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Dear 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. Every time I have met with students, I have been struck by their preparation and passion. Their dedication to perfecting their craft and their commitment to making the world a better place is truly inspiring. I have also been impressed with the dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff. Their dedication to teaching and research is truly remarkable.

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 Internship, 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,

James J. Valentini

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

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO
Letters to the Editor

ROTC

David Stern ’66 may well not be “stuck in a ’60s mindset,” as he claims in his letter opposing ROTC’s return to Columbia (Fall 2011, 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_profiles) 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...
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.”

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 Mhòr 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

Donald 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.”

One 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 Bruges 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.

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 Ofunato 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.

Astro Sakurai
“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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Five Accomplished Alumni To Receive 2012 John Jay Awards

By Karen Iorio

On 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” burlap 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.
Renowned 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 attentive 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 ‘05J

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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. To see a video of her performing today, go to macfound.org and search for “Weilerstein.”

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 the New York Philharmonic. The work, 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 unsparring,” 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, “Apparently, 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.

Beau Willimon ’99, ’03 Arts’ play Farragut North (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.

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.

William H. Roach Jr. ’66 is chairman of the American Heart Association for its 2011–12 fiscal year. He is responsible for the overall administration of business affairs, public relations and fundraising and presides over meetings of the Board of Directors and administrative cabinet. Roach is a retired partner with the law firm McDermott, Will & Emery in Chicago, having been named to 17 consecutive annual editions of The Best Lawyers in America, and has been a heart association volunteer since 2001. Roach has guided the association in governance and corporate affairs and has been a leading fundraiser for Chicago-area events including Heart Walk and Heart Ball.
Kai-Fu Lee ’83, a v.p. at Google from 2005–09 and original head of Google China, founded Innovation Works (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/ct/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 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/ct/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.

Make plans now to return to New York City and the Columbia campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2012.

The weekend will feature:

- Class-specific panels, cocktail receptions and dinners planned by each class’ Reunion Committee;
- “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.

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SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY, MAY 31–SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2012
Katherine Marshall ’12 Nurtures Passion for Japanese Culture

By Nathalie Alonso ’08

For 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 (isdc.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 research 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 LosMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website. She also writes a career blog for women, herfabcareer.com.
More 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 WebExtras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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Michael Garrett, Esq. ’66CC, ’69LAW, ’70BUSFriend of the Columbia Libraries

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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. I was researching and writing a fourth course to fill out my undergraduate 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?
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!

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
CC Fund Welcomes New Executive Director

Allen Rosso has joined the Alumni Office as executive director of the Columbia College Fund (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.

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June 25–July 2, 2012

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For more information about any of our trips, visit alumni.columbia.edu/travel or call 866-325-8664.
Injury to Agho Clouds Men’s Basketball Picture

BY ALEX SACHARE ’71

Coach 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 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 gocolumbiaions.com.
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. In 1995, she 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, McDermott’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 NAISA: 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.

“Herding heart and her ability to reach anyone in time of need.”

McDermott was predeceased by her father, Paul Grandpierre ’87, and a nephew, Michael. She is survived by her daughter, Claire Grandpierre and Caitlin Bell; granddaughter, Charlotte Soubirous; sister, Eileen; and brothers and sisters-in-law, Gerry and his wife, Eleanore, Dan and his wife, Cathy, 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 floormate 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
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 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,
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 Chokwanyun ’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.

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).

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.

Jewelnel Davis, University Chaplain
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
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.

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 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.

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 charred remains stored 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
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...
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.”

There 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 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 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 neat and polite. Shoes are taken off before entering the room, there is no playing loud music that might disturb someone else and people keep their voices down so as not to bother their neighbors (in 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-pane 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 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.

In 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
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 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 what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope, this country woman’s answer echoed what the other elderly lady had said to me about what is most important to give her hope.

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.

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 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 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 prefectoral 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 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-
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.
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

In 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.”

Keene 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. “Intellec
tuals 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
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
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.

W)m. 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 interrogated 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 groundbreaking 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-
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 encour-
aged 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 un-
derstanding 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.

“Toward 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.
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.

“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-
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.”

Hayes’ 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. En- tranced 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 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 resi- dents 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 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.

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 belea- guered 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 Gerard ’72, in the May/June 2011 issue.
Abbe 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 service men 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 Grapel, 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-Israel 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.
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'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.

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 cacozelia, 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 colleagues. They include Democratic Rep. Gary Condit, Republican Rep. Charlie Wilson, ImClone CEO Sam Waksal and actor Sean Penn. 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 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.”

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.
The Bauhaus Group: Six Masters of Modernism

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

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...
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 steppe 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, 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.

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.

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 Tikhieva, 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 globed 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.

In 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, precariously balanced.” 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 ff of a giant or-
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 useless 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 sub- missive piece of bark carried through the long grass in the ant’s strong jaws to some uncertain and vital end, the page of a calen dary, torn forcibly by one’s consciously outstretched hand from the warm companionship of the block of remaining pages.”

In 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. “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 soil 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.

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 njka 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 Gabrielle 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 Ainmillerstrasse 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 farmhouse 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 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-
Kandinsky 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.”

Fellow Columbians,

While we were at Columbia for only four years, we are part of the Columbia community for life. We all benefitted 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 or 212-851-7488.

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

Kyra Tirana Barry ’87

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Obituaries

1933
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; six nieces, two nephews, and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

1934
Olnick, retired radiologist, Blue Ridge, Ga., on July 25, 2010. Olnick earned a degree from Emory University in 2010. He began in radiology at Emory University in 1943. He is survived by his wife, Betty K.; sons, John and Richard; and one grandson.

1936
Herbert M. Olnick, retired radiologist, Blue Ridge, Ga., on July 25, 2010. Olnick earned a degree from Emory University in 2010. He began in radiology at Emory University in 1943. He is survived by his wife, Betty K.; sons, John and Richard; and one grandson.

1940
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 to Japan in 1945. He is survived by his wife, Betty K.; sons, John and Richard; and one grandson.

1941
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.

1942
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 and was best known as an expert in taxation. He also taught accounting for lawyers at the Law School. Thompson was recognized by both 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; and nine grandchildren.

1943
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 Horsemance (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.

1947
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.

1948
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
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.

1948

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.

1949

Francois D. Vaillant, teacher, Pensacola, Fla., on September 14, 2010. Vaillant was born in 1926 in Suffern, N.Y., Wanaque, N.J. He attended 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 (nypl.org/support).

1952

Irwin E. “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.

1954

Donald J. Bainton ‘52

Donald J. Bainton, business executive, Boca Raton, Fla., on June 13, 2010. Born in New York City, on May 3, 1921, 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).

1956

Eugene C. Thomas ‘56

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 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.

1958

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 otolaryngology 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-
William M. Bason, pediatrician, Chesapeake, Va., on September 18, 2010. Bason was born in Yonkers, N.Y., on March 19, 1922. 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 Cheyenne CH and tours of duty in the United States and abroad. As chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Philadelphia CH, 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, Paula. Memorial contributions may be made to the Crouse Alumni Association, 750 E. Adams St., Syracuse, NY 13210.

1953

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 Boll and her husband, Eric; and four grandchildren.

1954

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.

1955

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 Marich 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.

1956

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.

1957

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 Truason, 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’ve 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.

2002

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 Scholarship 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//index_e.php) or Chabad House of Kathmandu, Gla-2-516-4 Thamel, Kathmandu Nepal, 977-980-324-1294.

Lisa Palladino
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 Findler. 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 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 (Chipmunkapublishing, $21).

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 (Chipmunkapublishing, $21).

Icehouse by 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).

The Essential Belloc: A Prophet for Our Times edited by Scott Blech, 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) (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 (Chipmunkapublishing, $21).

Living Music Conversations With Pandit Dinkar Kaikini by Priya Panneil Dikhan '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...
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, 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.”

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

By Ethan Rouen ’04J, ’11 Business

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).

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 (Eco, $27.99).

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).

Europe by Eliseeta Carlebach, the Salo Wittmayer Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture and Society. This book examines how sifrei esavl, 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).

Samantha Jean-Baptiste ’13
Class Notes

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, college and law school from is 99 years old. He comes to visit me, as I can’t get around anymore.

“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 di- rector Arthur W. Riley and guided the group to new heights of activity. He also gave me personal assistance in crafting my address as class salu- tatorian 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 column, or, even easier, by submitting it online through CCT’s easy-to-use webform, college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

Robert Zucker
29 The Birches
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 Anden 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 mul-"lege. 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.

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than 170 guests attended the pro-
ceedings. (See my prior comments
about Len in the Fall 2011 issue, page 67, or college.columbia.edu/
cct/fall11/class_notes.)

In addition, more than 100 of
Len’s current 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 position 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. Ger-
ald Klingon (New York City), Don
Mankiewicz (Monrovia, Calif.), Dr.
William Robbins (Grand Island,
N.Y.), 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 Nonna-
gnanian Club and Don will join
in January. As Shakespeare told us in
King Lear, “Ripeness is all.”

My plans to attend Homecom-
ing 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, major-
ing 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 the
Wien Stadium and at our games 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-
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.

43

G.J. D’Angio
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3400 Spruce St.
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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 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 travel-
ing; first to England in early Sept-
ember 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
alumni mentioned earlier; in other
words, find an earlier grad?

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

44

Joseph Cowley
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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
both 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.

“After much transfer credit from
MIT, I got my B.A. from the Col-
lege and an M.A. and Ed.D. from
Teachers College. I taught math for
eight years and 1 year in school
administration for seven years.
The next seven years I spent with
an educational consulting firm serv-
ing 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 grand-
children and five great-grandchil-
dren. Joan swims laps at YuWa
every weekday and volunteers at
the church and library. She’s also
found time to write four cook-
books. 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 sum-
mary of much of my life.”

45

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

Albert Rothman, also ‘44E,
ner, 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). My story A New Traveler
in the Adventure of Love has been
accepted for publication in the
anthology Hearts: True Stories of
Remembrance.”

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

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Peter Rogatz continues a distin-
guished career in medicine and
public health, and I asked for his
thoughts on issues that are particu-
larly relevant to our generation.
They follow.

After my retirement from a
career in health care administra-
tion, I became actively involved in
issues that had been a matter of in-
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 suddenly and often 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 enjoy-
able 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 ter-
rifying 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 extend-
ing 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 should not be one 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 movement 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 (compassionandchoicesny.org), an affiliate of the national organization Compassion & Choices (compassionandchoices.org). A small team of profes-
sionals 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 his/her 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 proactive 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/2008 416709) with Richard Heffner and found it fascinating. Michael Adams and I found it most interest-
ing. I, too, felt the four terms of the Core Curriculum were eye-openers and mind-enhancers that I thour-
ghly enjoyed taking and that have made a great and good difference in my scientific board of directors and how I view the world.”

Irv practiced medicine at Mass-
achusetts General Hospital and for many years with Kaiser Perma-
nente in Los Angeles. He recalls medical school at Pitt & with Warren Glaser and Martin Silbersweig. I ran into Fritz Stern, whose distin-
guished 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 confer-
ences 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 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Nick Mider nm2613@columbia.edu 212-851-7947 DEVELOPMENT Allen Russo ar3152@columbia.edu 212-851-7947 Columbia College Today Columbia Alumni Center 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530 New York, NY 10025 cct@columbia.edu Merton Reicherl, 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 chil-
dren 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 other medical treatment.

“My favorite professors at Co-
lumbia were Larry Chamberlain, Dwight Miner ’26 and Lionel Trillin ’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-
al public affairs coordinator. I’m an active volunteer, currently 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 Colum-
bia 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 Stillman ’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). I was 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 submit an essay to Randall’s Finalissima.

“Another Columbia professor whom I recall warmly and admir-
ingly, though I never took a class from him, was F.W. Dupe. We co-taught Senior Colloquium in 1958–59 and took turns introduc-
ing the works to be discussed. Thus, 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 Colum-
bia, and Erwin Glikse ’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: corres-
donse with Joseph Brodsky (Nobel laureate 1987) and with other Russian writers. 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. Meanwhile, 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 this spring. She earned a master’s in public admin-
istration from Columbia, and her mentor was Professor McMahon. In 1946, Shirley was administra-
tive 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.”
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/ctt/submit_class_note.

If you are interested in becoming CCT’s Class of ’47 class correspondent, please contact Alex Tonti ’11 Arts, Class Notes editor, at 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) 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. Ekbloom, a banker, attorney and management consultant, died on August 28 at his home in Interstate, Mass. He was 83 and the husband of Elizabeth H. (Betty) Ekbloom 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 retired from EAB in 1970. He spent 20 years as a senior officer at The Chase Manhattan Bank, now 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 30th Infantry Division in Korea during 1951–52 and was awarded the Commendation 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 grandchild 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 50 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/ctt/submit_class_note) submitted by an anonymous user. The vagaries and mysteries of our digital age have created a new language among us with more or less ammunition to our perusal. I certainly would never have tried to hide my identity in submitting the following:

“Burton Silverman, whose portrait of now-deceased Dr. Donald 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 Bert 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 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!

The New York Real Estate Journal designated Hubert (Buddy) Brandt ’50 in May as its “Executive of the Month.”

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 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 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; 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

Columbia 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.
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The resignation in August of Dean Michele Moody-Adams, after her much-touted first year at Columbia 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, “Pigtailed.” 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 Hung 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 his students and deprive him of 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 Geltzr for their leadership and participation. Later in the evening, following the class dinner, Columbia’s basketball 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 Leventhal, Power, Onn, 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, they 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 Columbia Club have covered incidental expenses related to the reunion and left a balance of $337 to use as a kitty for related to the reunion and left a balance of $337 to use as a kitty for.

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/fall11/reunion#classphotos. A few 60th Reunion Directories are still available; too.

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

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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, watching a favorite show or hanging out with friends can be hard to beat. Many of us love to ski, and for many of us, it’s a favorite winter sport. 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

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

Here’s a guy we haven’t heard from in a while, Peter Roemermann, 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 engineering, Peter has lived 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 addition to 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 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 and fun together. We plan to meet again and continue the journey.

“Thanks to Ted for bringing us together.”
Joe Sirola ’51 Is an Actor for All Seasons

By Thomas Vinciguerra ’85, ’86j, ’90 GSAS

The 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 and 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 brutality 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 she was his 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 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 to them. I went from $3,200 a year to a million a year for 20 years.”

“As far as I know, I am 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 declaring for Richard III or serving as VW spokesperson “Sluggy 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. Apart from having this wonderful, sonorous voice, he gives everyone breakfast!”

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) 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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**Lew Robins**

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Our exuberant, musically enthusiastic and talented classmate Howard Petebone passed away some time in 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 CPA 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 vp. 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 Petebone; and Bonnie Carden and her husband, Edwin; Charles Pettebone; 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.

---

**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 Schafer went on to P&G and then interned at Stanford Hospital & Clinics. After completing military service, he went to Switzerland and “while there got married.”

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**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 by championed affordable development and the preservation of open space. Never losing his endearing sense of humor, townsperson fondly remember Rolon presiding over board meetings wearing a navy blue T-shirt that said “Ired. 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.

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 Flowerly Branch, Ga.; by grandchildren Samuel Roseland and Molly Yeo; and by Elena Simon; and by his beloved dog, Jesse.

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**Robert Schaefer**

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 courtesy of Emacs 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 Barden, 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.”

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 should naturally 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 Chippie ’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-

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**Ed Cowan ’54**

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.”

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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.
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 in 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.

Tom Paonessa has a full life despite being retired. He is involved with “investments; listening to classical music; 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

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

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

55

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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.]

Back in warmer New York, President Lee C. Bollinger’s “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). There is always something eminently 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 mits) were John Naley and George Raitt. Absent were Ron McPhee and Tom Brennan. Where was Tony Palladino? All missed their late teammate Don Schappert. Some members of the Class of 1956 also made it to the event.

Walt Deputa was on the West Coast finishing his autobiography, which makes for some interesting reading: The Path Less Followed: Walter Deputa — 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: Seven 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, the group’s annual Upper East Side Award Dinner. Much toasting and glasses held on high. Jack Stuppbin 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 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 they come thank. 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 meant tiny.”

Tom Paonessa has a full life despite being retired. He is involved with “investments; listening to classical music; 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.”

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New York City area. Don Lauffer 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 Balbus, 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 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 Blumen- that, 60 plus 15 is still what you might see as a tennis player, 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 Orik 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. He is or has been a regular in the pages of 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 wireless record intact.

Mike Voizick wrote in an email 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). Mike’s comments about 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 mini-courses, has written:

‘...Still other presentations have attempted to bring music and art into modern perspective such as Christa Mercer’s ‘Crossroads of Literature, Philosophy.’ Producing 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; [2261]@col umbia.edu or 212-851-7438.”
Those who are interested may also contact Ralph Kaslick or Jerry Fine. By way of 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, Jon Link, Stan Soren and Al Franco ’66 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, or 7322 Rockford Dr., 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 Hemmerdinger (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.

Ken Bodenstein ’57 competed in the USTA National Grass Court Tournament for men over 70.

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.

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, 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 Mc glean, Art Meyerson (who was enjoying Shelter Island breezes), Bob Lipsyte, Ron Kush ner, 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 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 Wimblendon 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 booked 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-
“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 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 (columbia alumni.singers.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 classmatees 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 Center 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 Guellich,itch Gruen, David Kinne and Bob Lipsyte; former provost Alan Brinkley, former dean Austin Quigley, professors Eric Foner ’63, ’69 CSAS, Fritz Stern ’46, ’53 CSAS, Henry Graff ’49 CSAS (2012 election), Walter Metzger ’46 CSAS, Stuart Schuffman (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 70’s; Nick said, however, that classes have not wanted panels or lectures on health. In any event, Ken recommended against having a too-crowded agenda; our entire luncheon was open to visit friends and go to shows as well as 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.

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, Möllere, 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-speciality 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 Shetel: 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 of the Order of}
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 Elmhurst College, where 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.

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.

Jane Tobin Layng wrote, “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 lessewing 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 Chechenya bomb was evident. On the drive into town, saw a large wall graffitied 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 for someone who plans to attend, up to 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 Devorah ’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 controversy has been raging as to whether the New York Times reporter Nussbaum represented Judith Smith Kavey ’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’ salaries 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 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 may 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 law. “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@radinlass.com.

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
we are beginning a trip through

From Michael Marks Cohen we take the line “is still practicing

From Ben Janowski we hear, “I am keenly aware that many, if not

From Matthew J. Sobel, “During successive weekends this summer I drove into the east 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 (‘RAIL’) draws more than 1,000 bicycle zealots from all over the world to see the capital city west of the Ohio River.”

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 wrote, “The highlight of our summer involved classmates. First a quick trip to New York for the wedding of Stephen, the son of fellow physician, 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 Col- ligium. The talk was held at 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 vote for a new pope.”

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On a sad note, Dick Donelli...
Terence McNally’s play Master Class had a Broadway revival this summer starring Tyne Daly as Maria Callas. Considered by critics to be Terence’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 insecurities and vulnerabilities, a range of an era. Callas’ desires, most brilliant and glamorous sopranos, the story’s heptamode 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 fostered his own love 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.”

Douglas Morris assumed the post of chief executive of Sony Music Entertainment in July. After serving as a music executive in various capacities, Morris had been 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.

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 crowning 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 grows progressive and then the chase from the territory 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 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 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 member

Regional Art Exhibition at the Robinson 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 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 (brooklynnplaces.com) for more information, online 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 savvier 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 paint on me over some 40-very-old years. Humanities A comes in handy as we examine a Rubens based on Herodotus and one of Rembrandt’s Battejerhus. (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 History. (In order to visit Reims how hard 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, 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 calendar to the 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 colleagues, 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 wed- ding 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 C&T. I thought it was more fitting to call too. I attended the graduation ceremonies every year but two of the 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 Oxford Naval Hospital from 1968–70. Thereafter, he spent two years at UC Davis, 1978–80, and practiced at the Oakland Naval Hospital from 1968–70. Thereafter, and practiced at the Oakland Naval Naval As a lieutenant commander in Burlington. Robert served in the Peace Corps in Morocco and the State Department 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.

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 the term’s course and that is the case. 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. Dick (Lefty and Her Gangsters: A Life of Burt Collins) attended 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, Kathleen, and they are regular attenders at class reunions. The class sends its sincerest condolences to the families and friends of Joe Coffee and Robert J. Capone. The family of Harold Cohen passed our 50th class reunion.” He recently moved to the Isle of Wight. From 1977–95, Howard taught English literature (more than a dozen courses 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 (bblee01@nets.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 campus tour posters, 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 maybe get some unique views of Manhattan. Other classes have done this. Does this idea appeal to you? Hal Watson (halprof93@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.

Horace Felperin (lefelperin@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 (more than a dozen courses 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.

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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 appreciate there a moral in that realization.”

Have you experienced such recent spurs of accomplishment? From Red Hook, N.Y., Frank Stoppenbach (franks@attglobal.net) writes: “In a career as a strategist around the world, it 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.

“It had been,” he recalls, “more than one actually gotten 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 jobs came my way.

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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 Balltimmer* and *Jefferson’s Lament*, just write to jef- ferson@asis.com. Class of ’63 discounts available!”

Yoshinaru Fujisawa writes, “One big change took place recently. On June 20 I relinquished my chairmanship and CEO position at Interim, 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. 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 M alterations’s wife, Cynthia, recently completed a set of murals for the new Sarabeth’s restaurant in TriBeCa that covers 12,000 square feet. “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 booktrick.com and lovemyteam.com blogs. He made two trips to Cooperstown, 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 Ferrocious Gentleman*, and is slated to talk baseball in December before Columbia alumni groups in Tampa and Sarasota, Fla.

After four 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, overlooking 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 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**
233 Broadway
New York, NY 10279
norman@nolch.com

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 Lapsen**, **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.

**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 they were too few to make a visible presence.*

**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/ccf/feb09/columbia_forum)* and his college lectures to answer questions about physics with the use of color cartoons.

**Steve Rosenfield** has retired from his New York City position 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 difficult 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 Charlottevilles area has many vineyards (Thomas Jefferson purportedly said Virginia wines could one day equal those of France). High in the Allegheny Mountains and 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.

**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 this New York City address 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 and that the will of the people is sovereign 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 worldwide upheaval from 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 societies 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 on behalf of 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, 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 forms never existed. And if this 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 inter-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’s article...
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 it is not uncommon for prehistoric fossils to fit in and start 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, Niles his response to Creationists is a back-handed acknowledge-ment by them that Niles is a leading thinker in the scientific world of paleontology and evolution.

Steven Millhauser also has a new book, We Offers: New and Selected Stories, a selection from five 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. For those not familiar with Mr. Millhauser’s novel, Here’s looking at you, it’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 successfully, something that the newer work does not. Steven commented, “Strange as it 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 psycho-logical revelations that was once a vital way of representing the world but has become hackneyed through endless repetition. I’d argue that a convention is realist only if it cuts through the real, and there’s certainly no attempt to do that. 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 Maupas-sant 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 utopian.”

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We have learned of the passing of Richard Thespis, 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 abounded good news in 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 C’C’s easy-to-use webform: college.colum bia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

[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 de-lighted to have dinner with Cliff Kern, who was in Santa Barbara for a Siderways 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 good 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 inno-vation in approach, methodology, technique, knowledge, vision, or alters perceptions that influence the nominee’s field in science, literature, or the arts.’ This relates to nearly 300 editions of photogravure etchings I’ve done since 1991, many of which are in museums and private collections. They spring from a vi-sion 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 unac- companied by overt recognition, and the list, being good, should look forward to reports of such ‘inner-directed’ achievements here.”

Jeff Newman wrote to express his profound sadness at the pass-ing of his roommate and friend of nearly 50 years, Don Krizn. “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 time visiting with him 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 Ralphe 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 coun-sel. He chose to forsake a well-trod den corporate path that potentially beckoned and instead to go the far riskier route: by audaciously launch ing 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 college wanting 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 ap-proach our reunion. Please do write. Send a note to me at the email at the top of the column, or use C’C’s easy-to-use webform: college.colum bia.edu/ct/submit_class_note. Your note will come right to me.

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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 tutoring, and 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 Peterson wrote to say 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 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. Tallying to Gordon, I wish I had a couple of lectures from his late dad’s classes (college. columbia.edu /ct /ctcm_april10 /around_the_quad6), as I am a public finance banker 36 years and counting.

Peter 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 I was off to Heidelberg, Germany, to do some tutoring, and 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 Peterson wrote to say 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 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. Tallying to Gordon, I wish I had a couple of lectures from his late dad’s classes (college. columbia.edu /ct /ctcm_april10 /around_the_quad6), 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 his 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. Whatever the reason for 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 weeks 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 hand alumni and others from various classes. I called you, Doug, to ask if you’d like to see 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@zedlaw.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).

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), the newest affinity group of the Columbia Alumni Association. I attended as a 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 Columbia or Barnard. This alumni of the Glee Club. Columbia Alumni Singers is open to anyone who sang in any organization at Columbia or Barnard. This event of the recently organized Columbia Alumni Singers is open to anyone who sang in any organization at Columbia or Barnard. This event of the recently organized Columbia Alumni Singers is open to anyone who sang in any organization at Columbia or Barnard.

Michael Oberman Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel 1177 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 moberman@ kramerlevin.com

John Erickson emailed 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 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/020108.html. Drop me a line: jeri461@ecy.wa.gov. Be well!”

From Steve Silberblatt: “I am a supervising attorney at the Criminal Defense Practice of the Legal Aid Society of Rockland 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, but he only 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 false, 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 labs 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 of me that I knew I had become the man he thought I was. I am preparing to retire after 36 years at the firm and plan to spend time with my wife and my children, who I don’t get to see much.”

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 Harrrt 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. Meanwhile, I had come to the conclusion that, fourthly, 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. Last week, I attended a review and edit music composition and play occasional solo fingerstyle guitar gigs.

From Doran Twer: “Every-thing I know about football (not that much) I learned from Jimmy O’Connor, Ron Tarrington, Marty Domers 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 become 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. The season thus far has been encouraging and has allowed him to develop his work ethic.”

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. 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. “During my freshman year, I bought the first edition of The Columbia Lion and had a wonderful time. I remember being impressed with the quality of the paper and the printing. I was particularly struck by the design of the cover, which featured a black-and-white photograph of a football player in action. The text was written in a clear, easy-to-read font. Although I didn’t play football myself, I was a big fan of the team and enjoyed following their progress.”

Leo G. Kailas
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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.”

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 upcoming alumni football game. Terry Sweeney, Peter Stevens, Bill Poppe, Bernie Josephsberg, Frank Furillo, Dick Alexander and Jim Wascura, all former Columbia football players, will be attending. The game is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, at 1:00 PM.

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 (college and all), has already gathered 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 your favorite email service to contact me directly. The Columbia Alumni Singers will be performing at this year’s Reunion Weekend.

Jim Shaw
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jes200@columbia.edu

Brian Hesse M.Phil ‘73, Ph.D. ’78 passed away on April 2 66 (legacy.com / obituaries / center daily / obituary.aspx?n=brian-c-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 a number of sites, notably in Canaan in western China and at Ashkelon and Tel Mique-Ekron in Israel. Dr. Hesse brought his comprehensive knowledge to the classroom and conveyed his enthusiasm for the study of animal bones to hundreds of appreciative students. A devoted, gifted, and enthusiastic student of the study of animal bones to hundreds of appreciative students. A devoted, gifted, and enthusiastic student of the study of animal bones to hundreds of appreciative student...””

Dr. Hesse greatly advanced knowledge...”

Columbia College Today
Mark Allen ’71 Guides NASA to Mars Research

BY ROBERT E. CALEM ’89J

It 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 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 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 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 contributed 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.
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 Object to Identity, were co-authored by his wife, Paula Wapnish Hesse.

“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 Harrar: “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 Rubenstein: “Having recently relocated to London with my wife, Jane J. Dickson ’74 Bar, 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 ’07 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 begin 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 colleagues at a 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 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 John Ellis is an accomplished 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 recognize 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, 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 sleuth. The Mysteries are largely written by 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.”

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 perspectives: 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 US politics — from Charlie Chaplin to Governor Arnold...”

From a news email from NYU, Matt Santacroce: “On August 1, 1994, I arrived at New York University as the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. On Tuesday 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 at NYU Shanghai, the latest addition to our Global Network University.”

Greg Wyatt had a solo sculpture exhibit, “Muses and Creators,” at Kourous 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 $80,024,800 in fiscal 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/ct/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 other 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 such responses 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 Furman, Richard Hsia, Phil Milstein and 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 [and attending Columbia 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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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 townsons 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 Center 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) 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? Now you can submit it online via CCT’s web submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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This issue’s news, 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 (eicher network.com/camodern.html). He founded El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, which leads hiking and biking outings, 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 Northwestern 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 of 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’m 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.)

From Beverly Hills we learn that Isaac Palmer is involved in a new non-profit, serving as 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 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, Findling 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 left New York–based Chadbourne & Parke for the Chicago mega-firm McDermott Will & Emory. Then a few months ago
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, was pleased to see that 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 Litigation 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 2004, 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 picked up to a few of my classmates: 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 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 /ect/ fall11/ obituary es2). On one of my antiquing and shopping adventures recently, I discovered several of Elaine Paggi’s books, which make me think of Terry Mulry and Sigmund Wisssner-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 popacy. 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 I also purchased! And Bob Schneier 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 the United States (St. Martin’s Press). Charles lived for 17 years in Hong Kong, first as a musician and then as a writer and broadcasteer, and now lives in Seattle with wife, Catherine, and son, Toby.

Michael Musto’s new book, For What It’s Worth, appeared in September. 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. Vincent will reside in White Plains, and he’s expected 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 White Plains, 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 Holstria, was famous as a Mets blogger and author of Mets Fan and The Last Days of Sheen: 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.

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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 Virgil Aquino, Nenham Bajaj, Henry Sze and Ira Gairy. Charles Paval 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 pursed more occupation.

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 imagine what I might have found out 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 left his job 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, CCO 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 direct-ed 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) 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/ct/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 listed above or at NNemerson@snet.net.

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 meant!) James (17) is in a holy 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 taxis. 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 WW. Norton & Co., and Dean BacaLou 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/ct/fall11/around_the_quad10). 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 unnecessarily, I think—and 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: the column was written on “this block of Silicon Valley,” go to college.columbia.edu/ct_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 ’79–79.”

Jerry Benstock tells me of the many movies he worked on. He was the stunt coordinator for a movie made 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 General Counsel 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 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 he fought. But that he was a hero 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 always the rule 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: CCF profiled Paulsen in May/June 2009: college.columbia.edu/ccf/may_jun09/alumni_profiles.]

Homecoming weekend found the Eric Blattman family, the Browns, the Shawn FitzGerald family and the Al Sabatos 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 hugs about our playing days. Al has promised to join us at the golf outing next May!

David Walker, with whom I am on the East Harlem Scholars Academy (ehsam.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 in U.S. News & World Report, and we should all be commended. Jim Gerks 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 mcbu80@yahoo.com or use CCF’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ccf/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/ccf/submit_class_note.) In any event, we want to hear what you’re up to.

One sad report: Michael Steven son 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 Columbia 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.archny.org/steppingout.

REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

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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 CCF’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ccf/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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Roy Pomerantz
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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 onwards that I had many fond memories of.

Another highlight of my week was a trip to 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 fed eral, state and local capital, create jobs and stimulate the economy.

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 interview 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 preserving 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 half-century. The $4 billion capital campaign goal, the second highest amount in the country, was met this year. 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 this year.

From Mark’s firm’s website (momjiananderer.com/profiles/mrk2.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 collaborative 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 Management Standards Register, he published numerous 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 Philadelphia 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. He 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 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 hanging 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 patent, antitrust, and computer system/ software/Internet industry issues) with strategic advising of small businesses and startups, while pushing my research interests at the intersection of technology, business, law and public policy.

Bruce’s credentials can be found on his website (bruceabramson.com). He is especially excited about his current work 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 issues in ways that are merely 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 well 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. Among these strategies 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, Kerner Law Firms, Institut Polytchnique, Paris (where he studied and taught), 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.

Dennis Kleinberg 

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.”

A bit closer to home, Rich Mack: “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, and 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 start-up that provides “crowd-sourced” software testing services 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 spheians and
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 (studentalaffairs.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 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 Fridya Villan. Fridya 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 Hankness 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 Advisors in Boston. Consensus has broad experience advising retail and consumer products companies undergoing significant transformation 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&ES).

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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 Mc-Knight, 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 Research. Now in its 12th year, and with of

frequent column contributors as well as former suitmates Christine Janggochian Koobatan (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 Gittes ‘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, Radih Maimudar ‘90, Holly Turchetta Lee ‘90 and Howie Rappaport ‘85.

She has been involved with 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

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

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.
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 was raised 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 Knaut Rimerman writes, “I wish I had living in New York City for a few months as akind of assistant professor at a liberal arts college. After a few years, I’ve had the lovely experience of going to the city but continues to write music and have fun with a number of college friends. “I go to the opera and plays, and I also enjoy reconnecting with a number of classmates, such as Dave Krause.”

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 media services. Together, the sites reach a combined 15 million monthly unique visitors. Previously, as president, digital, of Time Inc. Lifestyle Group, Paul was responsible for 30 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 C.E.O. 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 the place where I lived for over 20 years. It’s been a long time since my last visit, but I still remember all the wonderful people I met and the enjoyable experiences I had while living in New York. I hope to return soon and explore the city further. Let me know if you have any stories to share about your experiences here.

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 non-ideological to turn the page 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 other ingredients. I have a degree in international business from the University of Toronto and have spent 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.

JanieMin is editorial director of The Hollywood Reporter. If you want to see her take over, read the May 29 article on Janice in The New York Times, you will see that she has been another hit. Dr. Warigia Bowman, assistant professor of public policy at the University of Missouri and visiting assistant professor at American University in Cairo, Egypt, has been named a visiting assistant professor at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. According to Craig’s New York Business (June 13 issue), Jared I. Sandberg has become an editor at Bloomberg.com. He was previously a banking and financial 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!”
While 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 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 2000. While at OGI, she spent a few years setting up the European business in London, then returned to 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 the potential U.S. tea market.

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

Della Pietra and her husband, Chris Della Pietra ’89; and Roma Seraf ’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 went in this update: “I was married this past July to my girlfriend of several years, Christie Hines. There were several CC ’91 grads in attendance including Jim Burston, Ken Shubin Stein, and Ceci 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, Tenesa, 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, Leondris 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 shirt, runs a 12-hour marathon, is still an awful golfer and likes to vacation in Montréal. He lives on the Upper West Side with his longtime girlfriend, Kenny Kiang. And finally, also at the gathering was Kieran Concoran and his wife, Alyssa, who have been shopping for apartments in 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 nontradi- tional, 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 Los Angeles. Each month we 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 Expe- rience. Weekdays, I wear the engineer- ing 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!” Sam 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 / Sept/Oct.Sam’s website, Sam shares about her family’s bicycling adventures at fullhandsx3.blogspot.com.

Carl Marcì switched from aca- demic medicine to co-founder and CEO of a neuroretinal imaging 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 Blaskov- ic. 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. Until next time … cheers!

REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Jennifer Freely jf2261@columbia.edu 212-851-7438 DEVELOPMENT Amanda Kessler ak2934@columbia.edu 212-851-7883

Hi out there! Let’s get right to the news.

I spent a summer evening with Emma 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-april10 /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 metropoli- tan 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.) Eva enjoys running her active and healthy “terra cotta journeys” (terraotta journeys.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, a Fort Washington estate, 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 intellec- tual 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 enjoyed visiting 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 floormate, John Callaghan, responded to a recent plea for news. John has been living back in Australia since 1994 and is married with two daughters, Misky (5) and error (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 apart- ment is just a few blocks from Co- lumbia, and I can see East Campus from my building’s roof (not quite the same as seeing Russia from my window).” I’ve enjoyed getting back in touch with Community Impact alums and the 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 VP 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 Shanno- n and his wife, Kora Macec, welcomed their twin boys, Locke and Hae, 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 Youngh’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 Bephann earned her 200- hour yoga teacher training certifica-
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 coordinating... err, excuse me, celebrating how hard we work all year,” shares Shanae (Barnett) Wood. Relaxing in Miami Beach at The Palms Hotel in mid-May 2010 were (left to right) Annysh Shin, Wood, Kembra Dunham, Nicole (Johnson) Sanders and Leslie De Lara Luck. The group has traveled to Mexico, Miami, Scottsdale and Las Vegas.

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While Hurricane Irene ranied our family vacation in August, it brought a nice reunion with Ari Abramowitz, who also lived on Campus 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 Fangi Sassaman, Sura Alammar 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 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 Yongtsh ’98, 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.
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 Alfone 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: sune.com/project/substance.

Endre Tvinneirem was elected to the Bergen (Norway) City Council on the City Air List (“Byluftlis”). 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 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 DeSimio ’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 Brooklynish 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!

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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, 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. Joining the newlyweds were (front row, left to right) Jen Song ’99, Catie Ziegel ’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, ’09; ’10 Business; Babi Pai ’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.

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/ct/toctemplate.html.
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 Tustin (née Melendez) and her husband, Andrew Tustin, welcomed their beloved Brooklyn neighbor, 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 son was born at Beth Israel Medical Center in Manhattan at 7 lbs., 5 oz. and 20¼ 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 covered the city’s budget crisis and the start of President Obama’s reelection 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 documentary film, Burning in the Sun: “Probably the best source of news on the film is our blog, burninginsusen.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, and 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 Silv, 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-half–Egyptian-American bundle of joy named Alexandros (Alex) Makary on June 25, weighing 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, Arqa Capital, specialized in mid cap cross-border mergers and acquisitions. 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 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 a 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.”

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 SJ Berwin in Munich as an associate in the Investment Funds Group. He hopes everyone passing through Munich will say hello (bletzler@gmail.com)!

Rich Feistman writes, “Cot 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 Palz, N.Y. In attendance were Amanda Luken ’03, Alan Denenberg 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) 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 suitmates 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.

Photograph: the classic image

Michael Novielli

World City Apartments
Attention Michael J.
Novielli, A608
Block 10, No. 6, Jinhui Road,
Chaoyang District
Beijing, 100020, People’s
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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 (nee Slutskey) 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 19 1/2 in.

Phillis Chu writes, “My wife, Flor, and I had our first child, Isabella Mait, 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 her first novel.

Eric Krieststein 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 Versa ’03L, Brendan 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 Aurit 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 & Mella. 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 famousintemetskiers.com, a web-based publication dedicated to inspiring back-country skiing adventures. 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, Jan Coogan ’02 and Alison Traweek ’03 GS.

Lauren Mancia and Adam Gidwitz ’04 were married this past June in Lenox, Mass., and a gaggle of Columbians were in attendance. Adam has relocated to Philadelphia, and Lauren and Adam 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_april11/books.html), 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 Lmania@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. ’81, bridesmaid Lindsay Joelle Glabman and bridesman Rena Rudavsky, Isaac Kohn ’04, Cara
Rachele, Maggie Grim, Nick Summers, Telis Demos ’04, Kelly Rader ’03 GSAS, Adam Kushner ’03 and Ajay Vashist. Rebecca and Ben met at Stanford Law and are attorneys at firms in New York. They live in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn, where ladybug has become 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 is also serving as the 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 Gagliano (née Holly Miller, married to Ryan Gagliano) 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, Sari Konka, Joyce Kim, Matt Fisher ’05E, Shantanu Jani ’05E, DJ Park ’06E, Michael Novielli ’03, Jay Munger ’04E, Stephanie Lund ’04, Eric Wang ’05E, Sei-Wook Kim ’07E, Sol Park ’06E, Michael Lee ’08E, Brian Doyle, and Jane Park.

In July, Andrew Russett began writing for The New York Observer, where he covers art. Also, Andrew’s award-winning blog, 16 miles.com, can be found at 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.

Mira Siegelberg writes to share some news about our classmates:

“Hi to the class from San Francisco! Wanted to give a shoutout to Matt Guzzo, who recently became a certified private investigator in addition to completing medical school. Chris Belz returned to NYC after two years in Asia 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 abscended 9 to 5 / “For some tea and tweed!””

As always, thanks to all for sharing!

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY

WINTER 2011–12

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of exciting accomplishments.

Hey, Class of 2008! I have a number of projects in your area. If you're interested in starting a composting project in your neighborhood, please visit our website (compostforbrooklyn@gmail.com). We offer neighborhood planting workshops and use the resulting compost for community gardens. We also collect organic waste from local businesses and organizations in Ditmas Park, Brooklyn. The garden, located at 622 W. 113th St., is open to the public.

If you'd like to get involved, please let me know! We're always looking for volunteers to help us manage the garden and sort the compost. You can also sign up for our monthly composting workshops and learn how to start your own composting project at home.

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 landfills. Our garden attracts local politician, 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 support and 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.”

Sajot 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.

At Michigan Law School, Maximilian Kulinski 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 eagerly 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 Greffrath 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 Shapira ’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.”

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 Kaski 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 ANZACEMS 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 Petriella 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

Jared 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, 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 opportunity to have in business,” Hecht says.

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.
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 Kaskiwi ’09, Andrea Derricks ’07 and Cody Steele ’09.

“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 Johannesberg on witch doctors in Swazi-land. 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. Veronica 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.

Colin Sullivan
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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.

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 buddies. 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. 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 forward 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/cc.

Michael Garrett ’66, ’69L, ’70 Business has lived for decades in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and Shinneock, 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.
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 lionine 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 lionine representations including a 14th-century (and a dozen other) inkwells; a 19th-century carousel figure; an elaborately carved Victorian dining room set; six different meerschaum 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 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)*
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