attention a few years after he founded Arete. In addition, Richard helped organize a reunion in New York City last autumn of the Columbia Ultimate Frisbee team that twice competed in the Nationals in the late '80s.

**Teresa Saputo-Crerend** wrote in with this update: "I live in Westchester with my husband, Bill Crerend '84 Princeton, and kids (two girls and a boy, 11, 9 and 6). We moved out of the city five years ago and, while I miss it every single day, I am getting used to this more

peaceful life. I work on my small business, A Little Peace (alittlepeace.com), a jewelry company. I love designing and making jewelry and running and growing my business. A Little Peace is currently in 10 retail shops. I spent many, many years in corporate marketing at Evian Water and then on my own as a consultant. Now I run my company and donate a portion of my profits to public education ... a passion of mine."

Teresa is in touch with some of her Columbia tennis pals as well as her former suitmates **Christine Jamgochian Koobatian** (the toughest chick I know), **Lauren Alter-Baumann** and **Michelle Estilo Kaiser**. Teresa added, "The move to Westchester hasn't been so bad because [these friends] come up to our house almost every weekend, and I love it (and so does my husband, actually). Alexandra Wallace Creed '88, Leslie Gittess '88 and Steven Kantor '88 also are among my regular houseguests. Between my brothers (Doug Saputo '81, littlefamilyfilms.com, and Paul Saputo '83) and I, we live quite the Columbia existence."

Teresa saw other tennis alums during the summer including Sue DeLara '90, Radhi Majmudar '90, Holly Turchetta Lee '90 and Howie Rappaport '85.

She has been involved with Columbia for the last few years and recently hosted a reception at her Bedford home for alumnae in the Northern Westchester/Connecticut area.

**Ilene Weinstein Lederman** wrote, "I had the great fortune of meeting up with **Cathy Webster** in Paris this summer. Our trips overlapped so our families met in Luxembourg Gardens. We had a wonderful afternoon together." [See photo.]

**Eli Kavon** presented a paper at the International Symposium on Monotheism and Postmodernism in China in June. Professor Xu Xin, the driving force behind Jewish studies at the University of Nanjing, invited him to present at the conference, which included scholars from the United States, Australia, Canada, Israel and Japan. Eli's presentation was titled "Abraham Geiger and Abraham Isaac Kook: Messianism's Return to History." He said that what was most impressive was the dedication of Chinese professors and doctoral students to their study of western religion. He added that the growth of Judaic studies in China is an important one that bodes well for an emerging China on the world scene and for relations between the People's Republic and the State of Israel.

And following up on our previous note, **Nicole Belson Goluboff** wrote that she and her husband,



**A group of CC '91 classmates got together for a mini-reunion in Ridgewood, N.J., on August 1. Celebrating were (left to right) Kieran Corcoran '94L, Derek Manwaring, Paul Kuharsky '93J, Kamran Ahmad and Julio Cuevas.**

PHOTO: ATHENA (LENAS) MANWARING '91 BARNARD

**Erik Goluboff '86**, "are thrilled to report that our son, Justin '15, is loving the College!"

**Jennifer Insogna Donarski** is an active member of the Celiac Disease Center at Columbia. Her son, James (10), has celiac disease, which is a complete intolerance to gluten (wheat, rye and barley) and is treated by following a gluten-free diet. Jennifer was active in planning the center's 10th anniversary gala this past October in New York City and would love to hear from other gluten-free members of the class. Sharing tips on how to raise a gluten-free child in a Dunkin' Donuts world is one of her favorite hobbies! In fact, Jennifer and I have already been trading stories about good gluten-free vacation cities in Europe because I have family members with celiac disease and I also am always on the lookout for good gluten-free food.

And in late-breaking news, **Lee Ilan** and her husband, Peter Engel, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Mavis Irene Ilan Engel. She was born October 8 and weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz. Lee wrote that both mother and baby are doing great and Mavis is a sheer joy to be around. "We feel truly blessed and are very thankful for the incredible love and support of friends and family in helping us get to this wonderful place," she said.

If you haven't already, please check out the Columbia Class of 1987 page on Facebook for up-to-the-minute reunion updates. I also will post updates on my Twitter feed at @SarahAKassPhD13, so you are welcome to follow me

there for more reunion information. And please let me know as soon as possible if there is someone you are trying to track down to see if he or she is coming to the reunion — we may know! The more of us who come, the merrier our reunion will be! Guaranteed!

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Our latest overseas update comes from Beijing, where **Michael Langer**

## 25 Years of Coeducation

**I**n May 1987, the first fully coed class graduated from Columbia College. As we approach the 25th anniversary of this occasion, we want to hear from alumni about this turning point in the College's history. Share your memories of the transition on campus and in the classroom, and let us know about the impact that Columbia has had on your life.

Please share your memories at college.columbia.

now runs his own consulting firm, Cross-Border Communications. "Since 1997, we have been helping clients from all over the globe develop essential skills to achieve personal, team and organizational goals," CBC's website reports. **Sam Bloom**, who visited Michael in China a few years ago, writes, "I teach French at Barnard and Fordham (I got my Ph.D. from Columbia some time back) after having taught in Israel for eight years."

**Claudia Kraut Rimerman** writes, "I wish I had excitement of global proportions to report, but I guess the globe is exciting enough right now, so I'll just report on the small doings in Stamford, Conn. I live here with my children, ages 8, 10 and 12, and my husband. I run a small consulting firm that advises health- and insurance-related entities on strategic issues, legislative and regulatory matters, and new products and distribution. I have recently begun Muay Thai kickboxing, which I do enthusiastically three times a week; I'm up to my orange belt with one stripe. I am going for black belt. This summer, some kickboxing buddies and I ran in the Warrior Dash in New York state. It's a wild, 3½-mile course up a mountain, with 12 obstacles, such as climbing over cars and trucks, scaling walls, crawling under barbed wire and jumping over fire. I finished in the top 22 percent, which was pretty cool, since the bulk of the contestants were men between the ages of 20 and 35."

Claudia has maintained contact with a number of classmates. "I keep in touch with **Diane Bauer Orlinsky** and planned to visit her in Baltimore this fall," she says. "[Diane]'s a high-profile dermatologist, and she was going to help make my skin beautiful in advance of my son's bar mitzvah this fall. **Laurence Holzman** has finally left the city but continues to write musical theater with **Felicia Needleman** and also manages the White Plains Performing Arts Center. He lives with his wife and two sons in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. **Johnny Roskes** has been in New York City for a few years, after a decade in Hong Kong. He lives right near Columbia and boasts a phenomenal art collection and an enviable social life."

Please keep the updates coming! Email me or friend me on Facebook.

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**Filic Chung '89E**, who has been in land development for about 15 years in Florida, wrote, "[I] have been very fortunate in having dodged the bulk of the economic meltdown since '05.

I have two children, 7 and 5, who are both looking forward to attending Columbia one day. The brainwashing has already begun! Of course, they are still at an age where they believe the words I say and do not discount them out of hand." A busy single dad, Filic keeps in touch with a few friends from college and got together with **Michelle Chung-Han** last summer in New Jersey with the kids. You can find Filic on Facebook, where he has enjoyed reconnecting with fellow Columbians, such as **Dave Kooby**.

It's been a long time since my husband, Dave Terry '90, and I listened to Paul Greenberg '90 on 1010 WINS, but Paul hasn't slowed down any. He is the CEO of CollegeHumor, which is owned by IAC in New York, responsible for the leadership, strategic development and day-to-day management of CollegeHumor.com, Dorkly.com, Sportspickle.com and TodaysBigThing.com as well as their related mobile and social applications. Together, the sites reach a combined 15 million monthly unique visitors. Previously, as president, digital, of Time Inc. Lifestyle Group, Paul was responsible for 10 digital properties (including RealSimple.com, MyRecipes.com, CookingLight.com and AllYou.com) and in 2009 was named one of *The Hollywood Reporter's* "Top 50 Digital Power" executives while serving as e.v.p. and general manager of *TV Guide* online. Paul has two girls (7 and 4).

I should have a lot more in our next column, as Dave and I and our three kids planned to go to Homecoming on October 15.

Hope to hear from more of you soon!

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In August, I was in New York and walked from West 104th Street to College Walk. What fun to relive some memories as I passed by Koronet, Famous Famiglia and Amir's, but I also experienced a touch of melancholy to discover Café Pertutti is no more. (I'm sure I did more than eat in college but these are the neighborhood places I remember best.) The best newcomer to the neighborhood, though, is the Columbia Alumni Center at 622 West 113th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive). It's a lovely space that offers alumni wonderful hospitality (water, coffee and tea, work stations, Wi-Fi, air conditioning, comfy couches), so if you're in the neighborhood, stop by and check it out. And now, onto the news:

Thank you, **Scott Hall**, who writes: "OK, after seeing so many issues where only one of us wrote in, sandwiched between years with many more updates, I finally made the decision to devote 30 seconds of my time for an update. If I can get my 3-year-old to turn the volume down on *Scooby-Doo* maybe I'll even extend it to 45. I am married with three children (10, 9 and 3), living in Long Valley, N.J. I own a spice-importing business, dealing in a wide range of bulk spices, herbs and seeds we import from India, Spain, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and China, selling bulk product to manufacturers and spice-packers throughout North America. Business has been great, growing steadily over the years."

**German Gomez** has left the private sector and returned to working for Uncle Sam. You can find him at the Department of Justice, where he is an assistant general counsel in the General Counsel's Office Executive Office for United States Attorneys. As German describes it, they are "the lawyers' lawyers" in that they represent and provide counsel on a variety of issues to the attorneys working for the United States Attorneys' Offices across the country.

**Justin Abelow** is a managing director at Houlihan Lokey in New York. He has a pre-school-aged daughter, and a son in second grade who already is a big Lions football fan. Justin runs into Regine and **James Stone** frequently.

**Sandra Garcia** reports that "after 20-plus years in Student Financial Planning at Columbia's medical campus, I now am assistant dean of admissions and student affairs at the College of Dental Medicine. I've been doing this since August 2010. My daughter, Chloe, started her third year of college at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. Columbia has been my home for all of my life ... it educated me (M.A. from Teachers College in 2007) and employed me most of my adult life."

**Jeffrey Berk** wrote to me from California, I think. "For much of the last few years, I've been working abroad. I recently returned from four months in the Cordillera Blanca mountain range of Peru and the Bolivian Amazon producing a series for History Channel. In 2010, I spent much of the year in the Himalayas. Next month, I'm scouting some particularly remote locations for another series. While the work is physically challenging (often in extreme weather conditions) and requires long hours (often seven days a week), it's also tremendously rewarding and fun. I may never go back to producing shows in a cushy soundstage again."

If any of you has a story about

a remote location you've been to, perhaps based on a vacation experience, let us know about it.

My Carman hallmate architect **Isaac-Daniel Astrachan's** latest masterpiece as principal at Stephen B. Jacobs Group was the design and completion of the new Gansevoort Park Avenue NYC hotel that opened in February. He's on the board of son Aidhan's soccer club, Downtown United Soccer Club, and also is involved in the club's inner-city program, City Soccer in the Community, in partnership with Manchester City Football Club. I'd say that's a lot of soccer know-how for a former member of the JV Columbia tennis team.

**Anita Bose** has left the agency side of public relations after many years. Since June, she's been v.p. of external communications at inVentive Health, a global clinical, commercial and consulting services provider to the pharmaceutical, biotech and life sciences industries. She lives in New York but spends a lot of time in Boston, at the company's global headquarters. She passed along the happy news that **Arlene Hong**, Darren Duffy and their son, Colin, welcomed son Spencer to the world on September 1.

**Jim Barkley** is the CAO and managing director in charge of Global Compliance Risk Management at Citigroup, where he has been for the last 10 years. He lives with his wife, Pam, and 13-year-old twin daughters, Hope and Sarah, in Tarrytown, N.Y. Pam and Jim recently were in Virginia for the wedding of Filippo Chia '92E to Elizabeth Cosby, where they all celebrated among friends and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers.

Sometimes, the news I report comes to me from the University, such as with the updates that follow.

**Janice Min** now is editorial director of *The Hollywood Reporter*. If you read the May 29 article on Janice in *The New York Times*, you will see that she has hit another home run.

**Dr. Warigia Bowman**, assistant professor of public policy at the University of Mississippi and visiting assistant professor at American University in Cairo, Egypt, has been named assistant professor at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.

According to *Crain's New York Business* (June 13 issue), **Jared I. Sandberg** has become an editor at Bloomberg.com. He previously was a banking and finance editor at *The Wall Street Journal*.

**Jan Castro**, CEO of Pala Investments in Switzerland, recently joined the board of Capstone Mining Corp., a Canadian mining company.

As for the rest of you, if you have news, let me know. And happy 2012 to everyone!

# Linda Appel Lipsius '93 Redefines Sustainable Business

BY LAURA BUTCHY '04 ARTS

**W**hile many businesses have been revising practices during the last several years to become more green and sustainable, **Linda Appel Lipsius '93** has helped to launch a business that was sustainable from the start. Teatulia (teatulia.com) not only sells black, green, white and herbal infusion teas grown in a single garden and shipped directly to the store, but also aims to protect the environment with everything from organic production to eco-friendly packaging.

As co-founder and CEO of the international tea company, Lipsius believes in the company's organic tea as well as all aspects of Teatulia's sustainable approach to business. Teatulia's teas are grown in a single garden in Northern Bangladesh, the only tea garden in Bangladesh to be USDA certified organic, according to the company's website. The garden was started in 2000 by Lipsius' business partner, Teatulia founder and president K. Anis Ahmed. "We wanted to create jobs in this remote and impoverished rural area," Ahmed says. "But we also wanted to do it in a socially responsible manner, hence organic tea."

Ahmed, a friend of Lipsius' husband, Adam, was discussing a possible move into the U.S. tea market with Lipsius during a visit to the United States in 2006. Lipsius had a background in marketing and had been G.M. of Orange Glo Europe, v.p. of international sales and manager of Western U.S. sales at Orange Glo International (OGI), where she launched products such as

OxiClean, Kaboom and Orange Glo. Since OGI was about to be sold, and she was interested in the mission of Teatulia (named for Tetulia, the region in Bangladesh where the tea is grown), she offered to analyze the potential U.S. tea market. Though she quickly discovered the most formidable challenge — the average American doesn't know a lot about tea — Lipsius realized the company's unique focus on organic tea and corporate social responsibility had potential.

A partnership was born, and now Lipsius works from Teatulia's office in Denver, managing sales and operational issues. In April, she visited the garden in Bangladesh to see firsthand the expanded operations. In addition to providing workers with a living wage, the Teatulia Cooperative also offers education, health and cattle-lending programs for the garden's workers and neighbors.

"Linda has been absolutely crucial to the growth of Teatulia in the U.S.," Ahmed says. "From ideas to the patient day-to-day nitty-gritties, she's given her heart and soul and all her expertise to it." Teatulia began selling to Whole Foods Rocky Mountain Region in 2009. Since then sales have increased 1,700 percent, and Teatulia products now are sold at specialty and health food stores in five regions in addition to through the company's website and at its home store in Denver.

Although happy to be living in her hometown again, Lipsius appreciates her years spent in New York while attending the College. After being impressed by a Columbia recruiter and



Linda Appel Lipsius '93 in April in the Teatulia organic tea garden in Northern Bangladesh.

Days on Campus, Lipsius decided to attend the College and majored in political science. She also kept busy helping with Columbiafest as well as being an RA in Schapiro and a campus tour guide. She spent her junior year in Ireland.

After a few years in the nonprofit world, Lipsius worked for Roche Laboratories directing marketing campaigns. She then earned an M.B.A. at NYU in 2001 and joined OGI, her family's business, in 2000. While at OGI, she spent a few years setting up the European business in London, where she drank her fair share of tea. However, it was her first taste of Teatulia tea at home one day that really sold her on making tea in the U.S.

"Now I am a pretty serious tea drinker," Lipsius says. "I love trying different teas prepared and packaged in different ways. And I find good tea refreshing — something that wouldn't have occurred to me."

In addition to working

with Teatulia, Lipsius recently produced her first independent film, *16-Love*, the story of a junior tennis champion who has to adjust to normal teenage life after injuring her ankle. Released this year, the film was a partnership with her husband, a longtime filmmaker. Lipsius also is kept busy by their 4-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son, and she is involved in the local alumni club.

Leaving the day-to-day operations of the movie business to her husband, Lipsius continues to focus on expanding Teatulia's presence in the U.S. "The product is exceptional," she says, "and the mission is spot-on and directly relevant to the Tetulia community. I hope that what we are doing at the garden will be able to positively impact how other companies run their business."

**Laura Butchy '04 Arts** is a writer, dramaturg and professor of English and theatre based in Brooklyn.

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Hello, all! I recently returned from New York to help celebrate **Julie Levy's** older daughter's bat mitzvah. **Elise Scheck; Annie Giarratano**

**Della Pietra** and her husband, Chris Della Pietra '89; and Rema Serafi '91 Barnard also were in attendance. We'll all be in Miami in a couple of months to celebrate Elise's son's bar mitzvah. It's hard to believe that we're old enough to have children celebrating bar/bat mitzvahs!

**Cory Flashner** sent in this update: "I was married this past July

to my girlfriend of several years, Chrissie Hines. There were several CC '91 grads in attendance including **Jim Burtson, Ken Shubin Stein**, and Cece and **Mike Murray**. Additionally, and much less significantly, I recently left my job as a state prosecutor and became an assistant United States attorney in the District of Massachusetts.

**Paul Kuharsky** and his wife, Teresa, live in Nashville, with their son, Simon (2). Mom and Dad are working hard with the boy to avoid a Southern accent. Paul's in his fourth year as an NFL blogger for ESPN.com and is a regular radio presence on Nashville's top-rated sports talk show. Paul recently met up with some CC '91 friends at the

home of **Derek Manwaring** and his wife, Athena (Lenas) Manwaring '91 Barnard, who hosted a Carman 13 reunion of sorts. Derek and Athena have happily settled in Ridgewood, N.J., with their children, Leandros and Eleni, after their most recent assignment in Switzerland. Derek is global marketing director for Colgate-Palmolive. Also in attendance was **Kamran Ahmad**, who met Angela Grinstead in London (where she was an attorney with his brother). They were married in 2006 and now live in Orange County with their boys, Aden and Alec. Kamran works in corporate finance and M&A at Corinthian Colleges but really works harder at wrangling the gang for its annual Columbia reunion in Vegas for March Madness. **Julio Cuevas** is an assistant district attorney in NYC who wanted desperately to be cryptic here and gave Paul creative license. Paul shares that Julio has extended his wardrobe beyond black, no longer buttons the top button of his shirts, has run a marathon, is still an awful golfer and likes to vacation in Montréal. He lives on the Upper West Side with his longtime girlfriend, Kerry Kiang. And finally, also at the gathering was **Kieran Corcoran** and his wife, Alyssa, who have clung with desperation to the Upper West Side. But with toddler (Kieran II) in tow, they are planning a move to nearby Tenafly, N.J. Kieran is a partner at a nontraditional, blended contingency-oriented complex litigation boutique. Kieran and family attended the "Carman 13 reunion" as Carman 12 interlopers. [See photo.]

**Daniel Balsam** wrote: "I'm the chief foodie of the Epicurean Circle of the Columbia University Club of Chicago. Each month, I organize prix fixe dinners at Chicago's trend-setting restaurants for a devoted, multi-generational group of food aficionados representing all of Columbia's schools. Since the event's inception two years ago, we have explored cuisines from Ethiopia, Nepal, China, Italy, Germany, Spain, Greece and the United States. We had two more events lined up for the fall. Going forward, I welcome any out-of-towners who would like to partake in our culinary comucopia. Weekdays, I wear the engineering hat that I earned so diligently in Columbia's history department, and design and assemble cloud-enabled information infrastructure for financial services companies. Weekends, I don my marine biology cap, which I also earned in Columbia's history department, and entertain and educate children from around the globe at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium, where I am a volunteer docent. Every other winter, I lead Columbia alumni and their families on a private tour of the Shedd's

wonderful animal collections. In March, I will travel to the remote island of Papua New Guinea, where I will dive pristine reefs, discover new marine fauna and explore WWII naval wrecks. Warm regards from the Windy City!"

**Sara Armstrong** and her family live and bike-commute in New Haven, Conn. They recently were featured in the September/October edition of *Momentum Magazine*. You can see the digital edition here: [momentum-digitalmag.com/SeptOct2011](http://momentum-digitalmag.com/SeptOct2011). Sara writes about her family's bicycling adventures at [fullhandsx3.blogspot.com](http://fullhandsx3.blogspot.com).

**Carl Marci** switched from academic medicine to co-founder and CEO of a neuromarketing firm, Innerscope Research. He recently celebrated his ninth anniversary, but has no kids as of yet.

**Adam Barrison** wrote that **Claude Mattessich** was married earlier this year to Sabina Blaskovic. The wedding in St. Catharines, Canada, was attended by a proud group of his Fiji brothers including Adam, **Tony Alessi '91E**, **Shereef Anbar '91E**, **John Hopp**, **Eric Hopp '98** and **Jamie Mendelson**.

Don't forget that we have a Facebook page — Columbia College Class of 1991. It's a great way to keep up with classmates. And, you can always submit updates directly to me via CCT's web submission form: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Until next time ... cheers!

## REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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Hi out there! Let's get right to the news.

I spent a summer evening with **Eric Garcetti** in Southern California, taking in a high school football game, having dinner and catching up. Eric, who is president of the Los Angeles City Council ([college.columbia.edu/cct/mar\\_apr10/features0](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/mar_apr10/features0)), had some big news to share — he's running for mayor. No doubt during the months leading up to the election there will be more to report, but for now, know that one of our own is taking a shot at being the leader of a major metropolitan area.

Sticking with Los Angeles-themed news, **Mignon Moore** is

an associate professor of sociology at UCLA. While Mignon was a faculty member at Columbia (2000–06), she collected data for her 2011 book, *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships and Motherhood among Black Women*.

Congratulations!

I heard from **Eva Graburn** through the CCT website. (If you haven't tried submitting news there, it's quick and easy: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).) Eva enjoys running her active tour company, Terracotta Journeys ([terracottajourneys.com](http://terracottajourneys.com)), which offers cycling and walking tours of Spain and Portugal. Eva told me that "things are picking up but we'd love to host some Columbia alums. Come join us!"

I received a long email from **Jennifer Madrid**, who wrote, "After six years raising three beautiful children (Nico, Alexa and Isabella), I reinvented myself as a corporate events manager at the Bedford Post Inn ([bedfordpostinn.com](http://bedfordpostinn.com)) in Bedford, N.Y." Jennifer says she loves working "on behalf of such kind, hip, forever young owners" and at a place that "feels like more than a meditative eating experience." She is reconnecting with many CC friends seeking a romantic day in the country. Jennifer also told me that her best news is that her three children "think the Columbia quad is an extremely cool place to visit. I'd love to say it's the academic aura and that they are future intellectual Lions but I think they like chasing the pigeons, as we don't have any such urban activity up here."

Finally, on the personal front, it's been a summer and early autumn filled with travel. I can add Venice, Italy; Anchorage, Alaska; and even Split, Croatia, to my places visited. For now, I can safely say, it feels good to be home and sharing all of our classmates' news with you. Keep it coming, and be well.

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I received a nice note from Down Under when my McBain floor-mate, **John Callaghan**, responded to a recent plea for news. John has been living back in Australia since 1994 and is married with two daughters, Missy (5) and Piper (3). After leaving Morningside Heights, John received another undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the University of Technology, Sydney. He also is a kung fu instructor and speaks intermediate-level Mandarin.

I also was fortunate enough to

hear from **Richard Carrick**, who returned to Columbia this fall to teach the graduate composition seminar in the music department. As you may have guessed, Richard is a composer. His works have been performed internationally by the New York Philharmonic, Vienna's Konzerthaus and the Tokyo International House, among many others. He also conducts, plays piano and guitar, co-founded and co-directs the New-York based contemporary ensemble Either/Or and teaches "20th Century Music" at NYU. This fall he released his first CD (*Richard Carrick: The Flow Cycle for Strings*), and the release concert took place in October at the Austrian Cultural Forum.

Congratulations, Richard!

As for family news, Richard and his wife, Nomi Levy-Carrick '92, have two children, Hannah (4) and Claude (3), and enjoy life in NYC.

Best wishes to everyone this holiday season and I hope you have a healthy and happy New Year!

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**Saskia Traill** writes with the happy news that she had twins, Penelope and Timothy, on May 25. "The twins and their dad, Josh Weinberger, enjoyed a hot, sticky summer in Harlem," she writes. "Our apartment is just a few blocks from Columbia, and I can see East Campus from my building's roof (not quite the same as seeing Russia from my house, but you get the idea). I've enjoyed getting back in touch with Community Impact alums at a couple of events this past year, and encourage any Community Impact supporters to look out for the CI Alumni Organization." On the career front, Saskia is v.p. of policy and research at The After-School Corp., a nonprofit dedicated to giving all kids expanded learning opportunities that support, educate and inspire them.

In other baby news, **Josh Shannon** and his wife, Rona Marech, welcomed their second child, Mae, in August. The family, including son Jasper, live in the Mount Pleasant district of Washington, D.C., and Josh teaches contemporary art history at Maryland. "Now and then we get to see **Kay Bailey**, Eric Roston '93 and his wife, Karen Yourish '98, for a collaborative afternoon of true kid chaos," Josh writes, adding that they've also spent time with John Mathews '93, his wife, Linda, and their kids since they moved to D.C. a couple of years ago.

**Lola Rephann** earned her 200-hour yoga teacher training certifica-

tion in June 2010 and has been teaching regularly since then. She also started an independent record label, Plan B Recordings (planbrecordingsnyc.com), about three years ago with her business partner, DJ Spider. Not only does she release music regularly, but Lola also works on her own music production as dakini9. "I make electronic dance music," Lola writes, "mostly deep house and techno. Anyone interested in my yoga practice or music can view my blog dakinisbliss.com."

**David Robbins** went on to medical school, settled down in Battery Park and is "happily single in the city." He works at Lenox Hill Hospital in a field known as interventional endoscopy. "I was trained as a gastroenterologist, but most of my work relates to early cancer detection and treatment of digestive cancers," he writes. "I get to do some teaching and clinical research as well — good times!"

**Laurie (Galluzzi) Reid** lives in Syracuse, N.Y., with her children, 5 and 7, and teaches ecology at Bryant & Stratton College. "I still have fond memories of *Bacchante*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Wiz* and *The Varsity Show*," she writes.

**Miranda Pinckert** lives in Menlo Park, Calif., with her husband, Christian, and their 2-year-old daughter. Miranda worked for Yahoo! for many years and now is finishing a doctorate in clinical psychology.

And finally, my own update: After almost three years working for the Minnesota Department of Health in communications, I recently started a new job as associate director of public relations for OptumHealth, part of the health services arm of UnitedHealth Group. I am in charge of leading strategic planning for external communications and media and public relations for OptumHealth's Care Solutions division, which provides a broad range of health and wellness services including tobacco cessation, disease management and diagnosis support. A big change from the public sector, but very interesting so far.

Thanks to everyone who wrote in! Until next time.

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While Hurricane Irene ruined our family vacation in August, it brought a nice reunion with **Ari Abramowitz**, who also lived on Carman 10.

My husband, Scott, our 3-year-old son, Ike, and 1-year-old daughter, Charlie, evacuated the beach house where we were vacationing

near Westerly, R.I., and headed to Providence. Scott found a restaurant for dinner, and soon after we sat down Ike began talking to a little girl at the table next to us. I looked up to talk with her dad, and it was Ari!

"How serendipitous! Sitting at abutting tables with Janet at the only restaurant in Providence to stay open throughout Irene," Ari writes. "I was taking the family (wife and trio of kids) on an Eastern seaboard road trip (Chevy Chase-style), with stops on the Vineyard (hanging out with **Christine Lai** and her family), in Providence and in Boston. Even splurged on a Sox game (though we had to endure typically awful pitching courtesy of John Lackey). The kids were psyched as long as they could order cotton candy."

Ari's kids are Logan (6), Gabby (4) and Brynn (2). He is still in New York, is a copyright/entertainment lawyer and digs for good music. Ari and his wife, Gwen, have been married for nine years. The couple met at business school. Gwen went to Michigan and was in brand marketing at Kraft.

"I keep thinking I'll magically run into someone from our class on the street," he writes. "But it somehow almost never happens. Only in Providence."

Ari's mention of Christine was a good reason to check in with her.

After graduation, Christine worked in equity research on the sell side, first at Sanford Bernstein and later at JPMorgan, covering property casualty insurance companies. She left to join her then-boss at the insurance company Chubb. She moved over to the buy side — first at Chilton Investment Co., where she followed European financials, and then later at Carlson Capital, where she traded global insurance companies.

Christine left the buy side after her son, Spencer, now 7, was born. Two years later, she had Wesley, now 5. From 2006–09, she was CFO of Dr. Bobby, a dermatological-level skincare line for children created by a pediatric dermatologist. In 2002, she married Craig Elkind '91 Business.

"Since 2009 I've been a full-time, stay-at-home mom," Christine writes. "We live in Greenwich (since 2001) and spend summers on Martha's Vineyard. Periodically we have mini Columbia gatherings at our house that include the Abramowitzes, **Robyn Pangi Sassaman**, Sura Alammarr Rathore, **Kelly Dailey** and Kevin Dailey '95 GS."

Robyn earned a master's in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2000 and stayed on at the Kennedy School as a researcher with



**A group of CC '94 classmates, all mothers, vacation together yearly "to reconnect and share the wonderful joys of motherhood. Nine kids in total between all the ladies, so that's a lot of complaining ... err, excuse me, celebrating how hard we work all year," shares Sharene (Barnett) Wood. Relaxing in Miami Beach at The Palms Hotel in mid-May 2010 were (left to right) Annys Shin, Wood, Kemba Dunham, Nicole (Johnson) Sanders and Leslie De Lara Luck. The group has traveled to Mexico, Miami, Scottsdale and Las Vegas.**

the executive session on domestic preparedness for a few years.

She married Corey Sassaman in 2002, and they moved to Kalamazoo, Mich. While they were living in the Midwest, they adopted two children from Kazakhstan: Hayden (7) and Kathryn (5). She freelanced for *The Kalamazoo Gazette*, writing a weekly column and editing a monthly magazine, while staying home with the kids.

The family now lives in Wood-Ridge, N.J., outside of New York, and for the last three years Robyn has been working for the New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney's Office as director of legislative affairs and special projects.

**Danny Ackerman** writes from the West Coast that he started teaching a white-collar crime seminar at Loyola Law. "I've been living in South Pasadena for 10 years, still single, no kids and enjoying life," he writes.

I ran into Eric Roston '93 at Bloomberg, where I have worked for 3½ years. Eric lives in D.C. with his wife, Karen Yourish '98J, and their daughter Madeline (4). Karen is deputy graphics director of *The Washington Post*.

Eric is the sustainability editor of Bloomberg Businessweek (businessweek.com), which is a website about the global race among countries and companies for resources — energy, commodities and ideas.

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Greetings, classmates, and happy winter. Only a bit of notes for you this time around.

I am happy to report that my good friend **Matt Lasner** has returned to New York from Atlanta to accept a position as an assistant

professor in the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning at Hunter College. Welcome back, Matt! He reports that **Bekah Burgess** works in the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Don't let the momentum from our reunion subside — please send in more notes! Write to me directly or use CCT's easy online form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

For now, I leave you with this: "Dwell in Possibility."

—Emily Dickinson

## REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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Plans are under way for our class' 15th Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. Take a look at the reunion website (reunion.college.columbia.edu) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses. Hope to see many of you there!

Congratulations to **Alex Grossman**, who was recently named creative director at *Bon Appetit!* Also, congratulations to **Naveena Ponnusamy**, who has been named executive director of development at RAND Corp.

**Jeanette Brown** is writing about early childhood education for Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children. Her



Mike Erman '99 married Sinead Carew on April 4 in Durrow, Ireland. Joining the newlyweds were (front row, left to right) Jen Song '99; Catie Zeidler '99 Barnard; the groom; the bride; Vikash Jain '99; the groom's sister, Joanna Herman '98; and Miranda Stamps '00 Barnard; and (back row, left to right) Lauren Becker '99; Emmy Pointer '99; Dan Sorid '99, '09J, '10 Business; Babi Pal '99E; James Boyle '99; Jay Cosel '99; Ben Hall '99E; Ethan Davidson '99; Konrad Fiedler '99; Matt Paige '99; the groom's brother-in-law, Brooks Herman '98; and Jay Albany '99.

columns can be found at promising kids.org/author/one-smart-mom.

**Lauren Goodman** completed her first Ironman-distance triathlon this summer at Ironman Lake Placid. She had so much fun that she's already signed up to do another one in Mont Tremblant, Canada, next year. Lauren is a trusts and estates lawyer at Katten Muchin Rosenman and lives on the Upper West Side.

**John Dean Alfano** valiantly trudges along with the production of his first motion picture, *Substance*. The crew shot a trailer for the movie in March in New Orleans and rural Louisiana. After spending the summer in Los Angeles "talking up the movie," he now is back in New Orleans gearing up for production once again. He is seeking business partnerships/equity. More about the project can be seen here: [sponsume.com/project/substance](http://sponsume.com/project/substance).

**Endre Tvinnereim** was elected to the Bergen (Norway) City Council on the City Air List ("Byluftlisten"). He started in October and will serve four years. Endre and friends created the party list last winter during a smog episode, as Bergen briefly became one of Europe's most polluted cities. His election represents the first time since 1947 that a candidate not associated with any of the national political parties enters the Bergen City Council.

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Hello, classmates. We have more baby announcements!

**Adina Berrios Brooks** and her husband, Ross, had a daughter, Clara, on June 25. Clara joins sister Nola. The Brooks family lives in

Harlem and, based on Adina's Facebook photos, often can be found playing in Morningside Park.

**Justin Garrett** let his friends know his baby news via Facebook: "Say hello to Roxanne Lily, born today, June 1, at 1:51 p.m. (6 lbs., 14 oz., 19.75 in.), perfectly cute. Mommy, daddy and big sister are all healthy and psyched." "Mommy" is Garrett's wife, Rachel, and big sister is 3-year-old Jane.

**Reena Russell Maldutis** and her husband, Lex Maldutis '91, '93 SIPA, '94 Business, announced the birth of their daughter, Sloane Zoe, who was born on February 27 at 5 lbs., 7 oz. The double-Columbia couple lives in Manhattan.

**Lea Goldman** is the deputy editor of *Marie Claire* and has a little boy named Ozzie, who was born April 25, 2010. Lea is married to Ofer Goldstein and lives in NYC. Lea sees a couple of alums on a regular basis: **Tony Maciulis**, who is producing a new syndicated talk show for Katie Couric at ABC, and **Claudia De-Simio '99**, a v.p. at BNP Paribas.

I had the pleasure of staying with **Anne Pordes Bowers** and her husband, Pete, when my husband, Hans Chen '97, and I were in London for our 10th anniversary last summer. Anne and Pete live in a very Brooklyn-ish part of South London, and they took us on a fab tour of the city. Anne is a freelance government consultant, and Pete is a tutor and teacher. If you find yourselves across the pond, give them a ring!

99

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This is my third submission to *Columbia College Today* and I haven't

been asked to resign yet. So thank you! Lots of updates from our class:

**Abe Lee** married his college sweetheart, Jennifer Chu '99 Barnard, in December 2010, and they had a daughter this fall. He noted that **Andrew Chen** recently moved to Shenzhen, China, as an entrepreneur. Andrew's entrepreneurial notoriety includes popularizing aqua massage machines throughout California's malls. **Sarah Holst Alloy** shared the wonderful news that she and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their first child, Samuel William, in April. They reside in San Francisco.

More baby news to share! **Kay Rokhsar** and her husband, Yaron, recently welcomed a new addition to their family, Jamie. Brother Oren (3) is very happy but wants more attention from his parents. While juggling two children, Kay works at Morgan Stanley as a v.p. in the municipal investment banking group.

Continuing with the baby theme, **Nancy Kim Lin** recently published her first book, *Dear Milo: Outrageous Stories from Your Foul-Mouthed Mommy*. It's a humorous book about life lessons for any would-be-parent. The book already is receiving rave reviews for its rip-roaring humor. Any publishers in our class should feel free to contact Nancy at [nancy@joeclin.com](mailto:nancy@joeclin.com), as she is looking for a new publisher for her second book, *Dear Milo Volume 2*. Nancy saw **Fabian Sy** a few months ago. He lives in Connecticut and has a recently born daughter, Adriana.

On to weddings now!

**Mike Erman** married Sinead Carew on April 4 in Durrow, Ireland. The wedding was a real hit, with many classmates able to make the trip. The celebrations kicked off at 2 in the afternoon and ended well past 2 in the morning. Brooks

Herman '98, who is married to Mike's sister, Joanna Herman '98, submitted the nearby great picture with plenty of people from our year. [See photo.]

Is it ethical to write about one's own wedding as class notes writer? Probably not, but I'm still going to do it. Sophie Anderson and I married in Brussels, Belgium, on June 18. I said yes at the altar and everyone danced the night away to the Macarena and ABBA.

Please don't hesitate to email me more baby, wedding or job-related updates, and I will make sure to include them in the next edition of CCT, which is now published quarterly rather than bimonthly. Send a note to me at the email at the top of the column, or use CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Your note will come right to me. Thanks!

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Last October, **Abigail Shrier** (née Krauser) and her husband, Zach, welcomed twin boys into the world: Raphael Milton and Jackson Zvi. Abigail writes, "Every day for the past year since, the boys have surprised us, delighted us and kept us laughing. We looked forward to celebrating Rafi and Jack's first birthday, on October 11, with aunt Lindsay Bourkoff (née Shrier) '03, uncle Natan Bourkoff '03 and aunt Elizabeth Shrier '03."

**Juliet Ross** and **Dan Burstein** hosted a 4th of July weekend in the Catskills with **Don Saelinger**, Katherine Dube '00 Barnard, **Sander Cohan** and his wife, Katie Connolly. This visit was very different from previous gatherings, as each couple brought along a baby this year. Andrew Nathan (Nate) Saelinger, Don and Katherine's son, will be 2 in December. They recently moved back from D.C. after nearly two years in San Francisco, and Juliet and Dan are thrilled to have them back on the East Coast. Pete Connolly Cohan, Sander and Katie's son, turned 1 in June; they live in Boston. Dan's and Juliet's son, Jack Baxter Burstein, turned 1 in July. Like Juliet, Jack is an Upper West Side native and, like Dan, he is a big Red Sox fan. They recently caught up with **Laura Weber**, who was celebrating her engagement to Noah Finn.

**Mark Neighbors** and his wife, Christina Chong '01 Barnard, recently moved to Beijing, where Mark is embarking on his first tour as a Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Department of State. Mark

and Christine will be in Beijing until August 2013.

**Nadia Carter** and Benoit Busseuil were married in France on September 10 at the Chateau de Bagnols and spent their honeymoon in Hawaii. Nadia has been a senior manager at Accenture.

01

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I hope everyone had a great summer and is gearing up for a great holiday season. I cannot believe how quickly fall zoomed by. This month, I am passing along lots of joyous baby news from the Class of 2001. I will continue to have more news on this front for months to come, as I know we have lots of classmates in early to late stages of pregnancy!

**Rebecca Bradley** (née Siegel) and her husband, John, are excited to announce the birth of their son, Paul Albert, on October 4. He weighed 7 lbs., 9.5 oz., and was 19 in. long. Congratulations to Becca and John!

**Elisa Tustian** (née Melendez) and her husband, Andrew Tustian, welcomed their son, Charles Michael, on May 20. Congratulations to Elisa and Andrew!

**Karl Ward** and **Jaclyn Strassberg** welcomed Annabelle Elizabeth in the early morning hours of July 4. She weighed 6 lbs., 5 oz. and was 19 in.

**Jonathan Lemire** and Carrie Melago '04 GSAs welcomed their son, Beckett Robert, into the world on July 18. Their boy was born at Beth Israel Medical Center in Manhattan, arriving at 7 lbs., 5 oz. and 20½ in. and, much to everyone's surprise, he seems to have red hair. In his first six weeks of life, Beckett lived through a record-setting heat wave, an earthquake and a hurricane, so his parents expect he'll be a hard kid to impress.

Jon is a reporter at *The New York Daily News*' City Hall Bureau and is the paper's FDNY beat reporter. Recently, he has covered the city's budget crisis, the start of President Obama's re-election effort and the Anthony Weiner scandal as well as the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Carrie, who has briefly put her career on hold to be home with Beckett, is an assistant city editor at the *Daily News*, overseeing the paper's transit and education coverage. The couple continue to make their home in their beloved Brooklyn neighborhood of Cobble Hill.

**Cambria Matlow** and her partner, Ben Bach, had a son, Forrest Emmanuel, in early fall. She provided an update on her documen-



**Jessica Atrio '01 and Jason Wooten '01, '06 Business, who started dating when they were undergraduates, tied the knot after 13 years on May 28 in New York City. The day before, at the rehearsal dinner, other alumni joined them to wish them well: (left to right) Kirsten Harlow '01 Barnard, Alexandra Steele '01, Elizabeth Farren '01, the bride, Abhilash Patel '02, the groom and Jane Lynch '01. Eight other alumni attended the wedding: Dorianne Steele '99; Rebecca Roses Harrison '01 and, her husband, Travis Harrison '01; Colleen O'Malley Goldberg '01 and, her husband, Andrew Goldberg '00; Benjamin Cahan '01, '06 GS; Tamer Makary '01 and James Sullivan '01.**

tary film, *Burning in the Sun*: "Probably the best source of news on the film is our blog, [burninginthesun.wordpress.com](http://burninginthesun.wordpress.com). Recently our main character was featured in a *Wired UK* article for his work. We also recently signed with an educational distributor, Bullfrog Films, are planning a small theatrical release for the fall in select cities across the United States and are anticipating a national TV broadcast in 2012 on PBS on the Afropop series. I started work on my next film this summer, a personal documentary about my mother and sister."

**Jordan Fischbach** and his wife, Yael Silk, recently relocated from Santa Monica, Calif., to Pittsburgh. Here are the highlights from Jordan: "I earned my Ph.D. in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School (as of April 2010) and now am employed full-time at RAND as an associate policy researcher. I work primarily on policy challenges related to climate change adaptation, with a focus on long-term water resources planning nationwide and flood risk mitigation in Louisiana and other coastal areas."

**Tamer Makary** and Effie Adamopoulos welcomed "an Emirati-born, half-Australian-Greek and half-Egyptian-American bundle of joy named Alexandros (Alec) Makary on June 25, weighing in at 3.625 kg." Congratulations to Tamer and Effie!

Tamer was married in October 2010 in Greece. His best men were **Courtney Reum** and **Jason Wooten**. "We got married in Sounio, Greece. Among the alumni attendees were **Emeka Ofodile**, **Eric Albin** and **Tamer Obied**.

"Also, I recently was promoted to managing director and head of corporate finance at my firm, Arqam Capital, specialized in mid cap cross-border mergers and acqui-

sitions. In addition to overseeing the global corporate finance business, I also am a member of the management committee. This past January we advised on the first Middle Eastern majority acquisition of an Indonesian bank and are working on several other 'milestone' cross-border deals."

Let's you think I only report on baby news ... I love hearing from classmates about anything — new jobs, volunteer work and so on. After bumping into **Vanessa Buia** at reunion a few months back, she provided an exciting update.

After owning her own ground floor gallery in Chelsea for six years, Vanessa has reopened as Vanessa Buia LLC, an art advising firm based in Chelsea specializing in post-war and contemporary art.

She closed the gallery in April 2009 and opened her new business this past May after doing a couple of years of freelance advising for past clients. She curated the first show of Richard Massey's new foundation in 2010. Massey is a MoMA board member and a New York Stem Cell Foundation founding board member.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season. Stay in touch.

#### REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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02

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Happy holidays CC '02! This time, I have an update to report. My

son, Aarav Hirdaramani, was born on July 31 in NYC! As always, please send me your updates at [soniah57@gmail.com](mailto:soniah57@gmail.com) or use CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Your note will come right to me.

**Albert Lee '02E** is in banking at Barclays after getting his M.B.A. from Columbia in 2007. He lives in Union Square in NYC.

**Su Ahn** is studying at Insead between France and Singapore.

**Alison (Ali) Gold** relocated to Washington, D.C. (again) in January. She now is a program manager at Living Cities, which aggregates dollars and influence of 22 of the world's largest foundations and financial institutions to invest in innovative approaches to connect low-income people to economic opportunity and strengthen American cities.

**Ben Letzler** has joined SJBerwin in Munich as an associate in the Investment Funds Group. He hopes everyone passing through Munich will say hello ([bletzler@gmail.com](mailto:bletzler@gmail.com))!

**Rich Feistman** writes, "Got married in May. Working on a Ph.D. in the Human Development and Family Studies Department at the University of Missouri."

**Clea Bowdery** married Tory Marinello in June 2010 in New Paltz, N.Y. In attendance were Amanda Luken '03, **Alan Den-niberg** and **Charles (Sandy) London**.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our 10-year reunion, scheduled for Thursday, May 31-Sunday, June 3. Take a look at the reunion website ([reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu)) and mark your calendars now. More information will start to arrive during the spring, so be sure Columbia has your correct postal and email addresses.



Many Columbians gathered in Cooperstown, N.Y., for the June 30 wedding of Katie Day Benvenuto '03, associate director, athletics development, and Dan Benvenuto, associate director, events and ticket operations for Columbia Athletics. The ceremony was held at Christ Church Episcopal and the reception at the famed Otesaga Hotel. Several of the bride's suitemates were in attendance, including (left to right) Amy Schultz '03, Samantha Lee '03, Emily Doyle '03, Stephanie Reeder '04 and Debbie Kaplan '03. Also on hand were numerous colleagues of the couple from the athletics department.

PHOTO: THE CLASSIC IMAGE

03

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Season's Greetings to you and yours. As we approach our ninth year since graduation, more and more members of our class have husbands, wives, domestic partners and children with whom to celebrate the holiday season(s). More news on that in this column. If you have an update to share with me, I encourage you to do so through the CCT website: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**Jessica Macari** (née Slutsky) and her husband, Ariel, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Layla Hannah, on June 30 at 10:43 p.m. She weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz. and was 19½ in.

**Phillip Chu** writes, "My wife, Flor, and I had our first child, Isabella Mai, on January 12."

After getting married in a barn in Iowa, **Julia Green** and her husband moved to Chicago; he is an actuary and she is finishing up her first novel. **Eric Kriegstein** writes, "I am completing my M.B.A. at UCLA this year. I married Brielle Anderson this September in Vermont. Columbians present at the wedding were Doug Imbruce '05, Daniel Goldman '04, David Brumberg '04 and Joey Fischel '04."

On October 16, 2010, **Nyssa Fajardo** married Chris Lee at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The couple was honored

to have **Nicole Washington** as a bridesmaid. The reception took place at the Mandarin Oriental, where guests danced late into the night. Other Columbia alumni in attendance included **Bram Alden**, **Andrew Brill**, Tito Hill '05, **Jamal Trotter**, Hanoi Veras '03L, **Brendon Pinkard** '02L and **Leah Threatte Bojnowski** '04L. The couple resides in Manhattan. Nyssa is an associate general counsel for Hudson Heights IPA and Chris is a principal at Apollo Global Management.

**Ben Casselman** writes, "The biggest and best news off the top: In May, I married the beautiful Erin White in my parents' backyard on Cape Cod. *Spectator* was well represented: **Adam B. Kushner** was a groomsman and gave a stirring toast, and former *Spec* editors **Amba Datta**, Megan Greenwell '06 Barnard and Maggie Gram '05 were in attendance.

"Erin and I met in Dallas, where I've been a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* covering the oil and gas industry. That turned out to be an interesting beat last year, when Russell Gold '93 and I led the paper's coverage of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Our coverage was honored with a Gerald Loeb Award and was named a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize.

"After surviving the hottest summer in U.S. history (no joke), Erin and I are preparing to leave Texas to move back to New York, where I'll cover the U.S. economy for the *Journal* and Erin will look for opportunities in journalism and public relations."

**Polly Auritt** lives in Venice Beach with Chris Kosfeld '02 and works at MTV in scripted television.

**Sheref Hassan** writes, "I am finishing my residency in orthopaedic surgery in the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center program. In August I started my fellowship training in orthopaedic surgery sports medicine at Union Memorial Medical Center." **Defne Amado** graduated with an M.D./Ph.D. and is doing a residency in neurology at Penn.

**Alfred Chung** writes, "I'm in my second year in the M.B.A. program at USC Marshall School of Business. I'm also working on a new startup idea called Site Unseen. I enrolled in a Startup Weekend event recently, pitched my idea, formed a team, built a product demo and pitched the business plan and product demo to a panel of judges from the startup community here in Los Angeles. After 42 business ideas were presented, then eight final pitches, we won! You can find more information about Startup Weekend and Site Unseen here: uscnews.usc.edu/business/entrepreneurs\_in\_action.html and here: siteunseenla.com."

**Sam Arora** writes, "My first bill in the Maryland General Assembly became a law — it was a law to close a loophole in Maryland's gun laws so that criminals trafficking in illegal guns would have to serve their sentences. It went into effect October 1."

**A.J. LaRosa** has relocated to Burlington, Vt., where he will join the firm of Burak Anderson & Melloni. His practice will focus on environmental, land use and complex civil litigation. In 2009, A.J. teamed up with a number of skiers to found famousinternetskiers.com, a web-based publication dedicated to inspiring back-country skiing adventures. A.J. is the weatherman for the site and publishes detailed and accurate forecasts for mountain locations across the Northeast. If you are ever in Vermont and want to ski some powder, drop him a line.

**Don Lee** went on a weeklong sailing trip in Turkey/Greece with **Nadim El Gabbani**, Vanessa Karlo '03 Barnard, Ian Coogan '02 and Alison Traweek '03 GS.

04

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Hello, CC'04!

I hope you are all doing well. Just a friendly reminder to send in your news and updates — don't be shy! Feel free to email me at aeg90@columbia.edu or contact me via CCT's web submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. On to the news:

**Jacob Barandes** earned a Ph.D. from the Department of Physics at

Harvard and joined the department as a lecturer in physics. **Alisa Weilerstein** is one of the 2011 MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant recipients. **Kelley Remole** earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience at Columbia this past spring. She married **Lucas Bejar** in 2009.

Congratulations to you all!

**Liz Mulaikal** finished medical school and an internal medicine residency at Georgetown. In July, she came back to New York City to begin a three-year fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at NYU. She also reports that there was a mini Columbia reunion with some of the lacrosse girls in May at **Adrienne Moll**'s wedding.

Congratulations to **Daniel Wise**, who married Laura Gee '04 Barnard. Daniel teaches 10th grade humanities at High Tech H.S. in San Diego. He has a master's in secondary English education from Pace and is pursuing a master's in school leadership at the High Tech High Graduate School of Education.

Last, but definitely not least, congratulations to **Blake Wallach** '04E, who married Lina Tipografshik in September at Oheka Castle in Long Island. Bernadine Goldberg '04 Barnard, **Angela Georgopoulos** and **David Neistadt** were on hand to help celebrate the happy couple.

05

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**Lauren Mancia** and **Adam Gidwitz** '04 were married this past June in Lenox, Mass., and a gaggle of Columbians were there to cheer them on. Adam and Lauren now live in Brooklyn Heights, where Lauren is working on her dissertation in medieval history from Yale, and Adam is writing his second middle-grade novel, which is due out in August from Penguin. His first, *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, was featured in CCT in the March/April 2011 issue (college.columbia.edu/cct/mar\_apr11/bookshelf1), was named a *New York Times* Editor's Choice, and came out in paperback this past August. In January, Lauren's dissertation research will bring them to France, where they will live in Paris and Rouen for eight months. If you're interested in subletting their apartment from May–August, contact Lauren at l.mancia@gmail.com.

On September 4, **Rebecca Weber** married Ben Carver in Breckenridge on a bluebird Colorado day. Several Columbia alumni attended, including Rebecca's father, Joseph Weber Jr. '81J, bridesmaid **Lindsay Joelle Glabman** and friends **Rena Rudavsky**, Isaac Kohn '04, **Cara**

**Rachele, Maggie Gram, Nick Summers,** Telis Demos '04, Kelly Rader '10 GSAS, Adam Kushner '03 and **Ajay Vashee.** Rebecca and Ben met at Stanford Law and are attorneys at firms in New York. They live in Boerum Hill.

On August 1, **Jessica Hollinger** and her husband became the proud parents of their first child, Nolan Joseph.

**Shelley Diaz** recently started at the *School Library Journal* as an assistant editor of book reviews and managing editor of the *Extra Helping* newsletter.

**Elizabeth E. Hall** earned a J.D. from Emory University School of Law in Atlanta on May 9. She was awarded a Pro Bono Publico Award for volunteering more than 100 hours of legal public service and was selected by a committee of deans and faculty to receive the Robert Beynart Award for Professionalism and Ethics. After taking the bar exam, she will return to New York City as a first-year associate at Arent Fox.

**Evita Mendiola** moved back to her hometown, San Antonio. With her master's in social work from Columbia, she recently was promoted to director of intake at Haven for Hope, a nonprofit, transformational campus and shelter for homeless men, women and children. Evita is a newly appointed committee member of the San Antonio Art Museum's Contemporary Art Department. She also is learning how to weld.

**Graham Donald** is in his third year of surgical residency at UCLA and is doing research in pancreatic cancer. He lives in Venice Beach and recently reconnected with **Holly Gaglio** (née Holly Miller, married to **Ryan Gaglio**) in Long Beach.

And lastly, I was very lucky to be married to **Melanie Lee** this past summer in Doylestown, Pa. Several Columbia alumni were in attendance: **Sally Huber, Selena Ali Taliento, Sarita Konka, Joyce Kim, Matt Fisher '05E, Shantanu Jani '05E, DJ Park '06E, Michael Novielli '03, Jay Mung '04E, Stephanie Lung '04, Eric Wang '05E, Sei-Wook Kim '07E, Sol Park '06, Diana Finkel '05, Louise Che '05, Bernard, Newman Sund '95 and Vivian Sund '95.** It was a very nice time.

Hope all is well!

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This past year, many of our classmates tied the knot! Please read their joyful announcements.

**Johanna Berger** married Chad Cinquegrana on July 3 in Elmhurst,

Ill. They are both teachers and work on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in a K-12 public school. Some of Johanna's dearest Columbia friends traveled to Chicago for the wedding.

**Lianna Heidt and Andrei Marks** were married in Bloomington, Ind. on June 4. The wedding party included **Bernardino Allegretti, Musetta Durkee, Josh Flinn, Katie McGerr and Roopa Vasudevan.** Also in attendance were **Christina Massey** and **Natasha Marks '13E.** The couple met while working in a neurobiology lab at the Columbia University Medical Center. Lianna recently graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine and is starting her pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Andrei earned a law degree from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and is pursuing a career in game development. [See photo.]

**Nattha Chutinthranond and Philip Fileri** were married on June 4 in Nattha's hometown of Syracuse. The celebration included a wonderful reception at her parents' restaurant, Lemon Grass. Many friends from Columbia were in attendance: **Paul Fileri, Kinara Flagg, Ashvi Sivapalan, Laura Regensdorf, Meredith Humphrey, Katy Steinmetz, Micah Springut, Bill Verigan, John Jadcak, Solomon Kahn '06E, Mira Siegelberg and Asher Mullokandov.** Nattha and Phil live in Boston, where she is assistant director of finance at the Hotel Marlowe in Cambridge and he is writing his dissertation in history at Harvard.

**Sarah Tarasevich** writes, "My husband, Nick, and I welcomed our adorable, dimple-cheeked son, Gabriel, on April 4. Virginia is thrilled to be a big sister, and I'm loving life as a stay-at-home mom!"

**David Ferris** recently was accepted into the French Foreign Legion. He will serve his tour of duty with the 13th Demi-Brigade in the African nation of Djibouti and is excited for this new adventure!

**Kate Caruselle** graduated from Brooklyn Law (Class of 2011) and moved back uptown after three years in Brooklyn. She began working in October as an assistant district attorney for the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

**Stephen Kunen** took the New York and New Jersey bar exams this past July and took his bar trip with his girlfriend in China, where they visited about 10 cities during a month including Chongqing, Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong. He started work at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati's New York IP litigation group in September and is excited to be back in N.Y.

**Jacob Rubin** writes to share

some news about our classmates: "Hi to the class from San Francisco! Wanted to give a shoutout to **Matt Del Guzzo**, who recently became a certified private investigator in addition to completing medical school. **Chris Belz** returned to NYC after two years in Texas and he looks forward to maintaining his vegan eating habits at amazing New York restaurants. Lastly, **Jimmy Mark** has started a candy company in his spare time. Great friends doing great things! Hope the class is doing well!"

**Emily Jerome** is excited to share her new fashion line: emilyjerome.com. It was recently called "the label to watch" in *Harper's Bazaar*.

**Victoria Baranetsky** writes, "Dear '06ers, Reunion was great! I am going to Oxford for one year to do research on a fellowship. If you happen to be jumping over the pond as well please drop a line: victoriabaranetsky@gmail.com." Her note was accompanied by a haiku:

"Just finished J.D.

"I absconded 9 to 5

"For some tea and tweed!"

As always, thanks to all for sharing!

#### REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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**07**

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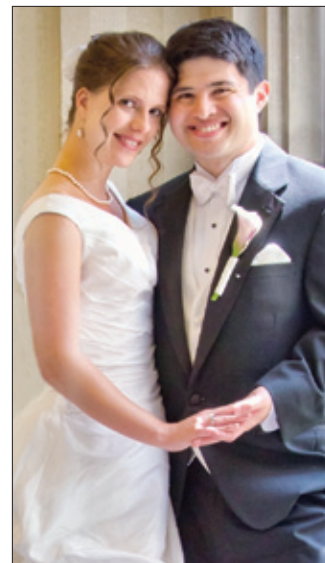
Columbia College Class of 2007,

I hope that everyone had a great fall and is looking forward to our fifth-year Alumni Reunion. Save the date — Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. More information is available at [reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu). Until then, here are some exciting updates from our class:

Love is in the air for CC '07 ...

**Elizabeth B. Epstein and Jonathan S. Miller** were married on July 4 and were featured in *The New York Times* on July 10. The *Times* notes, "Elizabeth Barbara Epstein and Jonathan Seth Miller were married Monday evening at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, N.Y. Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, the principal of the Ramaz School in Manhattan, where the couple met in a ninth-grade English class, led the ceremony."

**Thomas Weldon '08 and Marissa Doyle**, who reside in Columbus, Ohio, were engaged in NYC on July 3. The two spent the night at their



**Lianna Heidt '06 and Andrei Marks '06** were married in Bloomington, Ind., on June 4. The wedding party included CC '06 classmates **Bernardino Allegretti, Musetta Durkee, Josh Flinn, Katie McGerr and Roopa Vasudevan.** Also in attendance were **Christina Massey '06 and Natasha Marks '13E.** The couple met while working in a neurobiology lab at the Columbia University Medical Center.

PHOTO: LISA WALKER

favorite NYC spots by limo with their closest Columbia friends.

**Mike Martinez** writes, "I am thrilled to announce that I married my high school sweetheart, Laura, on May 20 in Montclair, N.J. It was an amazing day and a most memorable reception thanks in large part to my 20-plus best friends/ Columbia classmates, who kept the dance floor popping all night long."

Additionally, **Christine Kwak** and **Edward Kim '08** were married this past May. Columbia alumni in attendance included bridesmaids **Michelle Kwak '12** and **Jane Park** as well as groomsmen **William Kim '08E, Michael Lee '08E, Brian Kim '08** and **Benjamin Koo '08E.** [See photo.]

Congratulations and wishing you all the best!

In July, **Andrew Russeth** began writing for *The New York Observer*, where he covers art. Also, Andrew's award-winning blog, 16 miles of string, can be found at [16miles.com](http://16miles.com).

After 3½ years of working in Broadway general management and producing — most recently on the Tony Award-winning *The Book of Mormon* — **Geo Karapetyan** is pursuing an M.B.A. at NYU Stern School of Business. While he's enjoying the Village, he is looking forward to returning to Morning-side in May for our reunion.

**Margaret Bryer** shares, "I spent



Christine Kwak '07 and Edward Kim '08 were married in May. Columbians in attendance included, among many guests, bridesmaids Jane Park '07 (front row, third from left) and Michelle Kwak '12 (front row, fifth from left) and groomsmen (front row, to the right of the groom, left to right) William Kim '08E, Michael Lee '08E, Brian Kim '08 and Benjamin Koo '08E.

PHOTO: CLY CREATION

the summer in Kibale National Park in Uganda collecting data for my master's thesis on redtail monkey nutrition and behavior. Now I'm back in New York finishing my master's program at CUNY Hunter."

**Joyce Hau** is now a Googler in Beijing. She writes, "If anyone comes by this way, let me know!"

**Negar Kordestani** spent three years as a program coordinator for the National Center for Learning Disabilities in Washington, D.C. She now is attending Villanova Law and looks forward to becoming a practicing attorney.

**Kasia Nikhamina** shares, "I've been volunteering at Compost for Brooklyn (compostforbrooklyn.org), a community compost garden in my neighborhood, Kensington/Ditmas Park, Brooklyn. The garden is now in its second year. In July alone, we diverted nearly 3,000 pounds of organic waste from landfill. Our garden attracts local pollinators, and we use the resulting compost for neighborhood planting projects. Check out our website and feel free to get in touch with us (compostforbrooklyn@gmail.com) if you're interested in starting a similar project in your area!"

Thank you all again for your submissions!

08

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Hey, Class of 2008! I have a number of exciting accomplishments and updates to share from our classmates. I hope you enjoy reading them, and please send me any

messages you would like me to include in the next issue. We love hearing from you!

**Jason Bello** completed a Ph.D. in political science at Oxford and is moving to Washington, D.C., to join McKinsey & Co.

**Caroline McNamara** says, "Although my fellow Columbians may be disappointed in my fickle allegiances, I swapped my Columbia Blue for Violet this fall. I started an interdisciplinary masters at NYU through its Draper Program. I'm excited to continue the studies that I began at Columbia."

**Satjot Sawhney** has a special message for our classmates: "It took me four years at Columbia to figure out that I wanted to be an entrepreneur. It was a better-late-than-never moment. I'm writing this note because the most helpful people after college in my entrepreneurial endeavors have been fellow alumni. Thank you all!"

**Carmen Jo Ponce** graduated this past May from Duke Law. "I recently took the bar exam, and I am preparing to move to Houston, Texas, to begin my new job at Baker Botts law firm. It has been a busy and exciting year for me!"

**Chenni Xu** is a guest researcher at Tsinghua University in Beijing, working on an environmental governance project, especially focusing on women's roles in environmental protection. She also writes for [womensworldwideweb.org](http://womensworldwideweb.org).

At Michigan Law School, **Maximilian Bulinski** has been accepted as a fellow with the Australian Law Reform Commission. In addition to rewriting outdated laws in the land of marsupials, he looks forward to living in Sydney for six months and learning to SCUBA. Max also is ea-

gerly awaiting the publication of his article, "Next Millennium Falcon: Redefining Loss-of-Chance," which sadly is more about legal loss-of-chance doctrine and less about Wookies than the title might imply.

In July, **Elizabeth Grefrath** left the Columbia Center for Oral History to take a position at the national headquarters of the American Civil Liberties Union. She will be the special assistant to the legal director, Steven Shapiro '72, and will focus primarily on the ACLU's work in the U.S. Supreme Court. Although she will miss Columbia and Morningside Heights (especially Thai Market!), Elizabeth is looking forward to working in downtown NYC. She celebrated her one-year wedding anniversary in October. At some point she will do the necessary paperwork to legally hyphenate her last name.

**Rachel Belt** is the logistics coordinator for a trauma and critical care hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. "I began work here in March and even as we approach the second anniversary of the earthquake, a large number of the people who lost housing in the earthquake still live in tents, and although there is a newly elected president, the prime minister still is not approved and there is no functioning government."

09

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**Gary Mesko** and **Feryal Hirji** '09 Barnard were married in a beautiful wedding, which took place over four days, on the island of Zanzibar,

Tanzania. The official ceremony was on July 16. There were many friends and relatives present, including a whole group from Columbia. Three groomsmen were from Columbia: **Ralph DeBernardo**, **Gene Kaskiw** and **Stefan Savic** '08. A great time was had by all, especially when the bride and groom were serenaded on stage with a special presentation of the Temptations' "My Girl" sung by Ralph, Gene and Stefan with the ladies as backup dancers! [See photo.]

In June, **Maxime Glass** got engaged to Evan Harnick. The happy couple plans to get married in July 2012.

**Dan Blank** completed a master's in English at Oxford and began a Ph.D. at Princeton this fall, focusing mainly on Shakespeare and the early modern stage. The past year has been filled with travel, mostly Down Under: In February, he gave a paper on a fragmentary manuscript in the Bodleian Library at the 2011 ANZAMEMS Conference in Dunedin, New Zealand. He returned to the Southern Hemisphere in May, traveling in Australia through Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Dan's excited to jump back into academia, though he probably will spend much of his time at Princeton trying to find a theater company that's at least half as much fun as the King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe.

**Jeff Petriello** is producing his first feature film, *Druid Peak*. It's set in West Virginia and Yellowstone National Park. With the help of **Josie Keefe** and executive producer James Franco, this tale of a troubled teen and a bunch of wolves surely will be a beautiful testament to the practical applica-

# Jared Hecht '09 Reinvents Mobile Communication

BY YELENA SHUSTER '09

**J**ared Hecht '09 does sleep. Some nights. As for how many hours a day he works? "All of them," he says.

Many 24-year-olds living in New York would sympathize. But few can say they're running their own start-up valued at a reported \$80 million.

In May 2010, Hecht co-founded GroupMe (groupme.com) with 29-year-old Steve Martocci as a group text messaging application that allows any phone (smart or otherwise) to function like a chatroom. Users form groups and can see and respond to all the text messages sent to each other. A year-and-a-half later, the app boasts users in more than 90 countries with at least 100 million messages sent per month.

Like many inventions, GroupMe was inspired by love. Hecht's now-wife, Carrie Weprin, didn't have a good way of keeping in touch with friends at a concert; festivals are notorious for shaky phone and Internet service. Hecht knew they could solve the problem over basic text. He enlisted his good friend Martocci, the lead software engineer at Gilt Groupe, and a few weeks later, they developed a group messaging prototype.

Within a week, the app had changed the way Hecht and Martocci communicated. By August, they had quit their jobs at Tumblr and Gilt Groupe, respectively, met with venture capital investors and raised \$850,000. In September, they launched the beta version of the app and users skyrocketed beyond what they ever imagined. What started out as a convenient way to keep in touch with friends at music festivals evolved into a life-changing system for stopping crimes in a neighborhood watch and coordinating relief efforts after natural disasters.

By December, Hecht and

Martocci had raised another \$10.5 million of financing from investors. Then, almost a year after the launch, and with competitors such as Facebook, Google and Apple working on their own group messaging services, GroupMe was acquired by video phone giant Skype for a reported \$80 million. "What was most important to us was making sure people all over the world can experience GroupMe, and we wanted to take every

to develop management skills through student-operated businesses. "I was running a business with real revenue and a real product that was distributed with significant impact," Hecht says, reminiscing about receiving his own copy during freshman year orientation, which he referenced throughout college. Dean of Career Education Kavita Sharma and senior associate director Beth Vanderputten served as

The political science major oversaw finances, managed a core staff of 20 daily as well as 30–50 freelancers, built a sales team and entered new markets. Under Hecht's leadership, *Inside New York* evolved into the intercollegiate guidebook to NYC with writers contributing from schools such as Fordham, Pratt and NYU. In addition, *Inside New York* finally developed a digital presence beyond a static Contact Us page. For the first

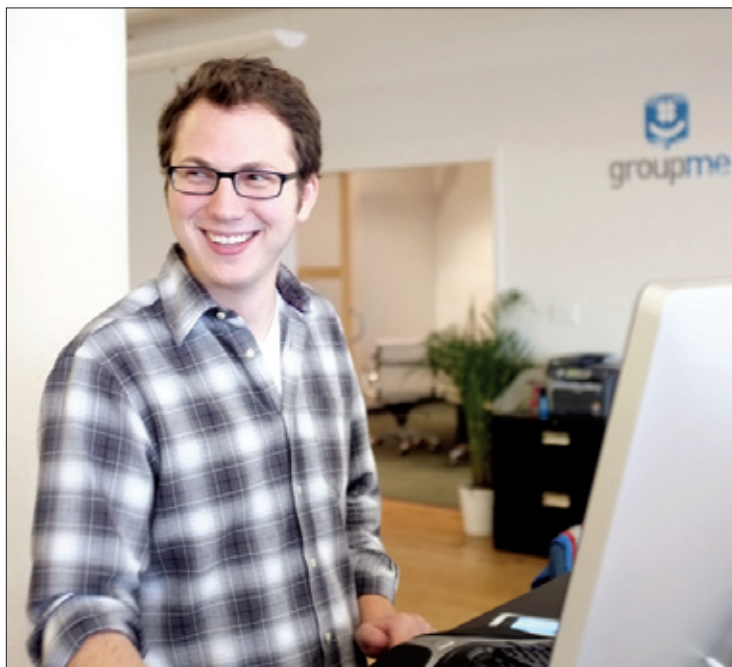
time, all reviews were published online, along with a blog that was refreshed throughout the academic year. "We wanted to be competitive with *Spectator* and *Bwog* — something students paid attention to day in and day out — and not just Columbia students," Hecht says.

Aside from inspiring him to one day start his own business, the experience had a more direct effect: Hecht was personally recruited by Tumblr president John Maloney to join its tech start-up after Maloney heard about Hecht's leadership with the publication. After a year of accumulating tech savvy as Tumblr's business development manager, the idea for GroupMe came along.

Since then, the life of this young entrepreneur has been both exhilarating and exhausting: "Some nights

you are on top of the world and think you're building the best thing ever, and then other nights you think that some horrible competitor is going to knock you off the face of the earth." Even so, he would never trade the inherent risks for a typical office job. "We're helping change the way people communicate," Hecht says. "That is the best feeling ever."

**Yelena Shuster '09** is a freelance writer whose work has been featured in *Manhattan magazine*, *The Fiscal Times* and *Cosmopolitan.com*.



GroupMe co-founder Jared Hecht '09 at his sleek Flatiron office.

PHOTO: GROUPME

competitive advantage we had to make sure that happened," Hecht says.

Though his baby face and typical sweatshirt-and-jeans attire suggest an amateur, Hecht has been honing his entrepreneurial skills since college. Working his senior year as managing director and publisher for Columbia's student-written and produced guidebook, *Inside New York*, provided him the foundation for running his own company. As part of the Center for Career Education's (CCE) Student Enterprise program, *Inside New York* was founded

mentors. "They were the safety net, and that was a rare opportunity to have in business," Hecht says.

Vanderputten was not surprised at all that Hecht achieved success so quickly after graduating. "The level of maturity he brought as a manager usually takes a lot more coaching," she says. Hecht's editor-in-chief at *Inside New York*, Joseph Meyers '10, seconds that opinion: "Jared possesses a rare combination of traits — a gleeful, boyish enthusiasm and a hard-nosed pragmatism — that made him a great publisher to work for."



Gary Mesko '09 and Feryal Hirji '09 Barnard were married on the island of Zanzibar, Tanzania, over four days. The official ceremony was on July 16. Among the many friends and relatives who joined in the festivities were (left to right) Chantal McKay '09, Ula Kudelski '09, Katrina Cragg '09, Clark Koury '09, Jade Smith '09 Barnard, the bride, the groom, Kaitlyn Busler '10, Stefan Savic '08, Ralph DeBernardo '09, Erin Conway '11, Gene Kaskiw '09, Andrea Derrick '07 and Cody Steele '09.

tions of a Columbia College degree in philosophy.

After two years of consulting in the Middle East, **Josh Mathew** returned to the majestic Jersey shore in August. He enjoyed working in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria, and he is excited for new paths ahead. Also, while living in Jordan, he had the pleasure of meeting six wonderful Columbia undergrads interning in Jordan through the Center for Career Education. He recently went camping with Phillip Fletcher '13 and Amirah Sequeira '12 in the Wadi Rum desert, where they woke up to a beautiful sunrise and a Ford Taurus stuck in the sand. Also, after some persuasion from the fantastic **Dominique Jean-Louis**, who has been working for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Josh interviewed about 10 Jordanian high school students for Columbia undergraduate admissions. He enjoyed the experience because he could explain why he chose Columbia to many students who had never visited the campus or the United States. Through that process, he met an extraordinary young man, Thaer Al-Sheikh Theeb '15E.

Finally, in March, Josh attended a potluck mini-reunion in Brooklyn with **Dominique, Nhu-Y Ngo, Gabrielle Apollon, Courteney Ervin, Maryam Parhizkar** and **Sumaiya Ahmed**.

The summer after graduation, **Grace Park** lived and worked as an environmental educator on the *AJ Meerwald*, New Jersey's historic tall ship. Since then, Grace moved to Massachusetts and has been administering grant programs for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Most recently, she has managed a grant program that helps multi-family housing owners retrofit their buildings to save

energy, reduce operating costs and help tenants save on utility bills. In her spare time, Grace has been an active member of the Columbia University Club of New England, and she has had a great time getting to know local alumni through its events. She now has moved to Washington, D.C., and is looking forward to connecting with Columbia alumni in the D.C. area!

And, finally, **Yelena Shuster** is a copywriter for Saks Fifth Avenue.

10

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Since it likely will be snowing by the time you read these notes, I will not say that I cannot believe an entire school year has passed without us at Columbia. No, I will not say that. Instead, I will dive right in to the updates:

### Laura Taylor '10 is performing with the Metropolitan Opera for the 2011–12 season.

After working at a New York-based consulting firm for a year, **Joe Saia** got bored and decided to take the next logical step in his career — move to Silicon Valley and sell robots. He now is a business development analyst at RoboteX, a robotics startup in Palo Alto, Calif., that designs, manufactures and sells surveillance robots to police, SWAT and military organizations. Joe's excited to work in an entrepreneurial environment, and he hopes to curry favor with the human race's future robotic overlords. He will miss New York and all of the great people he

met there, but he will not miss the East Coast's humidity.

**Laura Taylor** is performing with the Metropolitan Opera for the 2011–12 season. She has some excellent information and advice for the rest of our class: "*Don Giovanni* will be directed by Michael Grandage, who won the Tony for Best Direction of a Play for the play *Red* in 2010. *Don Giovanni* is arguably one of Mozart's best operas, and the integrity of this production and its cast makes me proud to be a performer at the Metropolitan Opera! For more information on the Met Opera season and tickets, check out this link [metoperafamily.org/opera/don-giovanni-mozart-tickets.aspx](http://metoperafamily.org/opera/don-giovanni-mozart-tickets.aspx).

"For alums who are students at other institutions or still have their student IDs, they should be able to sign up for the Met Opera student tickets program (significantly discounted tickets for the 2011–12 season and beyond). More information on that at this link:

[metoperafamily.org/metopera/students/register.aspx](http://metoperafamily.org/metopera/students/register.aspx).

"This year has taught me that you can actually do *anything* that you set your mind to. Upon graduating from Columbia, I wanted to dance and I wanted to teach, but I didn't want to choose between the two. As a Met Opera performer and a Kaplan Test Prep teacher/tutor, I'm able to do both of the things I love and still pay rent/eat/live/go out. Sure, it took some hard work and difficult balancing acts at first, but the trial and error was so worth it.

"I have friends who are going through a rough time right now in jobs that don't really thrill them, and I don't want any of my classmates to feel like they have to stay in a professional situation that isn't exactly what they want out of life!"

**Emelie Kogut** spent the spring in Geneva working for an NGO that helps strengthen legal institutions in developing countries. Aside from working, she spent her time skiing, wine-tasting and traveling around Europe. Now, she is back in New York City and has started a new job at an intellectual property law firm in 30 Rock (which has also become her favorite television show!). She hasn't gotten too far away from Columbia, however, as she's still living in Morningside Heights. Even over a year after graduation, she still feels nostalgic seeing all of the freshman with their big, blue carts during move-in weekend!

**Nellie Bowles** is using her Fulbright scholarship in 2011–12 to write for a newspaper in Johannesburg on witch doctors in Swaziland. She and **Laura Seidman** went on a romantic vacation together to Ravenna, Italy.

A few of our classmates aren't quite done with school yet. **Véronica Couzo** is attending Notre Dame Law and will be studying law in the hopes of practicing entertainment law in New York City or California. **Ben Freeman** is in his second year at Harvard Law. **Pin-Quan Ng** started in the Ph.D. program in government at Harvard and misses New York (and Columbia) terribly.

**Kate Redburn** and **Sarah Leonard** haven't left the house since Hurricane Irene. Their hobbies include canning and growing their own water. They're adapting to Brooklyn just fine.

11

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Season's greetings to the Class of 2011! Now that summer is behind us, we each seem to have entered a new rhythm, whether it's an internship, a first job out of college or continuing on to graduate school.

To begin, **Amanda Olivo** is working on campus as a research technician in the [Virginia] Cornish ['91] lab completing work in biochemistry. During the summer, she spent a month traveling Europe (Dublin, London, Paris, Venice, Florence and Rome). Throughout her travels she met up with many Columbians including **Doug Yolen**



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'11E, Keshal Patel, Ben Gaston, Bryan Kipp '11E, John McGovern, Flan Gallagher and Felix Vo.

Thomas Rhiel is a technical account manager at Google in New York. He lives in leafy, pleasant, Fort Greene, Brooklyn. He's not a huge fan of the C train.

Betsy Morais lives in Washington, D.C., on a fellowship at *Atlantic Magazine*. She has been working with the editorial staff and writing pieces that are available online.

Having celebrated graduation aboard a bicycle in France and Italy, Joey Shemuel is counseling homeless and at-risk youth in San Francisco and learning how to pickle everything he can get his hands on.

During the summer, Eric Rosenberg spent time at home in Boston while making frequent trips to NYC to hang out with Class of 2011 bud-

dies. He went to Coney Island for the first time with Ian Kwok and his cousin. He highly recommends it. He is attending Georgetown University Law Center (alas, not yet in the real world).

Last but certainly not least, George Mu has entered the warm and fuzzy world of consulting at Booz & Co. (along with me!). He wishes he had all the frequent flyer miles before he spent this past summer traveling around Asia.

Thank you very much to those of you who submitted notes, and I look forward to hearing more exciting updates from the rest of the class in a few months! Send a note to me at the email at the top of the column, or use CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Your note will come right to me.



## Alumni Corner

(Continued from page 96)

the years, dealers have sworn with straight faces that the cows, dogs, cats, tigers and even one frog they had in stock were in fact lions. A few close friends with exquisite taste have spotted, and occasionally even bought for us, some of our favorite pieces, while other friends have had to be forcibly restrained from continuing to shower us with well-meant leonine kitsch.

Building and enjoying our lion collection has informed and inspired my active Columbia involvement at the College, the Business and Law Schools, the Libraries, the Society of Columbia Graduates, the 1754 Society, the Columbia University Club of New York and most recently, the Columbia Alumni Singers. I look for-

ward to continuing both my service to alma mater and expanding and deepening the Lion Collection.

To view more of Garrett's collection, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).



**Michael Garrett '66, '69L, '70 Business** has lived for decades in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and Shinnecock, Southampton. He spent his legal career as general counsel of global financial services businesses and has devoted himself to a mix of legal, consulting, coaching and board activities; Columbia; photography; piano; gardening; fine-woodworking; and family, which includes his son, Justin Graham Garrett '98, his son's wife and two grandchildren.

## ALUMNI CORNER

# Hoard, Lion, Hoard

## Obsessively collecting the King of Beasts

BY MICHAEL GARRETT '66, '69L, '70 BUSINESS

In the mid-1960s, the captain of the all-male cheerleaders had the option of being the Lion mascot. I became captain in fall 1964, and at the first football game donned the fierce and lifelike — as contrasted with the Disneyish “Roar-ee” of current years — Lion suit. As in the movie *The Mask*, a quiet English major was suddenly transformed into a wholly different aggressive leonine character with complete anonymity and unlimited license. I never looked back, and wore the suit for every football and basketball game and alumni event until I graduated. Among many other adventures in the Lion suit, I met and spoke with President Kennedy in the Harvard stands three weeks before his life was cut short; pawed the girl who became my wife, Sandra Lief Garrett (we’re both Leos and were married in August) and began 45 years of collecting not wives but depictions of the spirit of Columbia — the King of Beasts.

Our collection of lions from every culture, country and century and in every style and medium, including jewelry and clothing, exceeds (perhaps by quite a bit) 4,000 items. Through the decades, in the course of our extensive travels around the world and virtual travels on the Internet, we have amassed leonine representations including a 14th-century (and a dozen other) inkwells; a 19-century carousel figure; an elaborately carved Victorian dining room set; six different meerschau pipes; 100 or so lion boxes; a working porcelain lion toilet; 16 door knockers; 22 pairs of cufflinks; 10 sets of earrings; 30 stickpins and tie tacks; 50 broaches, pins and pendants; 90 ties; seven belt buckles; six antique pocket watches; a dozen silk scarves; countless knobs, pulls, handles and hooks; 14 mugs and steins; hundreds of 18th- and 19th-century images



The collector at home in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with a newel post.

on paper; four lamps; 20 bronzes; a sterling dinner service for 12; 40 Christmas ornaments; innumerable stuffed and other toys; an 18th-century pub sign; nine medallions; 17 military medals; and large prides of lions in base and precious metals, glass and crystal, all kinds of wood, simple and semi-precious stone, resin, plastic, cloth, paper and soap. The specific listing of objects within and beyond these categories is a work in progress that currently runs to two volumes.

There are myriad stories of the provenance and purchase of many of our lions. The carousel figure and dining room set came from scouring the merchandise listings in *The New York Times*. We found the silver service in part on eBay and in part in a most unlikely catalog. In Venice, we discovered a glass sculpture of the Lion of Venice undusted for 25 years in a dark corner of Salviati. In London, at Gray’s Antique Stalls, a friend outbid a duke for an

early 19th-century rampant lion silver inkwell. A dealer bought my favorite pocket watch for me in Paris moments before an auction likely would have increased its price tenfold. In that vein, much of the jewelry, watches and art was carefully conjured away from folks who did not understand the value of what they had — a process that has become much rarer in its application since the universality of the Internet and other enemies of ignorance such as *Antiques Roadshow*. When I paid a sculptor in Jamaica with a large denomination bill, he tried to give me change in hashish. Leaving Egypt, we were stopped and surrounded by armed soldiers when a large marble head buried in our suitcase appeared on the security monitor to be a large bomb. Through

(Continued on page 95)



From left, a working porcelain toilet, or “Still Life with Water Feature”; the collector’s kitchen, or “Lions on and over the Range”; and a special collection of small match safes, boxes, pipes and more.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL GARRETT '66, '69L, '70 BUSINESS



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