A Passion for Science

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Joe Coffee Jr. ’41

Thank you for your rich account of Joseph D. Coffee Jr. ’41’s rich life (“Obituaries,” March/April).

Mr. Coffee was my off-campus interviewer when I was applying to Columbia. Friends had prepared me for all kinds of awful interview questions. But Mr. Coffee's question was disarmingly simple: “Why do you want to go to college?” Not why Columbia, but why college. It was the unasked question behind the enterprise that I had been involved in for all the years of my education. I loved it. More than 20 years later, it is the only interview that I remember. And it remains one of the most memorable, and most characteristic, of all my experiences at Columbia.

Ron Lee Meyers ’92

The excellent obituary of Joe Coffee Jr. ’41 reminded me of the lucky break I had in meeting him in 1948. I had graduated from the College in June and entered the Business School that fall and needed a job. I can’t remember Joe’s title but I believe he was on the University payroll. At that time, he was spending most of his time with the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) and he hired me, with a title of assistant secretary of the association and a salary of $200 a month.

Joe had the idea that led to the Alexander Hamilton Medal, and among the first awardees was W.K. Wellington Koo (Class of 1909, Class of 1912 GSAS), Chiang Kai-Shek’s ambassador at the time. It took a super-human effort to get 450 people into the Waldorf, but the next year’s honoree, “Wild Bill” Donovan (Class of 1905), fared much better.

Joe was a tremendous source of ideas — Dean’s Day was next. His enthusiasm and boundless energy inspired the immensely talented group that ran the Alumni Association to make sure these concepts didn’t suffer crib deaths. Having the district attorney of New York County, Frank Hogan ’24, ’28L, as president of the CCAA made life for me extraordinarily exciting and rewarding. On the campus, Harry Carman ’19 GSAS was still dean, soon to be succeeded by Larry Chamberlain ’43 GSAS, and their great support and willingness to help was greatly appreciated.

What a great start Joe Coffee gave to a new alumnus who still treasures his friendship and guidance.

John C. Thomas Jr. ’48, ’50 Business
New York City

Dubious Modernism

CCT editor Alex Sachare ’71 deserves praise for his candor regarding the new Northwest Corner Building: “I’m not a fan of these metal walls on Broadway and West 120th Street, which a friend describes as a giant cheese-grater” (“Within the Family,” March/April).

If only the dubious modernists entrusted with Columbia’s architectural heritage evinced similar bravery. For the last 50 years, most of the buildings erected on the Morningside Heights campus have been uninspired at best, egregious at worst, and altogether ruinous to the original McKim, Mead & White aesthetic.

One would have thought we had learned our lesson from the late 1950s and early 1960s, when Mudd, Carman, Ferris Booth, Law, International Affairs and Uris combined to despoil Columbia’s Beaux-Arts unity with their jarring, ugly, soulless presence. But no. The 1970s brought the Sherman Fairchild Center for the Life Sciences, looking like a collection of solar panels attached to a central core. In the 1980s, East Campus arose like a threatening monolith out of 2001: A Space Odyssey. In the new century, the Law School addition resembles a glass and steel box topped by an ocean liner’s smokestack.

Perhaps no recent building was more eagerly anticipated, and so disarmingly executed, as Lerner Hall. Students and alumni thought that undergraduates would finally receive the spacious activities center they deserved. Instead, they got a disjointed monstrosity whose huge sloping ramps — which call to mind a Pachinko machine — waste the precious square footage that should have been given over to club space. I recently showed Lerner to a prospective College freshman. Gazing at the skeletal ramps and see-through facade she asked innocently, “Is it still under construction?” Honest.

How does the University, with all of its
The Times, They Continue To Change

During my first semester at the College, I attended a presentation by a representative of the New York City Police Department. He was on campus as a recruiter, looking for students who might be interested in careers in law enforcement after graduation. If that sounds a bit strange, consider that this was in fall 1967, months before the demonstrations and the police bust that left an indelible impression on anyone who was on campus on the night of April 30, 1968.

I’ve long since forgotten the speaker’s name, but I remember one thing he said. The basic point of his pitch was this: Wouldn’t the city be better off with police officers who have been educated at schools like Columbia and who have put considerable thought into their choice of law enforcement as a career, as opposed to those who signed up because they were attracted by the prospect of wearing a badge and carrying a gun and putting in their 20 years before they got out?

I don’t know if anyone in that room took him up on his offer, and I confess I didn’t give much thought to his point at the time. As a first-semester freshman, I wasn’t particularly career-focused — and police work would have been toward the bottom of a list had I had one. I’d gone purely out of curiosity, the same impulse that took me to many other such events that year. I thought it would be interesting to hear what a police recruiter had to say and what his pitch might be to a classroom of Columbians.

His message came back to me during the debate about whether to invite ROTC back to campus, after Congress voted in December to repeal the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that had prohibited openly gay men and women from serving in the military. Six years ago, the University Senate (whose decisions are non-binding) voted 53–10 against inviting ROTC back, largely because “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” contradicted the University’s policy against discrimination. But this spring, after surveying students, soliciting e-mails from other members of the Columbia community and holding three open forums, the Senate voted 51–17 (with one abstention) to approve a resolution to invite ROTC back (see “Around the Quads”). Later that same day, the University issued a statement saying it would take the issue before the Council of Deans, with a final decision expected to come before the end of the school year.

It seems to me that the police recruiter’s message applies to the military as well. Wouldn’t the country be better off with military officers who are educated at schools like Columbia? That, to me, is a compelling reason to invite ROTC back to campus.

Taking “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” off the board, are there other U.S. military policies that stand in conflict with those of the University? This is a very important question, and any action regarding ROTC should depend upon a satisfactory answer. But if there are no conflicts, ROTC should be viewed not as a referendum on U.S. military service or governmental policies but rather for what it is: an opportunity for students who want to serve in the military to receive extensive expert training and to enter service as officers.

Beyond the Core, the majors and everything else they absorb in the classroom, an important part of what students learn while attending the College is how to make life choices. As long as the policies of the U.S. military do not conflict with those of the University, shouldn’t ROTC be one such choice for Columbia students?

Dean’s Day, which used to be a stand-alone event, now is part of Alumni Reunion Weekend and will take place this year on Saturday, June 4 (https://alumni.college.columbia.edu/deansday). Its creator, Joe Coffee Jr. ’41, passed away in January (see “Obituaries,” March/April) but must be looking down with pride on how his baby has grown. The fact that several private companies have copied the idea and made similar programs available to the public, albeit at a much higher cost than what Columbia charges, is a testament to its merit.

This year’s program is a strong one, beginning with the Dean’s Continental Breakfast, at which Dean Michele Moody-Adams will offer remarks on the state of the College. Moody-Adams will then join Deans Feniosky Peña-Mora (Engineering) and Peter Awn (General Studies) and E.V.P. of Arts and Sciences and Dean of Faculty Nicholas Dirks to deliver Public Intellectual Lectures. After lunch, five distinguished faculty members will conduct Core Curriculum lectures, several affinity groups will hold receptions and alumni singers from a spectrum of groups will raise their voices in song.

The entire program (which is free to reunion registrants) is open to all alumni and parents at the nominal cost of $75. If you want to eat on your own and just attend the lectures and other events, the cost is only $25. It’s a unique opportunity to be a student for a day and hear from some of Columbia’s best and brightest.

Well done, Joe.
Spring at Columbia means a beautiful campus, warm weather and the College’s biggest event of the year: Alumni Reunion Weekend. Open this year to alumni from classes ending in 1 and 6, events will take place on campus and throughout New York City from Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5.

Dean’s Day, which is open to all alumni and parents whether from reunion classes or not, will be held on Saturday, June 4. To highlight this year’s program, Dean Michele Moody-Adams, as well as the deans of Engineering, General Studies and the faculty of Arts and Sciences, will deliver the Public Intellectual Lectures at Dean’s Day.

The entire weekend is designed to reconnect alumni with one another and with the College while also offering family-friendly events and a touch of the undergraduate experience through lectures and panels. Each class’ Reunion Committee has been working hard in conjunction with the Alumni Office to make the weekend fun and memorable. Events will include class-specific gatherings such as receptions, cocktail parties, panels and dinners; “Back on Campus” sessions featuring Core Curriculum lectures, Engineering lectures, tours of Columbia libraries and facilities, and more; New York City cultural options, including performances and art gallery tours; the all-class Wine Tasting and Starlight Reception with music, dancing and champagne on Low Plaza; and Camp Columbia for Kids.

The 50th anniversary class, 1961, starts the weekend early with a special reception on Wednesday, June 1. The weekend officially kicks off on Thursday evening, June 2, with class-specific events and a choice of the American Ballet Theatre, New York Philharmonic or Broadway shows. These performances are open to all reunion attendees, but tickets must be purchased in advance.

Friday, June 3, features an “Essentials of Estate Planning” breakfast and Back on Campus morning sessions, followed by class-specific events, campus tours and more learning opportunities. That evening, alumni may attend class-specific cocktail parties/receptions and dinners. Those who observe the Sabbath may participate in a Tri-College (College, Engineering, Barnard) Shabbat service and dinner.

Friday evening also features one of the biggest and most popular events for young alumni (Classes 2001–2011), a party aboard the recently restored U.S.S. Intrepid. Join Engineering, Barnard and GS friends and classmates for dancing, flight simulation, food and limited open bar. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance at college.columbia.edu/intrepid or for $35 on-site the night of the event.

Starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, attendees’ children ages 3–12 may attend the all-day supervised Camp Columbia for Kids. Also on Saturday morning, all alumni, including Dean’s Day participants, may sign up for the Dean’s Continental Breakfast, where Moody-Adams will give an update on the College
and present the President’s Cup.

After breakfast, events continue for all reunion alumni and Dean’s Day attendees with morning Public Intellectual Lectures, lunches and early afternoon Mini-Core Courses.

Late afternoon options include affinity group receptions, open to all reunion alumni and Dean’s Day attendees. Back for an encore on Saturday, after a successful debut last year, will be the Columbia Alumni Singers, who will gather in the morning for a rehearsal, then regroup for an afternoon performance and reception.

Other afternoon affinity group options include a Varsity Athletics gathering, Spectator gathering and an Afternoon Tea and Music of Columbia Concert, featuring a string quartet playing music composed by fellow Columbians, among others.

Reunion classes will continue the celebration on Saturday evening with the all-class Wine Tasting, elegant class-specific dinners and the all-class Starlight Reception, with music, dancing and champagne on Low Plaza. The weekend wraps up on Sunday morning with The New York Times and a bagels and lox brunch.

Reunion class members can register and learn more at reunion.college.columbia.edu. New this year, the Classes of 1986–2006 can register via smartphone. (See your class’ Class Notes column in this issue for details and your class’ URL.)

Also new this year is the ability to send classmates an e-postcard to say hello and to encourage them to attend reunion (https://alumni.college.columbia.edu/reunion/postcard).

Non-reunion class members can register for Dean’s Day and select lectures at https://alumni.college.columbia.edu/deansday.

For more information or assistance with either event, contact the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488 or 866-CCALUMNI.
For the more than 1,000 members of the Class of 2011, graduation season finally is here.

This year’s seniors will join the ranks of Columbia College alumni following Class Day ceremonies on Tuesday, May 17, and Commencement on Wednesday, May 18. Alexandra Wallace Creed ’88, senior v.p. of NBC News, will be this year’s Class Day speaker. She is only the second alumna to address the graduating class, joining Claire Shipman ’86, ’94 SIPA, who spoke before the Class of 1999.

Highlighting Class Day, as it has for the past eight years, will be the Alumni Parade of Classes, in which alumni carry their class year banners in the procession that also includes graduating students, faculty and administrators. This parade underscores the transition the graduates are making from students to alumni, and emphasizes that their Columbia connection is lifelong.

Alumni are invited to represent their class by carrying its banner in the procession, which starts at 9:30 a.m. and is preceded by a breakfast for parade participants in John Jay Dining Hall. Alumni interested in taking part in this tradition should contact Nick Mider, event coordinator, alumni affairs: nm2613@columbia.edu or 212-851-7486.

Later that day, the annual Academic Awards and Prizes Ceremony, at which students are recognized for their academic achievements, will be held in Faculty House at 3:00 p.m.

The day after Class Day, the members of the Class of 2011 will participate in Commencement, where more than 11,000 degree candidates from all University schools and approximately 20,000 guests will fill Low Plaza and South Field.

The Baccalaureate Service, an interfaith, intercultural service celebrating the completion of each undergraduate’s academic career, kicks off the graduation season at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 15, in St. Paul’s Chapel. This year’s keynote speaker will be Peter Awn, dean of General Studies.

Approximately 300 alumni, parents and friends turned out for a Columbia World Leaders Forum on April 2 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. The Columbia Alumni Association event featured four panel discussions: “An Insider’s View of Columbia: Today and Tomorrow,” “Global Health Care Policy and Reform in Today’s World,” “Student Voices: Around Campus” and “Global Press.” Panelists included Dean Michele Moody-Adams, Provost Claude Steele, ABC News journalist Claire Shipman ’86, ’94 SIPA and FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski ’85. There also was a welcome address from President Lee C. Bollinger; a keynote address by Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer ’80, ’84 SIPA, ’85L (who filled in because his boss, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, ’76L, was unable to attend); and a school-based networking luncheon.

Banner-carriers in the Alumni Parade of Classes were cheered on by last year’s graduating seniors.

PHOTOS: CHAR SMULLYAN

Panels Highlight Forum in Washington, D.C.

Dean Michele Moody-Adams (far left) moderates the student panel with (from left) Sarah Khan ’11, Tao Tan ’07, ’11 Business and Laura Kelley ’11 PH.

PHOTOS: J.L. LINKO

President Lee C. Bollinger (right) greets Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer ’80, ’84 SIPA, ’85L at the forum.

PHOTOS: J.L. LINKO
Columbia College Young Alumni invites the Classes of 2001–2011 to attend the Young Alumni Party on the USS Intrepid.

The USS Intrepid is the young alumni port-of-call for College sailors and mates. Join Engineering, Barnard and GS friends and classmates, as we relive those Intrepid parties of old! We have charted a course for dancing, flight simulation, food and limited open bar.

Friday, June 3, 2011 • 10 p.m.–1 a.m.

Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
West 46th Street and 12th Avenue, Pier 86
New York City

Tickets will be available for $25 in advance at www.college.columbia.edu/intrepid or for $35 at the Intrepid on the night of the event.

Questions? Call 212-851-7977.
Senate Votes To Invite Return of ROTC

BY ALEX SACHARE ’71

The University Senate voted on April 1 to support inviting the Reserve Officers Training Corps back to the Columbia campus. Shortly afterward, the University issued a statement indicating the issue would go before the Council of Deans, and a final decision could be expected before the end of the semester.

ROTC, which has units at more than 300 campuses, has not been at Columbia since 1969, following anti-Vietnam War demonstrations in Spring 1968. Columbia students wishing to participate in ROTC must train at Fordham University (Army) or Manhattan College (Air Force) or serve extended sessions in Quantico, Va. (Marines).

The senate, whose recommendations are nonbinding, voted 51–17, with one abstention, to approve the resolution that are nonbinding, voted 51–17, with one abstention, to approve the resolution. Columbia community.

Soon after the Senate vote was announced, the University issued a statement to media that read, “We appreciate the diligent work by the University Senate in fostering a robust debate on the issue of military engagement and ROTC. As in any diverse, open community there will always be a range of strongly held opinions on such important issues. But as President [Lee C.] Bollinger stated after last December’s Congressional vote, the repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ offers an historic opportunity for universities to reconsider their own policies as well. As planned, we look forward to sharing the Senate resolution with the Council of Deans and seeking an official conclusion on this matter by the end of the semester.”

Even if Bollinger follows the Senate recommendation, it does not mean ROTC will return to campus. A branch of the military would need to agree to start a program at Columbia, and University officials would need to negotiate terms of the program with the Department of Defense.

On March 4, Harvard, which has been without ROTC since 1971, signed an agreement to bring a naval ROTC program back to its campus effective on the date of the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” At Columbia’s Senate meeting, there was a late push to add an amendment stating that the resolution would not take effect until the repeal is officially implemented, but Bollinger indicated he would not bring an ROTC program to Columbia until that point.

Columbia was involved with ROTC since the program’s beginnings in 1916, forming one of the first Naval ROTC detachments in the nation. For more than 50 years, ROTC students took Naval Science classes, drilled on College Walk and in neighboring streets, and worked on ships and submarines in New York Harbor. Columbia’s NROTC program graduated thousands of students to become naval officers. At its peak, Columbia’s Corps of Midshipmen rivaled the Naval Academy in size.

Six years ago, the Senate voted 53–10 against inviting ROTC back to campus. “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was cited by opponents as a contradiction of Columbia’s policy of nondiscrimination.

The University Senate, which was created in May 1969 in the wake of the demonstrations that rocked the Columbia campus the year before, has 108 voting seats, with 63 reserved for faculty, 24 for students, six for officers of research, two each for administrative staff, librarians and alumni, and nine for senior administrators including the president, who chairs monthly plenaries.

For more, go to columbia.edu/cu/senate/militaryengagement.
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momentum.columbia.edu

THE COLUMBIA CAMPAIGN

$5 billion by December 2013
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

- Robert K. Kraft ’63 has donated $20 million to Partners HealthCare, a Boston-based nonprofit health care system. The owner of the New England Patriots hopes his donation will galvanize states and philanthropists to invest in programs through which doctors and nurses impact a broader community, instead of specializing and joining private practices. In an interview with Boston.com, Kraft noted that while patients arrive from overseas for Boston’s elite medical care, “people living in our own communities aren’t treated properly” due to lack of access. The funds will create the Kraft Family National Center for Leadership and Training in Community Health, supporting medical practitioners caring for more than 200,000 patients. It also covers up to $50,000 in medical student loan debt in exchange for two to three years of service providing care for the community.

- Goldman Sachs lost a star executive with the retirement of Richard Ruzika ’81, head of the Special Situations Group, in April. Ruzika had spent nearly 30 years at the Wall Street firm. Only one year after graduating from Columbia, Ruzika joined J. Aron, which was acquired by Goldman in 1982. He climbed up the ranks, beginning as a silver and gold trader, and was named head of Global Commodities in 2000 and co-head of Global Macro Trading in 2006 before his final appointment leading the Special Situations Group in 2007. In announcing his retirement, The New York Times noted that Ruzika’s division “is known for its typically profitable deal on everything from golf courses to Texas wind power companies.” Ruzika received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2006.

- To wish Elliott Schwartz ’57 a happy birthday, the Portland Symphony Orchestra commissioned a score by him that premiered in January. His reflective composition, Diamond Jubilee, looks back on his 75-year journey through music. A resident of Maine, Schwartz has taught at Bowdoin since 1964, and was a recipient of the MacArthur “genius” fellowship in 1984. In 2006 he received Columbia University’s Distinguished Faculty Award. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a fellow of The有效 2006. In 2006 he received Columbia University’s Distinguished Faculty Award. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a fellow of The Quarterly.

CAMPUS NEWS

- SCIENCE: Amber D. Miller, the Walter LeCroy Jr. Associate Professor of Physics, has been appointed Dean of Science for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Nicholas Dirks, e.v.p. for Arts and Sciences, said when announcing Miller’s appointment on March 1, “Amber will be charged in part with figuring out how to make sure the core departments are fully supported and make sure the newer initiatives feed into the departmental needs.” Since Miller joined Columbia in 2002, she has worked on the Faculty Budget Group, the Space Planning Committee and the Academic Review Committee, and chaired the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Her current research involves a 6,000-lb. telescope that he will capture light from the hot plasma, near Antarctica, that was left over from the big bang.

- Goldman Sachs has sent an open letter to the University Archivists commending a year-long, three-part exhibit, “Columbia University: 100 Years of Collecting,” opening a selection of Said’s notes on February 24 until his death in 2003. He wrote more than 20 books, among them the classic Orientalism, an in-depth examination of how the West perceived the East.

*TRACY V. MALLAND '82, president and chief investment officer of Advent Capital Management, received the Black Alumni Heritage Award at the Black Alumni Council's annual reception, held at Faculty House on February 24. Photo: Colin Sullivan '11*
Take a FRESH LOOK
THE COLUMBIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFERS YOU NEW WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:

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expressing her thoughts through language comes easily to Anna Feuer ’11, a passionate English major and writer. When the Marshall Commission called to inform her that she had been selected as a Marshall Scholar, however, the Los Angeles native was at a loss for words. “I was incoherent, babbling,” says the otherwise articulate Feuer amidst laughter. “I was so excited. It’s a huge honor.”

Each year, up to 40 American students receive the prestigious Marshall Scholarship, which funds two years of graduate study at any university in the United Kingdom. This fall, Feuer will continue her education at the University of Oxford, where she will pursue master’s degrees in global and imperial history and English literature. According to Michael Pippenger, associate dean of the Office of Fellowship Programs, Feuer was one of 32 nationwide awardees chosen this year from a pool of 999 applicants.

“Part of the application process is drafting and redrafting essays to make them into something special,” says Pippenger. “Anna never shied away from putting more time and energy into crafting the best application possible. She is a great communicator. She knows herself well and can get others excited about her ideas. Anna also had a great sense of humor, which I think helps students in such an intense competition.”

At Oxford, Feuer will delve more deeply into the subject of her senior thesis, which analyzed the impact of the Hindu tradition on the Celtic revival of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Feuer studied correspondences between Irish poet W.B. Yeats and Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore. She developed the project with the guidance of a professor at the University of Hyderabad in India while studying abroad her junior year.

Feuer enrolled directly at the university and took classes with local students. “A lot of study abroad programs in India have all the American students taking classes separately,” says Feuer. “I was able to make friends with my Indian classmates and interact more directly.”

During her semester in India, Feuer lived in a university dormitory and devoted some of her spare time to volunteering as an English language tutor for boys ages 6–15 at the local Poor Boys’ Ashram.

Upon returning to New York in May 2010, Columbia’s Department of English and Comparative Literature awarded Feuer the Richmond B. Williams Travelling Fellowship, which allowed her to spend three weeks in Dublin that August conducting research at the National Library of Ireland.

“It was my first time at a national library and my first time doing that kind of research for an English project,” says Feuer. “To be able to see Yeats’ manuscripts was really exciting.”

It was her interest in literature and texts in general that drew Feuer to the Core Curriculum, which enthralled her enough to apply early decision. “I liked the idea that all students should have a well-rounded education,” says Feuer. “I also liked that I would have to take science, even though that’s not my strong subject.”

In addition to her initial interest in literature, a number of courses and professors at Columbia have helped shaped Feuer’s academic trajectory. She decided to study in India and learn Hindi and Urdu after taking the course “Gandhi’s India” as a sophomore with associate professor of history Janaki Bakhle. English professor Alan Stewart and James Shapiro ’77, the Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature, helped solidify her decision to major in English. “Their classes really got me excited about being an English major,” says Feuer, whose essay “Reconstructing Englishness: Cultural Scission within the European Self” was published in the September 2010 issue of the University of Virginia’s Essays in History journal.

Anna connects disparate ideas with creativity, enabling others to read literary texts and intellectual history in the fresh ways that she herself does,” notes Pippenger. Feuer also has put her literary talents to use outside the classroom. She was managing editor of the Columbia Journal of Literary Criticism as a sophomore and rose to co-editor-in-chief as a senior. In her sophomore year, she also became a staff writer for The Eye, Spectator’s features and arts magazine. “[The Eye] gave me the opportunity to write about and explore a lot of different subjects that I really didn’t know very much about,” says Feuer, who has written articles about financial aid and labor relations at Columbia.

Feuer has been equally active off-campus. During summer 2009, with funding from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, she completed a paid internship with PEN Center USA (penusa.org), a nonprofit that works to protect the rights of writers all over the world and foster a literary community among writers in the western United States. Feuer helped plan events and advocated for writers imprisoned abroad by encouraging members to send letters to the state governments involved.

“In some countries — in China, for example — it seems as though the more Western mail is sent to the prisoner, the better the prisoner is treated in jail,” says Feuer. “It was really interesting learning about freedom of expression and the complicated politics that surrounds it.”

In addition, Feuer has completed editorial internships at LA Weekly, n+1 magazine and W.W. Norton & Co. As a junior and senior, she devoted one day a week to tutoring fifth-graders struggling with reading at P.S. 165 in Harlem.

After Oxford, Feuer envisions herself returning to the United States to pursue a Ph.D. in English or history. She eventually wants to write nonfiction in some capacity and the suggestion that she could end up teaching at the university level brings a smile to her face. “That’s very attractive to me and definitely a big reason for wanting to get a Ph.D.,” she says.

Nathalie Alonso ’08 is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer of LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website. She also writes a career blog for women, herfabcareer.com.
Alumni, Student Win Scholarships To Continue Research

Three alumni and one senior will continue doing research at the graduate level after receiving some of the most competitive and prestigious fellowships in the United States.

Mollie Schwartz ’09, her class’ salutatorian, won the Hertz Foundation Fellowship, an award valued at $250,000 that gives “generous support to young leaders in applied sciences and engineering.” The fellowship, which goes to only 2 percent of applicants, comes with no strings attached and supports Schwartz, a chemical physics major from Washington, D.C., for up to five years of graduate work. She is currently deciding where to attend graduate school.

Jun Hyuk Jason Kim ’08, an English major from Brooklyn, is in the 3 percent of applicants who received the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, which gives first-generation Americans up to $45,000 a year for two years to fund graduate work. Kim, who worked at The New Yorker, is working toward his M.F.A. in playwriting at The New School.

Christopher Beam ’06, a history major and political reporter for Slate, won the Luce Scholarship, which will provide him with $30,000 to support a year’s worth of language study and professional experience in East Asia where Beam, from Washington, D.C., hopes to find a job in journalism.

Benjamin Turndorf ’11, a philosophy major from Skillman, N.J., will pursue an M.S. in modern Chinese studies at Oxford, supported by the Clarendon Scholarship, which provides $41,000 a year to “academically excellent students with the best proven and future potential.”

Ethan Rouen ’04J, ’11 Business

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FONER: The DeWitt Clinton Professor of History Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS has been awarded two major prizes for his book The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery. He won the 2011 Lincoln Prize, sponsored by Gettysburg College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Foner will receive a $50,000 award on May 11 at the Union League Club in New York City. He also was one of three winners of the Bancroft Prize for History, awarded by Columbia, along with Sara Dubow for Ourselves Unborn: A History of the Fetus in Modern America and Chris-

copher Tomlins for Freedom Bound: Law, Labor, and Civic Identity in Colonizing English America, 1580–1865. Foner also won the Bancroft, which carries a $10,000 prize, in 1989 for Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution, 1863–1877. [To read an excerpt from The Fiery Trial, go to college.columbia.edu/cct/jan_feb11/columbia_forum.]

LENFEST: Eight faculty members received this year’s Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards, established by Trustee Gerry Lenfest ’58, at a dinner at Casa Italiana on February 8. The awards are given annually to faculty in recognition of scholarship, University citizenship and professional involvement, with emphasis on the instruction and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students. Each winner receives a stipend of $25,000 per year for three consecutive years.

The awardees are Rachel Adams, professor of English and American studies; Stuart Einstein, professor of biological sciences; Mahmood Mani- dani, the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government and professor of anthropology; Stephen Murray, the Bernard and Lisa Selz Professor of Medieval Art; Paul Olsen, the Arthur D. Storke Memorial Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences; Susan Pedersen, professor of history and James P. Shenton Professor of the Core Curriculum; Achille Varzi, professor of philosophy and department chair; and Katharina Volk, associate professor of classics. [For more on Volk, see “Around the Quads” in this issue.]

PARKIN: Chemistry professor Gerard Parkin was among 11 individuals and four organizations named by President Barack Obama ’83 as recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. In announcing the awards on January 21, Obama said, “These individuals and organizations have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the United States remains on the cutting edge of scientific and engineering for years to come. Their devotion to the educational enrichment and personal growth of their students is remarkable, and these awards represent just a small token of our enormous gratitude.”

BARZUN: Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS, noted cultural historian and University Professor Emeritus, was among the 10 winners of the 2010 National Humanities Medals for outstanding achievement in history, literature, education and cultural policy. President Barack Obama ’83 announced.

Barzun, who is 101 and lives in San Antonio, taught at Columbia for five decades and has written or edited more than 30 books. He was honored “for his distinguished career as a scholar, educator and public intellectual,” according to a news release issued by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Other winners were authors Wendell E. Berry, Joyce Carol Oates and Philip Roth; historians Bernard Bailyn and Gordon S. Wood; literary scholars Daniel Aaron, Roberto Gonzalez Echevarria and Arnold Rampersad and legal historian and higher education policy expert Stanley Katz.

SLOAN: Six Columbia faculty members have been named research fellows by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which awards two-year, $50,000 grants to support the work of exceptional young researchers in the fields of chemistry, computer science, mathematics, biology, neuroscience and physics.

Columbia’s 2011 Sloan Fellows are Sabin Cautis, assistant professor of mathematics; Dirk Englund, assistant professor of electrical engineering and applied physics; Aaron Lauca, the Joseph Fels Ritt Assistant Professor of Mathematics; Abhay Narayan Parikh, assistant professor of physics; Nathaniel Sawtell, assistant professor of neuroscience; and Latha Venkataraman, assistant professor of applied physics and applied mathematics.
Katharina Volk is an associate professor of classics. She received the Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award for 2010–11, and her book Manilius and his Intellectual Background was awarded the Lionel Trilling Award in 2010. Her most recent book is Ovid, an introductory text to the poet. Volk earned an M.A. from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich and a Ph.D. from Princeton.

Where did you grow up?
In Munich, Germany.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
At some point, I wanted to be an actress. That was the order. Then I wanted to be a history teacher. After that, I wanted to be a history professor. When you were growing up, what did you want to be?
I had chosen Latin as my minor; I had started learning it in fifth grade and always loved it. The classics department turned out to be this nice, small department where the professors were super-friendly. So I thought, forget about German, I’m going to become a classicist.

How did you become a professor of classics?
In Germany, there isn’t a liberal arts college system. You had to decide on a subject early. I knew I wanted to go to a German university. I had chosen Latin as my minor; I had started learning it in fifth grade and always loved it. The classics department turned out to be this nice, small department. Initially, I had chosen Latin over German because I thought it was easier, but in the end, I chose German and really enjoyed it. After that, I wanted to be a history teacher. Then I wanted to be an actress. That was the order.

Can you talk about the book for which you won the Lionel Trilling Award?
I received the award for Manilius and his Intellectual Background and was really excited. First of all, I think it’s fantastic that Columbia has a book award that is given by students. Then there is the subject matter: Manilius was a poet who about 2,000 years ago wrote a very difficult poem about astrology. Even within classics, the topic is quite obscure. It’s not like Virgil or Ovid, who I’ve also worked on. Mine is the first monograph in English on this poet, and while I was working on it, even classicists asked, “What are you talking about? Manilius?” So it was very exciting that students gave this book the award for best faculty book of the year.

What are you working on now?
I published another book last year, Ovid. It’s much more mainstream, an introduction to the poet. Right now, I don’t have a book project. I’m working on something a bit marginal, a poem by Cicero. He was a famous orator and statesman, of course, but he also wrote poetry, including a poem about his own consulship. When he was the leader of the state in 63 B.C., he thought he had done a really good job; most importantly, he had put down a conspiracy of people who wanted to overthrow the government. He then wanted someone to write a poem in praise of his achievement, and no one wanted to do it, so he did it himself. We only have a few fragments of the work. Already in antiquity, everyone was making fun of the fact that Cicero wrote his own poem about how great he was. I got interested in it, so I’m giving a talk about it at a conference.

Are you usually attracted to obscure topics?
If you’re a scholar, there are some authors and topics that everyone works on, and they’re great, but there are many other things going on that are interesting as well. I think it’s fun to look at the overlooked. In this case, Cicero is a very famous guy, one of the most famous people from antiquity and probably the one we know the most about because we have a great many works of his, including his letters. But he also wrote this crazy poem, and very few people talk about it.

If you could be anywhere in the world, where would you be?
Rome is definitely at the top of my list.

What’s the last book you read for pleasure that you’d recommend?
I read a lot of novels. I really enjoyed Room by Emma Donoghue. I thought it was amazing. I also recently read The Elephant’s Journey by José Saramago. I loved that, too.

What’s your favorite spot in New York City?
Riverside Park down by the river near West 100th Street.

How do you recharge?
I like to cook to relax. After a long day, I find it takes your mind off things. You have to concentrate, but it’s a different type of concentration.

Interview and photo:
Ethan Rouen ’04J, ’11 Business

To watch Volk talk about receiving the Lionel Trilling Award, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.
Hale, Agho Highlight Winter Sports

By Alex Sachare ’71

Sharay Hale ’12 added First Team All-American to her growing list of achievements and Noruwa Agho ’12 captured the Ivy League scoring championship in highlights of Columbia’s winter sports season.

Hale won two individual races and one relay and was named the outstanding female athlete at the Indoor Ivy League Championships for the second consecutive year, then finished seventh in 400 meters at the NCAA Championships to earn All-America honors. She might have finished even higher at the NCAAs had she not had to hurdle a competitor who had tripped and fallen into Hale’s lane. Heading into the outdoor season, Hale already had four school records to her name.

Agho, a 6-foot-3 guard, scored a career-high 31 points against Brown in his season finale to finish atop the Ivy scoring chart at 16.8 points per game, beating out Greg Mangano ’12 of Yale, who was second at 16.3 ppg. Agho was the only Ivy League player to finish in the top 10 in scoring, rebounding (10th, 4.9 rpg) and assists (5th, 4.3 apg). He finished second on the team in rebounding, steals, blocked shots and three-point field goals, and is the first Columbia player to earn first-team honors since John Bauman ’08 in 2007–08.

Basketball: Agho’s all-around play helped the Lions compile a 15–13 record in Kyle Smith’s first season as men’s head basketball coach. It marked only Columbia’s third winning record in the past 28 years.

Columbia tied for fifth in the Ivy League at 6–8. Princeton and Harvard were league co-champions at 12–2, and Princeton advanced to the NCAA tournament on the strength of a 63–62 playoff victory. Princeton was beaten by Kentucky 59–57 in the first round of the NCAAs, while Harvard lost to Oklahoma State 71–54 in the first round of the NIT.

Agho was named to the All-Ivy First Team and Brian Barbour ’13, Columbia’s starting point guard, received Honorable Mention after averaging 13.3 points and 3.2 assists per game and shooting, 917 from the free-throw line.

The women’s team struggled early, losing its first 13 games, but hit its stride in midseason and went 7–8 the rest of the way, with six of those wins coming against Ivy opponents. Despite a 7–21 overall record, Columbia’s 6–8 Ivy mark was enough to tie Brown for fourth place in the league.

Kathleen Barry ’11 earned All-Ivy First Team honors by averaging team highs of 10.4 points and 7.4 rebounds per game and leading the league with seven double-doubles. An economics/math and Spanish major, Barry was named to the Capital One/CsuSIDA Academic All-America First Team, the first Columbia woman to be so honored.

Brianna Ortlich ’14, who averaged 9.3 points and 3.5 rebounds per game, was selected to the league’s All-Rookie Team.

Track and Field: Hale won the 200-meter and 400-meter races and was a member of the winning 4x400m relay team to lead Columbia’s women to second place at the Ivies. Columbia amassed 213 points, its most ever, just behind Princeton’s 218.

Joining Hale in receiving All-Ivy First Team honors for victories at the meets were Kyra Caldwell ’12 (60m hurdles), Monique Roberts ’12 Barnard (high jump), Uju Ofoche ’13 (long jump), QueenDenise Okeke ’13 (triple jump) and 400m relay team members Caldwell, Ofoche, Hale and Miata Morlu ’14. Morlu also received Second Team honors by placing second to Hale in the 400m.

Columbia’s men finished sixth in the indoor Heptagonals, with the meet’s bright spot coming when the 4x800m relay team came from behind to win in a school-record 7:28.64. Dylan Isaacson ’11, Matt Stewart ’11, Sam Miner ’14 and Jeff Moriarty ’11 thus earned All-Ivy honors.

Fencing: Columbia’s combined men’s and women’s team finished seventh overall in the NCAA Championships, a performance that Coach George Kolombatovich called “one of the most satisfying I’ve experienced in all my years as a coach. No, not in terms of a high placing, although there is nothing wrong with seventh when you consider the level of the talent in collegiate fencing today, but rather how our team, the youngest in the tournament, responded to the intensity of the NCAAs. I’m looking forward to coming back to next year’s NCAAs with fencers who are vastly improved, and know how to win in the NCAA format.”

Although the men were winless in the round-robin Ivy Championship, three Lion first-years earned All-Ivy honors. Aken Hadzic ’14 went 10–5 to gain First Team honors in epee, Alex Pensler ’14 was 11–4 and earned First Team honors in foil and Bo Charles ’14 went 10–5 and was named to the Second Team. Hadzic and Pensler also earned Second Team honors at the NCAA Championships.

The women placed second at the Ivies with a 5–1 record, losing only to champion Princeton 15–12 in the first round of the two-day competition. Five Lions earned All-Ivy honors: Katya English ’14 (13–5 in foil), Nzinhga Prescod ’14 (16–2 in foil) and Loweye Diedro ’13 (16–2 in sabre) made First Team, and Lydia Kopecky ’13 (12–6 in epee) and Sammy Roberts ’12E (13–3 in sabre) made Second Team.

The women accounted for 54 of Columbia’s 94 victories at the NCAA Championships, where the men competed for the first two days and the women followed. Kopecky won 13 of her 23 bouts to tie for seventh in epee, the best finish of any Columbia fencer, and earned All-America Second Team honors. Roberts, who was 12–11, and Diedro, who was 11–12, earned Third Team recognition in sabre.
Columbia College Today

winning the 200 individual medley finish. Katie Mieli ’13 led the way, in the Ivies, matching their best Moriarty Award as the High Point Swimmer and Lee won the Phil Award as the Career High Point getting Second Team.

All event winners earn All-Ivy First Team, capturing All-America Honorable Mention honors in the 50-yard free. Powell closed out his Columbia career by qualifying for the consolation finals with a time of 19.95 seconds, a career best and a school record. Powell finished 16th overall in the 50, as well as 37th among 58 swimmers in the 100 freestyle.

Powell and Hyun Lee ’14E helped Columbia finish third in the Ivy Championship. Powell won the 50 and 100 free, Lee captured the 200 and 500 free as well as the 200 butterfly, and the two teamed with John Wright ’13 and Patrick Dougherty ’13E to win the 400 freestyle relay. Powell finished second in the 100 backstroke and was part of two second-place relay teams — the 200 free with Wright, Dougherty and Kai Schultz ’14, and the 400 medley with Lee, Johnny Bailey ’12 and Matthew Swallow ’14. All event winners earn All-Ivy First Team recognition, with runners-up getting Second Team.

Powell won the Harold Ulen Award as the Career High Point Swimmer and Lee won the Phil Moriarty Award as the High Point Swimmer of the Meet.

The women also finished third in the Ivies, matching their best finish. Katie Mieli ’13 led the way, winning the 200 individual medley in a personal-best 1:59.20. For winning, she was named to the All-Ivy First Team.

Although no other Columbia woman finished first or second in the meet, the team’s depth enabled the strong overall result. “Every swimmer and diver on this team contributed to our third-place finish,” said coach Diana Casky.

WRESTLING: Heavyweight Kevin Lester ’12 compiled a 23–6 overall record and won all five of his Ivy League matches to earn All-Ivy First Team recognition from the league’s coaches. Chosen to the Second Team were Eren Civan ’11, who went 4–1 at 165 lbs., and Nick Mills ’13, who was 3–2 at 184 lbs. Kyle Gilchrist ’12 (3–1 at 133 lbs.), Steve Santos ’13 (2–0 at 149 lbs. after missing a month of the season due to injury) and Mike Pushpak ’11 (3–2 at 175 lbs.) received Honorable Mention.

As a team, Columbia was 3–2 in Ivy competition and 9–6 overall.

SQUASH: Columbia’s squash teams enjoyed successful varsity debut seasons, the men’s team going 13–5 and the women’s team finishing 12–6.

Graham Miao ’13 had the best record on the men’s team at 15–5, followed by Theo Buchsbaum ’14 at 13–4, Clayton Dahlman ’11E and Alec Goldberg ’14 at 12–5 each, Tony Zou ’13 at 12–8 and Andrew Tan ’14E at 10–6.

Skylar Dickey ’14 Barnard had the best record on the women’s team at 15–3, with Anne Cheng ’11 Barnard and Monica Stone ’14 at 13–5, Jenny Schroeder ’14 Barnard at 12–6, Katie Quan ’14 at 12–5 and Morgan Strauss ’14E at 11–5. Liz Chu ’12 was 8–8 at the No. 1 position and 9–10 overall.

ENDOWMENTS: Several College alumni have established endowments for the benefit of the wrestling and crew programs. Brothers David Barry ’87 and Michael Barry ’89, who wrestled together for Columbia in the 1980s, have established an endowment in support of an assistant wrestling coach position, the first endowment of an assistant coach position in the Columbia Athletics program. And Tom Cornacchia ’85, a four-year letter-winner who rowed at the 1985 Henley Regatta, has made a leadership gift to the rowing program to enhance the experience of the more than 100 student-athletes who compete for Columbia’s heavyweight, lightweight and women’s crew teams.

VARSITY ‘C’: Don Jackson ’73, ’80 Business is scheduled to be honored at the 90th Varsity ‘C’ Celebration on Wednesday, May 4, in Levien Gym. Jackson, an All-Ivy heavyweight who ranks in the top five for career touchdown passes and also played baseball at Columbia, is to be honored with the Varsity ‘C’ Alumni Award along with Helen Doyle Yeager ’85 Barnard, a two-time captain of the women’s basketball team. Both are on the leadership committee for the Columbia Campaign for Athletics: Achieving Excellence.

COACHES: The Women’s Basketball Coaches Association has partnered with Columbia to establish The Center for Coaching Excellence, a leadership-training program hosted on the Columbia campus beginning this spring. The center, developed by Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy in partnership with WBCA, is the first of its kind. It is designed to introduce coaches to various aspects of leadership and provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the importance of ethics and integrity in women’s college basketball. Through a rigorous curriculum presented in a seminar-style environment, coaches participate in an intensive 2½-day seminar-style learning environment, featuring panel discussions, guest speakers, small-group breakouts, roundtables and interactive problem-solving.

“Why? So tomorrow’s students can walk through the same doors that we did.”

STEVE CASE ’64CC, ’68LAW
UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE
COLUMBIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (CAA)
INAUGURAL CHAIR
THE 1754 SOCIETY

“Why? So tomorrow’s students can walk through the same doors that we did.”

“Why? So tomorrow’s students can walk through the same doors that we did.”

“My life opened up when I came to Columbia,” Case says. “I want others to have the same experience and that’s why I put Columbia in my estate plan.”

Join Steve Case and others in the 1754 Society, alumni and friends who have made bequests and other planned gifts to the University.

To learn more about Steve Case’s Columbia experience—and about planned giving—visit giving.columbia.edu/plannedgifts or call 800-338-3294.
Five accomplished alumni — Andrew Barth ’83, ’85 Business; Alexander Navab ’87; Kenneth Ofori-Atta ’84; Michael Oren ’77 and Elizabeth D. Rubin ’87 — were presented with 2011 John Jay Awards for distinguished professional achievement on March 2 at the annual John Jay Awards Dinner.

The diverse accomplishments of this year’s award-winners speak to the varied backgrounds and interests of College students and alumni.

Barth, Navab and Ofori-Atta are leaders in finance. Barth is the chairman of Capital Guardian Trust Co. and Capital International Limited, Navab is a partner and co-head of North American Private Equity for Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. and Ofori-Atta is the executive chairman and co-founder of Databank Financial Services. Oren has been the Ambassador of Israel to the United States since 2009, worked on a kibbutz in Israel as a teenager and served in the Israel Defense Forces in the 1982 Lebanon war. Rubin is an award-winning war correspondent and a contributing writer to *The New York Times* Magazine and other publications who has reported from the front lines in the Balkans, Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The black-tie dinner, attended by approximately 600 at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York, benefits the John Jay Scholars Program, which aims to extend and enhance the academic and extracurricular experiences of outstanding College first-years with panels, discussions and presentations by leading professors and professionals.

Leeza Mangaldas ’11, who spoke on behalf of the John Jay Scholars, many of whom attended the dinner, was born in a small fishing village in the Goa, India. “On the 16-hour plane ride to New York and Columbia, I could see my life was going to change,” she recalled. “Though the rural, sea-salt air made for an idyllic childhood, Columbia University in the City of New York seemed like the glorious antithesis to everything I’d known.” She praised the “astounding eloquence and passion” of Columbia faculty members and said, “At Columbia, the everyday is extraordinary.” An English major with a concentration in visual arts who has held summer internships in Hong Kong and Mumbai, Mangaldas plans to return to India after graduation and work in the film industry. (CCT profiled her in “Student Spotlight” in September/October 2008: college.columbia.edu/ct/sep_oct08.)

Board of Trustees Chair William V. Campbell ’62, ’64 TC welcomed the guests and introduced Columbia College Alumni Association Executive Committee member Kyra Tirana Barry ’87, who thanked those in attendance and announced that the dinner had raised nearly $1.5 million. Dean Michele Moody-Adams recognized the faculty in attendance, calling them “the heart of the institution,” and the students who were in the audience, saying, “All of us are very proud of your accomplishments and look forward to the day you can stand up here as recipients of this award.”

In his remarks, President Lee C. Bollinger said Columbia was at a historical moment in its 257-year history. The opening of the Northwest Corner interdisciplinary science building completes the original blueprint for the Morningside Heights campus at the same time that the courts cleared the way for Columbia to create “a new campus for this century” in Manhattanville. “This solves the space problem that Columbia has had for four or five decades,” Bollinger said. He also noted that the endowment had outpaced peer institutions by achieving a 17 percent gain last year and that the Columbia Campaign’s $4 billion goal had been reached more than a year early. Bollinger got a laugh when he added, “Naturally, we extended the campaign by two years and raised the goal to $5 billion.”

Ofori-Atta, who is from Ghana and whose business is based in its capital, Accra, is the first African-born recipient of a John Jay Award. He was pleased when Bollinger named Nairobi as a future site of a Columbia Global Center. “Africa is truly the next frontier, and Columbia should be taking the lead in bringing us into the community of states,” he said.

Five Alumni Honored at John Jay Awards Dinner

*By Alex Sachare ’71*

*Photos: Eileen Barroso*

From top: Honoree Elizabeth D. Rubin ’87 (right) with fellow journalist Christiane Amanpour; honorees Andrew Barth ’83, ’85 Business (left) and Michael Oren ’77; and honorees Alexander Navab ’87 and Kenneth Ofori-Atta ’84.
From top: Joining President Lee C. Bollinger (far left) and Dean Michele Moody-Adams following the presentation of citations are (left to right) honorees Andrew Barth ’83, ’85 Business, Kenneth Ofori-Atta ’84, Elizabeth D. Rubin ’87, Alexander Navab ’87 and Michael Oren ’77; students played a prominent role in the ceremony as presenters and speakers, including (left to right) Warren McGee ’11, Alicia Outing ’11, Vesal Yazdi ’11, Leeza Mangaldas ’11, Francesca Triani ’11 and Alexander Moll ’11; Mangaldas represented all John Jay Scholars in addressing the crowd of about 600 at Cipriani 42nd Street, which is in an ornate former bank branch; and Moody-Adams praised the faculty in attendance, describing them as “the heart of the institution.”
Columbia’s curriculum has helped the College develop a reputation as one of the world’s great liberal arts institutions. The Core Curriculum, which dates to 1919, immerses students in great works of philosophy, literature, art and music and “creates a stable foundation because it is organized around timeless themes expressed in works that are unlikely to go out of style,” according to a recent Wall Street Journal article touting Columbia’s method.

Alumni who frequently come to mind when people think about Columbia College include Barack Obama ’83 and Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, ’76L; Allen Ginsberg ’48 and Paul Auster ’69, ’70 GSAS; Richard Rodgers ’23, Oscar Hammerstein II ’16 and Lorenz Hart ’18; Tom Kitt ’96 and Brian Yorkey ’93; Claire Shipman ’86, ’94 SIPA and Maggie Gyllenhaal ’99; Herman Wouk ’34 and Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS — people who have made their marks in the worlds of politics, law, the arts and the humanities.

But the College also is a leader when it comes to the sciences, turning out Nobel-prize winning research and graduating students who become not only top doctors but also groundbreaking researchers on subjects ranging from the molecular structure of substances in our daily experience to large scale processes that play out in the farthest reaches of space. Now Dean Michele Moody-Adams — working with the new Arts and Sciences science dean Amber Miller, the chairs of the science departments and other academic leaders — is launching a planning and fundraising effort to enhance undergraduate course offerings and research opportunities in science.

“Instilling an understanding of science is essential for the College’s mission of preparing students to live fully engaged lives as citizens and leaders,” Moody-Adams said. “Given the increasing importance of science to our daily lives and to issues facing the globe, we are intensifying our focus on developing scientific literacy for nonmajors as well as majors, and offering science majors the most challenging and rewarding science education possible. We hope to renew Columbia College’s commitment to providing our students with the best education in the liberal arts and sciences.”

With what President Lee C. Bollinger has described as fitting symbolism, Columbia devoted its last piece of buildable space on its main campus to the Northwest Corner Building, an interdisciplinary science center that is home to lecture halls, a library and cutting-edge laboratories where leading scientists train the next generation of Nobel laureates.

In this issue, current students, faculty members and one alumna discuss research projects on subjects as varied as the sense of touch, nanotechnology, forest ecology and statistics.
Clockwise from top: Professor Martin Chalfie examines the sense of touch in worms; Joanna Wang ’11 (right) studies the behavior of mice with Rahila Mashoodh ’13 GSAS; Meredith Martin ’09 takes a brief respite from the field to work in the lab; Professor Andrew Gelman explores the world through statistics with GSAS student Zach Shahn; Professor Maria Uriarte and a researcher examine the forests of Brazil; Hechen Ren ’11 studies the properties of graphene; and Martin examines agave plants in Mexico.

Photos, clockwise from top: Ethan Rouen ’04J, ’11 Business; Courtesy Joanna Wang ’11; Courtesy Meredith Martin ’09; Michael Malecki; Courtesy Maria Uriarte; Ethan Rouen ’04J, ’11 Business; Courtesy Meredith Martin ’09
Markrete Krikorian ’11 knew that she loved chemistry in high school. But when she entered the College and enrolled in general chemistry, she worried that she would be behind the many classmates already taking advanced organic chemistry early in their Columbia careers.

“I told myself I’ll somehow manage and make my own way,” she says. “I was glad I started with general chemistry because it was good to be continuous and go from beginning to end at Columbia.”

In the process, she completed laboratory work that might have seemed to be extra credit. But Krikorian took the extra work as a way of figuring out where her passions were. By the summer after her first year, she was working in the organic materials lab of Professor Colin Nuckolls ’98 GSAS.

Three years later, she still is working in the lab and trying to choose from among the eight top graduate programs to which she was accepted.

“This lab experience was an integral part of deciding to go to grad school,” she says.

Krikorian, a Queens, N.Y., native, has worked on a variety of projects in the lab. Most recently, she has been studying the conductivity of stilbenes, molecules that could have applications in the field of nanocircuitry.

Krikorian is using stilbenes as a model system to understand the way conduction works at small scales (a billionth of a meter). “The problem with nanocircuits is that they don’t conduct consistently and so a lot of energy is lost. If we can understand the mechanism of conductance at the nanoscale, we can bring nanoelectronics to the forefront,” Krikorian says. “Using a compound versus using a metal or rare element would be beneficial in many ways. It’s going to be a lot cheaper, a lot more environmentally friendly, and stilbene derivatives are easy to make and mass produce.”

Until her junior year of high school, Krikorian wanted to be a writer. Indeed, she still writes daily and hopes that writing will be part of her life no matter what field she selects.

Given her varied interests, choosing Columbia made sense to Krikorian because it offered an excellent liberal arts curriculum as well as opportunities to be involved in the research being carried out by Columbia’s outstanding scientists.

Krikorian says that in addition to her work in the lab, she has benefited from Columbia’s small, friendly Chemistry department and from the chance to take graduate level courses, which have given her a taste of what her future in graduate school will be like.

“The most important thing for me has been not to think of one path as the right thing to do but doing what is right for you,” she says. “Chemistry is what I really liked, and I’m not doing it because it’s a stable job. I do it because I want to be happy.”

Nobel Prize Winner and Professional Worm Tickler

Martin Chalfie may be best known for winning the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2008, but the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Biological Sciences also is “the world expert on tickling worms.”

Chalfie shared the Nobel for the work he does with GFP, a fluorescent protein found in some jellyfish. Chalfie showed that other organisms given the jellyfish gene could make functional GFP. Investigators could then see the green cells or green proteins within living tissues.

This discovery has far reaching consequences in biology, influencing work in genetics, developmental biology and cell biology as well as giving insight into disease processes such as cancer. With GFP, scientists can label specific cells and track their progress, whether it’s how a specific cell grows or how it moves through a body.

Chalfie came across GFP while doing the research that has consumed much of his career examining the sense of touch in animals.

“For the most part, we don’t know how we respond through these physical senses,” he says, “and that leads to one of the very big questions of sensory biology: How does an organism interact with its surroundings?”

Using worms, he and his team of researchers look for mutants that are insensitive to touch, either by tickling them with an eyebrow hair or poking them with a wire. When they come across these mutants, they clone their genes to find out what has gone wrong and identify the components that allow animals to sense touch. Chalfie’s work has led to a recent paper in which his lab identified the first molecule in an animal nerve cell that allows it to respond to mechanical stimuli.

While Chalfie has been doing groundbreaking work, he is also a generous teacher who allows Columbia College undergraduates to join in his research and provide meaningful contributions during their time in the laboratory.

Students often start out screening for mutants, which does not require extensive training but is a vital part of the process and often gets them hooked on the research.

This summer, Chalfie will have three undergraduates working with him, Isaac Johnson ’14, Geneva Miller ’13 and Alexis Tchaconas ’14, as well as numerous graduate students.

“I like to have first-year students work in the lab because if things work, they can continue working on the project for several years if they wish,” he says. “I have had undergraduates in the lab who have been integral parts of work and who have been co-authors on papers. We have also had really outstanding students who worked in the lab and nothing came from their work, but they developed into wonderful scientists and physicians.”
How Environment Molds DNA

While mice may not be able to lie on a couch and squawk about their problems, they can provide valuable insight into how an animal’s environment can alter the way in which it develops, as psychology major Joanna Wang ’11 is showing.

For two years, Wang has been working in the lab of psychology professor Frances Champagne, examining how mice are affected by the environment in which they are raised.

“We now know more that the environment plays a significant role in affecting behavior,” Wang says. “Not only are we passing on our DNA to our children but also our experiences and our behaviors influence them.”

Wang’s experiments, which are the basis of her senior thesis, involve examining two sets of mice, one that is raised in isolation and one that is raised in a communal setting. She hopes the results of the study, which is not yet complete, will reveal some of the social experiences that can alter the DNA in animals, changing their behaviors and the behaviors of future generations.

Wang plans to continue doing research in the fall when she starts medical school. Although she is still waiting to hear from some of the schools to which she applied, she already has been accepted to several schools, including Stanford.

She has been working in labs for some time and began her science career at a science and technical high school in Washington, D.C., where she was raised. The influence of her teachers in high school guided her to Columbia because of her many interests.

“They really stressed that to succeed, you needed to take courses outside your field of interest,” Wang says. “Columbia has a great science program, but it was the Core Curriculum that really appealed to me. I always enjoyed literature and philosophy, and that tradition drew me to Columbia.”

The World Is Her Laboratory

While most people are lucky if they land one job that makes people say, “How cool!” Meredith Martin ’09 is developing a career with one fascinating project after the next.

Martin, who majored in Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, began doing meaningful, in-depth research the summer after her sophomore year at the College, when she completed a Research Experience for Undergraduates project at the American Museum of Natural History. Working as a lab technician, she studied the genetics of sea turtle populations.

“That’s one thing that’s great about going to school in New York,” she says. “You have access to all these great institutions.”

As part of the Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology curriculum, Martin, who grew up in Brooklyn, spent a summer doing research in the mountains of Mexico. The results of that research became the basis of her senior thesis. Working with adjunct professor Charles Peters, who also is the Kate E. Tode Curator of Botany at the Institute of Botany at the New York Botanical Garden, Martin studied the basic ecology of agave, which is used in tequila as well as a high-end liquor, mescal.

She collaborated with a local NGO to figure out what influences the plants’ growth and how to most effectively improve yields while ensuring sustainability. Her work revealed that cattle trampling the plants did the most harm.

“It was nice to be able to show definitively that it’s actually a factor and submit results to the community,” Martin says. “The findings had an effect on the farmers’ methods.”

The offerings in the E3B department were what initially drew Martin to the College, but the opportunity to take a wide-ranging curriculum sealed the deal.

“I liked the idea of having to take all these humanities classes that I wouldn’t necessarily have taken if I didn’t have the requirements,” she says.

Martin is now in the Master of Forest Science program at the Yale School of Forestry, supported by a fellowship from the New York Botanical Garden. She continues to work with Professor Peters, although she is now studying how the growth of the camu camu fruit in the Peruvian Amazon is being affected by the fruit’s increasing popularity.

Applying Physics to Daily Life

Hechen Ren ’11’s work in physics could seem abstruse even to a high school science teacher. But Ren’s time at Columbia College has allowed her to become a well-rounded student despite spending many hours in the laboratory.

Ren, who grew up in China, first fell in love with Columbia on a visit to New York while she was a high school student. Enchanted by the cultural offerings of the city and the Core Curriculum, she knew that the College would provide the broad education she was seeking, as well the kind of students with whom she could comfortably share her ideas.

“I was really into philosophy, and I thought that the Core would be the way to force myself to learn,” she says. “Everyone is learning the same thing, reading the same books, and we discuss them. I knew that if I wanted to come to a new country, I wanted to find the best way to learn about the culture.”
How People Impact the Growth of Forests

Assistant Professor of E3B Maria Uriarte studies the ways in which forests regrow after humans abandon agriculture, and the effect of this process on the community composition genetics of plant species. She wonders whether biodiversity can be preserved as human beings encroach upon, and then retreat from, nature. She also investigates the ways in which climate change alters our relationship with the natural world.

Uriarte, who teaches in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, does her research in the tropical forests of Puerto Rico, Brazil and Peru. Her work is an attempt to understand the effects of human interactions with forests in time to prevent further damage.

“People are moving away from agricultural land all over the world,” she says. “To what degree can these forests that grow after agricultural abandonment resemble the primary tropical forests that were once there?”

In Puerto Rico, Uriarte is examining the regrowth of forests that were once cleared to grow coffee, tobacco and sugar. She is trying to find out if new forests will support the biodiversity of the original primary forests, as well as offer the benefits that tropical forests provide to humans, such as clean water and carbon uptake. This is an issue of global importance because the area of degraded and secondary forests in the tropics covers an estimated 850 million hectares and is likely to increase.

In Brazil, Uriarte explores how forest regrowth between remnant fragments of primary forest influences the genetic structure of the species that have survived inside of these fragments. She expects deep insights from this project because genetic data dates back 13 years, making it possible to see firsthand what the genetic composition of species in remnant fragments looked like before and after
the pastures originally cleared in areas surrounding the fragments became reforested. Deforestation in the tropics is continuing at rates that lack historical precedent resulting in the extensive fragmentation of species-rich rain forests. Insights from Uriarte’s project are likely to be relevant to what is happening to forests in other areas.

Uriarte’s work in Peru involves not only biologists but also anthropologists and climate scientists. For centuries, farmers in the Peruvian Amazon have used burning to manage agricultural fields, and more recently, to clear and clean pastures. Yet the landscapes of the region are being rapidly transformed by clearing for large-scale plantation agriculture, especially biofuel production, by extensive ranching and by new patterns of smaller-scale land uses by non-Amazonian migrants who arrive in large numbers from the coast and highlands of Peru. Large fires escaped from burning fields and pastures have become common dry season events that ravage forests, farms and settlements in much of Amazonia and recently, these destructive fires have become a major problem along this region.

The immediate causes of increased fire susceptibility reflect a variety of changes in economic policies. The policies at stake have affected agricultural development and land settlement in the Amazon Basin, and led to rising prices for tropical commodities including biofuels that might serve as substitutes for petroleum products. Many of these changes result from a series of enacted policies and decisions taken on national and local levels. The disruptions produced by rapid land use and demographic transformations are compounded by the uncertainties of a changing climate. Uriarte’s team aims to quantify the critical factors driving the increased incidence of fires. The researchers are trying to determine whether the fires are the result of droughts, or of recent changes in land use, or perhaps of the management practices of new migrants.

“As scientists, we like to deal with one thing at a time,” she says. “Right now, so much is happening at once that that is impossible. What’s the effect of climate change on forests? Legacies of human land use? Development policies? There are so many important questions. The trick is to identify which ones we must manage to preserve biodiversity, critical ecosystem services and human livelihoods.”

Ethan Rouen ’04J, ’11 Business is associate editor for Columbia College Today. His last cover story, about internships at the College, was published in the January/February issue.

Frontiers of Science Broadens the Liberal Arts Education

The seniors who will graduate from Columbia College this May were not yet born when Columbia first began to consider how to add a science component to the Core Curriculum. The debate began in 1982, when Professor David Helfand, now the chair of the Department of Astronomy, was asked to head the Committee on the Place of Science in a Liberal Curriculum.

“When I got here in 1977, I was delighted to see that the faculty actually had the temerity to say, These ideas are important, these books are important, and I don’t care what you are majoring in, you will all do this together,” he says. “I was simultaneously appalled that this Core Curriculum, which was advertised in the catalog as the intellectual arms of the University and preparation for life as an intelligent citizen, consisted of seven humanities courses, zero math courses, zero science courses and zero social science courses.”

For 22 years, Helfand worked with faculty, administrators and alumni, many of whom had a deep emotional attachment to the Core as it was, in an effort to create a science component for the Core Curriculum. The basic goals of the project were “to show students that science is interesting because of the things we don’t understand, not the set of facts that we do,” and “to inculcate in them a set of quantitative reasoning skills that many students lack,” he says.

In 2004, Columbia launched the Frontiers of Science course on a trial basis. In this one-semester class, which College students generally take in either the fall or spring semesters of their first year, students attend a series of lectures presented by noted senior faculty on current research, and then meet in smaller seminar-style groups to discuss the topics covered.

The topics change every year as research advances. More than 30 tenured professors have taught the course, and each lecture must be rehearsed twice in front of the faculty before it is presented to the students.

“‘Understanding scientific methods of argument and inquiry is an important requirement of citizenship in the 21st century,’” says Dean Michele Moody-Adams. "Frontiers of Science seeks to develop that understanding so that students graduate from the College able to participate responsibly in those political, social and economic debates that require some awareness of the nature and goals of modern science.”

Frontiers recently underwent an initial five-year review, and it continues to be revised, in a process that Helfand says he hopes will never cease.

Moody-Adams has approved a second, more extensive review of Frontiers of Science. External reviewers will join Columbia faculty in examining the course’s content and methods to ensure that it fully embodies the goals of the College’s Core Curriculum.

—E.R.
GURU OF Climate Change LAW

When an island nation is threatened with extinction due to rising waters, Michael Gerrard ’72 is the man to call

BY SHIRA BOSS ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA

Leaders of the Marshall Islands, alarmed that their country is slowly disappearing into the Pacific Ocean due to rising waters caused by climate change, recently turned to environmental lawyer Michael Gerrard ’72 for help.

Gerrard, renowned in the field of environmental law and especially climate change law, returned to Columbia from private practice two years ago to teach at the Law School and head the new Center for Climate Change Law (columbiaclimatelaw.com), the first of its kind. Its mission is to develop legal techniques and resources to help governments, companies and even individuals fight global warming and cope with its impact.

Gerrard visited the Marshall Islands late last year and witnessed the vulnerabilities firsthand. The capital, Majuro, rises only a few feet above sea level on an island whose width is roughly the distance between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue on the Columbia campus. It’s not just an outright disappearance underwater that threatens habitability but also erosion from rising tides, pounding by increasingly severe tropical storms, and salt water infiltrating the drinking water supply, which are already happening.

Among the Marshall Islands’ legal concerns, which they share with other small island nations are: Where would their citizens go, with what citizenship status, if and when their country becomes uninhabitable? Would the country retain fishing and mineral rights? Would it still be a country at all?

“The questions were so novel and difficult and numerous that they were beyond our capabilities to answer on our own,” says Gerrard, the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice, referring to the Center for Climate Change Law’s small staff of student interns, four fellows and two visiting scholars. Instead, Gerrard put out an international call for papers — answered by 77 scholars in 23 countries — and organized a conference to be held at Columbia on May 23–25, “Threatened Island Nations: Legal Implications of a Changing Climate.”

It’s not just encroaching oceans that are a concern worldwide, says Gerrard. Climate change has grown into one of the most vital problems affecting the earth. Gerrard has been heavily involved in the issue for several years and has worked at the forefront of environmental law since its inception in the 1970s. He has written nine books on specific areas of environmental law, including the first and definitive volume on U.S. climate change law, and he has represented scores of corporate, municipal and nonprofit clients in environmental actions.

“There’s overwhelming scientific evidence that humans are causing changes to the climate and that these changes will have a significant negative impact,” Gerrard says. He believes that legal techniques are among the most effective tools to change patterns of energy production and use and address climate change.

Gerrard came of age in an industrial area of Charleston, W.Va., heavily polluted with discharge from chemical plants. While he was an undergrad, the country was just waking up to the importance of environmental protection. In 1970, the first Earth Day was celebrated, the Environmental Protection Agency was founded and Congress passed key legislation such as the Clean Air Act.

“In the shadow of Vietnam, there was a lot of attention paid
Signs of the damage caused by rising waters due to climate change are everywhere in the Marshall Islands. Top: Michael Gerrard '72 stands on a beach where much of the sand has been washed away, exposing the trees’ roots and threatening their survival. Middle left: Gerrard examines a building whose underpinnings are endangered by rising waters. Middle right: One of many gravestones that have been damaged by the encroaching seas. Immediate right: Gerrard and Martha Campbell, U.S. ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Far right: Back home in Chappaqua, N.Y., Gerrard with his wife, Barbara, supervisor of the Town of New Castle, and their sons, William '05, '12 Arts (second from right) and David '03, '07 Arts.

PHOTOS: DERRAIN COOK (MARSHALL ISLANDS), LORI SACHARE (FAR RIGHT)
to reforming society and controlling corporate conduct,” Gerrard says. “It became clear that the environmental problems of the country resulted not only from engineering failures but also from political and legal failures, and that political and legal action was a necessary component of fighting environmental decline.”

A political science major, Gerrard initially pursued a career in journalism. He was a writer and editor at *Spectator* and worked in the summers and after graduation for the *Charleston Gazette* and the Charleston bureau of the Associated Press.

But a seminar he took during his junior year, “Institute in American Politics and Social Change,” taught by Alan F. Westin, led him to his eventual field of environmental law. In Westin’s course, Gerrard studied the problem of air pollution in West Virginia. That research turned into his senior thesis, “The Politics of Air Pollution in West Virginia,” for which he won the Alan J. Wil- len Memorial Prize for the best thesis on American politics.

After his stint in journalism, Gerrard came back to New York in 1973 to be a policy analyst at the Council on the Environment of New York City, affiliated with the Office of the Mayor. He became involved in the Westway case, the biggest development controversy in New York City in the ’70s. It involved a proposal to build an interstate highway on the far West Side that would have included a landfill in the Hudson River and cost about $2 billion. “At a time when the New York subway and bus systems were falling apart, this would have cost $10,000 a linear inch,” Gerrard says.

The battle helped inspire Gerrard to become a lawyer. “It became clear to me that this beast could best be fought in court and other legal arenas,” he says. “I watched lawyers use legal techniques to great effect.”

During law school at NYU, Gerrard interned at the Natural Resources Defense Council and remained involved in the Westway case, which was defeated in 1985 on environmental grounds. After he graduated from NYU Law in 1978 and went to work for Berle, Kass & Case, Gerrard’s experience with Westway “led to a string of cases representing municipalities and community organizations litigating against highways,” he says. He then used many of the same legal techniques to represent municipalities and citizens groups fighting hazardous, solid and radioactive waste landfills and incinerators.

A tagline for Gerrard’s career could be “Act Globally, Act Locally.”

When Gerrard attended law school, there was no environmental law program; the school’s entire offering on the subject was a single course taught by an adjunct. Gerrard has not only built his expertise working in the field but also has helped shape it through numerous books and articles, work with environmental advocates, teaching and now by forming and leading the Center for Climate Change Law.

“He’s always on the cutting edge,” says Deborah Goldberg, who worked with Gerrard at two law firms and now is managing attorney of Earthjustice, a nonprofit public interest law firm. “He’s written the book on any number of issues just as they were emerging, and is still doing it now, with the Center for Climate Change Law.”

Gerrard says he is the leading authority on environmental impact review in New York and that “the first time anyone with a question in that area does is to reach for Mike’s two-volume treatise.”


“He’s very unusual in not only the quality but the amount of his writing — books, articles and studies,” says Ross Sandler, professor of law at New York Law School, who was the adjunct who taught environmental law to Gerrard at NYU. “Many academic lawyers would envy his output over the years.” Sandler says part of what enabled Gerrard to be so prolific while practicing law full-time is that he “keeps voluminous files on every aspect of environmental law, and has them meticulously organized — he did the work of a computer even before computers.”

Gerrard has been ranked by Who’s Who Legal and in the *Guide to the World’s Leading Environmental Lawyers* as one of the top environmental lawyers in the world. Peers surveyed by the publication group Best Lawyers designated him the 2010 New York Environmental Lawyer of the Year. Their awards are given to the attorneys who have earned their peers’ highest respect for “their abilities, their professionalism and their integrity.”

“He has a really sophisticated perspective,” says Steve Cohen, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia. Gerrard was recruited to the faculty of both the Law School and the Earth Institute. “He understands the perspectives of interest groups, industry and environmentalists, and the details of environmental policy and law.”

Gerrard continues his professional practice part-time as senior counsel at Arnold & Porter, where he was previously managing partner of the New York office and head of its environmental practice. He has represented numerous real estate companies involved in proposed development projects, helping them navigate the environmental review process and get the permits they need. Since 2002, he has represented developer Larry Silverstein concerning the environmental issues regarding redevelopment of the World Trade Center site.

“Mike analyzes legal issues without favor or bias. He is the first person we all look to on a difficult or close issue in our field,” says Jim Periconi ’70, who met Gerrard when they attended NYU Law and who now runs a boutique environmental law firm in New York and remains a friend. “He’s given so much time and effort to nonprofits, and at the same time he has an impressive roster of corporate clients. He commands great respect in both camps — it’s rare for an environmental attorney to be so admired and trusted by such radically competing interests.”

Gerrard points out that the two sides are not always conflicting. “Many companies really do want to comply with environmental laws and want to know what they are and how to do that,” he says. “Silverstein wants to make the new towers green. For years, we’ve been working on the design and construction and operation being as environmentally friendly as possible.”

The towers now being erected at the former World Trade Center site will earn the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold certification or the equivalent, Gerrard says.

For several years in the mid-’90s, Gerrard represented the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) on a pro bono basis in litigation against the New York City Department of Sanitation for failure to implement the city’s recycling law. As a result of the
case and political pressure, recycling was expanded.

In 2008, he represented the NRDC in filing a petition — largely drafted by Gerrard — with the White House Council on Environmental Quality asking it to issue regulations requiring environmental impact statements to discuss greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. (The CEQ did issue proposed rules in February 2010.)

Gerrard has a reputation for tact and gentility, which make him a more influential attorney and advocate and also, colleagues say, a behavioral role model.

“Mike never gets frazzled,” Periconi says. “He’s the most generous of people in helping colleagues with the right way to approach a legal problem, providing sources of information you didn’t know existed, telling you the right people to call on an issue … and yet he’s supremely modest about his accomplishments. I’ve never heard anyone say a negative word about Mike Gerrard — ever.”

Gerrard taught courses as an adjunct at the Law School, NYU Law and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies before joining the faculties of the Law School and the Earth Institute full-time at the beginning of 2009.

“I came to feel climate change is one of the most serious issues facing humanity, and since I have some expertise, I felt an obligation to devote myself to helping devise solutions and train the next generation of leaders in the field,” Gerrard says. “There’s too much to be done, and not enough people to do it.”

Cohen says Gerrard is truly interested in education and is a popular teacher, whose courses on environmental law, climate change law and energy law are always full.

“What he brings to the classroom is his enormous experience from the time environmental law started, so students get the benefit of knowing what went on and how we got to where we are today,” Sandler says.

Students say Gerrard, who can come across as staid before getting to know him, makes even lecture courses lively and interactive. He will play YouTube videos to bring the material to life, and has brought in bumper stickers from oppositional campaigns and original documents from cases for show and tell. “He’s quite funny, and intersperses anecdotes from his years of experience in the field throughout the class,” says Ben Schifman ’11L. “He’s been involved in many of the foundational environmental law cases we read in the case books — you are unlikely to have a professor who can do that in other fields such as, say, property law, which was largely developed centuries ago.”

While student interest in pursuing environmental careers has been growing during the past decade or so — enrollments in related courses have increased, and the College added a major in sustainable development in 2010 — neither the school nor Gerrard fully anticipated his reception on campus. For 18 spots available in the spring 2010 semester for his “Seminar on Energy Law,” a fully anticipated his reception on campus. For 18 spots available in the spring 2010 semester for his “Seminar on Energy Law,” a fully anticipated his reception on campus. For 18 spots available in the spring 2010 semester for his “Seminar on Energy Law,” a fully anticipated his reception on campus. For 18 spots available in the spring 2010 semester for his “Seminar on Energy Law,” a fully anticipated his reception on campus. For 18 spots available in the spring 2010 semester for his “Seminar on Energy Law,” a fully anticipated his reception on campus. For 18 spots available in the spring 2010 semester for his “Seminar on Energy Law,” a fully anticipated his reception on campus.

Gerrard says. “There’s too much to be done, and not enough people to do it.”

A tagline for Gerrard’s career could be “Act Globally, Act Locally.” At the same time that he has been working on the plight of drowning island nations, he was one of six private citizens appointed to work on the issue closer to home, as part of New York State’s Sea Level Rise Task Force. “The sea is rising and rising at an accelerating rate,” he says. “By the end of the century, the rise could be quite significant for low-lying cities, including New York.” Regarding his wide-ranging involvement in the field, he states simply, “There are a lot of balls to juggle.”

Colleagues marvel at how much Gerrard accomplishes, and at the way he does it. Periconi says, “I think of Mike as perhaps the best exemplar of the mix of qualities promoted by a Columbia education: a spirit of intellectual adventurousness, tremendous public mindedness, contributing to the commonweal and not all that focused on promoting his own career yet with outstanding professional accomplishment.”

Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA is a contributing writer to CCT.
Club sports participants are Columbia’s oft-overlooked athletes. They are rarely written up in Spectator, and their games are not broadcast on WKCR. They aren’t recognized by fellow students when they walk across campus, nor do large crowds usually throng to their games.

But they are everywhere, and their groups are growing in size, stature and skill. More than 1,600 students participate in club sports at Columbia, nearly double the number who are on the 31 varsity squads.

There are 38 club teams on campus — from archery to kayaking, from racquetball to table tennis — and each team is entirely student-run. Students raise the money for uniforms, they make hotel and travel arrangements for tournaments, they network with alumni and they balance up to 15 hours a week of practice with their academic responsibilities.

“You do everything,” says Marie Johnson ’12 Barnard, president of the Sailing Club. “And you’re not just an athlete. You learn to communicate, to organize, to fundraise. You learn more skills than just what you need to succeed at your sport.”

Club sports are not intramurals, which are loosely organized games among friends that sometimes are played on South Lawn. Rather, club teams are well-run squads with an informative website (columbia.edu/cu/clubsports) and significant budgets that train at Athletic Department facilities and compete against other colleges — often including varsity teams — up and down the East Coast and beyond.

They are open to all Columbia undergraduate and graduate students; even a handful of faculty and staff participate, though the vast majority of athletes are enrolled at the College, Barnard and Engineering.
Kerry Morrison ’11 (seated), captain and president of the Columbia Sailing Club in 2009 and 2010, with Weston Friedman ’08 in one of the new boats that are the result of club members’ fundraising efforts.
Though records often are fuzzy, club sports on campus date back to at least the 1920s, according to Athletics Department officials. Interest in particular teams has ebbed and flowed across the decades, but Morningside Heights has remained a welcoming home to organized non-varsity sports.

In recent years, the number of students participating has steadily grown, from 1,241 in 2006 to 1,391 in 2009 to 1,649 this academic year. For many of those students, the ability to play their favorite sport on campus even factors into their decision of which college to attend.

“I started taking martial arts classes when I was 5 and was a black belt by 9,” says Miyako Yerick ’12, president of the Tae Kwon Do Club. “It became more than just a sport to me; it was as much about the mental aspects as it was the physical. I loved that combination. I loved how it made me feel absolutely in control.

“It is a part of who I am,” adds Yerick, who grew up in the Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. “There was no question that I would compete while in college.”

However, club sports also cater to a different sort of athlete, the one who is eager to try something new.

“There are two categories of people who join club sports,” says Alexandra Voss ’11 Barnard, president of Columbia’s Club Sports Governing Board. “First, there are those who have been doing a sport a long time, usually in high school, and they want to continue to compete at a pretty high level. But there are others who get to a campus as a freshman and say ‘Hey, equestrian, I want to give that a shot.’ We are delighted to cater to those types of students, too. That’s the beauty of club sports.”

Twenty-seven sports offer co-ed squads for students to join, while rugby, water polo, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee and ice hockey have separate men’s and women’s teams. Lacrosse is available as a club for men (it’s a varsity sport for women). The Athletics Department provides space and support for the club teams, who rent the space themselves.

“Students can start a new club team at any time,” says Brian Jines, director of intramural and club sports. “If enough students come forward in an organized fashion and with a detailed plan and budget, we’re happy to entertain the idea of a new team.”

According to a University bylaw established in the 1970s, there cannot be a club team in a sport that already has a varsity squad — so, for example, no basketball, baseball or soccer. However, a few older clubs that duplicate a varsity team, such as archery, have been grandfathered in.

All club teams are managed the same way. They each nominate four student officers who run their respective teams with the assistance of the Club Sports Governing Board, which is staffed by four elected undergraduates. Though Athletics Department officials are happy to provide guidance, the students run the show.

“Each club is only as strong as its students,” says Johnson. “That’s an amazing thing. And I know the students want to be as strong as possible.”

The entire club sports program, which has an annual budget of approximately $600,000, is funded in two ways. About one-third comes from a program known as Funding at Columbia, which is money collected from student fees that is distributed by a consortium of student councils. This year, that program — known informally as F@CU — is expected to distribute about $246,000. The other two-thirds is generated by the teams themselves through a combination of student dues, team fundraisers, alumni donations and, yes, even bake sales.

“There’s a wide range in what teams need to raise,” says Voss, who is from Cambridge, Mass. “For, say, equestrian and sailing, those are expensive sports that require teams to raise a lot of money. But for the road runners, who use very little equipment, they charge one $10 fee per student and they have all they need.”

Voss, a former president of the Tae Kwon Do Club, highlighted the need for increased alumni involvement to ensure the continued health of most teams.

“The biggest challenge for a club sport, by far, is the high turnover rate,” she says. “It’s not like a varsity sport, which has the Athletics Department infrastructure. These are student-run teams and those students graduate. The alums, though, can be a constant presence.”

Many former students agree. Some teams, like rugby, have long-established alumni organizations whose members help students with everything from fundraising to career counseling. But many others don’t have that in place, and a group of alumni is trying to change that.

“Unlike the varsity sports, where a lot is done for you by the school, these students are doing everything on their own,” says Dave Filosa ’82, a member of the varsity crew team while at Columbia who now is a partner at Morningside Securities, an investment banking firm. “It’s a very self-motivated group who do it for themselves. There’s little glory to be had, even if they win a championship.

“What they do is really impressive,” he adds. “We want alums, especially those who played a club sport themselves, to see that and ask themselves, ‘What can we do to help?’”

Filosa is drawing upon his experiences with the King’s Crown Rowing Association, an alumni group founded in 1983 that allowed graduates to not only keep alive their love affair with crew but also to connect with their successors at the school. He is hoping to build similar bridges between alumni and the teams on which they played.

“The goal here, at first, is to set up a framework so that the students are able to communicate in more direct ways with alums,” says Filosa, who is a member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors. “Some teams haven’t kept great records, so it’s hard to reconnect with alums. We want..."
to make that easier.

“We want to establish a relationship between club sports and the Alumni Association,” he says. “If we get greater involvement and interaction … well, the money will come from the alums someday, too, and that will really help the teams.”

Some teams have taken the initiative. Earlier this year, the Tae Kwon Do Club hosted its second annual alumni dinner, and the graduates returned to Morningside Heights bearing valuable advice.

“For any student who has a question, there’s an alum who has an answer,” says Yerick, who added that one of her team’s instructors is a Columbia graduate, Roshan Bharwaney ’05 TC. “It’s nice to have them around and to go to them for the answer. They’ve been around the block and know what they’re talking about.”

Perhaps the greatest recent success of alumni and students working together to improve a club team came last year, when the Sailing Club needed a new fleet of boats. With some guidance from an alumni board, the team set upon an ambitious plan of cold-calling and letter-writing to Sailing Club alumni, capped off with a fundraising dinner. All told, they brought in about $115,000, well more than the $55,000 needed for the fleet of 10 new 14-foot-long boats.

“It was the hardest thing we’ve done but also the most rewarding,” says Johnson, the team president, who is from Seattle. “We tried to build up a base of alums to contact, and they responded and made this happen.”

Members of the 30-person sailing team rent a van three times a week from September to November and again in March and April and drive north to City Island in the Bronx, where they practice on the waters of Long Island Sound. They compete nearly every weekend at schools such as Cornell, Dartmouth and the Naval Academy, but now, thanks to the new boats, they soon will be able to welcome their rivals to their own turf, or more accurately, water.

“We’ve put Columbia University on the sailing map,” says Johnson, her voice brimming with pride. “Now, we can finally host regattas, too.”

Columbia hosted one in April and will host two more in the fall, including an alumni regatta in October.

“We’ve heard from so many alums who tell us, ‘We always wanted to do this — to buy these boats, to host these races — but you guys were the ones to finally make it happen.’ It’s such a feeling of pride and accomplishment,” says Johnson. Members of the team also will start teaching a sailing physical education class for undergraduates.

An article in Spectator last fall posed the question of whether the sailing squad would consider petitioning to become a varsity sport, an opportunity another club team recently jumped at. Completing a process that began nearly a decade earlier, the men’s Squash Club and the women’s Squash Club each were granted approval to elevate to the varsity level for the 2010–11 season.

In order for a team to make the leap, Jines explains, it must have high levels of success and participation as well as comply with pertinent NCAA and Title IX rules. It then needs the approval of the Athletics Department and the Faculty Athletic Committee, which governs the sports programs at the school.

“It was a really proud moment for the club sports program, the Athletics Department and the school when the squash clubs were elevated,” says Jines, who notes that an elevation to varsity is a rare event. The last team to do so was softball in 2001.

Both squash teams fared well in their debut varsity seasons. The men’s squad went 13–5 while the women went 12–6, and each team sent competitors to the national championship meets in March.

“We were the last Ivy League school not to have a varsity squad,” says Liz Chu ’12, a captain of the women’s team, who grew up in New York City. “The alums were pushing for it, and the players were on board completely. It’s a lot more work but the trade-off is worth it. We have extra resources now: stipends for food, free uniforms and transportation, and tutors if you’re having a little trouble with a class.

“It’s a great level of prestige,” says Chu, whose team will compete in a full Ivy League schedule next year. “It’s something we wanted.”

Will sailing be next to make the move to varsity status? Not necessarily.

“Do we have the school support and funding we need to make it happen? Yes, on both fronts,” Johnson says. “I can understand why some teams want to make the move, but I don’t think it’s right for us.”

Several of the nation’s top sailing teams, like Brown’s squad, are club level and not varsity, she explains. And if the team leaves the realm of club sports behind, Johnson fears that what her team would gain in resources it would lose in control.

“Students wouldn’t be running everything anymore,” she says. “And I’m afraid we’d no longer have one of the key elements of our team: We bring freshmen onto our boats who have never been on the water, and we know we’re training our future captains.

“They’ll learn and grow into that role,” says Johnson, “and I think that’s what club sports are all about.”

Did you participate in club sports at Columbia? Today’s clubs would like to hear from their alumni. Contact Brian Jines, director of intramural and club sports, at bj2149@columbia.edu, and he will forward your note to the respective club leaders.

Jonathan Lemire ’01 is a staff writer for the New York Daily News.
Brian Greene explores parallel universes and the deep laws of the cosmos in his latest book

Brian Greene, professor of mathematics and physics, is a theoretical physicist well-known for his discoveries in super-string theory, a field that (as Greene puts it) “has the potential to realize Einstein’s long-sought dream of a single, all-encompassing theory of the universe.” Greene also is the author of two bestselling books on cutting-edge physics. The first, The Elegant Universe: Superstrings, Hidden Dimensions, and the Quest for the Ultimate Theory, published in 2000, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and was translated into a Peabody Award-winning PBS series in 2004. Another, The Fabric of the Cosmos: Space, Time, and the Texture of Reality, published in 2004, also is being produced as a PBS series.

Greene’s latest volume, The Hidden Reality: Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos (Knopf, 2011), takes his investigations one step further. This time, he looks at the parallel universes that may surround us, in forms of infinite variety. In the following excerpt, Greene describes the big bang theory’s poetic but inevitable revelation: There is cosmic microwave radiation suffusing our universe, its atoms lingering on from the distant past.

A pioneering group of physicists in the mid-1900s realized that if you were to shut off the sun, remove the other stars from the Milky Way, and even sweep away the more distant galaxies, space would not be black. To the human eye it would appear black, but if you could see radiation in the microwave part of the spectrum, then every which way you turned you’d see a uniform glow. Its origin? The origin. Remarkably, these physicists discovered a pervasive sea of microwave radiation filling space that is a present-day relic of the universe’s creation. The story of this breakthrough recounts a phenomenal achievement of the big bang theory, but in time it also revealed one of the theory’s fundamental shortcomings and thus set the stage for the next major breakthrough in cosmology after the pioneering works of [Alexander] Friedmann and [Monsignor Georges-Henri] Lemaître: the inflationary theory.

Inflationary cosmology modifies the big bang theory by inserting an intense burst of enormously fast expansion during the universe’s earliest moments. This modification, as we will see, proves essential to explaining some otherwise perplexing features of the relic radiation. But more than that, inflationary cosmology is a key chapter in our story because scientists have gradually realized over the last few decades that the most convincing versions of the theory yield a vast collection of parallel universes, radically transforming the complexion of reality.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard
RELICS OF A HOT BEGINNING

George Gamow, a hulking six-foot-three Russian physicist known for important contributions to quantum and nuclear physics in the early twentieth century, was as quick-witted and fun-loving as he was hard-living (in 1932, he and his wife tried to defect from the Soviet Union by paddling across the Black Sea in a kayak stocked with a healthy assortment of chocolate and brandy; when bad weather sent the two scurrying back to shore, Gamow was able to fast-talk the authorities with a tale of the unfortunately failed scientific experiments he’d been undertaking at sea). In the 1940s, after having successfully slipped past the iron curtain (on dry land, with less chocolate and brandy), he settled in at Washington University in St. Louis, Gamow turned his attention to cosmology. With critical assistance from his phenomenally talented graduate student Ralph Alpher, Gamow’s research resulted in a far more detailed and vivid picture of the universe’s earliest moments than had been revealed by the earlier work of Friedmann (who had been Gamow’s teacher back in Leningrad) and Lemaitre. With a little modern updating, Gamow and Alpher’s picture looks like this.

Just after its birth, the stupendously hot and dense universe experienced a frenzy of activity. Space rapidly expanded and cooled, allowing a particle stew to congeal from the primordial plasma. For the first three minutes, the rapidly falling temperature remained sufficiently high for the universe to act like a cosmic nuclear furnace, synthesizing the simplest atomic nuclei: hydrogen, helium, and trace amounts of lithium. But with the passing of just a few more minutes, the temperature dropped to about 10⁷ Kelvin (K), roughly 10,000 times the surface temperature of the sun. Although immensely high by everyday standards, this temperature was too low to support further nuclear processes, and so from this time on the particle commotion largely abated. Forrons that followed, not much happened except that space kept expanding and the particle bath kept cooling.

Then, some 370,000 years later, when the universe had cooled to about 3000 K, half the sun’s surface temperature, the cosmic photons lost their atomic unions are electrically neutral. And since a plasma of electrically neutral composites allows photons to slip through like a hot knife through butter, the formation of atoms allowed the cosmic fog to clear and the luminous echo of the big bang to be released. The primordial photons have been streaming through space ever since.

Well, with one important caveat. Although no longer knocked to and fro by electrically charged particles, the photons have been subject to one other important influence. As space expands, things dilute and cool, including photons. But unlike particles of matter, photons don’t slow down when they cool; being particles of light, they always travel at light speed. Instead, when photons cool their vibrational frequencies decrease, which means they change color. Violet photons will shift to blue, then to green, to yellow, to red, and then into the infrared (like those visible with night goggles), the microwave (like those that heat food by bouncing around your microwave oven), and finally into the domain of radio frequencies.

As Gamow first realized and as Alpher and his collaborator Robert Herman worked out with greater fidelity, all this means that if the big bang theory is correct, then space everywhere should now be filled with remnants of the creation event, streaming every which way, whose vibrational frequencies are determined by how much the universe has expanded and cooled during the billions of years since they were released. Detailed mathematical calculations showed that the photons should have cooled close...
to absolute zero, placing their frequencies in the microwave part of the spectrum. For this reason, they are called the cosmic microwave background radiation.

I recently reread the papers of Gamow, Alpher, and Herman that in the late 1940s announced and explained these conclusions. They are marvels of theoretical physics. The technical analyses involved require hardly more than a grounding in undergraduate physics, and yet the results are profound. The authors concluded that we are all immersed in a bath of photons, a cosmic heirloom bequeathed to us by the universe’s fiery birth.

With that buildup, you may find it surprising that the papers were ignored. This was mostly because they were written during an era dominated by quantum and nuclear physics. Cosmology had yet to make its mark as a quantitative science, so the physics culture was less receptive to what seemed like fringe theoretical studies. To some degree, the papers also languished because of Gamow’s unusually playful style (the once modified the authorship of a paper he was writing with Alpher to include his friend the future Nobel laureate Hans Bethe, just to make the paper’s byline — Alpher, Bethe, Gamow — sound like the first three letters of the Greek alphabet), which resulted in some physicists taking him less seriously than he deserved. Try as they might, Gamow, Alpher, and Herman could not interest anyone in their results, let alone persuade astronomers to devote the significant effort required to attempt to detect the relic radiation they predicted. The papers were quickly forgotten.

In the early 1960s, unaware of the earlier work, the Princeton physicists Robert Dicke and Jim Peebles went down a similar path and also realized that the big bang’s legacy should be the presence of a ubiquitous background radiation filling space. Unlike the members of Gamow’s team, however, Dicke was a renowned experimentalist and so didn’t need to persuade anyone to seek the radiation observationally. He could do it himself. Together with his students David Wilkinson and Peter Roll, Dicke devised an experimental scheme to capture some of the big bang’s vestigial photons. But before the Princeton researchers could put their plan to the test, they received one of the most famous telephone calls in the history of science.

While Dicke and Peebles had been calculating, the physicists Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson at Bell Labs, less than thirty miles from Princeton, had been struggling with a radio communications antenna (coincidentally, it was based on a design Dicke had come up with in the 1940s). No matter what adjustments they made, the antenna hissed with a steady, unavoidable background noise. Penzias and Wilson were convinced that something was wrong with their equipment. But then came a serendipitous chain of conversations. It began with a talk Peebles gave in February 1965 at Johns Hopkins University, which was attended by the Carnegie Institution radio astronomer Kenneth Turner, who mentioned the results he heard Peebles present to his MIT colleague Bernard Burke, who happened to be in touch with Penzias at Bell Labs. Hearing of the Princeton research, the Bell Labs team realized that their antenna was hissing only because something was wrong with the equipment.

The Princeton group and the Bell Labs team agreed to publish their papers simultaneously in the prestigious Astrophysical Journal. The Princeton group discussed their theory of the background radiation’s cosmological origin, while the Bell Labs team reported, in the most conservative of language and with no mention of cosmology, the detection of uniform microwave radiation permeating space. Neither paper mentioned the earlier work of Gamow, Alpher, and Herman. For their discovery, Penzias and Wilson were awarded the 1978 Nobel Prize in physics.

Gamow, Alpher, and Herman were deeply dismayed, and in the years that followed struggled mightily to have their work recognized. Only gradually and belatedly has the physics community saluted their primary role in this monumental discovery.

THE UNCANNY UNIFORMITY OF ANCIENT PHOTONS

During the decades since it was first observed, the cosmic microwave background radiation has become a crucial tool in cosmological investigations. The reason is clear. In a great many fields, researchers would give their eyeteeth to have an unfettered, direct glimpse of the past. Instead, they generally have to piece together a view of remote conditions on the basis of evidence from remnants — weathered fossils, decaying parchments, or mummified remains. Cosmology is the one field in which we can actually witness history. The pinpoints of starlight we can see with the naked eye are streams of photons that have been traveling toward us for a few years or a few thousand. The light from more distant objects, captured by powerful telescopes, has been traveling toward us far longer, sometimes for billions of years. When you look at such ancient light, you are seeing — literally — ancient times. Those primeval comings and goings transpired far away, but the apparent large-scale uniformity of the universe argues strongly that what was happening there was also, on average, happening here.

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You Are My Heart and Other Stories by Jay Neugeboren  ’59. In this collection of short stories, Neugeboren raises questions about the complexities and mystery of life using diverse settings and various human relationships (Two Dollar Radio, $16).

Diary of a Dean by Herbert I. London  ’50. This memoir about London’s years as a professor and eventually founder and dean of a new college at NYU reveals how he balanced traditional Western standards of education with up-and-coming technologies (Hamilton Books, $14.99).

Thinking about Logic: Classic Essays edited by Steven M. Cahn ’63, Robert B. Talisse and Scott F. Akin. The editors present provocative articles in the philosophy of logic; they provide further background in the introduction and discussion questions (Westview Press, $24).

You Are My Heart and Other Stories by Jay Neugeboren  ’59. In this comic play about how opposites attract, Edward and Allison try to resolve their feelings for each other (Samuel French, Inc., $8.95).

Writing Yoga: A Guide to Keeping a Practice Journal by Bruce Black. 76. Part memoir, part instruction, Black’s debut delves into the nexus of yoga, writing and life (Rodmell Press, $14.95).

Humor 101 by Mitch Earleguine  ’86. This book offers an introduction to the role of humor in the sciences (Springer Publishing Co., $20).

Bangkok Vanishing: A Novel by Eric Rogers  ’87. Blake Lawrence, an ex-Force Recon Marine, husband and father, is blackmailed after a trip to help a Cambodian orphanage leads him into the Thailand bargirl culture and Bangkok’s criminal underground (Exotic Press, $15.99).

Sweet Justice: A Jake Neuman Mystery by Jerry Oster  ’64. Homicide detective Jake Neuman and his partner, Bobby Redfield, investigate the murder of a small-time crook and become embroiled in further trouble (PageTurner, $12.95).

Embraceable Me by Victor Cahn  ’69. This novel tells the story of how he stumbled into a career as a prominent sportswriter includes insight into the lessons he learned from athletes and his personal heroes (Yale University Press, $24).

An Accidental Sportswriter: A Memoir by Robert Lipsyte  ’57. Lipsyte’s story of how he stumbled into a career as an accidential sportswriter leads him as self-centered, but Charyn is more sympathetic (CreateSpace, $25.99).

Joe DiMaggio: The Long Vigil by Jerome Charyn  ’59. After DiMaggio retired from baseball, some writers criticized his private life and labeled him as self-centered, but Charyn is more sympathetic (Yale University Press, $24).

Journalism and Other Atrocities: An Irreverent Memoir by Arthur M. Louis  ’59. After four decades in journalism, the author recounts the behind-the-scenes drama of his career and life (CreateSpace, $16.95).

Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention by Manning Marable, the M. Moran Weston and Black Alumni Council Professor of African American Studies and professor of history and public affairs. Marable, who died on April 1, takes a new look at Malcolm X’s life and ends with a new look at his assassination (Viking Adult, $30).

Forms of Knowledge in Early Modern Asia: Explorations in the Intellectual History of India and Tibet, 1500–1800 edited by Sheldon Pollock, the William B. Ransford Professor of Sanskrit and Indian Studies. These essays explain how changes in communication and the notion of power shaped thinkers in India and Tibet and their response to a changing world (Duke University Press, $24.95).

Henry James: Novels: 1903–1911 edited by Ross Posnock, the Anna S. Garbedian Professor of the Humanities. This final volume in a series examines and publishes James’ last three major novels: The
A Serious Look at The Joker and His Creator

By Amanda Gordon

Jerry Robinson, who attended the College in the early 1940s, decided to go to Columbia after he was offered a job illustrating a new comic book called Batman.

N.C. Christopher Couch ’76, ’87 GSAS took a more conventional route. “When I visited the campus with my family, I knew instantly it was where I wanted to be,” he says.

More than 30 years separated their time at the University, but a love of comic books brought them together, first as friends, then as collaborators on Jerry Robinson: Ambassador of Comics (Abrams Comic Arts, $35). The book charts Robinson’s life, from his boyhood in Trenton, N.J., in the 1920s and ’30s to his appearances at Comic-Con conventions, where he is treated as a mythic figure in comic book history.

Couch, who teaches courses on comic art and the graphic novel in the Program in Comparative Literature at University of Massachusetts Amherst, conducted more than 50 hours of interviews with Robinson, now 89, to write the book. “I just set down the tape recorder and asked, ‘What would you like to talk about today?’” Couch says.

Some of the stories Robinson told, such as how he landed the Batman gig, are the stuff of legend. At a resort in the Poconos, Batman’s creator, Bob Kane, took notice of the jacket Robinson wore to play tennis. It was covered in doodles, including one of a comb sticking out of the pocket. Amused and in need of an illustrator, Kane asked Robinson to work with him.

Robinson was 17 at the time, “a combination of tough street kid, budding intellectual and innocent teenager,” Couch writes. He’d planned to go to Syracuse to study journalism. Kane’s offer prompted him to select Columbia, which would keep him in New York City.

It was in his creative writing classes at Columbia that Robinson got the idea for his most famous character, The Joker.

“A villain with a sense of humor would be the kind of contradiction that would make a character memorable,” Robinson told Couch.

Financial pressures and the demands of his comic book work pulled Robinson away from Columbia after only two years. Couch, who arrived in New York from St. Louis, stayed 11 years, earning a B.A in art history and three degrees at GSAS: an M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D., all in art history and archeology.

“I knew by my sophomore year I wanted to be a professor. I was always in the library or Schermerhorn Hall (the home of the art history department),” Couch says. “To relax, I loved just walking around the campus.”

Guided by faculty such as the Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor of Pre-Colombian Art History and Archaeology Esther Pasztor ’71 GSAS and legendary cultural anthropologist Margaret Meade, Couch became a scholar of Native American and Latin American art. He wrote his dissertation on illustrations in Aztec manuscripts. In 1988 he joined the faculty of Smith.

Like Robinson, he too wound up with a job in the comic book industry, becoming an editor at Kitchen Sink Press, which specializes in comic books.

“One lesson I’ve learned is, if anyone asks you if you’d like to be a comic book editor, there’s only one answer: yes.”

Couch says his five years at Kitchen Sink changed the way he teaches. “I’ve worked with printers, distributors, artists,” he says. “I have a kind of understanding that you can never get being just a scholar, and it deeply enriches my teaching.”

It was through his job at Kitchen Sink that Couch met Robinson and reentered academe with a focus on comic books, teaching classes he describes as “historical and contextual survey courses that are totally informed by art history.”

He’s currently teaching at New York’s School of Visual Arts and Trinity College as well as at UMass. For his book, Couch was eager to understand the sources of Robinson’s dark visual style. He learned that as a teenager, Robinson had formed a deep attachment to a volume of Edgar Allen Poe’s Tales of Mystery and Imagination with illustrations by Harry Clarke. Robinson also spoke of going to see German expressionist films at MoMA. “For the first time, I had an explanation for what I’d seen all along,” Couch says.

The book includes more than 100 of Robinson’s illustrations. Early on, before anyone thought of their potential historical significance, Robinson made a habit of retrieving his original art from printers and holding on to it. Many other artists’ work is lost forever.

Post-Batman, Robinson created comic book heroes Atoman and London, and then moved on to editorial cartoons, illustrations for children’s books such as A Maxton Book About Atomic Energy, and the comic strip True Classroom Flubs and Fluffs. In 1974 he wrote The Comics. Couch considers it the definitive history of newspaper comic strips.

While he maintains his scholarly interests in Native American and pre-Colombian art, “comics is No. 1 now,” Couch says. “I don’t have any trouble with the idea of legitimizing comics. I’ve devoted much of my life to that.”

Amanda Gordon is a columnist at Bloomberg News.
Obituaries

1933
Arthur W. Seligmann Jr., physician, New York City, on June 6, 2010. Born on June 16, 1912, Seligmann graduated from Cornell University Medical College, where he was on staff for many years as associate professor of medicine. He also maintained a large private practice in internal medicine. During WWII, Seligmann served in the Navy as a lieutenant commander in the South Pacific. He was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth Simon Seligmann, and is survived by his children, Carolyn Power and Warren W. Eason, their spouses; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister, Anne (Mabey); son, Paul, and his wife, Laura Ann; and one great-grandchild.

1940
Seth G. Neugroschl, computer and technology expert, New York City, on November 4, 2010. Neugroschl entered with the Class of 1940 and earned a B.S. in industrial engineering and operations research in 1941 from Engineering. He was a former IBMer and leader of the “Computer, Man and Society” University Seminar at Columbia. Neugroschl was devoted to the betterment of humanity through the use of tools to improve global networking and to increase tolerance and understanding through the use of computers and other media. He was a pioneering thought leader in the effort to understand from a systems viewpoint the impact of computers on human society, planet Earth and beyond. Neugroschl received the Tannenbaum-Warner Award for distinguished scholarship and great service to the University Seminar Movement and was the Class of 1940 Class Notes correspondent from 1990 until shortly before his death. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine; daughter, Judith Neugroschl-Melnick and her husband, Ari; and two grandchildren.

1942
Franklin J. Tobey II ‘42
1919, Tobey had an early interest in natural history, was an Eagle Scout and was assistant to the doctor at Camp Mohican. He served in WWII as a Medical Corps motor-transport officer in Europe and married Marie Carolyn Wiederspahn in 1946. Tobey earned an M.A. in economics in 1947 from GSAS. He and his wife moved to Washington, D.C., where he wrote for the magazine Public Utilities Fortnightly. Later, he was the editor of the Annual Report to Congress. Tobey was a merit badge counselor in mineralogy, atomic energy and herpetology; co-founded the Virginia Herpetological Society; and in 1985 published a survey of Virginia’s reptiles and amphibians. He wrote for Collier’s Encyclopedia Your Book and was a member of the National Press Club. After retirement, Tobey wrote, traveled and was a member of the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society and the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County. He is survived by his children, Carolyn Tobey Berardesco, Franklin III and Alix Tobey Southwick; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a brother, John.

1943
Warren W. Eason, professor and musician, Columbus, Ohio, on March 22, 2010. Eason was born in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., on October 6, 1921. At a young age he showed talent for the French horn, studying at Juilliard and playing with the Columbia University Band at 15. In 1940, he was chosen for the All American Youth Orchestra, the 109 finest young musicians in the country. Eason learned to fly in a Stearman and SNJ and served in the Coast Guard Reserve as a musician first class. He earned an economics certificate and Ph.D. in 1951 and 1959 from SIPA and GSAS, respectively. Eason’s academic career in Soviet economics spanned the Cold War to the end of the Soviet Union, taking him to the U.S.S.R. nine times. A professor at The Ohio State University from 1968–2003, he also taught at Syracuse, Princeton and Johns Hopkins. Eason became the inspiration for a home in Clintonville for people living with memory loss, Eason House. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Jeanne (Fox); daughters, Katherine Power and Barbara Himes; two grandchildren; and a godson. Memorial donations may be made to WOSU or the Alzheimer’s Association.

1944
William V. Beshlian, physician, Glen Rock, N.J., on April 24, 2010. Born in Turkey, Beshlian was raised in Paterson, N.J., and settled in Glen Rock 56 years ago. He was a 1946 graduate of New York College of Medicine, and after serving with the Army Medical Corps began his residency at St. Joseph’s Regional Hospital Medical Center in Paterson. Beshlian had a distinguished career with St. Joseph’s that spanned 52 years. He received the hospital’s Distinguished Service Award and the 1991 Alumni Award, and also received the 100 Years’ Service Award for father and son, H.K. Beshlian and W.V. Beshlian. Beshlian was a world traveler and loved tennis, cooking and jazz. He is survived by his wife, Doris (Mahey); son, Paul, and his wife, Deborah Ann; daughter, Lisa; two grandchildren; and sister, Anne Kazanos. Memorial contributions may be made to Doctors Without Borders or the Glen Rock Ambulance Corps.

1948
John W. Gould, retired professor, Santa Monica, Calif., January 26, 2010. Gould was born on March 19, 1922, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He attended Boy’s H.S., where he edited the Boy’s High Weekly and was class president his senior year. He served in the 125th Engineer Combat Battalion from 1943–46 and was in General George Patton’s Army during the Battle of the Bulge. Gould earned an M.A. in English and comparative literature in 1949 and a Ph.D. in education in 1962, both from GSAS. His career was in education. He taught at Stony Brook School for
Boys from 1949–1954. From 1955–60, Gould worked in administration at CW Post College Long Island University, Columbia and Lafayette. He taught at USC’s School of Business from 1961 until he retired in 1987. Gould traveled widely in the United States, Europe and Asia, consulting for many corporations and teaching business communication in a number of Pacific Rim countries. In 1991, he was reunited with his Army Battalion and attended 17 of their annual reunions. Gould was very involved in church activities. He is survived by his wife since 1949, Olwen (Stafford); children, Heather, William, David, Elizabeth and Carolyn; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Henry H. McDonald, retired ophthalmologist, Pasadena, Calif., on April 9, 2010. McDonald was born on July 27, 1923, attended Stuyvesant Math and Science H.S. and enlisted in the Air Force at 19. He served as a navigator in the European Theatre of Operations throughout WWII. As a first lieutenant, he received the Bronze Star, flying 35 missions in the Royal Air Force “mosquito” plane. Following WWII, McDonald returned to New York, graduated from Columbia, earned a medical degree from NYU and completed a residency in ophthalmology there and at Harvard. In 1952, he married Dorothy Dieckhoff and in 1957 began his practice in Pasadena. He was on the staff of the Huntington Memorial Hospital for 40 years. McDonald was an early advocate of small wound incision cataract surgery, the way all cataract surgery is done today. Throughout his career, and following his 1997 retirement, McDonald was active in the creation and development of ophthalmic and surgical instrumentation. He loved drawing, painting, chess and playing piano. McDonald is survived by his wife; children, Henry, Robert and Robyn; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

1949

Kenneth E. Hadermann, retired teacher and school administrator, Lake Wylie, S.C., on April 25, 2010. Born in New York City, Hadermann enlisted in the Army Air Corps in WWII and was a member of the American Legion. He earned a master’s from Teachers College and was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Hadermann was a teacher and school administrator in four states. In 1976, he relocated with his family to Berlin, Germany, where he was the principal of the John F. Kennedy School until his retirement to North Carolina in 1986. A volunteer Boy Scout leader for more than 50 years, he received the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver. As a member of the Order of the Arrow, a Boy Scout honor camper’s society, Hadermann became a Vigil member and received the Founders Award. After his retirement, he continued to serve youth as a Guardian ad Litem. Hadermann is survived by his wife, Hannalore; daughter, Karena, and her husband, Jeff; son, Kurt, and his wife, Elizabeth; and one grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

1958

James R. Meyers, civil rights activist and retired librarian, Ithaca, N.Y., on April 15, 2010. Meyers was born on August 9, 1936, in Detroit. His family soon moved to Pittsburgh, where Meyers attended St. Basil’s Catholic School for 12 years and initially wanted to become a priest. While at Columbia, he met Francis Joan Gillen, who became his wife. The couple later moved to South Bend, Ind., where Meyers worked for many years as the film librarian at the South Bend Public Library as well as devoting his passions and extra time to helping to end the Vietnam War and taking part in the countercultural ’60s revolution. In 1996, Meyers retired and moved to Albuquerque, where he lived until 2005 when he moved to Ithaca, N.Y., to be near his family. His passions included spiritual pursuits such as Dances of Universal Peace, reincarnation, the Unity Church, meditation, yoga, music, prayer, television, Transactional Analysis, astrology and co-counseling. Meyers is survived by his sons, Pete, and his partner, Mary Loehr; and David; and one grandson.

1960

Norman H. Nordlund, pilot, Brookfield, Conn., on April 28, 2010. Nordlund was born in Pori, Finland, on October 27, 1938, and grew up in Hastings, N.Y. After Columbia, where he earned a B.A. in economics, he was commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve through the NROTC Program. Nordlund became a naval aviator, flying the Douglas Skryraider AD1. He served on the aircraft carriers USS Independence, USS Saratoga and the USS Forestal from 1961–65. From 1965–67, he served as a flight instructor in Pensacola, Fla., instructing student naval aviators in carrier landings. After leaving the Navy in 1967, Nordlund began working for TWA, a career that lasted 31 years flying various aircraft including the 707, 727, L1011 and the 747. He was an avid fisherman and loved deep sea fishing. Nordlund is survived by his wife of 48 years, Denise; daughter, Carolyn Montero, and her husband Bill; sons, Michael and his wife Jennifer; and Karl and his wife, Nicole; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

1965

George W. “Bud” Goth, retired professor, Berkeley, Calif., on November 28, 2009. Goth was born on June 23, 1943, on Long Island and earned a B.S. in chemistry. After Columbia, he moved to California and earned a Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry in 1973 from UC Berkeley and did post-doctoral work at Washington University in St. Louis. Goth returned to Berkeley, where he contributed to the grassroots newspaper of Berkeley Citizens Action during the late 1970s and ’80s. He taught chemistry part-time at the College of San Mateo in 1975 and then full-time at Skyline College in 1980. Goth founded and edited The Advocate, a union newsletter for the American Federation of Teachers, Local 1943. He retired in 2006. He was an avid theatergoer and was active in film and book clubs, attending readings and serving on the Board of the Berkeley City Club for six years. Goth is survived by his aunt and uncle, Elizabeth and James Sharan; and 11 cousins. Memorial contributions may be made to the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation, memo line: The George Goth Science Scholarship.

1968

Melvin L. Dennis, architect, expedi- tor and photography gallery curator, New York City, on June 13, 2010. Dennis was born in Portland, Ore., and grew up on the Oregon coast. He earned a B.A. in art history, did advanced art history studies at NYU and earned a B.Arch. from the Cooper Union in 1977. Dennis worked for several architecture firms in New York, including Pasanella & Klein, and the New York Public Library, and was later a building expediter.
He was a co-founder and curator for the Puchong Gallery, which championed avant-garde photographers in the 1980s and 1990s. An active civic leader, Dennis was president of the Waterside Tenants Association and was a member of the New York County Democratic Committee and the Tilden Democratic Club, and a regular attendee at the Sixteenth Street Friends Meeting. He is survived by his brother, Everette; and four sisters.

Dennis E. Milton, judge, New York City; on May 31, 2010. Milton was born in 1951 on Staten Island, N.Y. He attended Regis H.S. and Fordham Law. Milton, a United States bankruptcy judge in the Eastern District of New York, was appointed in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Karen Greve Milton. Memorial contributions may be made to Regis H.S. in New York City.

Charles G. “Grant” Fulk, plumbing business co-owner, Menlo Park, Calif., on June 14, 2010. Fulk graduated from Sequoia H.S., where he was active in the drama program, and earned a B.A. in English. He was co-owner of Dittmann Plumbing in San Mateo and is survived by his parents, Earl and Elizabeth; aunts, Ruth Morelock and Grace Phair; uncle, Jack Fulk; and a number of cousins. Memorial contributions may be made to Menlo Park Host Lions Club, “Menlo Park Project Read.”

William F. Evans, investment banker and musician, New York City; on July 10, 2010. Evans was born in Towson, Md. He earned an M.A. in mathematics from Penn. During his school years, Evans played bass in both performance and recording with several jazz and fusion bands. After graduate school, he embarked on a 23-year career in the financial services industry, specializing in modeling and structuring complex tax-exempt mortgage revenue bond transactions for state housing finance agencies throughout the country for the purpose of financing affordable housing programs. Evans is survived by his former spouse, Laura; children, Katherine and Philip; parents, Bernard and Estelle; and brother, Robert.

Lisa Palladino

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

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

1926  S. Delvalle Goldsmith, Patterson, N.Y., on February 18, 2011.
1929  Eric C. Lambart, retired rear admiral, Jacksonville, Fla., on February 17, 2011.
1938  Wells S. Brimhall, retired banking executive, Provo, Utah, on March 10, 2011.
1940  Harold J. Lehmus, retired physician, Coventry, Conn., on February 17, 2011.
       Edmund W. White, retired chemical engineer, Silver Spring, Md., on March 5, 2011.
1941  William H. Goldwater, retired research director, Bethesda, Md., on February 23, 2011.
1943  John G. Pappas, retired physician and chemist, New York City, on March 4, 2011.
1945  Charles E. Silberman, Sarasota, Fla., on February 5, 2011.
1946  Marvin L. Aronson, psychotherapist, Mount Vernon, N.Y., on February 27, 2011.
       Brian K. Langworthy, organist and music instructor, Marietta, Ga., on March 2, 2011.
       James W. Lister, New York City, on April 27, 2008.
1953  Alan Macnow, public relations, marketing and market research executive, New York City, on December 25, 2010.
       Arnold J. Schwartz, radiologist, Stamford, Conn., on March 8, 2011.
1957  George Broderick, Ocala, Fla., on December 7, 2010.
1964  Brian Safer, biochemist and researcher, Adelphi, Md., on February 6, 2011.
       Christopher Trumbo, film and television writer, Ojai, Calif., on January 8, 2011.
1966  Frederic Neuburger, certified financial planner and tax practitioner, Syracuse, N.Y., on February 19, 2011.
       Steven D. Wexler, former carpenter; writer and teacher, Tijeras, N.M., on December 20, 2010.
Howard N. Meyer ’34, 36L, a retired New York lawyer and two-time Pulitzer Prize-nominated author, discussed challenges of immigration and civil rights in terms of the 14th Amendment. A product of the Civil War, the amendment made citizens equal before the law.

Howard has written more than 70 articles and books, and in his Pulitzer Prize-nominated book from 1973, The Amendment that Refused to Die: Equality and Justice Deferred: A History of the Fourteenth Amendment, he reflects on the beginnings and current significance of the amendment. Howard believes that because of new developments in the Arizona U.S. Senators’ attempts to repeal the 14th Amendment, more specifically the effects the repeal would have on the children of Mexican nationals because their entrance into the country was not in accordance with the law, the nation will eliminate the rights of people, and people will begin to forget the importance of equality and justice values.

Reading books such as Thomas Wentworth Higginson’s Army Life in a Black Regiment opened Howard’s eyes to the contributions of minorities such as women, African-Americans and other groups that have been omitted from textbooks in American history. Howard’s most recent book, The World Court in Action: Judging Among the Nations, was published in 2002 and also was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. In it, he writes about the International Court of Justice and international law.

Howard moved to Bolinas, Calif., in 2009 to be closer to his sons, Jonathan and Franklin. He continues to follow current events about justice and equality nationally and internationally.

David Perlman ’39, 40J, writes, “At 92, I’m still science editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, covering everything except medicine — anthropology, seismic goings-on, cosmic universes, planets and so on.” [Editor’s note: CCT profiled Perlman in November/December 2009: college.columbia.edu/cct/nov_dec09.]

Sad to report that Joe Coffee, one of our most outstanding class members, passed away in January shortly after his 92nd birthday. Joe was our class president; voted most likely to succeed; a member of student board; a regular attendee, with his wife, Margaret, at our annual Arden House reunions; and a good friend. After graduation, he joined the Navy and served on the President’s staff, was executive officer on a destroyer escort that was sunk and then commanding officer of another destroyer escort. He was assistant to the president of Columbia and on its Board of Trustees. Joe was president of Eisenhower College and was the patriarch of a large and loving family. A memorial service was held at Columbia on April 28. [See March/April Obituaries.]

On a happier note, I spent Christmas week in Costa Rica with Fran Katz’s family, where I zip-lined, white water rafted, kayaked and hiked in the rainforest, including five suspension bridges. In February I took my family of 26, including 12 great-grandchildren, to Club Med in Ixtapa, Mexico.

Ken Hechler ’40 GSAS, my last instructor in college, stayed at my house for two nights and lectured on April 8 at the Roslyn Library and then at C.W. Post (LIU). He wrote the book (also was a movie) The Bridge at Remagen and many other publications, was a colonel in the army, a long-term (and still) college professor and was President Truman’s speechwriter and adviser. He was a congressman for 18 years, secretary of state in West Virginia, and still lectures and writes.

Let me know what you are doing.

On January 14, The New York Times’ obituary section carried a memorial tribute to Franklin Gerald Bishop ’43E, who died on January 14, 1996. Gerry’s widow, Evelyn, has faithfully published this annual tribute to Gerry since he succumbed to his final illness 15 years ago. The writer met Gerry at a freshman beer party in September 1938 in John Jay Hall, where we gathered around a piano to sing raunchy limericks and Roar, Lion, Roar. Gerry later became a good friend. He was a brilliant mathematician and engineer. He had a successful career as an engineer and management consultant, and finally as CEO and president of Matrix Corp. At our Homecoming football game in 1995, Gerry came up to the Remmer-Maniatty Alumni Lounge above Wien Stadium in his wheelchair to watch the game and visit with classmates. He already was very ill but perfectly alert and able to converse with us. That was the last time I saw him. At Columbia, Gerry was Dean’s Day chairman, and a generous financial supporter of the College, a tradition that Evelyn has continued through the years. We join Evelyn in remembering Gerry’s impressive professional accomplishments and his lifelong devotion to Columbia.

The New York Times of January 24 reported the death of Clarence Eich ’43E on January 8. After WWII service in the Navy, he was a mechanical engineer at Combustion Engineering. In 1962, Clarence joined the Foster Wheeler Corp., where he was issued several patents for new designs and products for power generation and rose to the position of e.v.p. before his retirement in 1984. At Columbia, Clarence was an active and widely respected classmate. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the Glee Club, the Van Am Society and the Debate Council. He earned silver and gold crowns, and was elected to Nacoms. He attended all of our significant landmark reunions and our Homecoming games at Wien Stadium. After his retirement, Clarence traveled widely with his wife, Ellen, enjoyed his golf games and was a skilled gardener. He won awards for his flowers and developed several new varieties of geraniums. In 2001, Clarence was named Volunteer of the Year by the State of New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry for his work on behalf of the Canal Society. He is survived by his wife, children, Mary, Robert and Claire; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. We mourn the loss of such a distinguished classmate, and we extend our condolences to his family.

The annual Dean’s Scholarship Reception, honoring donors to named scholarships, was held in Alfred Lerner Hall on February 3. Two of the finest members of our Great Class of 1942 are honored in perpetuity by memorial scholarships: Charles F. “Chic” Hoelzer Jr. and Dr. Herbert Mark. The Hoelzer memorial scholarship was established in 1978, the year of his untimely death, by this correspondent and Chic’s widow, the late Dorothy. The Mark memorial scholarship was established by Herb’s widow, Avra ’45 Barnard; his sons, Peter, Tom and Jeremy; his cousin, Reuben Mark; and this correspondent after Herb’s death in 2004. In 1939–40, Herb was my Livingston Hall roommate, and thanks to Columbia, became my friend for 67 years. I encourage classmates who remember Chic and Herb to contribute to their memorial scholarship funds. Please contact the Columbia College Fund’s Eleanor L. Coufos ’03, director of annual giving programs, at 212-851-7483 for further information.

I was sad to receive notice from our Alumni Office on February 19 that Melvin Hershkowitz ’42 on April 25 died in Camden, Maine, on January 3. In April 2009, Werner sent me a long autobiographical letter from his winter residence in Lady Lake, Fla., including reminiscences about his years at Columbia. Like Columbia’s most generous financial supporter, the late John W. Kluge ’37, Werner was born in Germany; he emigrated to the United States in 1932 and became a U.S. citizen in 1942. He settled in Leonia, N.J., where he attended the local high school. Werner’s high school principal took him to the Columbia campus for a personal visit (could that ever happen today?), and Werner was eventually admitted with a full scholarship to study engineering. He commuted to the campus by trolley, 125th Street ferry, subway and on foot for three hours daily, five or six days each week, and still found the time to train and run for Columbia under track coach “Canny Carl” Merger (Werner had been a wrestler in high school). With his demanding engineering studies and long-
mutes, Werner said he could not keep up with the required readings for Humanities and Contemporary Civilization, and despite the inspiration from professors Weaver, Luckie and Baumeister, he “lost interest in college.” He also lost his scholarship and had to find part-time work to pay his tuition of $200 a semester. After finishing three years at Columbia, Werner was about to be drafted and enlisted in the Navy. He served for four years as a Navy pilot during WWII and then returned to Columbia, where his fourth year was paid for by the G.I. Bill. As he said, “I could finally afford a K&K Slide Rule.” His sense of humor had remained intact.

After graduation, Werner went to work for the Bendix Corp. in New Jersey as a versatile mechanical, electrical, chemical and civil engineer, and eventually a management executive. He lived in Westwood, N.J., and enjoyed golf, bowling and playing bridge. He invented and held a patent for a centrifuge that developed 800 Gs in 15 seconds, and stayed at Bendix for 34 years until his retirement, when he moved to West Harrison, N.Y., on December 28. He was 89. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 while a student at Columbia and was discharged as a captain four years later. He was the child of Martha Custis Washington, by her first husband, and became the stepson of George Washington. J.P. Custis’ son was no better a scholar. Custis’ son was no better a scholar. Custis’ son was no better a scholar. Custis’ son was no better a scholar.

Another two: There were professional athletes in Columbia history in addition to the great Lou Gehrig ‘23. One was Eddie Collins (Class of 1907), quarterback on the Columbia football team and a star baseball player. He went on to play on major league teams, including the Philadelphia Athletics, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. Collins is considered by many to be the greatest second baseman of all time. Brooklyn-born Sid Luckman ‘39 was another. The star quarterback played for the Chicago Bears from 1939–50 and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

My wife, Audrey, and I have several trips scheduled for this year. They include a lecture at a meeting in Amsterdam. We’ll take the opportunity to go to the British War Cemetery in Sittard, The Netherlands, where Audrey’s brother Pat is buried with all of his tank crew. They were killed in the battle for Geilenkirchen, Germany, in November 1944. I think I have located the spot where his tank was destroyed, just over the Dutch border, and we’ll try to find it.

Sad news: Walter J. Sassano died in West Harrison, N.Y., on December 28. He was 89. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 while a student at Columbia and was discharged as a captain four years later. He then became active in the American Legion and other community organizations.

Henry Rolf Hecht
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Friends, please take a moment to send me some information about your lives. I assure you that all your classmates, as well as other alumni, want to hear about what you are doing.

Do you run into unusual or noteworthy Columbia ties in your reading? I do; send me yours. Here are some recent ones of mine. John Parke Custis enrolled in King’s College in 1772 but did not return for a second year. He was the child of Martha Custis Washington, by her first husband, and became the stepson of George Washington. J.P. Custis’ son was no better a scholar. Custis’ son was no better a scholar. Custis’ son was no better a scholar. Custis’ son was no better a scholar.

Werner was born in 1901 and grew up in Salzburg, Austria, where his family had been residing since the late 1800s. His father was an越来越 famous painter, but Werner, a mechanical engineer, did not follow in his footsteps. In 1925, Werner came to the United States to study electrical engineering at Columbia University.

After graduating from Columbia, Werner worked for Bendix Corporation in New Jersey as a versatile mechanical, electrical, chemical and civil engineer, and eventually a management executive. He lived in Westwood, New Jersey, and enjoyed golf, bowling and playing bridge. He invented and held a patent for a centrifuge that developed 800 Gs in 15 seconds, and stayed at Bendix for 34 years until his retirement, when he moved to West Harrison, New York, on December 28. He was 89. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 while a student at Columbia and was discharged as a captain four years later. He was the child of Martha Custis Washington, by her first husband, and became the stepson of George Washington. J.P. Custis’ son was no better a scholar. Custis’ son was no better a scholar. Custis’ son was no better a scholar.

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cocktail reception, meeting and greeting to the music of a live ensemble. Lunch will follow with welcoming remarks from Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatsakis. Dean Yatsakis continues a tradition that began with our 55th, took place again at our 60th and now will take place at the 65th. She recently told me how much she enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many of the class through the years.

Richard Heffner has hosted PBS’ The Open Mind for 55 years. Dick has invited Dean Michele Moody-Adams to appear on his program. She enthusiastically accepted, and we will preview the taped program followed by a Q&A, to which the dean graciously agreed.

Enjoy the comradeship, reminiscence, catch up, share a few giggles. Bring wives and friends. Celebrate the Columbia experience. Do not miss this moment. You can celebrate the 65th anniversary only once. Details about reserving your places at the reunion luncheon are in the mail. You also can register online: alumni.college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/deansday. It is always a meaningful occasion and can make it at Dean’s Day on Saturday, June 4 (college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/deansday).

What could be more fun than a week in Mexico? A week in Mexico with an old college buddy. In February, Irving Kushner ’50 (left) headed south of the border to spend time with Ted Reid ’50.

from you as was his. So, let’s hear from you all to fill these columns. I must, however, raise a glass, shout a cheer, sound the trumpets (make your own choice of celebratory noise) in recognition of the mail I received from Howard Beldock. I opened the envelope, which contained a note along with a printed notice regarding his practice as a mediator/arbitrator. This is work for which Howie has attained considerable status and recognition. Not being a lawyer, let me dwell on the personal note, the content of which might be summed up as, “I’m still here and doing great!”

But it is stated in the warmest terms and brought a smile to my face. Nevertheless, the visual, which I can only describe here, remains most vividly in my mind. Howie has the most extraordinary “hand,” with flourishes and style that we associate with historical documents. The visual impact of his written page adds emotion to the content and makes the decline of cursive writing a loss that younger generations cannot understand. Thanks, Howie.

Hope to see as many of you as can make it at Dean’s Day on Saturday, June 4 (college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/deansday). It is always a meaningful occasion and worth getting up early to make it in time for breakfast with classmates!

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Irving Kushner retired from academic medicine and now is...
professor emeritus at Case Western Reserve University. Irv continues, though, to participate in the academic activities of the Division of Rheumatology at Case’s hospital, where he engages in conferences and journal clubs and helps his younger colleagues write papers. Irv says that he has had “an attack of late life productivity” and has six papers published after his 81st birthday dealing variously with medicine, science and medical history. And speaking of history, as this was being written, Irv was preparing a lecture on the history of the four humors, the theory of the human body that guided ancient Greek and Roman physicians.

Gerald Weissmann, whose medical career has been in basic biomedical research on inflammation, continues as director of the Biotechnology Study Center and research professor of medicine at the NYU School of Medicine. Gerry’s science-related activities extend beyond academia; in addition, he is editor-in-chief of the FASEB Journal, which is the official publication of the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology, now the most-cited journal of biology worldwide. Gerry has contributed many articles to the journal through the years, and these articles are the basis for his 10th book of essays, Epiphenomenes in the Age of Twitter: Pop Culture and Modern Science, to be published this year. He has served for four years as chairman of the prize jury for Woods Hole, Mass., and has been a trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory at 18 years has been a trustee of the Greek and Roman physicians.

The New Latino, continued

Without generous philanthropists, our country’s great centers of learning would cease to exist. Consider for example the contributions of the Sulzberger family. In late February, at the death of Judith Sulzberger, sister of Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the New York Times published an inspirational story about the family and its close relationship to Columbia. Judith, graduated from P&G in 1949 and financially supported alma mater’s Genome Center. In 1991, together with her siblings, Judith gave a generous contribution to Barnard in honor of their mother, Iphigenia. In 1993, Judith and her husband and Marian presented the Journalism School with major gifts for new management training programs for news executives, as well as internships and scholarships, to honor Arthur, the chairman emeritus and former publisher of the Times.

All of the above is not the end of the story about Judith and little brother Arthur. The Times let the “cat out of the bag.” When Arthur was born, his father, who enjoyed writing light verse, prepared an illustrated book describing the boy as having “come to play the Punch to Judy’s endless show.” So “Punch” became Arthur’s lifelong nickname.

Nearly 40 years after prominent colleagues such as Columbia and Harvard expelled the Naval Reserve Officers’ Training Corps from their campuses, some colleges are reconsidering what might have been a too-hasty action during the Vietnam conflict. At the time of this writing, Harvard announced that it would officially recognize NROTC. During WWII, Columbia’s unit trained more than 23,000 officers for naval service. While our class attended Columbia, the Corps consisted of 220 midshipmen, about 10 percent of the College’s enrollment. Encouraged by B. James Lowe and Leonard A. Stine, 1936, along the way, encouraging publicity in The Wounded Lion to bring back the Navy, Columbia’s administration may yet agree with Harvard’s President Drew Gilpin Faust that Harvard’s “renewed relationship (with NROTC) affirms the vital role that members of our Armed Forces play in serving the nation and securing our freedoms, while also affirming inclusion and opportunity as powerful American ideals.”

Congratulations to Ralph Lowenstein ’52, formerly dean of the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida. Ralph received the 2011 Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award, the American Jewish Historical Society’s highest honor, presented to an individual “who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to strengthening the American Jewish Community.” Previous awards include George P. Shultz, Edward Koch and Elie Wiesel. Last year, Ralph had the idea to create a Gainesville Holocaust Memorial. He became the fundraiser, project coordinator and memorial designer. Some 340 individuals and families contributed the $36,000 of the memorial, which was unveiled before a large gathering and much local publicity on September 12.

Paul Miller lives in Tarpon Springs, Fla. He was one of our classmates who returned from WWII active duty with the Army; to continue his college education, Paul began his career with Curtis-Wright, aircraft engine manufacturers in New Jersey before embarking on long careers with Bell and General Telephone. Before retiring in 1989, Paul participated in a brokerage business. He can be reached at 727-937-0560.

Mary Jo Kloezman advised us that her father, Robert Archer, died on September 4. Robert earned a Ph.D. from CSAS in 1954 and had a long career with Hewlett-Packard. Howard N. Ross died on November 16. In college, he was an editor of the Pre-Medical Journal, a member of Sawbones and secretary of the Pre-Med Society. He earned a Ph.D. from CSAS in 1964 and for many years was a professor of economics at Baruch. In December, John B. Morris died in the Atlanta area. Active with the Canterbury Club at Columbia, he subsequently graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary before embarking upon a career in the ministry.

A couple of other notes to conclude this column. Please don’t overlook the letter you received from Reunion Committee members Willard Block, Mark Kaplan and Harvey Krueger. Their suggestion is for every class member to reexamine his or her life to make as large as possible a reunion class gift to the Columbia College Fund. You can give online (college.columbia.edu/giveonline) or mail a check to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York NY 10025. Of equal importance is the committee’s suggestion to register now for reunion festivities. Again, you can do this online (alumni.columbia.edu/reunion) or use the registration packet you received in the mail. Contact Jennifer Freely, assistant director, alumni affairs (j2261@columbia.edu or 212-851-7438), for the latest details or more information.

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The men and women who serve in our military forces and protect our country are to be admired and respected, especially during times of war, when a young life can be snuffed out in a split second. Many of us have served and feel proud of our small or large contributions to the country called and we answered.

When General Studies student and former Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Maschek was heckled during a school forum discussing ROTC on campus, it struck a nerve with New York Assemblyman Robert J. Castelli. Castelli, a Vietnam War veteran, was angry that a young man who was shot 11 times in a firefight in northern Iraq in February 2008 was shown a lack of respect by some of his fellow students.

A college professor, Castelli wrote a letter to President Lee C. Bollinger and co’ed, among others, American Legion Department of New York Commander V. James Trouilla. A couple of other letters were shared with National Commander Jimmie L. Foster, who praised Castelli “for standing up for former Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Maschek and all veterans currently enrolled in colleges throughout the country. Our veterans deserve to be treated, at the very least, with the same respect as
any of their fellow students.”

Castell’s letter to Bollinger read, in part: “As a champion of diversity, I would expect that you could convey to your students the fact that they do not need to honor the war to respect and honor our warriors. The teaching of a veteran who was wounded 11 times in the service of his country is abhorrent, to say the least … (M)embers of our military who served their country and risked their lives on all our behalf should be treated with the same dignity and respect that your institution demands for any diverse member of our population.”

Armen Haig wrote, after we chatted by phone: “I am still doing orthopedic surgery, now with my son, who is managing the practice in Bronsville, N.Y., with part-time clinical academic interest at NewYorkPresbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.”

“I had been department director at Lawrence Hospital Center and then chief of staff. I was residual in senior staff. My previous academic activity had been a full-time academic appointment at Albert Einstein Medical Center as deputy director, where I had a wonderful time managing the residency training program from 1964–69, when I moved to Westchester.”

“My Columbia friends included Frank Durkan ’51, who passed away recently, just before a reunion we had planned. We kept putting it off, but we talked by phone about his clients (he was a lawyer). Lesson learned: Do not squander opportunities to hold old (or new) friendships. You don’t always get a second chance. Thanks for listening.”

From Irwin Herman: “Most of the information appearing in this column, I do not recognize. Whether this is due to time or age, I can’t say. My wife has buried the 1952 yearbook in the depths of an antique steamer trunk, and I don’t dare open it to check the pictures lest I release evil. This is sad because during 1948–52, we knew almost everyone in the College by name or by sight.”

“My name will probably suffer the same lack of recognition, but because it’s almost 60 years (60 years and 10 months on the “next” birthday) away, I will take an old man’s liberty of providing a brief biography. Maybe some survivors out there in graduation land will find this interesting.”

“After graduation, I returned to Cincinnati, where I started my career in journalism, running a weekly copy desk for the Cincinnati Enquirer until the Army called. After two years at Fort Belvoir in public information, where I saw Mal Schechter pass through the engineering school and Max Frankel while an official visit to the Pentagon, I ended up as a reporter (in fact, the only reporter) at a daily paper in Frankfurt, Ky. I decided to move on, and while heading to North Carolina with a fellowship in sociology and a job stringing for the Durham Sun, got sidetracked. I ended up working for a daily labor paper out of Chattanooga, W.Va. I moved out to St. Louis, there, so I moved back to Cincinnati, where I remained unemployed and rejected by every major paper I queried. At a crossroad, I decided to use the G.I. Bill. Remembering how happy and unpressed the pre-experience of Columbia prepared me to go to medical school. Unfortunately, I had none of the science requirements. So in two years and working full-time, I got the credits and got admitted to University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. After a year of internship, three years of internal medicine residency and a year of fellowship, I established practice in Oakland, Calif.”

“I married an attractive, talented young lady from Iowa named Virginia, who was a physical therapist at the V.A. hospital in Cincinnati. She has had the fortitude to tolerate my years of residency and me. We have three boys. The oldest, David, is a captain in the Navy, married to a pathologist, and has realized his dream of being a skipper of an attack submarine. He has two boys. Middle son, Tom, after getting his master’s in biotech and working in research, switched to more remunerative biotech sales. He married a schoolteacher, continued the family tradition having two boys, and lives in idyllic Coronado, Calif. Our youngest, Charlie, went to Berkeley, was Phi Beta Kappa and by an unusual set of circumstances accepted a position written for David Brinkley during the 50th D-Day commemoration in France. This led to a job at ABC News, where he advanced to business and economics producer. This past year he moved to a similar position at WNYC in NYC.”

“The chaos of insurance and the government led me to leave practice in 1994, and I joined the enemy as a medical consultant for the state of California, where I work full-time.”

“It has been a pleasure written at the request of our esteemed ’52 column editor, Sidney. However, I will announce now that this is not an invitation for solicitations. With the wisdom of age, I have gone from yellow dog Democrat to centrist independently.”

Citing what he perceives as “the pervasive radical and anti-Israeli bias of the University,” Irwin closes by saying he has “moved my wallet from my left to right hip pocket.”

This next about Anthony (A. James) Gregor, Anthony Gimiglia, born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 2, 1929, proceeded to earn his Ph.D. (1961) in social and political philosophy as an Irwin Edman Scholar in the philosophy department of Columbia. He commenced his career as an educator by working in the philosophy departments of the universities of Kansas and Texas, before being invited, in 1967, to join the faculty of the political science department at UC Berkeley. He retired from his teaching obligations in 2009, and continues his research and publication, primarily in the history of modern political thought. He has published 26 volumes, the most recent of which include Marxism, Fascism, and Totalitarianism: Chapters in the Intellectual History of Radicalism; The Search for Neofascism: The Use and Abuse of Social Science; Mussolini’s Intellectuals: Fascist Social and Political Thought; and Faces of Janus: Marxism and Fascism in the Twentieth Century. Collaborative with his studies in revolutionary ideologies, Anthony has published widely in professional organizations dealing with security and national defense issues. In that capacity, he has held the Opennheimer Chair of Warfighting Strategy at the United States Marine Corps University (1996–97) as well as been an adjunct lecturer for the Professional Schools, Department of State, and occasional lecturer for the National Defense University and the United States Marine Corps University. He has served as expert witness in regional security matters for both houses of Congress and on the editorial boards of the journal of Strategic Studies and Comparative Strategy. Anthony has participated in lectures and conferences in most of the major cities of the United States and in Europe as well as Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Montevideo in Latin America. Similar obligations took him to Tokyo, Beijing, Pyongyang, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Manila, New Delhi and Calcutta in Asia. As a lecturer for the United States Information Agency, Anthony spoke at institutions in Jerusalem, Cairo and Pretoria. In 1972, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. In 1974, he was commemorated by the Giovanni Gentile Commemorative Ceremony of the Enciclopedia Italiana, Rome. He was a fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem (1980–81). In 2010, the government of the Republic of Italy awarded Anthony membership (as cavaliero) in the Order of Merit. He lives in Berkeley, Calif., with his wife, Professor Maria Hisa Chang.

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

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The unusual achievement of our innovative classmate Herman WѴіже is now well known. In 1997, Herman was associated with the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford when he learned that the Bonn government in Germany was planning to shut down its existing synchrotron and replace it with a more powerful model. The Germans planned to cut up their old synchrotron and sell its metal as scrap.

In simple terms, a synchrotron produces super intense X-rays that enable scientists to see the detailed arrangements of atoms inside complex molecules such as proteins. For example, the synchrotron makes it possible to analyze the atomic structure of defective hemoglobin in order to create a medicine to help patients with sickle cell anemia.

Hearing that the Bonn government was about to sell the existing synchrotron, Herman came up with an imaginative idea. Instead of selling it as scrap, would the Bonn government be willing to donate the equipment to a scientific group in the Middle East?

Working diligently, Herman was able to secure an enthusiastic response from the scientific community and UNESCO. As a result, nine Middle Eastern countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Cyprus, Jordan, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan) agreed to construct the Middle East’s first major cooperative international scientific research center. Jordon successfully competed for the site to become the site for the new center.

Talking to Herman on the phone, I learned that he is especially excited that this cooperative venture of scientists from nine countries will convince bright young students in the area to work together on peaceful projects that will have enormous medical and other benefits for people in their countries and for the entire world. Detailed information about the project is available at www.sesame.org.jo.

Keep up the great work, Herman! Your classmates are proud of your determined efforts over many years to bring this project to fruition.

Talking to Stan Maratos by phone, I learned that last summer he was inducted into the Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Montreal. His achievements were cited at a dinner attended by 300 people where Stan received a huge plaque and a glass globe on a pedestal. Interestingly enough, Stan is one of a small number of our classmates who married as under-
graduates. He and Amaryllis were married during their senior year and celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. Stan also told me about a celebration every two years in Florida known as The Last Round-up. It seems our Columbia jocks find it easier to get together to party and talk about the good old days. If you were a jock and would like to participate, please telephone Stan in Treasure Island, Fla.

Stan was a member of the 1950–51 men’s basketball team that went undefeated during their junior year season and won the Eastern Intercollegiate Basketball League (forerunner of the Ivy League) championship before bowling to Illinois 79–71 in the NCAA tournament. That team has been inducted to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, Stan, on your Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame award.

Elliot Weser still is active, vigorous and enthusiastic. For example, in 2010 he was elected to the city council of Alamo Heights, Texas. During the course of our telephone conversation, he told me that he’s enjoying every minute of being on the council and finds that the key to being politically productive is to make sure to maintain a sense of humor. After 32 years of flying his four-passenger plane to all parts of the United States, two years ago Elliot and his wife, Marcia, decided to stop flying.

Elliot’s working years have been enormously productive. For 44 years, he was professor of medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where he founded and became the chief of gastroenterology department. For 20 years, Elliot has been inducted to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. He is emeritus professor of medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

Six years ago, Gene Winograd retired as professor of psychology at Emory, where he specialized in experimental research on memory. Gene published more than 75 papers and wrote a couple of books. On the phone, Gene reported that he finds it very pleasant to be retired. He finds it financially rewarding to do a lot of reading and piano playing. He and Judy are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

During our undergraduate years, Rolon Reed was one of our most dynamic and capable class leaders. To mention a few of his many activities, he was the managing editor of Spectator, the president of Phi Gamma Delta and the recording secretary of the Pamphletia Council. Talking to Rolon, I learned that after suffering two broken hips and having terrible trouble with his lungs after 60 years of smoking, he has to use a wheelchair to get around. Nevertheless, he still retains his delightful sense of humor and powerful intellect. When asked what he thought of Barack Obama ‘83’s election, Rolon told me, “Hell of a hoot.” All of his classmates and fraternity brothers and sisters pray for Rolon’s recovery and return to good health.

For those of our classmates whom we have not heard from recently, please drop me a note or an e-mail, or call. Hope to hear from many of you soon.

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While it is always great hearing from classmates on a regular basis, every so often I hear from members of our class whom I have not heard from for some time. I was delighted to hear from Ed Raab recently. He has been happily married to Rosanne for 52 years, and they have three fine children, two admirable in-law children and four super grandchildren. Ed writes, “Rosanne and I travel a great deal, and she has accompanied me on teaching missions in China, India and Uzbekistan. We play tennis year-round, and I am still in active ophthalmology practice and teaching at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.”

Peter Ehrenhaft is a truly loyal “roving reporter.” Peter met Roy Schotland at a dinner party recently. Roy teaches at Georgetown Law School. Peter and Roy clerked at the Supreme Court in the same term during 1961. Roy for Justice William Brennan and Peter for Chief Justice Warren. Roy’s wife, Sandra, recently retired as a partner at the law firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton and now competes with Roy as a lecturer on a variety of themes at law schools around the world.

The hottest news on Morningside Heights currently is the issue of undatededelegations to ROTC. It is being discussed passionately in the University Senate, and by faculty, students and alumni. Remember the good old days when NROTC and AFROTC were joined by a good many undergraduates? The question should be resolved shortly, perhaps before this magazine reaches your hands.

Alumni weekend recently was held for baseball and basketball (including an alumni game for hoopsters—none of our class played). We saw Jack Freeman, Richard Asher, Bob Pearlean and many other alumni socializing and reliving the past. Some of the guys who couldn’t make it were Ron McPhee, Tom Brennan, Tony Palladino and John Naley. There’s always next year, fellows.

In early April, the annual Columbia Community Outreach was held. More than 1,000 students, alumni, faculty and the rest of the Columbia community went into New York City neighborhoods and areas around the globe, participating in a day of service. This event has been going on for 15 years and was started by two College students in the 1990s.

Faculty have become an integral part in bringing the classroom to Travel Study featuring guest lecturers; and Crossroads of Cultures in the Mediterranean—a voyage from Seville to Venice. Myron Liptzin went with a group on one of these cruises a short while ago.

The sixth annual Hour event was held in the early spring. Key speakers were Professor Ann Douglass, composer David Amram, writer Joyce Johnson and a cast of all-stars who helped Columbia honor its Beat prodigal sons, Allen Ginsberg ‘48 and football coach Lou Little’s favorite, Jack Kerouac.

Another major achievement in the admissions area: Columbia received a record number of applications for the Class of 2015, 34,587, a more than 32 percent increase from last year.

The Kraft Family Center for Jewish Student Life is holding its 10th anniversary celebration in which Allen Hyman is being honored, among others. In addition to participating in events at the Kraft Center, Allen is active with our class, attending monthly class dinners, sporting events, scholarship functions and more.

Two affinity groups will be gathering at Alumni Reunion Weekend in early June. One is varsity athletes — will you be Neil Opdyke, Bob Mercier, Dick Carr, Peter Chase, Bob Dillingham, Peter Martin, Barry Pariser, Willy Storz and Barry Sullivan? Due to the success of last year’s gathering, all singing groups (Glee Club, et al.) will be invited to give another concert at reunion. Details will follow. We mentioned that WKCR had its 70th anniversary party a couple of months ago. No, it was not held in the old studios in Hamilton Annex. Didn’t see Dave Sweet (“Voice”)?

Everyone should know that the Class of 1955 Scholarship Fund recipient is Dominique Nievez ’12, who is majoring in dance and a pre-med track of study. She teaches high school students at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital / Columbia University Medical Center. Dominique is smart and is a wonderful person as well.

We received an invitation from George Raitt to have coffee at “Chock Full o’ Nuts” or “Prexy’s.” Will we see Milt Merritt. The hottest news on Morningside Heights currently is the issue of undatededelegations to ROTC. It is being discussed passionately in the University Senate, and by faculty, students and alumni. Remember the good old days when NROTC and AFROTC were joined by a good many undergraduates? The question should be resolved shortly, perhaps before this magazine reaches your hands.

Ed Cowan and his bride, Ann Louise, continue their pilgrimage, aka baseball odyssey, and are planning to visit Denver in May. The Colorado Rockies will mark the 30th major league stadium visit for them. While there, a lovely reunion will take place between the Cowans and Herb Wittow and his wife, Sandra. I know, and my wife, Debby, can say from experience, that Herb and Sandra are absolutely wonderful hosts. Herb tells me that he is finally sincerely considering retirement.

Speaking of travel, Debby and I recently went to China, where I judged at dog shows and we visited several cities.
Ben still is in the insurance business in Midtown.

We learned of the passing of two classmates — Don Grillo and Jay Novins. Our sympathies go out to their family and friends. They will be missed.

Ben Bozen of Class of 1955, time is moving quite rapidly as we head toward another milestone, our 60th. Keep your spirits up. Keep your cholesterol down. Enjoy yourself to the fullest. Love to all, everywhere!

REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

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I went to Ft. Lauderdale in early March to visit Danny Link for four days that included our Florida Class of ’56 Luncheon. The luncheon was held on March 8 at the Ibis Golf and Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens and was hosted by Don Roth and attended by Anita and Lou Hemminger, Lisa and Mike Spett, Jackie and Don Roth, Elinor Baller and Danny Link, Fern and Stan Manne, Don Kazi- nir, Janet and Jerry Roth, myself and my wife, Elke. John brought his mother-in-law, whose company we enjoyed, as well as enjoying the fact that we had at least one older person attending. Everyone enjoyed the food and good company, and we already are talking about next year’s Florida luncheon.

I believe that the winter weather that we suffered here in the New York City area has finally ended. So let’s start thinking summer, the Class of 2011 graduation and our 55th reunion, Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. See details later in this column.

On January 15, a number of our class members were in attendance to watch our Columbia basketball team kick off its Ivy League season against Cornell. It was good to share the winning experience with Maurice Klein and his wife, Judy, and Jordan Richin, who came as my guests, and to run into Paul Taussina and Char- llie Brown, who are regulars at many of the games. It also was nice to see the names of a number of our class members honored in the program as receiving their basketball letters during our four years in college. The night brought back some very good memories.

On the evening of February 3, Al Franco ’56E and I were privi- leged to attend the Dean’s Scholarship Reception, where we got to meet many of our class’ scholarship recipients. Our class currently has four permanent scholarships (set up at our 50th reunion) and six current scholarship funds, which is truly a joy to listen to the students. They are bright, ambitious, directed and very appreciative of the scholarships that have enabled them to attend Columbia. Interestingly, the scholarship program now covers living expenses during the summer so students can take internships in their chosen fields without worry- ing about finances. It also was nice to hear that they were interested in our experiences some 55 years ago. I am trying to get our two graduating class scholarship students to attend one of our reunion events (probably our June 3 dinner).

Our last class luncheon was held at the Columbia Alumni Center, home to the Alumni Office. We have been invited to hold our lunches at the Center until we have completed our 55th reunion planning. It has worked really well. In attendance at a recent lunch, held on February 6, were Bob Sirot, Peter Klein, Stan Soren, Buzz Paaswell, Jerry Fine and me. We have completed most of the planning, so now the rest is up to you, our class members who would like to attend. We will be moving our bimonthly lunches, the last, back to campus (at Faculty House, or some new, interesting restaurants near campus), or the Columbia University Club for our midtown class alumni.

Our 55th reunion is less than a month away. It’s not too late to reg- ister online: alumni.college.columbia.edu/events/55th. The event offers a great mix of cultural happenings throughout New York City and class-specific events where we will have a chance to renew friendships. On Thursday night, there will be a chance to take in a show in Manhattan. Friday offers mini-Core courses and a class wine tasting and buffet dinner. Saturday is Dean’s Day, with great lectures, including a talk by Dean Michele Moody-Adams and a class luncheon at Casa Itali- ana. The night before the class cocktail and dinner party, with a lively discussion with Professor Peter Pazzaglini ’77 GSAS. For those who still want to party, there is the Starlight Reception, which features sweets, champagne and dancing on Love Place. In between, there will be plenty of other happenings to keep us entertained. Don’t miss it. The committee has worked hard to keep the cost reasonable and the program lively and interesting. For more detailed information, check your reunion package or online at alumni.college.columbia.edu/reunion.

Class news: Elliott Urdang, a Brooklyn boy living in Rhode Island for the last 40-plus years, has had multiple careers. As he writes, “After working as a child psychiatrist for 25 years, I have been working for 20 years as a freelance trainer for the airline Russian (as well as medical materi- als from Spanish and French in the past five years).” Elliot’s interest in foreign languages led him to get an M.A. in Russian, which led to his second career in translation, which he loves. He is a co-translator of two books by Romanian poet Ion Car- aion: Ion Carnion: Poems, co-transl- ated with Marguerite Dorian, bilingual Romanian-English edition; and The Error of Being (Gresenita de a fi), poems of Ion Caranio, co-translated from Romanian with Marguerite Dorian, bilingual Romanian-English edition. Elliott’s wife, Ester, also is an author and is writing a textbook on human behavior in the social envi- ronment. So they both get added to the list of authors. Elliott is friendly with Eddie Smith and his wife, and still is nostalgic for Columbia.

Elliott, I would love to see you at our 55th reunion.

Don Roth, host of our Florida luncheon, also has had multiple careers. After lawyering with Fried Frank, Wachtell and Lipton in Washington, D.C., he moved on to an executive position at Ocean Data Systems, a high-tech company, from which he retired when it was sold. Not satisfied to be retired, Don returned to get an M.B.A. from Wharton about the same time my son got his M.B.A. The only differ- ence is that Don was about 30 years older than his classmates. This has led to his becoming a co-founder and officer of an Internet startup, Optim- al Effect.

Good luck to Don in this exciting new challenge.

Leo Glass, practicing law in Mon- ticello, N.Y., writes that he misses Columbia and had a claim of being the youngest in our class. Sorry Leo, Buzz Paaswell has you beat by about nine months. We would both like to see you at our 55th reunion to share other remembrances.

As sophomores during the Soph-Frosh Rush, we were the second class to lose to the freshmen, who managed to climb the greased pole and capture the prized boar- penched atop? Does anyone remem- ber the first class to lose?

During our freshman year, Gordon Butler was bundled up in bandages mummy-style and put on a plane to Chicago by a group of sophomores who had kidnapped him. They explained to the airline that he had been horribly burned and was bandaged so heavily in order to prevent him from speaking or touching his badly burned body. When the hoax was discovered, if got national press coverage, adding immeasurably to the considerable image of maturity that Columbia students were about to display in the years ahead.

During the Cold War, in a Radio Moscow broadcast, Valentin Zorin, a Soviet and Russian commentator, suggested that Dwight D. Eisen- hower had tried to turn Columbia into a barracks during his time as Columbia’s president? Zorin had obviously stayed at, or seen, the rooms at John Jay Hall at some time or another.

In May 1953, a mob of Columbia students attempted a parity raid at both Barnard and Johnson Hall? The event was covered by all the New York newspapers, with the New York Post calling the under-graduates “columbians who gained trophies in furious assaults on the trembling women students in three dorms.”

During Columbia’s bicentennial celebration in 1954, more than 7,000 invited guests from 37 countries as- sembled in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine? They included Germany’s Konrad Adenauer, Su- preme Court Chief Justice Earl War- ren and 1952 Presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson.

Graduating seniors could expect to earn starting salaries of from $75–$90 a week, according to Co- lumbia’s Placement Bureau?

Despite a vote where 91 percent of dorm students voted approval of a system that would permit fe- male students to visit dorm rooms, the Residential Dormitory Council elected not to allow such visits?

The small-scale riot during our senior class beer party in John Jay Hall resulted in the destruction of furniture, with one classmate being sent to St. Luke’s Hospital for eight stitches?

It may seem hard to believe that in some cases these events happened close to 60 years ago, and even more so that they still burn bright in the memories that so many of us still have.

College fundraising: We have set a class goal of $150,000 donated to the Columbia College Fund by the end of this fiscal year (Thursday, June 30). If we meet this goal, the Scholarships 101 Challenge, gener-ously funded by the late John W.
be complete without Lou Little, who will always be ‘my coach.’

“Alton Goddenker and Roy Wolff stand at the front of the line. Their deep and abiding love for me is something that is always with me.

“I somewhat alphabetical order, Pasquale Caputo shared his great love of opera with me. Charlie Catania was my always helpful lab rat partner. Claude Benham struck me with the noble way he carried himself. Roy Altmann’s charming flamboyancy and animation in my memory. Ted Dwyer was my roommate during our freshman year, and I had the great pleasure of introducing him to some of my favorite places in NYC.

“Dick Eberl inspired me with his courageous and creative mischief. Sherry Fischer was a rewarding part of my AFROTC experience, and Stan Luftschis was grace under pressure. Harry Marks and I were not best friends, but I always admired the quiet way in which he carried himself. I will always remember Murray May’s infectious laugh. I am proud to call John Wellington my friend; we dressed for football in adjoining lockers and that is all that took for us to find each other. I looked up to Art Wilson for his values, and I totally understand why he was chosen as captain of our football team.

“Now the inescapable question is, what do all of these classmates have in common? I will call the entity a ‘largeness of spirit.’ The demonstrated details are, of course, completely idiosyncratic, but to me, the similarities are compelling.”

Mac Gims: “Thank you for your prompt and thoughtful missive. I enjoyed the article on Mr. Chris Sharp (The Washington Post, January 16) and his project to cast 19 statues of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I am happy to see a sculptor devoted to such a worthy cause and admire his commitment to the Civil Rights Movement.

“I have written about Dr. King and cast a sculpture to honor his work, although it is a very different style, showing the brutality of racism. It is better called, ‘Not suitable for children to view,’ and I agree. Mr. Sharp’s project is a focus on King and his cause. I appreciate his work.”

Mac continues from the previous CCT on his New York exhibit (November) at KGB Gallery.

“Joe Diamond appeared later, and it was the occasion for the only photo of the day. We are looking at Bearing The Burden Of Peace, created for David Trimble and John Hume of Northern Ireland, co-laureates for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998. The bronze sculpture was pre-sent to them in March 2000 at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

“It was inspiring to bridge the years with ’57 classmates to our time of passing between Butler Library and Hamilton Hall. Our discourse moved from current events to great issues in philosophy and history with the help of impromptu lectures by Professor Bernard Wishy ’48, ’58 GSAS, class valedictorian. We had Erich Gruen and a host of bright and willing young minds ready to debate any interest. I remember the vivid quad that I lost my intellectual innocence. The magic of Columbia was to bring everything into question. I am grateful.”

Carlos Muñoz: “Just received CCT, and it reminded me that, while I was in California preparing to take our grandchildren on a cruise, I missed the regular ’57 lunch by two days. I had lunch with John Taussig, Gene Wagner was to join us, but the horrendous rains and winds blocked our way and prevented his trip. We survived the rains and had a delightful cruise to Mexico with our family group of 12, including six grandchildren.

“The cruise left from the Port of Los Angeles December 26, comprising eight days to Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. The ship included a full basketball and soccer court for the four teenager ages (who almost beat the ship’s crew team in soccer), an ice skating rink and a climbing wall, and the kids kayaked in Cabo, parasailed in Mazatlan and swam with dolphins in Puerto Vallarta.”

Martin Brothers: “At this first classmates’ conversation of its kind, held at the Columbia Alumni Club on Tuesday, March 14 of this year, we were present (including our Alumni Office liaison, Paul Staller, director of class giving): Bob Lipsyte, Sal Franchino, Stanley Barnett, Paul Zola, Art Meyerson, Martin Brothers, Joseph Diamond, Carlos Muñoz, Robert Klipstein, Mark Stanton, Al Fierro, David Kinne and Joseph Feldschuh.

“Twelve others would have attended if they were not out of town or obliged to attend to compelling personal matters: Alvin Koys, Alan Rosen, Jonathan Lubin, Steve Ronai, Phil Olick, Edward Weinstein,Apply Fisher, Alan Brown, Mike Lipper, Bob Fleischer, Larry Boes and Ken Bodenstein.

“The conference room at the Center was crowded in, enough to seat 22 on comfortable leather chairs around a substantial oblong conference table equipped with audio-visual adaptors, with an adjoining kitchen where coffee had been prepared by the staff and a refrigerator where we chilled wines that was served over lunch delivered by Nussbaum & Wu, a nearby deli. Although not on the level of the culinary or ambient splendor of The University Club, the situation was cozy, informal and made for easy communication among all present.”

“Bob Lipsyte moderated the conversation and passed the floor to those present about two hours and might have lasted longer. Not only was he engaging but also he was interesting, amusing, candid, controversial and personable, and everyone present had something to say that all others heard. We were able to exchange stories to tell and anecdotes that were at times surprising and moving, regarding his own life and the lives of celebrities, mentors and others who had impressed him.

“I hope he’ll return for another. Here’s an idea for you, Bob. Why not collar some athlete or journalist you’ve known and interview him or her on or off the record, where we could ask questions and make comments during or after the interviews. It wouldn’t have to be some- one famous: say, a boxer or a baseball or football or tennis player. Surely, Pete Rose would be interesting, but a lesser known or even unknown player with a story of interest might do as well or better. Please give this some thought.”

“The prospect of organizing a similar luncheon is one that any one or more of you can do, either individually or as a team, whether the luncheon centers around a theme, topic or moderator, or you aim it at get-together without more, a cause, lie or symposium. Any format of interest might work, and the resources of the University in the City of New York offer too many possibilities to list.

“I’d be happy for your input on the luncheon we had and would organize another if enough of you wish, but would be just as pleased (if not more pleased) to defer to or assist anyone else who has an idea for a project.”

“Impression is that at our age the collective knowledge, experience and wisdom around the table was remarkable if not daunt- ing and should make for many more interesting conversations where we can feel connected and involved in the event.

“Listen, there were guys there who have a great deal they could say to engage us for hours. Frankly, any one of us could, if we wanted, delve into our own lives for material that might interest others. Quick examples: Art Meyerson (psychia- try), Paul Zola (psychology), David Kinne (medicine) and Stan Barnett (scientist, engineer), among others, all others in fact.”

“So, if this was something that you enjoyed, let us all know and

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suggest anything you think would be of interest, and if you would like to organize or produce the event by yourself or selves, or want assistance, just say so and move ahead with it at some mutually convenient date that does not conflict with any University of Oregon events.

“Wishing all the best, and thanking all who attended and expressed interest and support.”

Barry Dickman
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Congratulations to Steve Jonas on his marriage to Chezna Newman. Steve and Chezna “were very happily married with a rabbi, a reception and a honeymoon in Sweden. We really rushed into it; we’ve been together only 12 years. Our class was represented at the wedding by my dear friend Joe Dorinson.”

Not exactly breaking news, but better any old time than never. Your reporter noticed an obit in The New York Times headlined, “Jack Oliver [’45, ’53 GSAS], Who Proved Continental Drift, Dies at 87,” and read on. Although the theory had been put forth in 1912, it had generally been regarded as a crackpot idea until the 1960s, when Oliver, who was working at Columbia’s Lamont Geological Observatory, together with his former graduate student Bryan Isacks found proof of the theory. In 1968 they published a paper making a convincing case that what had become known as plate tectonics was real (and important; it’s now the basis for offshore oil exploration, among other things). Bryan has retired as the William and Katherine Snell Professor of Geological Sciences at Cornell.

Here’s a letter from Barry Lutenden:

“Your column in the January / February Columbia College Today was appreciated and very meaningful to me. I was saddened to learn that Asher Rubin had passed away but was pleased you clearly remembered him well, as I have.

“Asher and Al Shine were good friends of David Davis ’56E and mine during those wonderful years at Columbia in Livingston Hall. Asher was literally one of a kind. His sense of humor is unforgettable, and his close friendship with Al was very similar to mine with David.

“Thanks for rekindling the wonderful memories of Asher. Please keep up the good work with the magazine.”

Barry, we appreciate your kind words.

Barry retired from teaching math in the Framingham, Mass., school system. As many of you will remember, Dave died not long after graduation.

According to the Amherst alumni magazine, Mort Halperin’s youngest son, Gary, was voted by readers of Natural Audiences magazine as a 2010 Natural Choice Award winner for “favorite yoga instructor in Sarasota, Fla.” The note added, “Gary remains a stay-at-home dad to three girls under 7; 17,000 diapers changed and counting.” And why, you may be asking, is your reporter reading the Amherst alumni magazine? Because his daughter, Sue Dickman, was Gary’s classmate at Amherst.

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). E-mail Art Radin if you plan to attend, up to the day before: aradin@radinglass.com.

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Thanks to all of you who have submitted your doings to Class Notes. I encourage those members of the class who have not done so recently to please do so. This is the only way some of us can keep in touch.

I am sorry to report that Stephen M. Remen, a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, of New York City, died on January 20, and federal judge David G. Trager, of Brooklyn, N.Y., died on January 5. [Editor’s note: Obituaries will appear in a future issue.]

Bernie Pucker writes, “During the past three years, our son Jon has been working alongside us in our gallery in an effort to continue the commitments of the gallery that go back to 1967. It is reassuring to all who visit the gallery — clients, friends and artists — that there will be a sense of continuity that go back to 1967. It is reassuring to all who visit the gallery — clients, friends and artists — that there will be a sense of continuity in what we have begun.

“I am recently back from an extraordinary trip to Germany, where I met with Jan Kollwitz, the great-grandson of Kathe Kollwitz. Jan is a potter who studied in Japan 25 years ago and has been creating pots in the Japanese tradition for the past 20 years. We are in the process of preparing to exhibit his work here in Boston.

“Additionally, I came across a Korean poet, Young-Jae Lee, and at the same time, I have added the works of another Japanese potter, Yoshinori Hayagiwa, to our collection based upon our May 2010 journey to Japan.

“I must say that the universe continues to broaden and also get smaller. Many old Columbia friends continue to wander in. It is a joy and delight remaining in touch with them through art.”

From Arthur M. Louis: “I recently published a book of mostly journalistic memoirs, Journalism and Other Atrocities: An Irreverent Memoir. I spent more than 40 years as a professional journalist, about half of that as a writer on the staff of Fortune. There also is a fair amount in the book about Columbia College, the Journalism School and Spectator, where I was editor-in-chief in my senior year.

“If anyone wants to buy the book (hint, hint), the easiest way is to go to the following link: create space.com/3483153. Another way is to go to Amazon.com.”

From Alvin Halpern we hear, “My wife and I have moved to sunny San Diego. We love and miss New York, but the weather, and our two grandchildren living close by, proved irresistible. We moved in August, and it has taken months of hectic activity to fully settle into our new condo. While not New York, San Diego is filled with museums, theaters and good restaurants that keep us busy and entertained.”

Pat Mullins has been busy of late. The last issue of CCT contained news of his wife Jackie’s death. He continues his report, “Fortunately, 16 months previously, I had been asked to run for the position of chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia, a position that I had not sought nor really wanted.

“After several conversations with our Republican Governor nominee, Bob McDonnell, and my congressman (now House Majority Leader) Eric Cantor, I agreed to have my name placed in nomination.

“Six months after I was elected party chair at a May 2009 convention attended by 12,000 Virginia Republicans, Republicans swept the Virginia governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general races by 20 percent, only the second time in our Commonwealth’s history that we have held all three of the top positions. We also picked up eight seats in the Virginia House of Delegates. I was given major credit for the victories, for reuniting and reenergizing the party and for reaching out and bringing home the business community and our conservative base after eight years of defeats, accolades which I felt were undeserved but ones I humbly accepted.

“Then this past November we followed up those victories by taking back three Democrat congressional seats.

“During this period, I visited and spoke in more than 60 Virginia counties and cities and had a driver who took me on these campaign trips.

“The week before the November elections, I joined with Rep. Cantor on a five-city swing with rallies throughout his congressional district; spent a day in Virginia Beach with our congressional candidate there who picked up a Democrat seat; and was driven on a four-day, 1,500-mile swing for rallies and...
Speaking engagements in southern and southwest Virginia, where both our GOP candidates took back Democrat seats.

“The final two days before the election, I did an eight-city, two-day fly around Virginia with Gov. McDonnell, J. Canary, and Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, who incidentally filed the first lawsuit to have Obamacare ruled unconstitutional and has prevailed in the initial decision in the lower courts.”

The crowds were large and enthusiastic. This was the second time I had joined our party leaders in a Virginia fly-around with airport rallies, and it is an unforgettable experience.

“Frankly, I had not realized the prominence and prestige that a state party chairman in Virginia has, and it’s still a novelty to me to have a driver and scheduler, to be featured at fundraising events, to have folks wanting to pose for pictures with me, and at large meetings someone is always walking with me. In many cases, I have been told I was the first party chair to ever visit that particular county.

“I served on our 50th reunion planning committee and was set to attend and renew acquaintances, but my new duties as party chair prevented me from leaving Virginia.

“I look forward to seeing everyone at our 55th reunion.”

Eric Jakobsson clearly is very busy: “The most exciting scientific thing in my life is a new project on genetically specific antimicrobial therapy. I have come to have a great appreciation for the ability of anti-sense RNA to shape cell function and have, through the Nanomedicine Institute I direct for five years, developed a collaboration with a wonderful nanoscientist whose group has engineered delivery vehicles that can target specific cells and deliver RNA to the interior. We have teamed up with a microbial genetist to submit a grant proposal to NIH for developing genetically specific antimicrobial therapy via anti-sense RNA that would be specific to the pathogen genome. In this fashion, we hope to overcome the problem of cross-resistance of broad-spectrum antibiotics of acquired antibiotic resistance and side effects on commensal microbes. So far this is only a concept supported by preliminary data and computations, but if we get some grant money, it promises to be by far the most important thing I have done scientifically, so I am quite excited.

“In recent years my research has become interdisciplinary, publishing in journals as diverse as Journal of Computational and Theoretical Chemistry, Journal of Physical Chemistry B, Biophysical Journal, BMC Structural Biology, Channels and so on.

“I have become drawn to the concept of interdisciplinary science and have a paper in press, “The Interdisciplinary Scientist of the 21st Century,” in which I argue that with modern technology for bringing knowledge to analysis and modeling tools to our fingertips, instead of having to access remote library shelves and mainframe computers, there is no barrier to individuals acquiring deep knowledge in multiple scientific disciplines, and that in fact training individuals to be multidisciplinary is essential to solving many of the most important scientific problems today.

“I took this message to a workshop on e-learning in Costa Rica, with the result that the Costa Rica Institute of Technology has decided to build a Ph.D. program on these principles, and I am consulting with them on the details of the plan. I wake up every day excited about this. I think that this is what I have been pointing to intellectually with the earlier part of my life.

“I am hoping to come back to our administration at the University of Illinois and convince them that this is a direction we should go in as well. We have many very powerful departments, but in my mind there is growing evidence that the rigidity of the departments is getting in the way of tackling some of the most important research questions and of training our students to tackle those questions.

“Also, it is great to travel in Costa Rica because of the natural beauty of the country; in addition to it being a very progressive society. In December, I went zip-lining through the rain forest canopy, which is about as big a thrill as I can take anymore.

“My wife, Naomi, was campaigning last fall for re-election to the Illinois state legislature. I am very proud of her in many ways, but one way is that she is running a completely positive campaign on her record, in contrast to the horrible negative stuff that is so common. Naomi won her re-election to the Illinois House last November against a Tea Partier, and this year against a Tea Partier who was an elected legislator and the governorship.

“We are amused at the chaos across the border in Wisconsin and grateful to them for making us look good by comparison.

“I also have taken a fling in politics. I agreed to be appointed to a vacant city council seat in Urbana and ran for election in my own right in the Democratic primary in my ward on February 22. My opponent decided to endorse me, but I still campaigned until the end.

“Can you imagine how embarrassing it would be to lose an election after the opponent had endorsed you? That would be worse than losing to a dead guy!

“Still keeping busy being a patriarch of my clan of eight grown children (two by birth and six adopted) and 11 grandchildren. The grandchildren are growing up.

“One looks as though she might be a scientist, as she is in her junior year at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (Illinois’ answer to Bronx Science). Others are doing many good things, mainly growing and becoming beautiful people.

“As you can imagine, in a group of young people this size, there is always something to celebrate and something to be concerned about. Next year, my oldest grandson enters college. Time flies when one is having fun.”

Clive Chajet reports, “My hair is grayer, my weight is about the same, my memory for names and faces is getting worse, and we have moved from an apartment in Manhattan to a small size apartment for my wife of 45 years and me. My granddaughters are becoming more and more divine. I receive some very funny e-mails from classmates regularly and am somewhat busy as a brand consultant. The book I wrote some 25 years ago, Image by Design: From Corporate Vision to Business Reality, still sells. I get at least $75 a year in royalty payments, and my attitude toward Columbia gets more and more positive because of our schoolmate Barack Obama ’83 and the continued attractiveness of living and working in Manhattan.”

The Health Coverage Foundation, founded by Marlys and Mike Bromberg, announced that it has given $100,000 to the American Cancer Society to help provide insurance premium assistance to high risk individuals. The grant will be used to build upon the Health Insurance and Financial Assistance Service, a program already in place at the American Cancer Society. This is a free service that connects cancer patients with health insurance specialists through the ACS National Cancer Information Center’s toll-free number (800-227-2345). A new insurance premium assistance program will be added to the Health Insurance Assistance Service through the use of the grant funds. Health insurance specialists will identify uninsured callers who are at the highest risk, and form them about their options to gain coverage and help connect them with local resources.

Mike is chairman of Capitol Health Group, a Washington, D.C.-based health care lobbying firm representing health care organizations.

“Our space in CCT filled, I am holding contributions from Steve Traftenberg, Lou Lucaccini, Bill Berberich, Benjamin Jerry Cohen, Jerome Charyn, Jay Neugeboren, Alvin Goldman and Peter Rosenfeld for the next issue.”

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From his home in Taiwan, Syd Goldsmith sends family reflections on the year just passed, the Year of the Tiger, and greetings to all on the recently arrived Year of the Rabbit.

“It has,” he writes, “been a colorful year for all of us. All of us being Syd, his wife, Ann, son Harrison (17) and daughter Jessica (12), “The Taipei Goldsmiths,” as Syd refers to them.

“Ann has created more new art than our walls will hold and has participated in exhibitions on both sides of the Pacific. Now she is collaborating with her two artist sisters in a recently opened gallery. Ann also translated for self-growth workshops in China and Bali, and she has become a superbly imaginative gourmet cook.

“Harrison walked into drama class late; the teacher pointed at him and said, ‘You’re dead,’ leading him to being murdered twice in the Taipei American School’s production of Animal Farm. He’s an avid movie critic, and his rock guitar easily out-decibels all the other instruments in the house.

“Jessica is marching toward teen-dom with flying colors; purple, red, green and blond, all on display at various times of the year. When she isn’t dying her hair, she plays classical guitar and piano, enjoys having many friends and has been known to pay attention in class... sometimes.”

“And as for Syd, his second novel, Two Musicians and the Wife Who Isn’t, is “with a well-known literary agent, looking for a home in a publishing industry rocked by tumultuous change. Lifelong passion for the flute leads to intense practice. I’m working toward recording several CDs as evidence that I really did play it my way.”

Karl Donfried was unable to attend the 50th reunion last year. Duty called. He was obliged to be in southeastern Turkey at that time to complete a project. Karl promises that when time permits, he’ll share with us the highlights of his investigation of the ancient biblical sites that compelled his attention.

A gala event on February 24, the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the first broadcast of Columbia’s radio station, brought four members of the class back to Morning.

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side Heights. Joining 180 other WKCR alumni were Paul Feldman of the classical music department; Tom Hamilton, news department; John Pegram, engineering department; and Bill Seegraber, popular music department. Beverly Armstong, second among the celebrants. The event was held in the Roone Arledge Auditorium and at the WKCR station.

Not all of Bill Tanenbaum’s time is spent atop the 14,000-foot peaks in Colorado, though it may seem so. In fact, Bill loves to travel and does so widely. He also makes it a practice to stay in touch with members of the class.

Soon after our reunion, Bill sojourned in California, meeting twice with Bob Levine and Dick Dorazio. In July, he met with Ira Jaffrey in Glenwood Springs, Colo. All three are in the medical profession with different specialties.

In December, Bill traveled through Israel for 16 days. Three of those days were spent with Joel Levine and Joel’s wife, Zehavit. “The first two nights were in Elkan, Samaria, across the green line,” writes Bill. “The last night was spent in Kinneret. They drove us through the Galon Heights and around the Sea of Galilee, ending with a delicious dinner in Tiberias. We enjoyed each other’s company and got to know each other better. Joel is semi-retired and enjoys traveling...”

Bill’s conquests of the 14ers of Colorado have been chronicled in prior Class Notes, and those adventures prompted an e-mail from Dick Caldwell: “I just read through the January / February issue, and it brought back fond memories. It’s been a long time since my wife, Ellen, and I have been able to spend time with Bill. The last time was shortly after Reina’s [Bill’s beloved wife] untimely passing. We would really like to reconnect with him. Ellen and I will be making at least two trips to or through Colorado this year. Our son Rick has lived there for five years, and we have been frequent Colorado visitors. If we could meet in Colorado with Bill in 2011, that would be really special.”

Dick provided these details of his visit with Bill and more for the past seven years has been great—golf, travel and so on. I hope Ellen and I will continue to be blessed with good health, mobility and an active lifestyle for many more years. I changed careers in my early 50s to enter the apparel industry to insure to insurance and investments. Fortunately I had many successful years in both careers, while Ellen was busy as owner/operator of her own retail operation, and, after we moved in 2000 from northern New Jersey to Maryland, eventually managed another retail operation here until finally packing it in a few months ago. To this point at least, we have been able to enjoy the fruits of our labors. We have three middle-aged adult children, none of whom has yet elected marriage, so no grandchildren yet. Since Ellen’s turn 68 in February, and I hit 73 in March, they’d better hurry up before it’s too late.”

Stephen Scheiber has been elected president of the Lifers organization of the American Psychiatric Association, and writes, “In June 2010, I completed two years as president of The Isaac Ray Center, a nonprofit that provided psychiatric services to the Cook County Jail, which houses more than 5,000 detainees of whom roughly 15 percent receive psychiatric care at any one time. Hence it is the largest psychiatric facility in the state of Illinois. The Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, with approximately 400 residents at any one time, was the other correctional organization in Chicago that Bill felt a mental sway away from. The Isaac Ray Center. I continue to teach psychiatric residents in the Northwestern University Feinsteins School of Medicine.”

Another blow to the class: Jerry Cantor died on December 15, apparently having suffered a heart attack while jogging. Jerry was in private practice as a psychologist and simultaneously a financial adviser to a select group of investors. He had majored in philosophy at the College but his lifelong interest and passion was economics. Jerry’s family published a trade magazine that he joined upon graduation. When the business was sold soon thereafter, Jerry earned a doctorate in clinical psychology at NYU and embarked on his dual careers in counseling and finance. He was a voracious reader of financial news and reports, national and global, and his keen grasp of macroeconomic trends and influences enabled him to achieve great success in managing his personal portfolio and the portfolios of those to whom he was an adviser. Upon his sudden, unexpected death, many who were counseled by Jerry in his practice as a psychologist called his sister Gail to express the esteem in which they held him and how significant he had been in their lives. He was married but briefly and did not have children, but was a devoted uncle to Gail’s son and filled an important role as mentor to him. I thank Henry Kurtz ‘58, who brought the news of Jerry’s death to my attention, and Gail, who provided details of her brother’s life. Henry and Jerry were fraternity brothers at Beta Sigma Rho and remained lifelong friends.

Andy Feuerstein remembers Jerry’s intelligence and “unique sense of humor.”

Lenny Fuchs recalls Jerry as “decent, quirky and very interested in the great philosophers.” Andy’s and Lenny’s recollections precisely coincide with my own. A dry wit and a mordant sense of humor were characteristics that immediately sprang to mind as memories of Jerry returned when I learned of his death. The class sends its deepest condolences to Jerry’s family and friends.

**CLASS NOTES**

**REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5**

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Our 50th Alumni Reunion Weekend is less than a month away, Wednesday, June 1–Sunday, June 5. It’s not too late to register for what promises to be a fantastic weekend (alumni.college.columbia.edu /2011). In addition to great cultural events and lectures during Dean’s Day on Saturday, June 4, there are numerous class-specific events where we will have a chance to catch up. Wednesday has a special evening gathering just for our class, followed on Thursday by great events on campus and throughout the city, including Broadway theatre and the New York Philharmonic. On Friday, there will be a class medical panel, a class lunch in Low Library and a class reunion hosted by Tom Goebenberg. At their home, Saturday offers a financial panel for our class. The day will end with the all-class Wine Tasting, our class dinner and the Starlight Reception, with champagne and dancing on Low Plaza. And if you aren’t completely exhausted after that party, there will be a brunch on Sunday morning. Don’t miss it!

In celebration of our 50 years since our graduation, we will be announcing an e-mail survey this spring and will present the findings, as well as those from last year’s survey, at Alumni Reunion Weekend. The survey will focus on alumni accomplishments and alumni perspectives on major issues. If you suspect that we might not have your e-mail address, please send it to Tony Adler: awadler@sparta.com. We urge your participation in the survey, as we would like as accurate a representation of our class as possible. Allan J. Schwartz has contributed the lead chapter to the soon-to-be-published book *Understanding and Preventing College Student Suicide*. His most recent scholarly paper on this topic, “Rate, Relative Risk and Method of Suicide Among Students at Four-Year Colleges and Universities in the United States: 2004–05 Through 2008–09,” soon will appear in the journal *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. Allan has shown that it is the dramatically lower availability of firearms to students on these campuses that is responsible for the suicide rate among these students being half that of the general population. Suicide, he notes, is the second leading cause of death among students at these campuses.

Michael Schachter writes that his love during the past 35 years has been nutritional and integrative medicine, although he is a board-certified psychiatrist. At his center (schachtercenter.com), they see patients with all kinds of health challenges. Michael’s book, *What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Depression: The Breakthrough Integrative Approach for Effective Treatment*, offers depressed patients alternatives to the usual prescription of anti-depressant drugs. His recently published article, “Integrative Oncology for Clinicians and Cancer Patients,” is available as a PDF file for anyone who is interested by just contacting his office (see website above) and requesting it. Michael has six children from three marriages with an age range of 15–40. He has two grandchildren (3 months and 5). Michael and his wife, Lisa, hope to make our reunion dinner.

Arnold Kipstein has entered his 40th year in the practice of gastroenterology in Manchester, Conn. He received a reward from his hospital for 40 years of service and for the second consecutive year has been recognized by the “Consumers’ Research Council of America as one of “America’s Top
Melvin I. Urofsky ’61 Sets the Bar for Studying Brandeis

By Eugene L. Meyer ’64

For Melvin I. Urofsky ’61, ’68 GSAS, Louis D. Brandeis is like the man who came to dinner — and never left.

Urofsky, a historian, has devoted decades to the legal lion of OU. He serves on the high bench for the U.S. Supreme Court under Woodrow Wilson and, after serving on the high bench for 23 years, left an enduring mark on jurisprudence and political thought.

The culmination of a lifetime of scholarship was Urofsky’s definitive biography, published by Pantheon Books in 2009 to critical acclaim. Louis D. Brandeis: A Life, a doorstopper at 953 pages, came on the heels of seven volumes of Brandeis correspondence that Urofsky collected, co-edited and published with David Levy, a history professor at the University of Oklahoma.

How long did it take Urofsky to write the Brandeis biography? “It took 45 years,” he says, laughing.

To serious students of the Supreme Court, Urofsky’s work is no joke.

“Mel Urofsky is the gold standard for Brandeis scholars,” says Jeffrey Rosen, legal affairs editor of The New Republic and a law professor at The George Washington University. Urofsky, he adds, “has written a Brandeis biography for our time.”

David Pride, executive director of The Supreme Court Historical Society, which awarded Urofsky its Distinguished Griswold Prize for the biography in 2010, calls Urofsky “the foremost Brandeis scholar in the country.”

All told, the Urofsky oeuvre encompasses 52 books he either wrote or edited. His American Zionism from Herzl to the Holocaust, published in 1975, won the Jewish Book Council’s Holocaust Award a Decade of Progress, and he has lectured at venues around the world for the Sesquicentennial of the justice’s birth, and he has lectured at venues around the world for the State Department.

Not bad for a kid from Liberty, N.Y., a small town in the Catskills, where, Urofsky remembers, he literally knew everyone he encountered on a stroll down Main Street.

His family roots, however, were on the Lower East Side. Urofsky’s grandfather, a barber, “summered” in the Catskills, cutting the hair of resort-goers, then moved the family to Liberty and opened his own shop. Urofsky’s father was a bookkeeper, killed in a WWII training incident in Texas; his mother was a telephone operator.

Urofsky was valedictorian of his high school class of 75, in a school that had 12 grades in one building.

A local Columbia alumnus, Dr. Harry Golombek ’17, ’19 P&S, encouraged him to apply, and a full tuition scholarship sealed the deal. He lived in Livingston (now Wallach) Hall, entering as an engineering student but switching to history after higher level calculus and chemistry courses confounded him. Peter B. Kenen ’54, the great economist, was Urofsky’s adviser, and Bernard W. Wish ’48, ’58 GSAS, Henry Steele Commager and Walter P. Metzger ’46 GSAS were among his teachers. “This was a history department of stars in those years,” Urofsky recalls.

It was in Metzger’s 20th-century American history class that “a light bulb went off — I could do that,” Urofsky says. So he went to GSAS, with the notion that he, too, could teach. He earned a Ph.D. in 1968 in history.

Urofsky “fell in love” with an American history course covering 1877–1920 that was taught by William Leuchtenburg. This led to a doctoral thesis proposal on Brandeis’ role in shaping Wilson’s progressive platform for a “New Freedom.” But after spending “a very happy day” immersed in the Brandeis papers in Louisville, Urofsky concluded the documents did not justify a thesis, which then became his 1969 book, Big Steel and the Wilson Administration: A Study

in Business-Government Relations.

By then, Urofsky was an instructor at The Ohio State University, where he began a collaboration with a colleague, Levy, that resulted in the eventual publication of seven volumes of Brandeis letters. “We got a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in 1967 [followed by several renewals], went to Louisville together and Xeroxed papers,” Levy says. “We brought the papers back to Columbus and laid them out on the floor of his house. We both had the feeling his wife was chagrined.”

They were right. “Louis and the papers were very often under my feet,” says Susan Urofsky. “They were sorting the letters into multiple volumes. There were just mountains of paper around.”

Five books of edited and annotated letters were completed by 1978 and two more were published in the 1990s, after the two Brandeis scholars obtained access to the papers of Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter and the letters Brandeis wrote to his family.

Meanwhile, Urofsky had carved out a career at Virginia Commonwealth University, in Richmond, where he chaired the history department from 1974–81. His Brandeis work

Melvin I. Urofsky ’61 says his definitive biography of former Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis is the product of 45 years of work.

PHOTO: JEFF WATTS, COURTESY OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
inspired him, at 40, to enter law school at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, while still teaching at VCU. “I had a predictable mid-career crisis,” Urofsky recalls. “I got contacts, which I still wear, and a sports car, and I went to law school. I had a good time there. I knew how to read a case, so I didn’t spend four hours obsessing over what a sentence meant.”

After graduating from law school in 1983, Urofsky began teaching constitutional law almost exclusively and became an adjunct at several law schools. Currently, he teaches at American in Washington, D.C., and also an occasional course or seminar at VCU.

Work on the Brandeis biography accelerated after his 2003 retirement from VCU. The original manuscript was 1,200 pages. Urofsky says he told his editor, “It’s going to be a big book, and she said, ‘He was a big person.’”

The book is dedicated to Urofsky’s wife. When he showed her the finished product, he says, “Her comment was, ‘Can Louie leave the house now?’”

The book has won several prizes, and its author seems to be on a perpetual tour promoting it and talking about the subject. Brandeis also figures in Urofsky’s next book, which is about dissent on the Supreme Court. “He was the great dissenter,” Urofsky says, “always writing to educate and persuade.”

Thus his answer to his wife’s plaintive question: “No, Louie has not left the house.”

Eugene L. Meyer ’64 is a former longtime Washington Post staff writer and editor of B’nai B’rith Magazine. He has freelanced for several publications, including The New York Times and U.S. News & World Report.

Gastroenterologists.”

— Arnold writes, “I remember as a child the older generation would not be happy with changes and felt our society would go downhill with the changes. Now I am the older generation and have problems with some things. The explosion in the computer industry and electronics is wonderful, but are people going to be able to communicate in person as well as they have in the past?

Texting is a new way to communicate and has brought on a new language to quicken communication, but it has contributed to more automobile accidents. We are in difficult economic times and must look for ways to cut costs. Obamacare has really changed the way medicine is practiced. Care will be restricted, especially for senior citizens. At least in my community, and I am sure in many others, your primary care doctor is not allowed to manage your care if you are admitted to the hospital. Hospitalists assume the management on hospitalization and your ‘family doctor’ can’t manage your care in and out of the hospital and to leave the family doctor out of the loop is a grave error.

“Despite all the changes, I am optimistic that life will go on, the debt will not slowly be corrected despite tough times for many of us and our offspring will continue to have a pretty good life.”

Gene Milone is completing the proof markup for the new photography volume commented on in the November/December 2010 column. At the end of February, Gene and his wife, Helen, went to Hawaii to attend a meeting on telescopes on the big island, where he gave a talk on the infrared passband imaging of stars. After that, they took the circum-lands cruise with a Norwegian Cruise Lines ship. In December, they cruised to the Panama Canal via Aruba and Curacao, watching a lunar eclipse en route.

As a reminder to everyone, several years ago, Tony Adler and Philippe de la Chapelle organized a “Resource Council” for classmates and their immediate family members under which approximately 80 of us offer pro bono advice or assistance on questions concerning the various professional disciplines each of us has expertise in, i.e., medicine, law, banking, architecture, business, finance and so on. Classmates should not hesitate to call on each other as necessary in order to accomplish the council’s mission, which is to support each other, particularly during these difficult times.

Tony (awadler@spartacommer cial.com) and Philippe (philipde@yahoo.com) would be pleased to provide information on the council.

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Retired rabbi Don Splansky (don splan@aol.com) and his wife, Greta Lee, live in Framingham, Mass. Greta Lee is the operations manager of the Framingham Heart Study, which, Don writes, “all our classmates who went into medicine will know because they studied its statistics in medical schools.”

To help celebrate their milestone birthdays, Joan (60) and John von Leesens (70) (jcv40@gmail.com) chose to visit the antiquities of Petra, Jordan. John writes, “The architectural facade of the ‘Treasury’, which is carved out of red sandstone, is well-preserved and spectacular. We experienced the bustling and smog of Cairo, explored the ancient pyramids of Giza and toured the world’s oldest Christian monastery of St. Catherine located at the foot of Mount Sinai in the Sinai Desert. Then, pretending to ride with Lawrence of Arabia, we traversed the dramatic desert landscape of Wadi Rum. Finally, we traveled to Luxor’s Valley of the Kings, where many of Egypt’s pharaohs were laid to rest amidst the famous statues, gold jewelry and other precious artifacts. Here we also discovered Hatshepsut, Egypt’s most powerful female ruler.”

Back home in Chicago and inspired by a recent trip to Egypt, John writes, “We experienced the beauty of the Egyptian pharaohs, mummies and other antiquities of (pre-revolution) Egypt, the von Leesens hosted an “Evening in Shangri La” at a local Asian-themed art gallery. Friends and family gathered (some in chic Himalayan attire), sipped “Tibetan Twilight” cocktails and sampled beautiful cuisine. “Our theme for the evening,” John writes, “was taken from James Hilton’s 1933 novel in which the residents of a fictional Tibetan monastery fell in love with each other as necessary in order to accomplish the council’s mission, which is to support each other, particularly during these difficult times.

Tony (awadler@spartacommer cial.com) and Philippe (philipde@yahoo.com) would be pleased to provide information on the council.

The musical creativity of Charlie Morrow (cm@morrow.com) was celebrated in New York City for four days in October and featured in an article in the March 2010 issue of the magazine The Wire: Adventures in Modern Music. The article said, “Charlie Morrow is creating a holistic Earth catalogue aimed at redefining the way we have to live long enough to see the future. He is a tour de force guitarist, composer and sound artist.”

Charlie Morrow is creating a holistic Earth catalogue aimed at redressing the way we have to live long enough to see the future. He is a tour de force guitarist, composer and sound artist. “That’s the time when life crawled out of the sea onto land, and vocal cords and ears formed. I’ve worked with scientists and we came up with sounds appropriate to the time: thunder, fire, reptiles hissing.”

Two other soundscapes within the exhibition, “Sea Air,” an audiovisual installation using his own sophisticated system for 3-D sound playback, spans 400 million years. Charlie explains, “I really can’t say how I like to spend the day right now, only to say it happens a lot when I’m in the tropical heat of the Bahamas, so I go as often as I can. This past year and next are the busiest of my career, as I have one book in the hopper, a new novel transla tion and am going to Italy to tour this year. The irony is sometimes we have to live long enough to see certain things happen that could not have happened when we were young. I wish I could tell all my mates to buy a copy of Antea (Cal lucci editor) but only if they read Italian or know and like someone who does. Wishing all my classmates a lot of happiness and fun in 2011.”

Looking forward to our 50th reunion, David Wallack (david wallack@comcast.net) decided to summarize his activities during the past 50 years. Following medical school in Buffalo, David’s postgraduate training was interrupted by a tour in the Army that included 12 months as a flight surgeon in Vietnam. He then completed his medical training in internal medicine in Colorado in 1972. He and his wife, Bonnie, settled there and reared three daughters. All of them attended college out of state, and David earned advanced degrees.
of them are married (each with two children); the third is a fellow in gastroenterology.

Meanwhile, for 34 years, David practiced internal medicine south of Denver. “In 2006,” he writes, “I joined a group that provides medical services at a health center in West Denver. This is what I now do three days a week; I feel reenergized and have happily extended my medical career. Bonnie and I remain active with tennis, golf, hiking and downhill skiing. ‘We’d love to move to Alaska someday, but this way to try our slopes.’” Other interests include traveling, art history, serving as a volunteer instructor for a few semesters at the Academy of Lifelong Learning and competitive trivia (especially sports). David says that his 15-minute claim-to-fame is being in the Trivia Hall of Fame.

David and Bonnie celebrated their 40th anniversary last spring with a two-week tour/cruise to Alaska. Then in the fall they traveled to Peru as part of a medical mission that provided care to a group of primitive Indian villages along the Amazon River. Finally, as a reward they visited the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu. “I’m looking forward to the reunion and hope to reconnect (and perhaps connect for the first time) with classmates,” he said.

Richard Toder (rtoder@morganlewis.com) also sent an update. While he practices bankruptcy law at Morgan Lewis in New York City, he and his wife, Joan, made time to take a three-week trip to Australia and New Zealand. Richard acknowledges that “it is an endless flight and seems to take forever to readjust one’s internal clock upon return, but it is more than worth it. The people are uniformly friendlier than any you will meet in the States (except perhaps NYC) and the scenery, especially on the South Island of New Zealand (think Lord of the Rings) is simply spectacular. The mountain chain is called the Southern Alps for good reason.”

Last year Richard and Joan purchased a home in Naples, Fla. “Though they have not been able to spend much time there, Richard predicts that will change. He, too, is ‘looking forward to getting together for our 50th reunion.”

Carl Jakobsen (cjakobsson@comcast.net) wrote, “I’m living at the same old stand in Bremerton, Wash. Probably my most time-

consuming activity is my math tutoring, and my second most time-consuming activity is my NAACP activity. I tutor in math at my church after school twice a week. I have six regular students: one prekindergartner, one kindergarten, one second-grader, one third-grader and a fourth-grader. They’re all doing OK, and I almost always enjoy working with them.”

Once again Carl was hard at work on the annual Mission Outreach Day, which took place in April and was won on May 11. This year’s event had a dual theme: 2011 is the 25th anniversary of the People Power Revolution in the Philippines and also the 25th anniversary of the first civil, diplomatic contact between the U.S. State Department and the African National Congress. That meeting took place at the ANC headquarters-in-exile with a twofold tour/cruise to Australia and New Zealand. Richard said that his 15-minute claim-to-fame is being in the Trivia Hall of Fame.

John Boatner ’62 composes and performs choral music as well as directs a children’s choir program in Corodova, a suburb of Memphis.

“John’s compositions for children’s choir. He plans to ask them to sing more of his work. 

Crawford Kilian (cnof@shaw.ca) sent an e-mail in mid-January with the sad news that Christopher Trumbo ’64 died on January 8 in Quito, Ecuador, of complications from renal cancer. He was 70. Crawford wrote, “Chris entered with the Class of ’62 but took time off to be an assistant director on the film Exodus. Thereafter, he worked in film and TV, usually as a writer. Chris’ credits included the mini-series, Brumhill, or many scripts for the introspective television series. In recent years, Chris developed a stage play based on the letters of his father, blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo. This eventually became the documentary Trumbo, which appeared in 2007 to excellent reviews. Chris also became a historian of the Hollywood blacklist and was working on a book about it when he died. Chris leaves his wife, Nora, his daughter, and sisters, Nikita and Mitzi Trumbo.”

Crawford has created a blog to commemorate Chris’ remarkable life: eftcrosbignures.typepad.com/christopher. I urge you to look at it.

I recently watched Trumbo; it is fascinating and superb—a powerful documentary about fear, intimidation and courage during the years when we attended elementary and high school.

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Robert Whelan wrote in response to my request of memories of the late Bill Shannon. “I was saddened when I read of Bill’s tragic death. After a Columbia-Penn baseball game in Philadelphia, Bill persuaded me to go to a Cubs-Philles game that evening. Bill already was working for the CUA. He had a press pass of some kind, and we sat in the auxiliary press box by ourselves. We spent several innings pretending to do a play-by-play broadcast. Bill’s knowledge of baseball was phenomenal. He would say things that required far more than the usual knowledge, such as ‘The Cubs starting pitcher, Bob Anderson, hails from Hammond, Ind.’ Bill loved and knew baseball, and he was a genuinely nice guy.”

Bill Goebel also wrote. “I have very fond memories of Bill, having interacted with him when I was basketball manager and Bill was a member of the Sports Information Department. Subsequently, when Columbia beat St. John’s in the 1968 Holiday Festival, I mentioned to Bill that I thought Heyward Dotson ’70, ‘76L should get the M.V.P. for his play in that game. He told me that the New York sports media was pushing for Jim McMillian ’70 to get it, which he did. Jim subsequently got the Haggerty Award for three years running and, of course, starred in the NBA for 15 years. Bill was a fine gentleman whom I know is sorely missed by all those who knew him.”

Frank Partel writes, “My wife, Mary Ellen, and I celebrated our 10th anniversary in Burges during a trip to British Columbia. It was last fall. I am pleased to say she is now healthy, and we are very grateful to an excellent team of doctors. My second novel, The Chess Players, A Novel of the Cold War at Sea, was officially published on March 1. The novel is a naval story and a love story set in 1967 just before and just after the Six Day War/Arab-Israeli War. I certainly didn’t want to disappoint Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 CSAS, whose class I took, who once said that every time a person wants to locate a young character in New York, he or she is a Columbia University student. Several scenes pertain to the Columbia area, and the main characters, ENS Cannon and Laetitia, are indeed associated with Columbia. There are cameo appearances by LCDR Boris Neshamkin and Lt. Max Gorrin. A minor character, Professor John Meaney, is to a small degree modeled on Herbert A. Deane ’42, ’53 CSAS. Here is virtually a direct quote about Eisenhower, when he was president of Columbia, from the former professor of government, contributor to our CC curriculum readings and University provost, page 83: ‘Again Meaney drew a very long pull from his cigarette and leaned out momentarily from the window of his office across the campus to the dome of Low Library. He exhaled very slowly and seemed to use the time to review his comments before proceeding to his next point. ‘We had the right idea,’ Parenthetically, ‘You know, we didn’t think much of him when he was president here. The books in his office, as I recall, were mostly army field manuals and technical manuals, but he was our shield against McCarthy.’ Columbia did not have people fleeing to Europe in the middle of the night. Good God! Isn’t that a tragic irony? Professors fleeing America for freedom in Europe?’ He paused as he contemplated his own presence in the last years of apartheid in South Africa and of the revolution that finally brought an end to apartheid and a beginning of democracy.’

In Tennessee, John Boatner (jbbmusic@comcast.net) continues his composition and performance of choral music. Most recently, he founded, and currently directs, a children’s choir program at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Corodova, a suburb of Memphis. During the past several months, the children have performed several of their own compositions and others from several notable composers. Among the highlights of the season was a Christmas concert that featured both traditional and modern choral music in the style of contemporary composers. The children were joined by the adult choir and a guest artist, who performed a beautiful solo vocal piece. The evening concluded with a moving benediction and invitations to future performances by the group. The children were uniformly enthusiastic and eager to continue their musical journey under John’s guidance and inspiration.

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Columbia CollEgE Today

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Class Notes

Class Notes
ture and history, Jewish communities throughout America and the world, Hagadahs in various languages and the work of book illustrators (primarily for English language books). I add about 10 books each month to a collection that now numbers 2,200 volumes. But I also de-acquisition books, having given away about 700 books in 1996 and about 90 books a year since then. I recently added 11 feet of bookcases to the 23 linear feet I had (and my wife's 10 linear feet of bookcases). It is fun to search out books to be acquired.”

David Alpem writes, “Since my last update (January/February), the Carnegie Corporation of New York awarded a $25,000 ‘challenge grant’ to the newly renamed For Your Ears Only program on radio stations and the Internet (formerly Newsweek On Air), but I need to match it to get it. Positive indications from the Nathan Cummings Foundation in New York, but I won’t know for sure until after its May board meeting, as my current funding runs out.”

“I would appreciate any advice or contacts at other foundations or corporations interested in preserving truly ‘fair and balanced’ presentation of important issues and developments in all fields for the increasingly strident and slanted world of commercial radio — and getting grateful on-air credit. Also on the Pentagon’s American Forces Radio Network and our weekly podcast.

“All gifts and grants are tax-deductible under our new status as a production of 501(c)(3) Gatewave, Inc., a 24/7, volunteer radio-reading service for people with disabilities. You can reach me at david.ears.only@gmail.com for more information. And check out the show anytime at radioamerica.org/PRG_yoursears.htm, or gatewave.org/ffeo/home or podcastsbunker.com/podcast/podcast_picks/for_your_ears_only.”

Lee Lowenheim is having a busy spring speaking on baseball, especially on Branch Rickey, at New York’s Union League Club, the local NYC Bar Association chapter and the firm and one of the first in the financial services industry. During his years at Goldman Sachs, he became renowned as a leader and innovator in public finance, particularly in the field of municipal bonds.

A Boy Scout throughout his youth, Garland was a longtime supporter of the Boy Scouts Council
of Greater New York. The Garland E. Wood Foundation also supported numerous local educational and cultural organizations, and for nearly a decade, a scholarship in Garland’s name has been awarded at the Business School. He also served on the College’s Board of Visitors and was one of three alumni who established the Black Alumni Council.

Michael Schlagter shared his impressions of the memorial service, which he found “remarkably touching and inspiring in many ways.” Garland’s former economics professor recounted Garland’s growing up “in a large, loving, close-knit family in a sleepy, peaceful, southern college town ... but what a remarkable little college town. It was 100 percent black, the home of Prairie View A&M. Texas, being fully segregated in those days, parked all its black students at Prairie View. Although Garland was one of only four black students in our College class of 700 and had never so much as sat in a classroom with white children, he came to Columbia grounded, solemn and serene. At the service, former UN Ambassador Andrew Young, recalling his eight years as mayor of Atlanta, movingly recounted how Garland pioneered the modern science of public finance and helped build the Atlanta area up from a sleepy Southern region of 1.5 million to the 6 million-strong colossus of the New South. And how Garland traversed mainland America (and beyond), enabling countless towns to finance the infrastructures that turned them into robust, thriving cities. All with money Garland raised in the private capital markets with his brilliance, his tenacity and his charisma as a Goldman Sachs partner.”

I am sorry that I could not be at the service.

Our 45th reunion is less than a month away. The weekend, June 2- Sunday, June 5. It’s not too late to register: alumni.college.columbia.edu/reunion. There will be a great mix of cultural happenings throughout New York City and class-specific events where we will have a chance to renew old friendships. Thursday night, there will be an opportunity to take in a show in Manhattan, Friday offers a class tour and lecture, mini-Core courses and a class dinner. Saturday is Dean’s Day, with great lectures, including one by Dean Michele Moody-Adams, followed in the evening by the all-class Wine Tasting, after which you can order Tanzanian tea and then champagne, music and dancing on Low Plaza at the Starlight Reception. In between, there will be plenty of other happenings to keep us entertained. Don’t miss it. Carnival comes unusually late this year, which means that the agony of all the noise and confusion in Rio de Janeiro is lasting longer than normal. Fortunately, your correspondent is escaping all this and is writing from the relative quiet and calm of his home in Teresópolis, in the mountains about 100 km from Rio. We seem to go into “hiding” every year until Carnival has passed. My wife and I recently spent a pleasant week in Buenos Aires, celebrating our 35th anniversary. I know that some of our classmates have been happily wed for longer than that, and perhaps you may wish to send an e-mail to let everyone know just how long you have been married (to the same wife, of course).

To all classmates (at least, those with an e-mail address that they wish to share with others), the following was sent in early February by Michael Garrett, Mark Amsterdam and Dan Gardner:

“In this, our 45th reunion year, we had a great opportunity to get together about four months prior to Alumni Reunion Weekend, on February 11, before and at the Columbia versus Princeton men’s basketball game. At the game, we peered through the mist of time to try to compare the team and its staff with coach Jack Rohan ’53 and players Stan Felsinger, Dave Newmark ’69, Ken Benoit et al. of our era.”

Mike reported, “A dozen classmates showed up for the reception and game. Many of us had not been to The West End since it was taken over by Havana Central, so there was much talk of the old, larger bar that served anyone who had completed toilet-training and that hygienically challenged stadium stand that once lurked in the left front corner. Being at the game continued the nostalgia with many comparisons between the gym and the old space and between the current team and our memories of a much more eccentric and colorful squad.”

Steve Schwartzman ’67 combined his interest in linguistics, Spanish and English by starting a blog: wordconnections.wordpress.com.

Steve Schwartzman: “Though I’ve never been a contributor to Class Notes, I noticed the forlorn space set aside for ‘67 in the January/February issue and thought I should give you a little something to fill at least a column inch or two. I took my first general linguistics course at Columbia with Professor William Labov ’64 GSAS. Upon graduation as a French major, I joined the Peace Corps and went to Honduras, where I taught math in Spanish. Jump ahead more than four decades, and you’ll find that I recently combined my longstanding interest in linguistics, Spanish and English by starting a blog about the many connections between the words in those two languages. Anyone with a similar bent is welcome to look at wordconnections.wordpress.com. For the past decade I’ve been pursuing another interest, the photography of native plants in central Texas, of which samples can be found at flickr.com/photos/schwartzman.”

Peter H. Shaw wrote, “I saw your mention in the January/February CCT that your mailbox has been empty lately. At the end of December 2010, I retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after 42 years as an economist and water resources planner. At my retirement, I was the senior economist at its Southwestern Division office in Dallas with technical and policy oversight for economic analyses in Corps planning studies in the southcentral United States. (Actually, I still am: I’m continuing temporarily with the Corps as a ‘reemployed annuitant’ to assist with the transition until they can fill my position and then mentor my replacement ... but really, how easy could it be to replace a Columbia grad?"

After getting my B.A. in economics and completing my first year of graduate school at NYU, I got a summer job with the Corps in Washington, D.C., in 1968. It turned out that I liked the people and the work, and I stayed in the Corps in New York City while I continued graduate school. And during the following few years, I acquired an M.A. from NYU and an M.Phil. from GSAS, both in economics, and I decided to make the Corps my career. Since then, I’ve worked in Corps offices in New York City, Albuquerque, Fort Worth and Dallas.

“Four weeks after I started with the Corps of Engineers in 1968, I married Phyllis, and in 1983 we adopted our son, Jonathan. Spending more time with them is what I’m looking forward to the most in retirement. Well, that and painting! “Not as exciting or distinguished a story as some of our classmates could tell, no doubt, but it’s been a good one for me.”

And finally, Jack Harris writes, “The article about Gemma Tarlach ’90 in the January/February CCT (college.columbia.edu/cct/jan_feb11) provoked me to write to report that the Cleverest Class also is represented in the ice. I recently spent a field season as part of a team installing the first benthic microscope. Why? Well, because near-shore Antarctic, with 15 feet of ice above, mimics the dark, cold abyssal benthos and that part of the biosphere we know very little about.

“I am professor of biology and Distinguished University Professor at The Sage Colleges in Troy, N.Y. I also direct the college honors program and the college orchestra. I plan to retire this May and move to NYC, where my grandchildren live. Anyone have an apartment for rent?”

Don’t be shy. Your classmates really do want to know what you’re up to.

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While there was about 15 inches of new snow at my place in Saratoga during the last few days before writing this, spring is in the air in the city. ... about time. I continue to enjoy the Metropolitan Opera and saw the production of Rossini’s Armida with Renée Fleming; it was
great fun and great singing even though it premiered in Naples in 1817. (And of course to digress, I believe Neil Anderson and Gregg Winn live in Naples, Fla.) I looked around for Bill Henrich, who used to be seen there once in a while. Bill, are you going to be there again?

Paul de Bary skipped a Columbia basketball game for the Met a few weeks ago, but I saw him at the Columbia-Penn basketball game with his dad, Ted de Bary ‘41, ’53 GSAS, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus, provost emeritus and Special Service Professor in East Asian Language and Culture, as the Lions mauled the Quakers for a great win. Buzz Zucker was there, too, and told me he had seen three great plays recently.

Buzz, you should write a piece for the Class Notes about the last 100 plays you have seen on- and Off-Broadway in the last year or so. I received a great letter from Jay Mitich, and so I thought it, titled, “Much Ado About Me.” Jay writes: “OK, OK, so you got Roger Berkeley to say nice things about me (he called me ‘one of the funniest people’ he’s ever known) in a recent CCT column to flush me out. Consider me flushed.

“After many years as a consultant to the radio industry, my wife, Sharon, and I moved to lovely Fairfield, Iowa, in the mid-’90s, part of the grand, ongoing experiment on the effects of large groups practicing the transcendental meditation program. After a couple of years there, we were offered the opportunity to purchase the local radio stations for cheap, whereupon I became an owner for the first time. Success, in a way, and we built a tiny group by adding an AM and FM in nearby Ottumwa.

“At about the same time, we decided that we’d had enough of Midwest weather, exacerbated by a particularly nasty ice storm wherein Sharon slid into one of the deep roadside trenches for which Iowa is famous. She did not suffer any damage, and the car only slight damage, but it stiffened our resolve to get out of there.

“A few months later, Sharon did a pioneer-wide site study, we decided upon Orange County, Calif., as our new home. We moved there a year or so after the big Y2K non-event, but I still spent nearly all my time in Iowa keeping the radio stations afloat. We sold the stations, where or less advantageous-ly, in 2008, whereupon I embarked on the life of the semi-retired, only without the income part.

“Now I am operating several endeavors simultaneously: a newsletter for broadcasters, a consulting practice, a radio station web development business, an ap-
in the North Carolina mountains, where it should have been cold, but it wasn’t. When we returned to Durham, we learned that we had missed temperatures that reached 79 degrees!

“So what about me? You could say (because it is true) that my research is taking a more biomedical twist as I explore the changes in brain structure and function among the children (now young adults) I was following for 25 years who experienced child abuse or neglect and have been reconnecting and staying in touch with. I am looking for grant funds to continue MRI studies on as many as consent to participate. As we look at the prospect of cuts in health and social services for low-income children and families, documenting the permanent functional and anatomical changes that growing up in abusive households may lead to might move some stone hearts.”

I received a brief note from Henry Welt. I am amazed in tracking Henry down for lunch or dinner some night. Henry wrote: “I resumed practicing law last spring and am having a great time. Somehow, it seems to give me more pleasure as I get older — maybe just a better perspective — and it is challenging and fun. At the same time, I’ve expanded my art licensing and brand management business, WeltAdvisors, and I continue to work with several artist clients. Also, I had a great time taking an alumni mini-Core course on Contemporary Civilization. It made me feel like I was back on campus. All in all, life is good.”

It is hard to believe that this summer I will turn 65, and I guess others in the class will do so too. I suspect my class has lots to report for three more decades or so. Do send in a note. My sentence for this job may be commuted at some point before then. I hope all of you are enjoying each day. And if you can, go to a football game this fall. I predict a great season.

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I was paging through the State Bar News for New York one recent night and found on its back cover a photo of John Marwell in an ad for the Bar Association. I promptly asked him for the “back story” and for some news. John replied: “Michael — no cover boy back story. I was as surprised as anyone when I opened the State Bar News and was confronted with that larger-than-life photo. I feel that we are at the age at which we recognize and appreciate our good fortune and the progress of our children. Jeremy (Yale, Cambridge and NYU Law) completed his third year at NYU this spring with Justice Sonia Sotomayor on the Supreme Court, a great privilege and an immensely rewarding experience. He now is with Vinson & Elkins in its Washington, D.C., office in a small group doing appellate and securities practice. I’ve corresponded with and admired the wonderful Jillian Lawrence, who is an attorney with Pepco. Jonathan (Bates College) is enjoying life as a banker — a commercial real estate broker in Westchester, and Julie (Cornell and St. George’s University School of Medicine) is in her third year of medical school doing her clinical rotations at New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope. Gloria and I celebrated our 25th anniversary this summer with Judge Nicholas Garaufis, who was surprised to see in the New York Post that some sort of property was sold. Judge Garaufis’ mob ties.”

“Turns out Nick is presiding over a murder trial of an individual convicted of a prior murder, and the defendant somehow had not been provided with a tie to wear during jury selection. Nick solved the problem by loaning a Brooks Brothers tie to the defendant, prompting the Post to craft a Post-like headline.”

“I sent out a blast e-mail to those who had served on our 40th Reunion Committee, inviting comments on how the Core courses continue to influence us, and for news. Jim Weitzman responded: “I was elated to get an e-mail from a fellow alum announcing WKCR’s 75th Anniversary Dinner Saturday, February 24 in Roone Arledge Auditorium. Without even looking at what was already in the calendar, I immediately made a reservation. On campus, I spent almost as much time at KCR as I did sitting in class. The highlight of my tenure was having the privilege of producing a live weekly broadcast from Greenwich Village’s Cafe Feenjon every Saturday night at midnight. It exposed this Wiscosin kid to a variety of Mediterranean cultures and artists, and I could say then that WKCR and the Feenjon ultimately formed the basis of my second career: owning and operating a group of radio stations featuring primarily multicultural/multilingual programming. I’ve recently finished a grueling couple of years in the planning, financing, zoning, permitting and construction of the latest one, a 50,000-watt station near Washington’s Dulles Airport that took to the air in March. I’m forever grateful to WKCR and the university education that opened my mind to embrace the diversity that provided the foundation for this line of work.”

Joe Materna wrote: “My wife, Dolores, and I recently celebrated our 35th anniversary by taking an extensive tour of Russia for New York State’s Task Force for Peace and the Scandinavian nations of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Tallinn, Estonia. It was a beautiful trip. My favorites were the State Hermitage Museum and the Catherine Palace, both located in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tivoli Gardens (which is like Walt Disney World but built in 1843) in Copenhagen. However, having a drink at the ‘Ice Bar’ in Copenhagen was also quite an experience and a lot of fun. I recommend it highly! On a professional note, I am pleased to announce that in the January Avenue Legal Elite list of New York City’s top trusts and estates attorneys. I also recently was honored by Martindale-Hubbell with its Peer Review Rated for Legal Ability and Ethical Standards Award for having a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating for more than 20 continuous years. I am honored to have received both awards.”

“After 37 years as a Law School-trained practicing attorney, I still love my job. I enjoy doing premier trusts and estates work at my Wall Street law firm in Manhattan, where I continue to be the ‘confidant’ and ‘personal trusted family adviser’ who is attentive, supportive, sympathetic, and who understands the needs of my many affluent clients in both New York and Florida. Meeting with my clients, becoming well-acquainted with them and their families, knowing their history, hearing their stories, earning their trust, and thoughtfully protecting their wealth and estate assets for them and their families for years to come are the most rewarding aspects of my work. Getting to know the client as a person, not just as a file, is extremely important and satisfying to me as a T&E attorney. Above all, however, is the fact that I always will be thankful to Columbia for giving me that solid foundation that has helped to make all of my past, present and future accomplishments possible. My Columbia daughters, Jodi ’99, Jennifer ’02 and Janine ’05, also are doing well. I am pleased and proud to report that all three of them are active in their respective classes.”

I received a number of comments about the Core courses. From Dave Sokal: “I remember reading David Hume — or maybe John Locke — and gaining an understanding of a quote that I can’t now recall exactly about how we often don’t appreciate the influence of dead philosophers on today’s conventional wisdom.”

From Dave Rosedahl: “Don Quixote. Fantasies are fun — sometimes become real. Who’d have believed the Germans would own the NYSE? Pursue your dreams.”

And Mark Webber, who has an amazing recall of our college days (with specific dates), reminded me of an escapade the two of us engaged in when the pages began to fall from our copies of the Royal Belais book in freshman year. We wrote to Penguin Press in the style...
of Rabelais, but a bit cruder; Mark tells me it went something like this: “Gentlemen: We are students at Columbia College of Columbia University and are taking a course in humanities. Generally speaking, we have enjoyed reading the Penguin Books Limited versions of the various texts. Unhappily, in the case of Rabelais’ Gargantua and Pantagruel, for those persons who read the books, the bindings came apart and thus we were unable to benefit from the erudition because the pages refused to remain in any logical order. We suggest that you train your bindings more effectively, or in the future, no school will wish to purchase copies of books that in Rabelaisian terms have the runs.”

Mark adds that Penguin Books thanked us for our letter and sent us two new copies of the books—which also fell apart. Those of you who recall the reading assignment will know that Mark and I saw a perfect use for the pages that fell out of the book, since we did not have “a well downed goose.” (The answer, for those who need a hint, appears in Chapter 13 of Book One, Gargantuan). By the way, some might not know that Lit Hum courses no longer include the written quizzes that challenged us.

Thanks to Dan Carlinsky ’65 for calling my attention to the interview/profile of author Siri Hustvedt in Scanorama Portfolio, the in-flight magazine of SAS—likely I would have missed the piece without Dan’s e-mail; the article calls Hustvedt and her husband, Paul Auster, “Brooklyn’s — and America’s — best known literary couple.” We learn from the article that Hustvedt has the beef bourguignon when dining at Sweet Melissa Patisserie around the corner from the couple’s home. You can tell I am in need of class news and to report on what a classmate eats.

This issue appears as the Columbia College Fund’s 2011 fiscal year draws to a close (Thursday, June 30). Reading CCT leads most classmates to recall their days at the College and what is special about them. Reflections from teachers, the activities, the friendships, the time of growth, the campus and more. If reflecting makes you feel part of the Columbia community, show your active connection by supporting the College. We really would like to increase the participation rate for the Fund. Any amount from a new donor would be greatly appreciated. But, of course, the more our classmates give, the more that can be of immediate help to the current student body. Send your donation to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025, or give at college.columbia.edu/giveonline. Make a note that your contribution was prompted by reading CCT.

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Just prior to my recent five-week trial in beautiful Greenbelt, Md., I got a note from Dennis Graham bragging about Phil Russoott: “Good luck with your trial, counselor. And if you need to sharpen up any of your aggressive courtroom techniques, please consult Kailas-proclaimed football bad luck charm, Phil ‘Double Barrel’ Russoott, the sharp shooting trial attorney of Wingate, Russoott & Shapiro. He’s lost only two of 97 cases … or something like that.”

Phil’s “sharp shooting” must have rubbed off on me, as the jury came back in two hours with a verdict in favor of my client.

Mike Passow recently completed his presidency of the National Earth Science Teachers Association. In August, Mike organized a teacher’s workshop for the American Geo-physical Union Meeting of the Americas in Iguassu Falls, Brazil. Every month, research scientists from Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory provide information about cutting-edge investigations for classroom teachers and students in the Earth2Class Saturday Workshops for Educators that Mike has organized for more than a decade. Mike, now in his 41st year in the classroom, teaches at Dwight Morrow H.S. in his hometown of Englewood, N.J.

Roger Crossland reports: “I finished 2010 with participation in the Moloka’i Hoe 2010, the world’s premier outrigger competition. Our crew raced a distance of 41 miles across the Kawai Channel between the islands of Moloka’i and O’ahu alongside 120 other outrigger canoes. See article, video and photos at fairfieldcitizenonline.com/de fault/article/Fairfield-braves-the-high-seas-in-premier-816073.php.”

“I am a trial lawyer in Connecticut. In 2005, I retired from the Navy after 35 years of service, active and reserve (one cold war and two hot ones).”

REUNION JUNE 2-JUNE 5
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Our 40th reunion is less than a month away, Thursday, June 2-Sunday, June 5. There will be a great mix of cultural happenings throughout New York City and class-specific events where we will have a chance to renew old friendships. Thursday night, there will be a chance to take in a show in Manhattan. Friday offers mini-Core courses and a class dinner. Saturday is Dean’s Day, with great lectures, including a talk by Dean Michele Moody-Arrands, followed in the evening by the all-class Wine Tasting, a class dinner and then the Starlight Reception with sweets, champagne and dancing on Low Plaza. In between, there will be plenty of other happenings to keep us entertained. Don’t miss it. It’s not too late to register: alumni.college.columbia.edu/reunion.

Lawrence Thomases passed away on December 10. He was a translator, interpreter and immigrant rights advocate.

Art Engoron: “The Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York has elevated me from Civil Court Judge to the position of Acting Supreme Court Justice. The Supreme Court is the state’s highest trial court, with original, unlimited jurisdiction.”

Meanwhile, I sold my Upper West Side co-op after 29 years there, and I now live in an apartment on West Street, downtown, near the courts.”

Lew Prendergast: “Since I retired from the active practice of orthopedic surgery in 2004, I have earned a master’s in library and information science from Rutgers. I did this with the intent of working part-time or in a library associated with pharmaceuticals or medically related products. However, in the interim, writing has caught my interest. I have written a murder mystery novel, with a main protagonist, Dr. Madison Muttnick. He is a mash-up of Phil and me. My son John Mcintyre. I am trying to find literary representation for the first in a series of manuscripts. I also started a blog that is co-authored by both my ego and my alter-ego, madisonmuttnickmd.blogspot.com. If you drop by or have a friend drop by, you might like it. If you do, drop me a note and let me know. The least that could happen is that you can link to some fine jazz as selected from old time music on YouTube.

Where have the good ‘ol days gone?’

Lew, they were good of days, and I find them again at reunion.”

Sam Higginbottom ’74L: “I hope that my wife, Cyndi, and I will be able to attend reunion. I am a lawyer with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I have more than 35 years of federal service. Cyndi and I are the parents of seven children. The oldest is 35 and the youngest is 15. I am the grandfather of five, who range in age from four weeks to 11. None of my children have attended CC, but my youngest daughter, 15, claims that her near-term goal is to attend Columbia.

“I have many family members who also are Columbia grads. My dad, Sam M., ’43E, is alive and well in Miami. Others are my dad’s brother, James Higginbottom ’53; my maternal grandfather, Richard Steinschneider ’19; his brother, William Steinschneider (Class of 1910E), two of my mother’s brothers, Dick Steinschneider ’43 and Eugene Rowan Steinschneider ’49; and a cousin, Pat Steinschneider ’73, ’76 Arch. One of my sisters, Rowan Higginbottom Maclaren ’87E, earned a master’s in computer engineering.

“Life has been good, and I believe it has been good in part due to...”
to the skills learned at Columbia College and the Law School.

Conceptual artist John Borek’s work, *A Window on the Carrageenan*, was performed in December at the Multi-use Community Cultural Center in Rochester, N.Y. His website, theprofessorofrap.com, discusses its influence: “In *A Window on the Carrageenan*, I attempted to recreate the chaos of commercial theater by crafting an epic disaster. In a way, I was paying tribute to Arthur Bucknell’s *Mouse Murders: A Mystery Force in Tin Arts*, including chapter openings. In my play, the producer has neglected to get rights clearance, the actors leave the production before the curtain even rises, the set disappears, appropriated by a Holiday on Ice show, a tripartite injunction is served against performance, the stage lights fail, the director has a breakdown and the producer is eventually arrested by the FBI. New actors are recruited from the environs of the theater: a prostitute, a paraplegic, an itinerant street singer, a gormless lass walking by. The translator who has translated the play from Gaelic into Hungarian is modified to food for thought.”

Conceptual artist John Borek ’71’s work, *A Window on the Carrageenan*, was performed at the Multi-use Community Cultural Center in Rochester, N.Y.

...cheered on throughout by Dean Michele Moody-Adams, the Lions never gave in. Nor could the game’s direction or outcome dampen the enthusiasm and camaraderie among participants led by Phil Mistleton, Greg Wyatt, Richard Hsia, Hillary and Dick Fuhrman, Lori and Alex Sachare, and Tim DeBaets, who joined us from the sunny West Coast, together with Jersey gentle farmers Marina and John Bleimaimer. Still looking like he could elevate the Lions’ winning prospects on the court, Bob Gailus was there, with daughter Marianna, who has grown into a spectacular young woman. Pam and Chris Mortarty came, together with their son, James, who is growing into a sensational young man. Heather Hunte, assistant director, class giving, in the Alumni Office, gave us welcome support.

I was there in spirit only, but here in Philadelphia I listened to Penn’s radio station the next night as the Lions beat the Quakers, which was delicious in its own way. Richard Hsia organized a Chinese New Year Banquet (think of it as CNY in NYC) on March 13 at Fullen Seafood Restaurant in the heart of Chinatown. That noted: “Our Year of the Rabbit Banquet consisted of an array of 10 delectable, as well as lucky, dishes (but no rabbit or lion!).” [See photo.]

A fine time was had by all. Margaret and Joe Boerstein ’72 GSAS, Vivian and Bernie Falk, Hilary and Dick Fuhrman, Ray Gaspard, Peggy and Richard Hsia ’74L, Ken Lehn ’74L, Carole and Lew Preschel, Jim Shaw, Mat Thall (from Boston), Liz and Irwin Warren ’74L, Wendy and Larry Weiss, and Fay and Greg Wyatt, as well as by Ken Catandella, senior executive director, University events and programs, Office of Alumni and Development, and his wife, Victoria. Matthew, who has grown into a spectacular young man. Heather Hunte, assistant director, Columbia College Fund, and her sons, Jonathan and Matthew.

I came in from Philadelphia and had the pleasure of meeting up with walking and sailing, having traveled the three miles from Penn Station to Chinatown with Steve Boss ’76 SW, ’78 Business, and back with Ron Bass, each of whom was attending family events during the time of the dinner. Remember 4 September ago, and the feelings we had, including adventure, as we entered Colum-

**Conceptual artist John Borek**'s work, *A Window on the Carrageenan*, was performed in December at the Multi-use Community Cultural Center in Rochester, N.Y.
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Neil Izenberg has an interesting adventure to relate: “At the end of January, I was invited to a small White House Women’s Online Summit. Yes, I know I’m not a woman, but KidsHealth.org, which I founded and head, is one of the web’s most-visited sites reaching mothers and families. Along with me, a score of executives from sites such as Yahoo, WebMD, Oprah.com and others heard from a stream of senior officials who briefed us on what the administration is doing in business, health, education and other areas that impact women and families. Earlier in the day, we had an unexpected ‘meet and greet’ in the East Wing with Bo (the Obama girls’ Portuguese Water Dog), but that visit was one-upped by a surprise drop-in by President Barack Obama ‘83 himself, who popped in to spend about 30 minutes giving us his perspective and meeting us individually. In the excitement, though, I forgot to tell him we were fellow Columbia alums and that an invite to next year’s White House Seder would not be declined. Oh well. Next time, perhaps.”

Congratulations to AI Neugut, whose son, Zachary, made the list for early admission to the Class of 2015! Al, who stayed on to receive an M.D. and a Ph.D. from Columbia, is the Myron M. Studner Professor of Cancer Research and Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Columbia.

Fred and Mike Byowitiz have been discussing our 40th reunion, just two years away. Fred hopes to see many new faces, especially those who have not attended reunions.

Bob Shea earned an M.B.A. at Columbia right out of college (as did I), then had two long careers, one in advertising and another in consulting. He has been back at the B-School for the last six years as senior associate director of admissions, a move he recommends (returning to campus) as he has “come full circle.”

Christopher Koefoed spent 32 years in Los Angeles, in the film biz, editing such films as Menace II Society and Gridlock’d, as well as teaching film production at the Art Center of College Design and screenwriting at UCLA Extension. He also wrote a “teleplay” for BET, Playing with Fire. In 2006, Christopher moved to Washington, D.C., to work with his brother Erik in the family business, The Palisades Pizzeria & Clam Bar (palisadespizzeria.com), right outside of Georgetown. It serves thin-crust, New York style-pizza (they’re from the Bronx).

Tragically, in February 2009, Christopher’s only child, Gabriella, was killed by a speeding motorist in Baltimore. She was 22 and was due to graduate from Maryland Institute College of Art that year. He has been working on projects to honor and remember her; the best one so far has been the Gabriella Milagro Koefoed Endowed Scholarship Fund at Howard University. If anyone wants to contribute, it’s coas.howard.edu/development.html.

Christopher, we all feel your pain. Anyone wishing to reach out to Christopher can do so at gabriella4ever@verizon.net.

Fred Bremer
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Maybe fate destined our class to be surrounded by revolutionary amniotic fluid where the status quo was constantly challenged! After our quaint post-Eisenhower “Ozzie and Harriet” upbringing, we came of age in high school just as the “counterculture” movement was in full throw (including “free love,” chemical mind expansion and the like ... you know, all those things you counsel your kids against!).

When we came to the College, it was the time when fierce national debate erupted over the Vietnam War, abortion, feminism, gay rights and a whole host of other issues.

Now I am reminded by the current turmoil in the Middle East that we were literally born during the moment in history when the Egyptian Revolution of 1952 abolished the constitutional monarchy and, in 1953, Egypt was declared a republic. As Wikipedia says, “The success of the revolution inspired numerous Arab and African countries to remove pro-Western ... monarchies and potentates.” How could our forming DNA resist these powerful influences?

When you think of nominees for “class revolutionary,” not a slim number of nominations would be cast for Arthur Schwartz. While on campus, he was active in all sorts of liberal causes, and this has continued during the past four decades. More on this later, but first we need to nominate him for the class “The Dog Can Still Hunt” award (also known as the classmate with the youngest child). Diligent readers of the column know that the two youngest I know of are Reilly (son of Abbe Lowell) and Eli (son of Jonathan Cuno); both fathers are Washington, D.C., lawyers. Now comes Arthur...
gist at the Johns Hopkins Community Physicians group and who is affiliated with the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Barry’s practice covers diabetes, metabolism, endocrinology and internal medicine.

Isabel Genicke is from Larchmont, N.Y. (in nearby Westchester), where she attended Mamaroneck H.S. Her dad, Victor Genicke, is of counsel at the Midtown Manhattan law firm Squire Sanders.

Brina Seidel attended Bethesda-Chevy Chase H.S. in Chevy Chase, Md. Father Robert, the rector for policy analysis and general counsel at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. He directs the analysis of the climate change policy initiatives of the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. Steve formerly was the director of the Stratospheric Protection Program at the EPA. (To Tea Party members, it might sound like he was involved in analyzing the national debt, but in reality Steve was even more concerned with the ozone.)

Victoria Van Amson is finishing up at the Nightingale-Barnard School in Manhattan. Her father, George Van Amson, is a managing director at Morgan Stanley in Midtown Manhattan and former two-term Columbia University trustee.

Congratulations to each of the young ladies and their families! Looks like another progeny of a classmate will have the potential to become a neo-"Microsoft Millionaire." First, we learned that Rob Knapp’s son was at Facebook, and now Kevin Ward tells us that his eldest, Matt ’11, is about to start working at Google on the West Coast. "Very proud of him," crow Kevin. Kevin himself is spending his pre-retirement years paying college tuition bills ("more than $100,000 a year") and attending basketball and lacrosse games ("which I love"). His second child, Mark, is a sophomore at Fordham on a pre-med track. His third, Jamie, is off to Holy Cross in the fall (recruited to play lacrosse) and his “baby,” Brian (15) is the starting point guard for Bergen Catholic’s freshman basketball team. Kevin still plays rock ’n roll on a local bar or two or three times a year doesn’t make this a likely retirement pursuit!” He also recently celebrated his 35th year at Merrill Lynch as a financial adviser. “I wouldn’t want to do anything else,” he says, “Life is good and very, very, very exciting.”

Do you realize that two-thirds of our life stories have been written since we first set foot on Morningside Heights? A lot can happen in four decades! Consider the “spiritual journey” of Bryan Berry. He writes, “I deserted my Christian (Protestant, mainly Lutheran) upbringing when I went to Columbia (pretty typical). But it was at Columbia that I first read St. Augustine’s Confessions and Dante’s Inferno. I didn’t return to the faith until 1978, when I began going to a Lutheran church in Midtown.”

Bryan later studied the religious courses in his course between Protestantism and Catholics while he worked on his Ph.D. dissertation at Michigan. “I became convinced that God has unfolded his truth over time in the Roman Catholic Church. I joined the Catholic Church in 1995; two years later the rest of my family joined.” Bryan is taking classes to become a member of Opus Dei.

While at Columbia, Bryan was a typical liberal English major. During the past decade, he taught literature and journalism for several years (most recently at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill.) and for the past three years has been a freelance writer and journalist, writing for the American Metal Market, National Catholic Register, and other religious publications. He also is writing a book on literature and 16th- and 17th-century religious controversies. His oldest child, Adrienne, is a clarinetist in the U.S. Army Field Band (based at Fort Meade, Md.). His middle child, Joanna, has joined an order of Catholic nuns (Servants of the Lord). His youngest, John, is about to graduate from the University of Illinois and will then be commissioned as an ensign in the Navy the next day. He will attend flight school at NAS Pensacola in Florida starting in October.

There you have it. The discovery of powerful forces that have made our classmates “agents for change.” News of great achievements of our classmates and their children. And the tale of an amazing spiritual journey. If you have something to share of you or your family with your friends of 40 years, please take a moment to send an e-mail. As the Grateful Dead said, “What a long, strange trip it’s been!”

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Adding to the list of multi-generational Lion families, Julia Selinger and Matthew Suzo are early admits for the Class of 2015. Julia is the daughter of Neil Selinger and Rina Cost. Matthew currently attends Mamaroneck H.S. Matthew, who is headed for Engineering, is the son of Mark J. Suzo and attends Hunter College H.S. in New York City.

“Bring it on,” was Randolph McLaughlin’s response to the village of Fort Chester, N.Y.’s plans to appeal the village’s current cumulative voting system. The unusual arrangement was allowed under a 2008 court order.

As if he isn’t busy enough, Bob Schneider has been elected corporate secretary of the University of Pennsylvania Club of Long Island. But it was at Columbia and Penn (his children all did undergraduate work at one or the other), was devastated when his Catholic grammar school was slated for closing and is involved in other charities and volunteer work. You go, Bob! Spring seems to be in the air in Baltimore. Tax season is winding down. I thank the IRS for maintaining moving, home interest and other itemized deductions, including those for charitable giving. I’m proud (as a Lion!) to write checks to Columbia, and even happier when I deduct the donations. When you get that call or letter from a classmate, please be proud to do the same. You also can give online any time: college.columbia.edu/giveonline.

Guide to Keeping a Practice Journal, available this spring from Rodmell Press. Bruce lives in Sarasota, Fla., with his wife (a professor at New College) and daughter (who recently got her driver’s permit), and welcomes friends and classmates to drop by if they’ve never explored the beauty of Florida’s west coast. You can reach him at bruceblack@gmail.com.

Mark Heller passed away in Potomac, Md., last October. He was married for 27 years to Connie and also is survived by son Danny and Laura. He was an active member of Temple Beth Ami in Rockport, coaching MSI soccer and singing in the choir for 20 years. The family welcomes contributions to the Fund for Innovation or the Tikvuk Olan Committee at Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Rd., Rockville, MD 20850.

Some of the notes I get are what I call meaning-of-life messages. I received a couple of splendid ones from Artie Gold and Bill Dorsey.

In August, Artie had his third child, Eliza Rose (“I’m slow but making up for it”). It was on Christmas Eve 2009, as I reconstruct the dates, that, as Artie puts it, “it was only the combination of being in just the right place at just the right time (and an on-call cardiovascular surgeon with a hot hand) that kept me from being referred to in the past tense in that other section of CCT. And I’ve had one of those recovery, etc. deals where the docs shake their heads and smile.” Factor in Eliza Rose’s arrival about eight months later and, if you were Artie, you too would say, “Indeed, life is good.”

Meanwhile, Bill, in fall 2009, moved to a new position after 19 years as a social worker and social work manager at the Kaiser Permanente hospital in Santa Rosa, Calif.; he is now a palliative care social worker at the outpatient clinic. “I’ve been providing counseling to patients affected by advanced cancer and other illnesses. These chronic and often life-shortening conditions can impact a person’s physical, emotional, social and spiritual coping. I work closely with the doctors, nurses, dieticians and pharmacists and the rest of the team to help patients live with the best quality of life possible. I include their family in the counseling to help them cope, too. It can be challenging and rewarding, and I always am impressed with the strength, hope and gratitude that people can demonstrate in the
toughest of times.” He goes on, “I play drums regularly at our church and with a couple of jazz bands. The artistic and spiritual outlets help keep me centered.”

Bill also wants us to know that son Brendan is a freshman at The George Washington University, while son Brian is a freshman in high school, and that Bill is “grateful every day for the love and support of my wife of 25 years, Lynn.”

From Florida, we hear that Charles Trippe ’79, has been named general counsel in the governor’s office. After graduating from the Law School, Charles did litigation work in New York, Massachusetts and Florida. He was general counsel for litigation for CSX Transportation, and then worked in civil litigation as a partner at Moseley, Prichard, Parrish, Knight, and Jones in Jacksonville. Now he will be handling the legal issues of a state, no less.

“Congratulations and more importantly, good luck.”

Greetings also come from Arto Becker and Jeffrey Allen. Arto is a lawyer in Los Angeles who describes his life as “simple.” He explains that he has been “practicing for more than 30 years in the same firm,” and has “grown children who make me very proud.”

Jeff describes his “fond memories of playing 158-lb. football. It was 1973, and we hadn’t won a game of playing 158-lb. football. It was great to see classmates and reminisce about when we were all taller, faster and stronger. On hand to either of these locations, please feel free to contact me for the locations of diners, drive-irs and dives that you won’t read about in the guidebooks.

“Hi! I am here to remind you, as the late great cartoonist Saul Steinberg from The New Yorker illustrated in his classic magazine cover, that there is a whole lot more to life than driving on vacation to … New Haven, Conn!”

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Michael C. Brown

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“Take me out to the game ball,”

“Take me out with the crowd.

“Buy me some peanuts and Crack-er Jack,

“I don’t care if I never get back.

“Let me root, root, root for the home team,

“If they don’t win it’s a shame.

“For it’s one, two, three strikes, you’re out,

“At the old ball game.”

There is nothing better than watching the baseball team play at the new Safeco Stadium. Coach Bret Boretti has the squad playing some of the most competitive games we have ever witnessed, and we are glad for our coaches’ and players’ success.

We have had tremendous alumni support, as the stands are full of our old-timers. At Homecoming last fall, we dedicated the baseball/soccer locker room on behalf of Eric Blatman and his family. Eric gave a wonderful speech between games, and his teammates John McGuire ’84, Ray Commissio, Larry Biondi and Ray Stukes wished him all the best.

Ray Commissio is at Thomson Reuters, where he is in charge of designing many of the fixed income applications, such as Terms and Conditions pages, New Issues pages and calculators that appear on the Xtra and Eikon Fixed Income platform. Ray’s experience as a fixed income trader, portfolio manager and former Reuters client was something the company needed in building its data products, so that the end result is user-friendly instead of the product of academics and developers who do not understand what clients need to see and use in the workflows of the typical financial market participant.

We ran into Steve Spence ’82 at the Ivy football dinner. Steve is building a wealth management business with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in Midtown.

Congratulations to Phil Adkins and David Sherman on their children’s early admittance to alma mater, Class of 2015. We wish both Nastasia Adkins and Adam Sherman the best of luck.

Jim Gerkis and I attended the annual John Jay Awards Dinner on March 2 and want to remind you to consider a gift to the Columbia College Fund. Give at college.columbia.edu/bookalumni and mail a check to Columbia College Fund, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025. We have come a long way in our fundraising efforts, and we need your support.

Please drop me a line at mcbbc80@yahoo.com.

The only thing better than the annual Burgers and Basketball event on campus in February is spending it with old friends. Carman roommates (left to right) Harvey Cotton ’81, Ernie Cicconi ’81 and A.J. Bosco ’81 enjoyed the pregame ritual with their daughters (left to right) Leah Cotton, Samantha Cicconi and Anna Bosco.

Photo: CATHY COTTON ’83 BARNARD
Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception, which features champagne, sweets, and music and dancing on Low Plaza. Don't miss it! It's not too late to register: reunion.college.columbia.edu.

It’s also not too late to edit down some of those stories, make the necessary adjustments to waistlines and hairlines, and hire whatever escorts seem appropriate.

Dave Cook is doing his part. In addition to his food blogging and restaurant reviews, Dave has put together a blog on Columbia bands from our era. Read it and weep for our lost youth: columbiaiands.com.

John Luisi checks in from the outermost of the outer boroughs: “I’m the new agency chief contracting officer at the NYC Board of Elections, so all contracts for goods and services will go through my office. My staff and I will do our best to enable the firms to develop unique technology-based solutions that provide transparency for hedge funds and their investors. “Why should I care?” you ask? I’m the CEO of WR. Hey, even a broken clock is right twice a day.

Looking forward to hearing from you. I have two free tickets to the next Brooklyn Giants home game for each of the next six contributors.

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Andrew Barth ’85 Business was presented a 2011 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement on March 2 at the annual John Jay Awards Dinner. The citation presented to Andy, commemorating his achievements, stated, “In today’s global economy, leading a multinational company is one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs. Your tenure at the Capital Group Companies has been impressive, and your 25-year commitment to the company has occurred during a period of significant expansion. In your many roles at the Capital Group, you have overseen a global expansion while maintaining an active role in the investment process. “You are a native New Yorker, born in Queens, and you majored in economics at the College. You graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and were named an All-Ivy wrestler. In 1985, you earned an M.B.A. from the Business School. You continued to live your passion for wrestling by competing for the New York Athletic Club, achieving state, regional and international notoriety in the Greco-Roman wrestling. You have spent your entire professional career at the Capital Group, beginning as a financial analyst covering automotive and financial companies with Capital Guardian Research. As a research director for you over the years, your Capital Guardian Research’s development into a global organization and its evolution into Capital International Research. You have risen through a series of executive and investment roles during the past two decades to become the chairman of the Capital Guardian Trust Company and Capital International Limited. You have been an important contributor to the growth of the Capital Group from $25 billion in assets under management in 1985 to $1.2 trillion today.

“Your active member of your community and a dedicated public servant. You were twice elected to the Board of Governors of the San Marino Unified School District, serving from 1997–2005, with three years as president. You worked to put in place the foundation that has earned San Marino the highest Academic Performance Index ranking of all unified school districts in the State of California for seven consecutive years. You have been a trustee or overseer of The American Ballet Theater, the California Science Center Foundation, The Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, Fornona College, and The Huntington Museum, Library and Gardens, as well as the Business School. In 2005, you endowed the varsity head wrestling coaching position at Columbia, now known as the Andrew F. Barth Head Coach of Wrestling. At the time, you spoke about the impact that wrestling had on your life: ‘Wrestling taught me many valuable lessons about life, lessons I use every day. Discipline, persistence and hard work really do make a difference in the success the experience of wrestling has had in my life and some of my best memories are due to wrestling and being a part of this team. Columbia was a wonderful experience, and I received a great education.’ You are a thoughtful and caring husband and father to your children, Avery, and a loving father to your children, Emily, Catherine, Andrew Jr. and Avery Vivian. In recognition of your work as a financier, Columbia College is proud to present you a 2011 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.”

Andy has been a tremendous supporter of the College, and the Class of ’83 congratulates him on receiving this much-deserved honor. Michael Oren ’77 also received a John Jay Award that night. Michael is the Israeli Ambassador to the United States and a former student of Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig. Michael extended a personal invitation to KLS to attend the dinner and referred to KLS at the “incomparable Karl-Ludwig Selig” during his remarks.

Kevin Cronin: “I met Barack Obama in college — there, I said it — and it’s time to put to bed the mystery of Obama and college life. First, let’s talk about misplaced arrogance. Lots of people say they didn’t know him in school, despite common commitment to political science and pre-law (gosh, there’s a small group for you), yet Obama went on to Harvard Law and the presidency. Maybe he had better things to do? At any rate, it worked for him. Here’s my meeting with ‘the man who would be President.’ It was late on a weekend, probably in March or April 1983, and I was with a group of students editing Sundial newsmagazine.

The Black Students League, which also had an office on the third floor of Ferris Booth Hall, was leaving from a meeting, and the students trickled down the hall to the stairwell. One student, the future President, walked by our open door and recognized one of the editors and looked in, shouting a friendly greeting as he poked his head in the open doorway. The future President, realizing there were others in the office working, smiled and went down the hallway and was gone. That’s it. End of story. So what do you think? Did anyone else meet Obama? What does this one instance establish about our President? Not much, I’m afraid; perhaps that the future President was friendly, gregarious and involved during his college days. I suppose some things don’t change (though it doesn’t necessarily help dealing with Republicans in Congress). Best wishes. I hope you are well."

The following are early admit legacies to the Class of 2015: Samuel Lutzker (LaFayette Creek, Calif.), son of Stuart G. Lutzker, and Samuel Stevens (Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology, Haworth, N.J.), son of Peter Stevens.

On March 5, my wife and I hosted a party for Columbia graduates and students at our home prior to Columbia’s final home basketball game of the season. It was great to see Dennis Kleinberg ’84, class correspondent, as well as students from Columbia College, former marching band manager and inspirational friend to Professor Selig. Kevin Chapman
showed me a stunning photo of his wife, Sharon ‘83 Barnard, who competed in the last New York City Marathon. Kevin beat my son, David, in chess. My wife praised Kevin for having the skills necessary to beat a 6-year-old. David has been invited to compete in the national chess tournament in Texas, where he will receive a ranking competing against adversaries closer to his age. My daughter, Rebecca, has become an accomplished hula hoop artist and performed her repertoire of moves for the grains. Geoffrey Mintz has started a hat company and has made several trips to China to work on his new line. He and his wife live in NYC. Many of you may remember Geoff’s father, Norman Mintz, a former e.v.p. of Columbia. My wife’s Hunter H.S. classmate, Emily Glickman Meyerson ’90, and her husband, Howard Meyerson ’85, brought their daughters, Hallie and Julia. Steven Greenfield and his girlfriend, Melissa, were present. Steve has attended dozens of CC basketball games this year and helped organize the event with me. Ken Howitt ’76, a friend for more than 30 years and a Nacom, drove from New Jersey to be with us. Ken organized February’s WKCR alumni dinner. Marcia Sells, associate v.p., planning and program development and initiatives at the School of the Arts, as well as associate dean of community outreach, also joined us. Marcia is the faculty liaison for the Senior Society of Nacoms. She was joined by several current senior Nacoms, including Alex Katz ’11 GS, the Batab. Sam Rowan ‘96 Barnard, who helped organize the event, is the managing editor of Real Estate Finance & Investment and also a Nacom. Steve Holjte is publishing in Culture Clash a response to Anthony Tommasini’s top 10 list of classical composers. Steve is a former CC marching band trombone player and lives with his wife in Manhattan. Three former CC marching band managers showed up: DanCarlinsky ’65, Frank Miron ’66 and Peter Janovsky ’68. Nick Paone is starting a band. His bio at White Fleischner & Fino states: “Mr. Paone joined White Fleischner & Fino in 2003 and is an attorney with over 20 years of experience. Mr. Paone focuses on the preparation and trial or arbitration of significant cases in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. These cases run the gamut from medical and dental malpractice to professional liability, insurance coverage, general liability, products, construction accidents and defects, property damage, employment, business disputes, securities litigation, and insurance brokers and errors and omissions.” Ethan Rouen ’04J, ‘11 Business, associate editor of CCT, and his wife, Kim Martinez ’97, also participated in the gathering. I made sure to invite Ethan, as I am always running late on my Class Notes submission (including this one). Marc Ripp ’80 and his wife, Dr. Shari Ripp, attended with their daughters, Brandi ’12 and Elena ’14E. Brandi and Elena are active at Columbia and represent the third generation of Rips at the College. Mark Simon ’84 and his wife, Melissa, brought their children, William, Oliver, Annabel and Colette. Mark is friendly with Andrew Barth, and Mark attended the John Jay Awards Dinner. Overall, it was an eclectic gathering of CC graduates and students spanning many decades.

Wishing you all much health, prosperity and happiness as many of us turn 50 this year.

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Welcome back, Tom Dyja!

Tom wrote, “Given all the coverage of Charles Portis (True Grit), you might want to check 1984 back to the alumni magazine, when Matt Cooper did a short piece on a Portis promotion I’d had a hand in starting at the Madison Avenue Bookshop. Portis had stalled a little after The Dog of the South, and we like to think all the attention gave him a boost and got him back on the map.

“I’m working on a cultural history of postwar Chicago for Penguin Press, due this fall, covering everyone from Mies van der Rohe, Mahalia Jackson, Hugh Hefner and the second City to Ray Kroc, Nelson Algren and Sun Ra. I’ve spent more time in Butler the last year than I did all through my four years in college.”

And a great four years they were, chronicled by such current-day multimedia experts as WKCR’s Jon Abbot and Spec leaders Cooper and Steven Waldman (and even a friend or two from across the street), which leads me to make the provocative move of introducing to our all-male (entering) class the progress of a Barnard alum!

This very special friend, and indeed, amazing asset to the Columbia community in those days, was, and is, Beth Knobel ‘84 Barnard. (She deserves boldface treatment, but that honor is reserved for College and Engineering classmates.)

Beth distinguished herself in many leadership roles, most principally with Spec, working under editor-in-chief Steve Waldman and alongside co-editor Richard Pollack.

“It was through Spec that I met a few of my closest friends to this day, including Jim Weinstein, whom I met when I interviewed him, and Richard Froehlich ’85. I now sit on the Spec Board of Trustees and recently found one of my favorite photos in the office, a front-page photo of Jim and the late, great Stuart Garcia, who were both College seniors, posing a bit like superheroes.”

Now, as a journalist and professor, Beth graces us once more, as this issue of Heat and Light: Advice for the Next Generation of Journalists, which she co-wrote with the one and only Mike Wallace.

“Mike and I worked together twice when I was the Moscow Bureau Chief for CBS News and he was still at 60 Minutes, when he came to Russia to interview Boris Yeltsin and then Vladimir Putin. Mike always was incredibly nice to me, and when I left CBS to teach journalism at Fordham in 2007, he accepted my invitation to speak to students. Mike had such interesting things to say about journalism that day that I told him that he should write a book about how to be a good reporter ... or that we should write one together. And we did! Book is due this fall, and our advice, then added the best advice of a lot of our friends (including AP baseball reporter Ron Blum ’83 and Washington Post executive editor Marcus Brauchli ’83) and turned out an easy-to-read guidebook for young journalists. In writing the book, I thought a lot about my college years working on Spec and kept asking myself what I know now after 20 years as a journalist that I wished I’d known then. The book was published by The River Press, part of Random House, and I think it is a good read for any aspiring journalist.”

On a personal note, I am most happy to see Beth and her son now and then at the local JCC where we are all members; her son and mine have even attended the same camp. Small world indeed!

I can see the letters now: What’s next, ’84 Engineering alumni? Well, why not? While, like Barnard, they do have their own magazine, they also lived, took courses and dined with us, and they were welcome to join our 25th reunion dinner.

As so far as I’m concerned, they’re welcome to stay in touch in this column. Let’s hear from Craig Sultan ’84E, ’90 Business and Carolyn Strauss-Meckler ’84E, all great class leaders, and any of their classmates. Fire away!

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Well, it’s been a quiet month for updates, so please refill the “update pipeline” for us.

The Glee Club is joining other singing groups for another concert during the upcoming Dean’s Day /Alumni Reunion Weekend (Thursday, June 2-Sunday, June 5), so for any of you who are in or can get to the New York area, plan accordingly. There is more info available on the Glee Club’s Facebook page. I hope to see some of you there and several other Dean’s Day /reunion activities; let me know if you are coming so we can catch up in person.

Congratulations to two more of our classmates who can add the “P” moniker to their Columbia credentials: Stephen Carty and Michael Romney. Welcome to the Columbia Class of 2015, Monica Carty and Morgan Romney! We will hopefully add to our total “P15” count (now up to three) when the final numbers come out. [Editor’s note: A list of alumni legacies for the College and Engineering Class of 2015 is scheduled for the September/October issue.] As nearly 35,000 students applied for admission to the College and Engineering, acceptance is a terrific accomplishment. I have been interviewing prospective students for more than 10 years (a great way to give back to the College that doesn’t cost a dime; studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/volunteers.php) and have never seen such a strong group of potential applicants.

In early February, I had the pleasure of meeting two of the finest attorneys in the country, and also the finest teacher on the planet, Paul Paone. I am very happy to have him contribute a column. Let’s hear from

What’s Your Story?

E-mail to the address at the top of your column.

ONLINE by clicking “Contact Us” at college.columbia.edu/ccc.

Send in your Class Notes! To the address at the top of your column.
A group of alumni stopped to have their photo taken outside Tom’s Diner during their annual Super Bowl celebration in New York City. The party included (left to right) Mark Lewis ’86, Ted Munter ’87, Brian Driscoll ’86, Jeff Monroe ’86E, Jack Catapano, Claude Catapano ’86, Lane Vanderslice ’86 and Dave Katz ’86E. PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

The schedule offers a great mix of cultural happenings throughout New York City as well as class-specific events where we will have a chance to renew old friendships. Thursday night, there will be a chance to take in a show in Manhattan. Friday offers mini-Core courses and a class dinner. Saturday is Dean’s Day, with great lectures, including a talk by Dean Dean Moody-Adams, followed in the evening by the all-class Wine Tasting, our class dinner and cocktails, and then sweets, champagne and dancing on Low Plaza at the Starlight Reception. In between, there will be plenty of other happenings to keep us entertained. Don’t miss it. It’s not too late to register: alumni.college.columbia.edu/reunion. And the app’s news module, which features a full and detailed listing of events, an up-to-date list of registered classmates, answers to reunion FAQs and several ways to connect with Columbia on LinkedIn! The Alumni Office has launched the Class of ’87 Facebook group and the group accepts most major insurance plans.

With more public tributes to Greg Giraldo hitting the stages and the airwaves, we will hold off on our promised cumulative tribute for one more issue in order to make it more comprehensive. Thanks for your understanding.

In the meantime, we have great news on the admissions front: three — count’ em — three of our classmates have children who have been accepted early decision to the Class of 2015. Our heartiest congratulations go out to Cynthia Campo, daughter of Dr. Diane Hilal-Campo and Richard P. Campo ’84; Justin Goluboff, son of Nicole Goluboff; and Brian McGrattan, son of Laura Ting and Kevin McGrattan ’87E. Welcome to Columbia!

I received an e-mail from Eric Rogers, who has written a new novel, Bangkok Vanishing, which he describes as “a gritty crime thriller about a good family man who goes to Thailand and makes terrible decisions and is required to battle his way back to redemption with his family.”

In other book news, Keith Thomson’s Twice a Spy: A Novel, hit the shelves in early March. A sequel to his Once a Spy: A Novel, the book finds his lead character, Charlie Clark, having left his life as an intelligence officer behind as he and girlfriend Alixe go on the lam in Switzerland from Alixe’s employer, NSA, and a special CIA black ops unit known as Cavalry. The real star of the group is Charlie’s father, Drummond Clark, who after a career as a CIA agent is sinking into the throes of early Alzheimer’s, but who is able, when the occasion demands, to revive his old skills and save their skins.

In addition, Spyglass Entertainment is developing a feature film version of Once a Spy.

My dear friend and Hunter College H.S. classmate Dr. Juanita Punwaney has started to see dermatology patients at Manhattan’s Physician Group. She said the group is a wonderful multispecialty provider with three locations in Manhattan. Juanita will be available to see dermatology patients at the Upper East Side, Midtown and Flatiron offices, and the group accepts most major insurance plans.

Please do not forget to join our Class of ’87 Facebook group and connect with Columbia on LinkedIn! The time you put in now in setting up your accounts may pay you back huge dividends later in the amount of networking you can do with both other classmates and with connecting with current students to give them a few minutes of your guidance that could help them immensely. And that is more than worth the few minutes of set-up time.

Congratulations to the Class of 1988’s newest legacy parent, Mark Timoney. The Timoney family will be represented on Morningside Heights this fall by Mark’s son, John Timoney-Gomez, a Bronxville (N.Y.) H.S. senior who earned early admission to Engineering’s Class of 2015. Another proud parent, Graham Dodds, writes from Canada with perhaps the best argument ever offered for moving north of the border: “For the past six years, I’ve been a political science professor at Concordia University in the great city of Montreal, trying to explain the strange politics of the United States to puzzled Canadians. Five months ago my wife, Amy Kimball, and I had our second child, Julia. I’m presently taking advantage of Quebec’s generous social welfare state by being on a year of paid parental leave as a stay-at-home dad, but I plan to return to academic work in the fall.”

It was great hearing from my former Carman Hall roommate Jonathan Etra ’91L. Jonathan, a lifelong New Yorker, moved with his wife, Kate Myers, to her native Miami in 2003, where they have been raising “two fantastic girls,” Lilly (6) and Annabelle (1). Once a federal prosecutor in New York, Jonathan now is a partner at the
Florida law firm of Broad and Cas-sel, where he specializes in complex litigation and white collar criminal defense. “I have become a happily transplanted Floridian, although I will always miss New York,” Jon-a-than writes. Does that mean he still pulls for the Mets, Giants and Knicks? “Absolutely!”

Please keep your updates coming! Feel free to send me an e-mail or friend me on Facebook.

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I heard from Jill Pollack Lewis, who traveled throughout the tail end of 2010 and the beginning of this year to Canada to shoot a pilot for an HGTV talk show that she will host. Traveling back and forth between her new home in Connecticut and Canada for the show has been grueling, but Jill’s husband, Jeff, is holding down the fort between her new home in Connecticut and Canada for the show has been grueling, but Jill’s husband, Jeff, is holding down the fort between her new home in Connecticut and Canada for the show has been grueling, but Jill’s husband, Jeff, is holding down the fort.

John MacPhee and Dana MacPhee in Park City, Utah, in January while in town for the Sundance Festival and the super party Columbia throws for students and alumni: John recently retired from his position as president of Strativa Pharmaceuticals and is working on a master’s at the Mailman School of Public Health. He also has become involved in the New York chapter of Bottom Line, a nonprofit that my husband, Dave Terry ’90, chairs in Boston. Bottom Line helps first-generation youths get in to and graduate from college. John now is Bottom Line’s chairman in New York.

The 2011 Sundance Film Festival screened 24 films that collectively featured contributions from 36 alumni, students and faculty who represent Columbia and School of the Arts. Carol Becker, dean, School of the Arts, and Donna, v.p., alumni relations, and president, Columbia Alumni Association, hosted the sixth annual CAA alumni reception in Park City. Dave and I attended the party that honors the work of Columbiaans featured at the festival. There, in addition to the many filmmakers, we visited with Ann-Marie Wright and her husband, Fred Lampoulos, who, with their children, reside in Salt Lake City.

I also heard from Dan Loflin, whom we just missed connecting with in Utah, but who has been spending a fair amount of time there pursuing his new passion, fly fishing, when he isn’t working hard in San Francisco.

Since I last caught up with Tom Leder, he and his wife, Mary Ellen, and daughter Julia (2) have welcomed another little one, Meg (1). The Leder’s live in northern Westchester. Tom writes, “I work for Masich &Khalu, out of its White Plains office, and with work and fatherhood, I have never been busier ... or happier.”

Just as I was about to submit this post, I literally ran into Eli Neusner outside our local bagel shop. It was his day three away from me! I hoped to not see anyone I knew, for my 4-year-old had insisted on wearing pajama bottoms (dinosaur pajama bottoms!) to school, and it was a typical Monday for us, meaning we were looking a bit tousled. Eli didn’t seem to notice — his kids and wife, Poly, are well. It’s always great to see someone from the good ol’ Columbia days!

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Yes, Facebook, Jeff Sepulveda tracked me down. He teaches American history, a la James Shenton ’49, ’54 CSAS (if you weren’t a history major, you might not get the reference), at the American School of Tampico, Mexico. I hope the rest of you are doing well and might find 30 seconds in your lives to send me an update. (Fifty-nine words. So sad!)
scheduled to speak at the Compliance Week Conference in Washington, D.C., at the end of May, and I get especially psyched about flying into Dulles. Usually I have time to stop by Five Guys for the best cheeseburger in any airport in North America, with two shots at it during layovers: Terminals A and B.

I heard from Kirsten Danis, my former Spectator editor-in-chief, who has taken a new position as deputy editor of the Greater New York Section of The Wall Street Journal.

Finally, a little bit of personal news: I was deeply honored to be asked to serve as the “Honorary Coach of the Game” on senior night for the men’s basketball team.


I also heard from Matt Streem, who lives “in Solon, Ohio (eastern Cleveland suburbs), with my wife, Shereen, son, Ryan (6) and daughter, Sari (3). Enjoying the lowsest levels of the suburbs and just spending time with family and trying to keep in shape! Own a distribution company, Trend Evolution, where we sell Burt's Bees, Bixted, Carmex, ChapStick, Dial and other impulse products to specialty retailers in the United States. We also recently developed and launched an organizational line of office products called Contact Keeper (contactkeeper.com) that is now available in 1,100 Office Depot stores and will be in 900 FedEx Office stores in March. The products solve a common problem of keeping business cards and notes together, and are great for meetings, trade shows, job interviews and any business card exchange situation. My brother Jason Streem '00 is finishing a residency in periodontics at Virginia Commonwealth University and is planning to start a private practice when he moves with his family to Cleveland in August. He and his wife, Mindy, welcomed a son, Sam, on October. I was hoping to see Chad Moore in California at the Natural Products Expo in Anaheim in March. I keep in touch with Joel Cramer, Kevin Connolly and Neil Turitz. Otherwise, I’m looking forward to a weekend of fun and celebration in NYC for my 40th. I will definitely check out the old stomping grounds!”

Kwon-Kyun Chung recently was named v.p. of finance at Cottage, a renewable energy provider that develops, finances, builds, owns and operates solar energy systems under a power purchase agreement at client facilities across the United States. At Soltage, Kwon was involved in the financing of one of the first merchant power plants in the U.S. at the Boston Generating (1,500 MW), located in Boston. Before joining Soltage, Kwon worked at Alinda Capital Partners for three years, where he was responsible for the origination of investments in energy and infrastructure projects in excess of $2 billion. He has been with Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein and WestLB AG, where he completed various energy project financings in excess of $1 billion. Kwon lives in Jersey City, N.J.

As I finish writing this column, it is a Sunday evening, and I am watching TV. It’s time for my favorite Sunday night show, ABC’s Brothers & Sisters, and there is Cara Buono appearing as Rose, Tommy Walker’s girlfriend. A little Internet digging, and I was reminded that Cara appeared in Mad Men this past fall and also appeared in one of my favorites, The Sopranos.

Well, after my sad, newsless column in the last issue, I am pleased to share an abundance of updates this time around.

Suzy Shuster Eisen and her husband, Rich, welcomed their second son, Cooper, in February; he joins brother Xander. Megan McGowan Epstein was there to help celebrate his arrival. Suzy is taking some time off from sports broadcasting but is working with Ron Scherling (who directed Bull Durham and Tin Cup) on a pilot he wrote based on her career as a sideline reporter on ABC. Suzy is producing the pilot, which has been optioned by NBC.

David Eisenbach has been teaching history, CC and Lit Hum at Columbia. In April, Palgrave Macmillan is releasing his third book, One Nation Under Sex: How the Private Lives of Presidents, First Ladies and their Lovers Changed the Course of American History. He co-authored the book with Hustler publisher and free speech advocate Larry Flynt.

David Dooling lives in Falls Church, Va., with his wife, Amy Lopez Dooling, and daughter Sofia Elena (2). David went to grad school for physics then went on to Montreal for a post-doc. He spent five years in New Mexico before starting work in McLean, Va., in 2007. Last October, Tony Ambroza moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., and joined Carhartt, a 121-year-old apparel brand, as v.p. of marketing.
Arnold Kim ’96 Diagnoses Apple on MacRumors.com

By Laura Butchy ’04 Arts

Dr. Arnold Kim ’96 had two passions from a young age: medicine and computers. These interests grew into dual careers for Kim as a physician and founder of MacRumors.com. In 2008, however, with MacRumors attracting more than 4 million readers a month, he made the decision to stop diagnosing kidney problems and instead analyze Apple news and rumors full-time.

Since Kim left his medical practice to focus on MacRumors, the website has continued to grow. “Surprisingly enough, the recession hasn’t tangibly affected us,” Kim says. “Between MacRumors and my other web projects, we hired four full-time employees in 2009.” The additional staff has increased the site’s ability to cover Apple news and rumors, attracting an active community of enthusiasts to its news, buyer’s guide, discussion forums and a separate section focused on the iPhone. Advertising revenue rose in 2009 and 2010, and according to Quantcast, MacRumors’ number of monthly visitors is now more than 8 million.

When it launched in February 2000, MacRumors was a solo enterprise for Kim. “It’s hard to even say it was an ‘enterprise’ as much as it was a hobby,” he explains. “It really required little financing. Beyond that it was just the time I put into it.” That had to be well-managed, as Kim earned an M.D. at the Medical College of Virginia, completed an internal medicine residency at UNC Chapel Hill and specialized in a nephrology fellowship back at MCV.

MacRumors was started in Kim’s last year of medical school. Already interested in Apple, Kim began tracking news and rumors on his blog. After his medical fellowship, he joined a private nephrology practice in Richmond, Va., for two years before leaving to devote himself to MacRumors full-time. “The decision took a long time,” Kim says. “I was able to effectively juggle my job and MacRumors for years, but MacRumors was what I enjoyed working on in my free time.”

Kim began spending his free time on computers while growing up in Newport News, Va., when his family got a Commodore Vic 20, followed by an Apple //c. “For whatever reasons, I was drawn to it,” he says. “I actually got a modem early. At the time, the internet didn’t really exist as it does today, so dialing up local bulletin board systems was the extent of it.”

Kim followed his sister Nam ’93 to Columbia. He was pre-med with a concentration in computer science, foreshadowing his career interests. It was only a matter of time, however, before two such time-consuming occupations led to a choice. “In 2007, my wife and I had our first child, and that ultimately spurred the decision to quit medicine,” Kim says. “My available free time shrank, and what I actually wanted to do with that free time also shifted. Spending time with our newborn and my wife took priority.”

“It is difficult to quantify Kim’s working hours. During key times when there are a lot of news and rumors, he may spend all day working, but hiring other writers has helped. As blogging has grown in popularity over the years, the news cycle has accelerated, forcing MacRumors to expand coverage.

“The site has grown considerably through the years, but the basic format hasn’t changed,” Kim says. “The news and rumor focus has remained generally consistent. In fact, I’ve always prided myself on the selectivity of the news we choose to report and how seriously we take our reporting.”

Laura Butchy ’04 Arts is a teacher, writer and dramaturg in New York City.

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Son Jackson started kindergarten and daughter Siena is in preschool. “The kids are keeping us busy with plenty of activities, and my wife, Cheryl, is training for a half-marathon,” Tony writes.

After more than 20 years in New York City, Rachel Phillips Flamm is moving with her husband and two small children to Washington, D.C., to join PricewaterhouseCoopers’ national office in its international tax group. Rachel would love to reconnect with classmates who are in D.C.; she can be reached at rphillips207@yahoo.com.

Dee Dee Wu is married to Brian Golden and is the mother of two boys, Jake and Justin. She has been practicing rheumatology in Fair Lawn, N.J., since she finished her fellowship at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. Dee Dee lives in Oradell, N.J., and is in touch with Hetty Chung, who lives in Manhasset and is an ob/gyn at North Shore University Hospital.

Rachel Phillips Flamm ’94 is moving to Washington, D.C., to join PricewaterhouseCoopers’ national office in its international tax group.

Deborah Chong sent her first Class Notes update. About five years ago, she started a nonprofit, Medicine in Action, which is dedicated to delivering healthcare to people in the developing world. “We work in Jamaica, Haiti and Tanzania,” Deborah writes. “I recently returned from Jamaica, MIA’s 20th medical mission! I left for Tanzania in April.” When she is not traveling, Deborah lives and works in Oakland, Calif.

Another first report came from Kristine Campagna, who lives in the Albany area and practices family medicine and sports medicine. She is married to Bryan Sixberry, and they have two boys, Scan (2) and Ryan (1).

Michael Cervieri is a co-founder of the media production and strategy firm ScribeLabs, where he’s working on a documentary about the future of American news media called The Future Journalism Project. Columbia has tethered him during the past few years. Michael taught at the Journalism School from 2006–09 and since then has taught a course on media and technology at SIPA. He lives in Queens with dreams of eventually moving to warmer, more tropical climates.

Alan Berks took the job of director of communications for Pillsbury House and Pillsbury House Theatre, a professional theatre and neighborhood center in Minneapolis. “It’s a professional theater that actually runs a neighborhood center,” he
writes, “so everything we do now in the social service area is also ‘arts-integrated.’ It’s fun.” Alan also reports that the Minnesota Jewish Theatre produced the area premiere of his play, Gosts, in March.

And finally, Alicia Guevara has been named executive director for New York at Peace First. Formerly known as Peace Games, Peace First is a national nonprofit that works with schools in Boston, Los Angeles and New York to empower children, as young as 4, with the skills and tools to become agents of change in their schools and communities. Alice will be responsible for building, growing and sustaining New York operations, including securing local fundraising, maintaining strong school partnerships and ensuring excellent program delivery across the New York City partner schools.

Many thanks to everyone who wrote! Until next time.

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I can now complete the update started in the last issue about Marie-Carmelle Elie. She and her husband are now parents of three boys. Twins Noah and Nicholas were born February 18 at the impressive weights of 7 lbs, 10 oz, and 7 lbs, 4 oz. They join brother Nathan (3).

Anyone in Miami, please volunteer to give them an hour so they can have a break.

Please keep the updates coming.

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Greetings, classmates. Unfortunately, we have another paltry column for you this time. Where are you? We need to hear from you, so send in notes, otherwise you will have me hounding you for information in person at our 15th reunion (see how I slipped that in there?) from Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. It will be a blast, with Mini-Core courses, cocktail hours, dinners, the all-class Wine Tasting, dancing and sweets on Low Plaza and Dean’s Day speakers, including Dean Michelle Moody-Adams.

It’s too late to register! Go to reunion.college.columbia.edu.

REUNION JUNE 2–JUNE 5
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Jesse Levitt opened a second bar in Brooklyn, The Minor Arcana, in Prospect Heights. It is inspired by tarot cards, carnival sideshows and liquor. He invites everyone to stop by!

Michael Wachman happily announces the birth of his son, Amitai Eitan (aka Adam), born on October 26. “He is the newest addition to an existing trio of siblings and has made our son thrilled, for he now finally has a brother. About a month after the birth of our son, my wife and I celebrated (or rather, had; couldn’t do too much celebrating with a newborn) our 10-year anniversary.”

Michael enjoys his job doing real estate acquisitions and asset management. He specializes in family real estate investments and management in the Connecticut market and has had an active few months, closing on three deals and getting ready to close on a fourth. “Anybody having any opportuni-
ties coming up, contact me and let’s all be welcome to contact me at mwachman@paredim.com,” he says.

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A big thank you to Lauren Becker for maintaining our Class Notes for the last year. I was handed the baton a few months ago, and I hope to report on the usual suspects as well as some new ones. If you don’t remember me by name, I was the guy who wore a red ski jacket all four years of college. Remember how North Face jackets were all the rage back then? The last time I submitted something to Class Notes, Brad Neuberg and I had the bright idea to tell everyone we joined the French Foreign Legion to fight communism insurgents in Sierra Leone. Since then, I graduated from the Business School, work in finance and plan to get married in June. I am now in Brussels, Belgium, to Sophie Anderson. Brad has since been honorably discharged from the French Foreign Legion and worked at Google for a number of years. After recently watching The Social Network, he was inspired to take Google and focus on a start-up in Silicon Valley. During last October’s Homecoming, Sameer Shamsi, Stacy Rotner, Dominique Sasson, Scott Napolitano and Adam Nguyen ’98 met up at Baker Athletics Complex.

We plan to round up more people this year, on Saturday, October 15, so drop us a line if you’re interested in joining us for some tailgating. I recently met with Martin Mraz, who lives in domestic partnership with Jenna Johnson right off Smith Street in downtown Brooklyn. He works in finance during the week but spends most of his time building a remote cabin somewhere upstate. He’s convinced the Dark Ages are soon upon us. Susan Kassin, who obtained her Ph.D. in astrophysics at 26, recently taught and did research into black holes at Oxford. She is now in Arlington, D.C., in January to continue her research for NASA.

These are all the updates I have, so please reach out to me over the next few weeks so we can share some exciting news with our class. I have no problem if you want to embellish your achievements.

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pb134@columbia.edu

Nugi Jakobishvili and his wife, Isabelle Levy ’05, welcomed Flora Sophia Jakobishvili in December. She loves strolling through Riverside Park and on College Walk and meeting Columbia friends. She is an excellent companion as Isabelle works on dissertation chapter No. 2. Please send me news! Your classmates want to hear about you.

Hi everyone. I hope your spring is off to a great start! Hard to believe our 10-year reunion is around the corner — in fact, only a month away. Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. Come back to campus for Mini-Core courses, cocktail hours, dinners, the all-class Wine Tasting, dancing and sweets on Low Plaza and Dean’s Day speakers, including Dean Michelle Moody-Adams.

It’s not too late to register! Go to reunion.college.columbia.edu, or, new this year, register on your smartphone. The Alumni Office has launched the free Alumni Reunion Weekend app, which features a full and detailed listing of events, an up-to-date list of registered classmates, answers to reunion FAQs and several ways to stay connected to
Raji Kalra ’97 Finds Fulfillment in Finance for Nonprofits

BY ALBERT SAMAH '11J

The stairwell in the construction site is pitch black. The lights have burned out. But Raji Kalra ’97, ’04 Business wants to go to the second floor, where by this fall the Museum for African Art’s main gallery will be. Her cell phone screen isn’t bright enough, so she borrows a hot-dog-sized LED flashlight from a construction worker and enters the darkness.

“This is kind of an adventure,” she says.

Kalra is the CFO of the New York museum. She manages the day-to-day funds and makes sure the museum operations are sustainable. But since taking the position in June 2010, the most significant aspect of the job has been overseeing the capital financing of the museum’s first self-owned location in its 27 years of existence. In previous years, the museum occupied rented space, first on the Upper East Side, then in SoHo and most recently in Long Island City, Queens.

“To say that I was part of this groundbreaking event by managing the costs is really exciting,” Kalra says.

Scheduled to open this fall, the museum will sit off the northeast corner of Central Park, “where Museum Mile and Harlem meet,” Kalra notes. She holds in her left arm a stack of placards that show renderings of what the museum will look like. In one image, the main entranceway opens to a tall room with large, mullioned windows on one side and a curving wall of light brown African wood on the other.

“We’re not sure if it’s technically feasible, but if it is, we’re going to do it,” she says of the bending wall.

Kalra is familiar with the nuances of overseeing new projects. After graduating with a double major in economics and political science, her plan, she says, was to enter private industry, retire early and then teach. But she also did volunteer work, and during the next three years, she came to a life-altering conclusion: Working in the private sector did not give her enough time and energy to volunteer.

“I got a lot of fulfillment and pleasure from volunteering and I thought, ‘Why can’t I do that full time?’ ” Kalra says.

She decided to return to school to better position herself for a job in nonprofit finance. Kalra spent the next three years getting an M.B.A at the Business School and a master’s in international policy at Johns Hopkins through a dual degree program.

In 2006, Kalra became the director of finance in New York City for the Knowledge Is Power Program, a national network of public schools.

Then she joined a consulting firm that took part in the open-ings of eight schools ranging from elementary to high school in post-Katrina New Orleans. Afterward, she was hired by Harlem RBI, a nonprofit youth development center in East Harlem, as it sought to launch its charter school in 2007. All in all, 11 new schools opened under Kalra’s watch.

“It takes guts to change careers, especially from finance to nonprofit. That says a lot about Raji’s character. I respect that,” says Joy Lin ’97, who was on Columbia’s student council with Kalra.

It is a courage that was molded during Kalra’s time on campus. While she fondly remembers favorite classes, such as Professor David Downie’s “Economics of the Environment” and University Professor Jagdish Bhagwati’s “International Monetary Theory and Policy,” perhaps her most rewarding experience took place inside the residence halls.

When Kalra moved onto campus at the start of her first year, many of her classmates had already befriended each other at pre-orientation events. The social circles had already formed, it seemed, and she wasn’t sure how she was going to make friends.

“I cried my first two days of college,” she admits with a chuckle.

Kalra’s mother told her to knock on every door on her dorm’s floor and introduce herself. “I definitely was not going to do that,” Kalra says. “So I did the next best thing.”

There was a TV in a lounge at the end of her hallway. Nearly every day for the next two weeks she sat by that TV and let her friends come to her. It worked. She got to know everybody. She became class v.p., her freshman and sophomore years and class president her final two years.

“Raji is genuinely interested in people,” says Lin. “She really brings people together. She’s always giving.”

Several years later, it’s hard to imagine Kalra anxiously sitting by the TV. She glides across the cold concrete floor of the construction site, toward a pair of glass doors that lead to a patio area. She tries to push open but it won’t move. The doors have been blocked by several inches of packed snow. She pushes harder, really leans into the door and finally plows it open. It is freezing, raining and slushy outside, but Kalra doesn’t seem to notice. She walks to the ledge of the patio and breathes in the view.

Albert Samaha ’11J writes primarily about social justice. His work has been featured in publications such as City Limits, Examiner.com, Philippine Headlines and CollegeFanz.com.
Matthew Wosnitzer married Samantha Earl and Francis Manheim recently were married in New York City, where they reside. Sam is completing a master’s at MIT in urban planning and design. Francis is an investment banker.

Many Columbians gathered in beautiful Sonoma, Calif., on September 25 for the wedding of Ali Kidd and Travis Ritchie. A lovely garden overlooking a vineyard provided the perfect backdrop, and several ’01ers provided the party, including Jenny Tubridy, Jessie Tubridy, Jaime Panalone, Anne-Marie Ebney, Becca Siegel Bradley and Emily Georgilis Stanton ’01E. The magical day was truly a Columbia affair: The bride’s father is Robert Kidd ’70, and the party stretched long into the night thanks to the entertainment provided by James Tubridy ’97.

Ali is an associate at the San Francisco office of Gibson, Dunn, and Crutcher, where she practices law in the real estate group. Travis is an attorney at the Sierra Club. Ali and Travis met at UCLA, from which they both received law and public policy degrees. While at UCLA, they also were students of former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, who officiated the wedding and noted that theirs was the first wedding he has officiated for two of his former students.

My family and I visited Marc and Kathryn in Washington, D.C., a few months ago as they were preparing for Emilia’s arrival. Congratulations to Marc and Kathryn! They provided the party, including some of our favorite cooking parties that I offer as a great way to have fun, network and meet people. I have even done one of my favorite cooking parties for CCYA, which was really nice. In other news, I started doing some TV catering, and I boast BET News and The Colbert Report as new clients.

The Colbert Report continues to make headlines. She was featured in an article in the March 2 New York Times for winning the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. This award is given annually to outstanding women playwrights, and Katori earned $20,000 and a print by artist Willem de Kooning for her play Hurt Village, which explores the issues facing families in a decaying Memphis housing project.

Michael Wolf is graduating in May with an M.B.A. from Wharton. He “will join a stealth startup based in New York City. Stay tuned for our launch this spring.”

Dawn Zinniak is getting married on June 25, with about 20 Columbia alumna scheduled to attend.

Angela Georgopoulos 200 Water St., Apt. 1711 New York, NY 10007 aeg90@columbia.edu

Congratulations to Lydia Roach, who earned a Ph.D. in oceanography from the Scripp’s Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego and now is an environmental consultant at Dukeek in Encinitas, Calif. Anjlee Khurana graduated from Vanderbilt Law in 2008 and works at Harris Martin Jones in Nashville. Finally, congratulations go out to Ben Falik and his family, who welcomed daughter Phoebe in February.

Don’t forget to send me your news! Let your friends and fellow alumni know what you have been up to.
interesting to see where our class ranks. Adding to our class total are Joanna Dee ’05, Dr. Koushik Das ’09 P&S. They were married on December 18 in Somerset, N.J. Classmates in attendance included Jennifer Legum Weber, Irene Malatesta, Steven Essex, Jamie Yoon, Ashley Walker and Marc Dyrsza ’10 P&S, along with many other Columbians. (See photo.)

Another interesting infographic could show marriages between members of different classes and among the different schools (Engineering, Barnard, etc.). John A. Zaro and Natalie Leggio ’04 Barnard were married October 2 at Saint James Roman Catholic Church in Setauket, N.Y. Celebrating with the couple were Travis Rettkle, Sean Connor, Mike Grady, James Catrambone, Brendan Quinn, Jenny Madden (née Korecky) and Greg Madden, and Dave Buffa. After the wedding, John and Natalie traveled to France and visited Paris, Mont Saint-Michel and the Loire Valley before heading south to Antibes, St. Paul de Vence, Nice and Monaco. They reside in downtown Manhattan.

Rebecca Silberberg married Eric Levine last March. Rebecca met Eric at Harvard Law, and both are lawyers in New York. In attendance at the wedding were Rebecca’s great friends, whom she met on Carman 5: Alexandra Seggerman, Stephen Poellet, Lindsey May ’05E, and Bridget (Geibel) Stefanski. Congrats to all the newlyweds! When Columbians marry, many have kids. Jonathan Reich ’04, ’07L and Suzanne Schneider welcomed the arrival of twins Sophia Hannah and Natalie Leggio ’04 Barnard, etc. (See photo.)

Please continue to send me your updates! It’s been a pleasure to be able to stay in touch with you by way of this column, but I’m looking forward to catching up with everyone in person!

May 2–June 5

JOIN US FOR REUNION WEEKEND IN NEW YORK CITY

Please mark your calendars for Reunion Weekend, Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5. Join your classmates for great cultural happenings throughout New York City as well as plenty of dinners, cocktail hours and parties that will provide an opportunity to catch up on the last five years. Dean’s Day will be held Saturday, with a great lineup of lectures, including one by Dean Michele Moody-Adams, and the evening concludes with champagne and dancing on Low Plaza. I am looking forward to what is sure to be a marvelous celebration!

It’s not too late to register via the web (alumni.college.columbia.edu/reunion) or even on a smartphone. The Alumni Office has launched the free Alumni Reunion Weekend app, which features a full and detailed listing of events, an up-to-date list of registered classmates, answers to reunion FAQs and several ways to stay connected to Columbia: Twitter (twitter.com/Columbia_CCA) and the app’s news module, which includes CCT (college.columbia.edu/cct) and Columbia news (news.columbia.edu).

If you or someone else is joining us for Reunion Weekend, the Alumni Office is looking forward to catching up with everyone in person! Until then, here are the latest updates from our class:

Jeremy Kotin will screen the first of multiple video pieces highlighting the amazing work of the Alzheimer’s Association, NYC chapter, at its annual gala in June. Comprising interviews with patients and caregiv-
ers as well as high-impact animation, the pieces will spool out online in the following months. Jeremy is proud that the feature film MONOGAMY, which he co-produced and co-edited, played in theaters nationwide starting in March. Everyone put it in your Netflix queue or watch it on-demand!

Talibah L. Newman completed her Kickstarter.com fundraiser for her next short film, Busted on Brigham Lane, which will shoot in May and needs a savvy producer. Talibah is in her second year at the School of the Arts, aiming to obtain an M.F.A. in film directing. She also completed a year-long stint in Google’s book, "Gadgets" during her time at the University of Chicago, where she played no role in their instigation... The Democracy Promotion course as editor-in-chief of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review. After almost a decade in the city, both are moving to New Haven in August, where Kinara will begin a two-year clerkship with the federal district judge Janet Bond Arterton.

Emily Ross started her second semester back at Columbia, working toward an M.P.A. at SIPA. She enjoys being at school again, especially seeing all the familiar sights on campus and hanging out with old friends. Over break, she not only got married but also went to Egypt on her honeymoon. Emily and her husband, Ryan, had an amazing time and luckily left just days before the protests started. She swears that she played no role in their instigation... The Democracy Promotion course is only offered to SIPA second-year students (joking)! Emily will intern in Washington, D.C., this summer and looks forward to rejoining the D.C. alumni group.

To close, a happy announcement of my own: Michelle Oh and Alan C. Sing ’06 Dartmouth were married on January 8 in Rockleigh, N.J. The celebration was made all the more memorable by the many Columbians in attendance (see photo). This month, Michelle will graduate from Columbia’s dual masters’ program at SIPA and the Journalism School and will join Alan in Philadelphia, where he is a pediatric resident at the Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania.

As we celebrate four years since graduation from Columbia College, see below for some exciting CC ’07 updates!

Robert Half Legal scholar. Currently a first-year law school student at UCLA, Bryan will receive $10,000 to use toward tuition.

Bryan Lee ’07 is the 2011 Minority Corporate Counsel Association scholarship winner and the new Robert Half Legal scholar.

Leni Babb writes, “I love Salt Lake City. I’ve skied more than 15 days already, and it’s only February. Law school is going great. I recently spoke with Kori Gatta, and she and her boyfriend, John Estrada, are living the dream in Manhattan, working hard in the hedge fund industry.”

Katerina Vorotova recently left her consulting role at Thomson Reuters and now is a strategic and financial planning associate at Weight Watchers International. She also became a board member of Columbia College Women (CCW; college.columbia.edu/alumni/committees/ccw), an alumni network at the College.

Carolyn Braff shares, “I am both thrilled and sad to say that I will be leaving New York this summer and move to Chicago, where I will start business school at the University of Chicago in the fall. Anyone in the Chicago area, or anyone who has recommendations for brunch places in the Chicago area, please get in touch.”

Andrew Russeh recently began working at Metro Pictures Gallery in New York and received a Creative Capital / Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant for his blog about contemporary art, 16 Miles of String (16miles.com). One weekend in February, he had the pleasure of dining on Porchetta’s famous pork sandwiches with Avi Zenilman and David Chait. Afterward, the trio repaired to the apartment Russeh shares with Marc Tracy.

Siheun Song left Ava Luna last year and missed her chance to tour Europe with the band, which continues to record and tour (featured as “Indie Band Crush” by Nylon Magazine in November). She filled the void left by the excitement of her rock band days by shifting more of her time to CCW, serving as board secretary and chair of the membership committee. On February 1, Siheun was elected the chair-elect of CCW, succeeding chair Claire Stanley ’92. Siheun’s two-year term will begin in September. During the day, she is building her four-year-old financial practice as a consultant at AXA Advisors in Midtown.

Samantha Feingold is excited to be graduating from Fordham Law School in May. She won her trial advocacy competition sponsored by the A.B.A. and as regional champion competed at the national competition in Texas in April.

Eric Bondarsky and Nina Co-
strangers from all over the country boasting vastly diverse and seemingly incompatible interests, skills, expectations and levels of determination somehow were able to quickly reconcile incongruities and establish something organic in doing one thing and that one thing well to build.

“Therre was never a pre-screening and there was not an application process. The only red tape we saw was used as nametags. All 40 of us were instead judged and accepted onto the team based solely on our willingness to create. Armed with the curiosity of what a bunch of strangers can do when they share the same goal, we came back having learned that sometimes wonderful things can happen.”

Being in a snow-covered New York is great for a few days, but when the opportunity arises to head to the Rocky Mountains, where you can really make use of the white stuff, this crowd couldn’t resist. So in January, Christopher Tortoriello, Caitlin Hodge, Carmen Ballard, Vladimir Gorbaty ‘08E, Sumana Rao and Jason Gordon ‘08E, all of whom live in New York, reunited with their friends Rob Wu and Liz Gill, who live on the West Coast for a week of skiing/snowboarding in Vail, Colo. “It was the best time of our lives. Two cracked ribs and one missing tooth later, we are all still wondering why we got back on the plane to JFK,” said Carmen.

Rachel Weidenbaum (now Rachel Claire) had the lead role in Arsky’s The Dybbuk and various ensemble roles in Federico García Lorca’s Blood Wedding. Both shows were performed with Marvell Repertory in its inaugural season at the Abingdon Theatre Arts Complex on West 36th Street from March 10 through April. She was thrilled to be working alongside Broadway veterans and received her Actors’ Equity card! In February, Rachel made her TV debut as Sadie in Fire at the Triangle on the PBS series American Experience.

After graduation, Joanna Zuckerman Bernstein spent a year in Mexico City on a Princeton in Latin America fellowship. In addition to working at a public health organization, she spent a month road tripping around the south of Mexico. Upon returning to the United States, Joanna moved to Chicago, home to the second largest Mexican immigrant population in the country. She is the development coordinator for Universidad Popular, a community organization that offers ESL classes, computer literacy and repair courses, Spanish literacy classes, youth after-school programs, dance and exercise, and citizenship classes.

Almost immediately following graduation, Brett Robbins hopped on a plane for the first leg of a seven-month, round-the-world trip that would take them through 21 countries on six continents (Antarctica is next). A few weeks in Europe were followed by months in South America, Asia and Oceania before concluding in Africa. Though he did some solo exploring, Brett often was accompanied by friends. He met up with Seth Melnick in Delhi, and together they tackled India, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Brett returned to the States in January 2010 and started working for McKinsey. Currently on his sixth project, Brett has explored multiple business topics in industries that include finance and pharmaceuticals. He joined the Learning Committee, which designs learning programs for first- and second-year business analysts, and the Columbia recruiting team.

Brett recently was staffed on a growth strategy project in China, flying to and from Hong Kong and Shanghai. Though life on the road can be lonely, he has had the opportunity to see China through the “local” eyes of fellow Cubans and Tom Hou ’11, Allan Lau and Colin Felsman, who are involved with various projects in China. Brett was scheduled to return home for good at the end of January.

Colin Felsman is halfway through his year as a Luce Scholar working for a nonprofit incubator in Shanghai. This year has given him a chance to fully immerse himself in the Chinese social enterprise and nonprofit space, begin the arduous task of learning Mandarin and travel like he never has. Colin’s journeys so far (both for work and pleasure) have included Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and numerous locations throughout China. In addition to more domestic excursions, during the coming six months Colin will head to Taiwan, Mongolia, South Korea, Laos and even New Zealand. When not on the road, he has grown quite fond of Shanghai, which he says is a dynamic city of sharp juxtapositions, rapid modernization and fascinating history. He relates that the city
Hello everyone! There are a lot of great updates to report.

After spending summer 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Innokenty “Ken- ny” Pyetrkanger began his studies at Harvard Law, where he is involved with the Harvard National Security Journal and the Jewish Law Students Association. Most importantly, Kenny is a member of the Columbia Alumni Representative Committee and encourages fellow alums to do the same. He will spend this summer in Washington, D.C., as a summer associate at Public International Law & Policy Group, a global pro bono law firm that provides legal assistance to states and governments involved in conflicts.

Michael Bossetta is enrolled in a master’s program for European studies at Lund University in Sweden. He will work this summer at the U.S. embassy in Stockholm within the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

Maria Alzuru writes, “After completing a 15-week unpaid internship (aren’t they all?) at The Carter Center in Atlanta last semester, I was offered a temporary full-time position as assistant project coordinator (APC) for the Americas Program. Things I’ve learned: 1. Getting paid makes working 40 hours a week immensely easier. 2. Interns get to do research and analysis, APCs are all administrative and logistical tasks. 3. I officially want to go back to school. At least now I know for sure, right? Also, having a couple of CU people around is priceless.”

Lien Hoang joined the Sacramento bureau of the Associated Press in February as part of an effort covering California legislation. She writes, “I’m excited to work with journalists and lawmakers in and around the state capitol, addressing policies and politics with reverberations around the country. So far, my reporting has appeared in outlets such as Bloomberg and the San Francisco Chronicle. This also means I spend much more time exploring the downtown. Yes, you can have a lot of fun in Sacramento.”

Natalie Gossett, on spring break from Villanova Law, visited Emily Wilson in Marseilles, France. She plans to visit campus to see the Shakespeare Troupe’s spring show. Natalie will be working in some- thing law-related in Philadelphia this summer.

ebele Ifeldigbo writes, “Saludos desde Ecuador! I am here working with a nonprofit organization that focuses on rural development and environmental education. I have been here about 1 1/2 months as I write this, working with youth groups, learning Spanish, making new personal connections and enjoying the fact that I do not have to endure the winter this year, among other things. I plan to stay six months in total.”

And finally, I will leave you with another one of Chris Yim’s adventures: “There comes a day when every boy must become a man. On January 13, 2011, that day occurred in my life when I was held up at the corner of West 18th and Amsterdam Avenue. A man and young lady tackled me from behind. I was in the area visiting a friend who needed me to deliver soup to him. These hooligans who tackled me had no idea what they were up against. Up until I was 18, I took Taekwondo and earned a third-degree black belt. I kicked the man and woman in the face and knocked them out. I quickly ran down the street and as they got up to chase me, I found my slingshot in my back pocket, which I always carry when that far north in Manhattan, and hit them with two stones I found on the street. I mis-fired the first five times, but when they got within point blank range, I might have taken an eye out. Though it was a traumatic experience, I want the Class of 2010 and the Columbia College community to know that I am a survivor, and I survived. Thanks Mom and Dad for putting me through Tae Kwon Do, even though I hated it! That’s what Asian parents are for.”

Colin Sullivan

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Hello, Class of 2011! I will be your class correspondent when we leave the comfort and familiarity of Columbia’s gates to venture out into the real world. I hope you all have enjoyed life in the College as much as I have, and in the months ahead, I hope you write to me with updates of your inevitably exciting lives. Congratulations to everyone upon graduation, have an amazing summer and shoot me a message when you can!

Letters

(Continued from page 2)

critical and financial resources, jus- tify such work?

For decades, Columbia has failed to act on a simple yet el- egent solution to the Morningside space crunch: Follow through, to the extent possible, on McKim, Mead & White’s master plan. Five McKim buildings, originally con- ceived for the campus, could still be erected. They would be placed opposite Hartley, Wallach, Fur- nald, Lewisohn and Mathematics, completing those quadrangles and helping fulfill the University’s original architectural vision.

It is too late to undo the archi- tectural damage already wrought. But a return to first principles could mitigate at least some of the harm. In the meantime, I shud- der to contemplate what is being planned for Manhattanville.

Thomas J. Vinegretta ’85, ’86J 
GARDEN CITY, N.Y.

Good Company

Not to take anything away from Claire Shipman ’86, ’94 SIPA and Alexandria Wallace Creed ’88, but I believe CCT is incorrect when it stated that they are the first and second women, respectively, to speak at Class Day (“Around the Quads,” March/April). I recall that Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Child-
dren’s Defense Fund, addressed the illustrious Class of 1993. Per- haps the distinction you intended to draw is that Ms. Edelman did not attend the College. Still, that’s awfully good company to be in.

Alan M. Freeman ’83
POTOMAC, MD.

Editor’s note: Creed should have been identified as the second alumna, not the second woman, to speak at Class Day.

Hakoah

I enjoyed reading Franklin Foer ’96’s “Columbia Forum” excerpt on Hakoah (March/April). A post- script: Having played soccer for the Swiss Football Club in the Big Ten Division of the German American League in the early 1950s (while incidentally also playing baseball and basketball at Columbia), I can attest to the “non-mediocre” status of the East Coast Hakoah team at that time. They played against teams in the Big Ten Division and held their own. This was some of the best soccer in the United States at that time and included the Ger- man Hungarians, who one year won the National Challenge Cup (which included all professional and amateur clubs in the U.S.) as well as the National Amateur Cup.

Andy Bushe ’54
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Alumni Corner

(Continued from page 80)

Had the free clinic not existed and his daughter not insisted that he come, would the cause of his death been his heart disease or the failures of our health system?

It was not just hypertension; it was diabetes with diabetic complications. It was the severity of illness. It was not just diabetes; it was uncontrolled diabetes with diabetic complications. It was not just hypertension; it was blood pressures of 190 over 120. Five patients sent by EMT ambulance directly to the emergency room who may well not have seen the next day were it not for this clinic. At the end of the day, I had spoken to several hundred people and heard their stories of living in the wealthiest country in the world without health insurance.

I was overwhelmed. Every pa- tient’s story ended with the haunt- ing refrain of the chorus of a Greek tragedy: “no insurance, no cash, no doctor, no medication.”

Before leaving, I was asked if I would be at the next clinic in Kansas City that was scheduled in five weeks. Without hesitating, I said yes and that I would travel to any clinic organized by the NAFC. I have been to Kansas City, Hartford, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans. My seventh and most recent clinic was in Charlotte, N.C.

I have no professional affiliation with NAFC. My commitment to it is personal. I pay for my travel and take time from my private practice to do this.

I thank my years at Columbia for fostering my social awareness as well as my preparation in the basic sciences. It is a treas- ury for my career in medicine that has continued to bring challenges and satisfaction.

Dr. Ralph Freidin ’65 has practiced internal medicine and primary care in Lexington, Mass., for almost 30 years. He blogs about health reform at heus- cenpatient.blogspot.com.

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MAY/JUNE 2011

CLASS NOTES

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HEARTSTONE Senior Living for Engaged Graduates Santa Fe luxury. Affordable. Heartstonecommunity.com

St Croix, V.I.: Luxury Beach Villa. 5BR house, East End. 949-475-4175; richard.waterfield@waterfield.com, ’94 CC


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Deadline for July/August issue:
Tuesday, May 31, 2011
Caring for Those Without Health Insurance

By Dr. Ralph Freidin ’65

In 1965, Medicare and Medicaid were passed, Martin Luther King Jr. marched to Montgomery, Malcolm X was assassinated, President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Voting Rights Bill became law, more troops went to Vietnam and many were protesting the war. This was the social backdrop of our class.

My years on Morningside Heights were a time of social change and student activism. The corner of West 116th Street and Broadway was as much a classroom as Hamilton Hall. Although premed, I minored in history. The highlight of my four years was Jim Shenton ’49’s renowned seminar “United States during the Era of Disunion.”

Professor Shenton wove the milestones of current American history into his seminar, leaving me with indelible lessons of the tide of American history.

I left Morningside Heights in June 1965. In September, I drove to St. Louis to begin my first year at Washington University Medical School. With Medicare and Medicaid promising access to care to millions previously excluded, I entered medicine believing that it would be a tool for social change.

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Starving for the pulse of social change, I heard the words of my Columbia swimming coach, Richard Steadman: “Defeat is not a discouragement but a call to be better.” I started thinking of ways to get the medical school and hospital to extend its services to the inner city three miles from its door. With the support of two young faculty members, some of my classmates and members of the Pruitt-Igoe Men’s Club, we established a health center in Pruitt-Igoe, St. Louis’ largest public housing project.

For the first 10 years after graduating from medical school, I taught and practiced primary care and internal medicine in municipal hospitals. By 1980, I had a family of two young children and a wife with her own professional career. The problems of people marginalized in our health care system were too taxing for this stage of my life. I left inner-city medicine and joined a small private practice in Lexington, Mass.

Last summer, I saw a report of a one-day medical clinic in New Orleans that had provided free care to almost 1,000 people without insurance. The clinic, spread across 102,000 square feet of a convention hall, was my small neighborhood health center on steroids.

Believing health care was a right of every American citizen, undoubtedly learned in CC, history classes and Professor Shenton’s Civil War seminar, I called The National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC, freeclinics.us). Two weeks later, I was on a plane to Little Rock. I was asked to triage the waiting line, looking for someone who needed urgent care. The people began to line up two hours before the doors opened at 10 a.m. By the time the first scheduled patient was seen, more than 200 patients were waiting.

More than 80 percent were working but none had health insurance. Some were self-employed but could not afford the premiums of individual policies. Some had several jobs, none of which provided health benefits. Others had been laid off and could not afford COBRA.

Few had seen a physician in the past year. Almost half had not seen a physician in the past six years. All had the same reasons for having neglected their health. Without insurance, they could not afford to pay for a physician visit. Without insurance, they could not afford to fill their prescriptions. Without insurance, they could not afford any surgical procedure. If they had been sick enough to need emergency care, they were then saddled with an enormous bill that discouraged them from seeking further care.

A man with a below-knee amputation was in a wheelchair. He hoped the clinic would help him obtain the prosthesis request his medical insurance had denied.

A woman grimacing in pain had cancer treatment two years ago but was unable to continue treatment without insurance.

Another woman was wearing a trench coat to cover her emaciated frame. She had had three seizures in the past two weeks. A local emergency room where she had sought help told her that the level of her seizure medications was “OK” and discharged her. No follow up was arranged. During her seizures she had bitten the inside of her mouth and tongue. She could not eat. When I told her that we would care for her and arrange for further care, I could not see an intact tooth in her broad but crooked smile.

A man with labored breathing and a sweaty brow was slumped in a wheelchair. His weak voice told me five days ago he was in the intensive care unit of a local hospital for “swollen legs and chest heaviness.” At discharge, he was handed a list of unaffordable medications that he did not understand. Continuing care was not arranged. He had unstable angina. I wheeled him to the front of the line and called the EMTs to take him back to the hospital.

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THANK YOU!
Come celebrate Alumni Reunion Weekend 2011 — the reunion that everyone is looking forward to!

In addition to class-specific events throughout the weekend, you can join all Columbians celebrating their reunions on Friday at the “Back on Campus” sessions, including Core Curriculum mini-courses, engineering lectures, tours of the Morningside campus and its libraries and more. There will also be unique opportunities to engage deeply with the city’s arts community with theater, ballet, music and art gallery tours.

Columbians will be dispersed throughout the Heights and greater Gotham all weekend long, but Saturday is everyone’s day on campus. This year’s Saturday programming will invite all alumni back to celebrate some of the best aspects of Columbia at the affinity receptions, and learn together with some of Columbia’s best known leaders, including Dean Michele Moody-Adams, in a series of public intellectual lectures. The day wraps up with the reunion classes’ tri-college wine tasting, followed by class dinners and a final gathering for champagne, dancing and good times on Low Plaza.

Dates and Registration Information

Thursday, June 2—Sunday, June 5, 2011

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For more information or to register online, please visit http://reunion.college.columbia.edu.