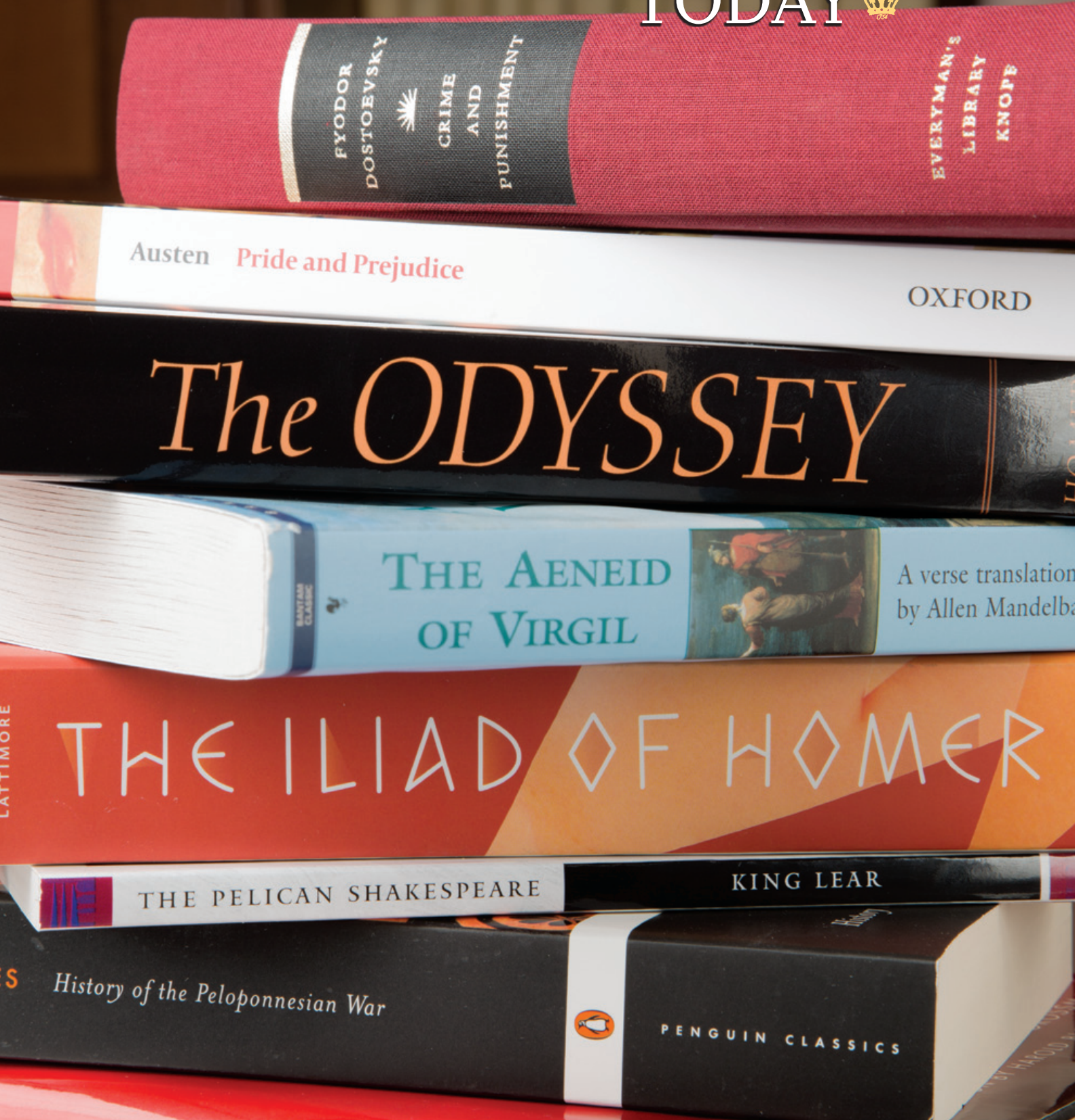


Lit Hum Turns 75

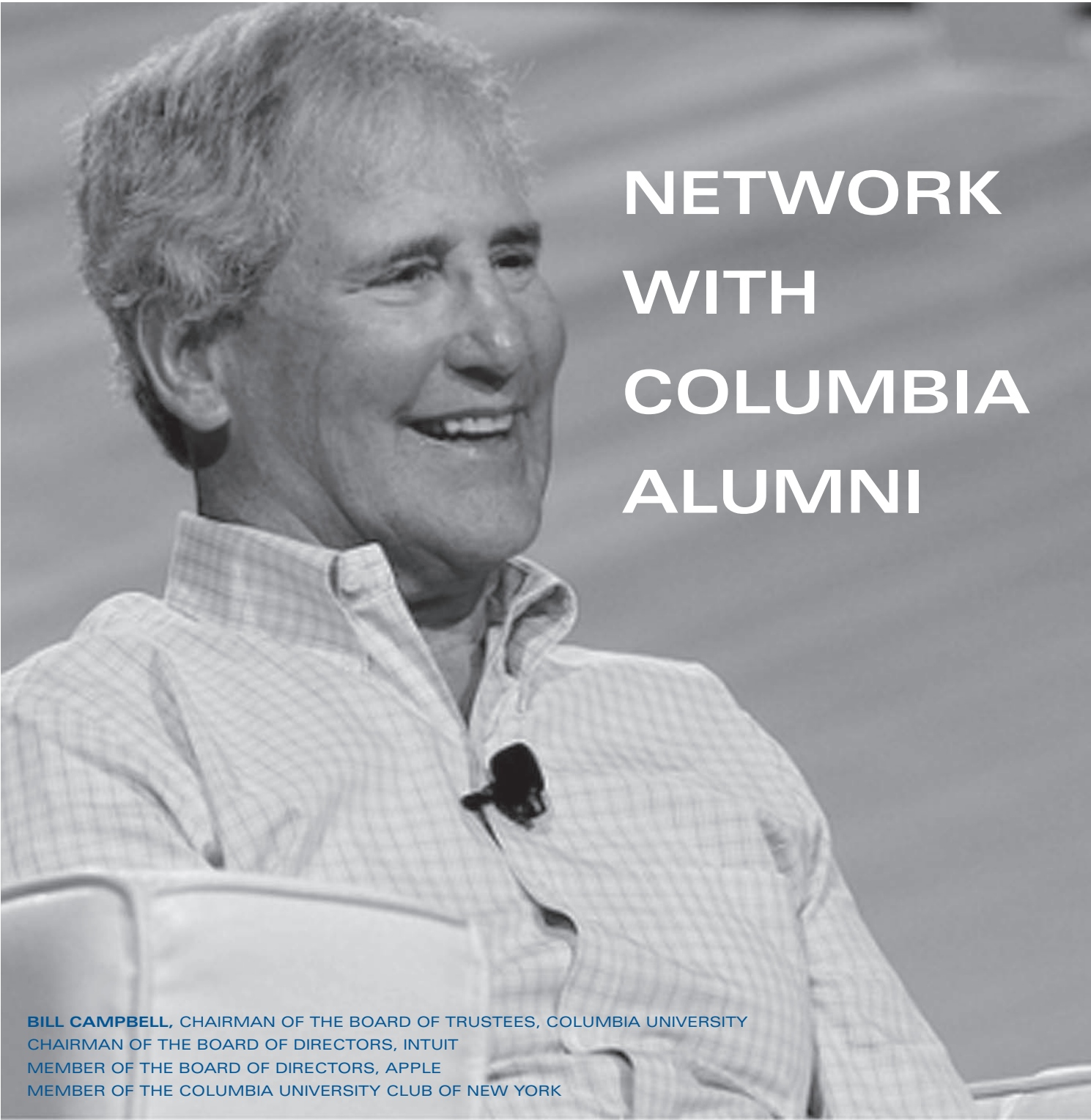
# Columbia College

Spring 2013

TODAY 







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Happy Birthday, Lit Hum!

## MESSAGE FROM DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

# Celebrating Lit Hum, Enriching Its Future

During the summer before students' first year, the College hosts events around the country and the world where alumni hand copies of *The Iliad* to incoming students. This gift symbolizes students' entrance into the Columbia College Core Curriculum — more specifically, into Literature Humanities — and to the community of Columbians, past and present, who have delved into this text.

Literature Humanities, which this year celebrates its 75th anniversary, connects generations of College students. Each one of you has read at least four books in common — *The Iliad*, *Oresteia*, *Oedipus the King* and *Inferno*. These texts have remained on the Lit Hum syllabus since it was initiated in 1937. Others books — ranging from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Boccaccio's *The Decameron* to Augustine's *Confessions* and Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* — have rotated on and off through the years. All of these texts have served the same purpose: to develop students' understanding of the literary and philosophical developments that have shaped western thought, to empower students to be critical readers of the most significant literature and to transform the way students observe, learn about, write about and think about the world.

The Lit Hum syllabus is nearly the same for every first-year student. They read the same texts at the same time and take the same midterms and finals. They meet around tables in groups of no more than 22 to raise questions about the texts and to debate the answers. They talk about identity, family, power, justice — about the challenges of humanity. And they learn about themselves in the process.

When I speak with alumni about their years at the College, they invariably mention the Core as a defining and transformative experience. When I ask current students what their favorite course is, they consistently say Lit Hum, CC or another Core course. Students come to Columbia College because it has this great and unrivaled Core Curriculum, and when they leave it is the great common intellectual experience they all share. The Core

is what makes all of you members of an enduring and trans-generational intellectual community that connects every College student to every other student and to all College alumni. That experience begins with Lit Hum.

The Core is so important to us at the College that we want to provide every resource possible to support it, to propel it and to enhance it. This is why, for the past year, we have been making plans to start an endowment for the Core — a foundation upon which we can perpetuate everything you have valued about the Core and with which we can ensure that it will be valued by every future College student. How we build this legacy will evolve through the several years of the endowment campaign. However, the first emphasis in that campaign, which is beginning right now, will be to provide the resources to enhance and enrich the experience of faculty and students in Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization.

The Core — and Literature Humanities in particular — is central to students' intellectual development at Columbia. It

is what makes Columbia College unique and what makes our graduates unique. It is the one great common formative experience that most specifically shapes our graduates' subsequent lives. I hope that you will take a moment to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Literature Humanities — to think about what you learned in Lit Hum and how the course, and your other Core courses, had an impact on your life. Moreover, I hope you will enjoy reading in the following pages about the course, its faculty and students, and the role it plays in our community.



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

### Share Your Lit Hum Memories

What do you remember about Literature Humanities? Do you recall a favorite professor or text? How has the Core course impacted your life? Please share your favorite Lit Hum memories with us at [ccalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:ccalumni@columbia.edu).

*James J. Valentini*

## WEB EXTRAS

View a photo album of the Senior Fund 2013 Launch Party

View a photo album from the Dean's Scholarship Reception and read the 2012–13 *Scholarship Directory*

Watch an interview with Rachel Nichols '03 about her series *Continuum*

View a photo album of the 2013 John Jay Awards Dinner

Listen to the Clefhangers perform  
[college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct)



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Volume 40 Number 3  
Spring 2013

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

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facebook.com/columbiacollegedtoday.

ISSN 0572-7820

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# Letters to the Editor



## Pride of the Lions

I enjoyed the profile of psychology professor Herbert Terrace [Winter 2012–13]. I enrolled in his introductory psychology class in the early 1970s and found myself intrigued by the subject matter. I distinctly remember the sleepless “all-nighter” cramming for the final exam. Afterward, I changed majors from pre-architecture to psychology. Professors such as Terrace and Eugene Galanter, a noted psychophysicist, exemplify the scientific side of psychology rather than the pop-psychology that permeates our culture. Professor Norma V.S. Graham taught my first statistics class, and I studied graduate-level statistics at Michigan with Professor David H. Krantz, who’s now at Columbia.

Since those college days, I’ve made a pretty good career teaching psychology at a South Texas community college. I am grateful to the world-class university that opened its doors to a confused 18-year-old from the borderlands, and to all the great professors who serve as role models of academic excellence.

*Ismael Dovalina '74*  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

It’s been 44 years since the night of “the bust” in 1968, but I’ll never forget Professor [Ronald] Breslow’s actions that long night. As one of the walking wounded, having been whacked in the head by a Tactical Patrol Force billy club while simply observing the commotion (and following orders to disperse), I was wandering around outside the locked campus when he magically appeared, extremely disturbed by what had just happened to our sacrosanct temple of learning. It was 4 a.m. and nobody could get back into their dorms. Professor Bres-

low gathered as many students as he could fit in his car and drove us over the GW Bridge to his home. I remember watching the sun rise as we headed for safety. He fed us and allowed us to sleep a bit before returning us to campus. I was able to wash my bloody hair.

Professor Breslow’s freshman chemistry class stands out in my memory. He made chemistry magical! Now rewired from a 35-year career as an emergency physician, I have pivoted into fighting climate change. Whenever discussing ocean acidification — the process of adding club soda to the seas — I think of him. That means that Ron Breslow resides in my heart and soul. Thank you, Columbia, for Professor Breslow. He is a great teacher and humanitarian.

*Dr. Peter G. Joseph '70*  
SAN ANSELMO, CALIF.

I read with great pleasure “Pride of the Lions” [Winter 2012–13]. Of the four featured professors, my contact was in the mid-’60s with Professor David Sidorsky. As an undergraduate I took a series of inspiring courses with him. It was he who awakened me from my “dogmatic slumbers” (to borrow the words of Kant). I will remember Professor Sidorsky’s lucid and penetrating lectures as well as his quickness of mind and amazing serenity during class discussions. His intelligence, wit and unfailing kindness to his students impressed me deeply; now, many years later, I think of him with great respect and admiration. It is wonderful to know that he is still going strong.

*Douglas E. Golde '66*  
NEW YORK CITY

At the end of my second year of pre-med at Columbia in 1966, I was struggling, seriously discouraged and having grave doubts about my ability to become a physician. This all changed in September of that year, when I walked into Ron Breslow’s organic chemistry class. As any physician knows, organic chemistry is the course that in those days “separated the men from the boys.”

Professor Breslow took a course with a terrifying reputation and made it a wonderful, exciting year of detective work and problem solving. His inspirational teaching turned my academic career around, enabling me to become a physician educator. I was happy to see that many sub-

sequent generations of Columbia students have benefited from Professor Breslow’s superb teaching style. I will forever be grateful to him.

*Dr. Daniel L. Lorber '68*  
PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y.

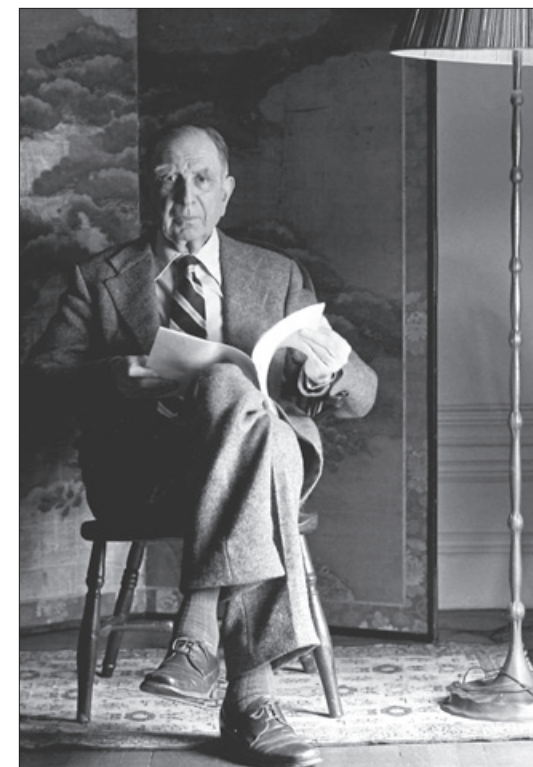
## Gutmann, a Good Man

I am reading the fabulous Winter 2012–13 issue that arrived a day or so ago, and am brought to a halt half-way down page 19, in the piece about Professor [David] Sidorsky (whom of course I never encountered as a student though he sounds quite interesting). You name a James Goodman as one of his early teachers, but I think Sidorsky must have meant philosophy professor James Gutmann (Class of 1918, ’36 GSAS), who together with professor Robert Carey ’29 GSAS led a fascinating advanced CC course that I attended in the 1948–49 academic year, a course that kept us all on our toes thinking hard about where the world we were then living in was going as well as how it had gotten to where it then stood. Both Gutmann and Carey were fabulous teachers, and I believe Gutmann should be remembered by his correct name; he never changed it, and was a good man indeed.

*Joseph B. Russell '49*  
NEW YORK CITY

## Scientific Methods

Unfortunately, the article on Professor Carl Hart [Winter 2012–13] doesn’t say what scientific procedure he used to get his findings on drug use. The North Star of scientific method is double blind experimentation but this isn’t usually used with humans when it involves a substance suspected of being harmful. The tobacco industry rightly says that high statistical correlation between smoking and lung cancer doesn’t prove that the former causes the latter. (For instance, a chromosome that has a gene for a tendency to smoke can also have a gene for a tendency for lung cancer.) Nevertheless, the statistics and experiments with rats make us wary of smoking. But Professor Hart belittles the usefulness of experiments with rats. I see nothing unethical about not experimenting on people. The opposite can be unethical, as when blacks were purposely given syphilis without their knowledge. That may be scientific, but not ethical. I assume Professor Hart did nothing like that, but just what did he do? I’d like to know the details of experi-



Professor James Gutmann (Class of 1918, ’36 GSAS) at his apartment in 1979.

PHOTO: NICK ROMANENKO '82

ments rather than know how his personal history gives him insights.

*Donald Marcus '55*  
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

## Who Should Be Admired?

Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS states [Winter 2012–13] that the talk show of Rush Limbaugh shows “overt racism.” This is an example of Foner’s McCarthyite smear tactics, whereby he smears a radio show without disclosing any facts to substantiate his statement. Furthermore, he states we should admire the American radicals, as these are the “people who are trying to make this a better society.” Really? What about all the Democrats and Republicans who have made this a better society — or does he think there are none? In addition, I personally witnessed the thugs in the Students for a Democratic Society who used force to prevent my friend from participating in naval ROTC exercises on the campus. Other members of this organization burned our campus. I do not feel that the violence and totalitarianism of the American radicals in the past few decades made the United States a better society. I do agree that radicals in the 19th century were different. I made a pilgrimage to the gravesite of my hero John Brown in Elba (Lake Placid), N.Y. I do not feel that the

violent tactics of the radical left will make this a better society. That is why my parents escaped from the horrors of the Nazis and the Communists.

*Dr. Roman Kernitsky '62*  
COLTS NECK, N.J.

## Honoring Brig. Gen. Smith

I was pleased to see the report of Scott Smith ’86’s promotion to brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force reported in the Alumni in The News section of the Winter 2012–13 issue. His dedicated service to our country and his record of leadership and achievement in our armed forces clearly deserve this recognition.

As a guest at the ceremonies, I also was impressed by the number of Scott’s family, friends and colleagues who gathered for this milestone in his career. Columbia graduates who participated in the three-day celebration in Coral Gables, Fla., included John Murphy ’86, Pat McGarrigle ’86, Jack Merrick ’86, Matt Barr ’87, Arthur “Bunyan” Ajzenman ’83, Dr. Michael Goldfischer ’86 and Dominic DeCicco ’84E.

I am happy to report that neither the appearances nor the strongly held opinions of any of these Columbians seem to have changed since the mid-1980s.

*Andrew Upton '85*  
BOSTON



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WITHIN THE FAMILY

## Reevaluating My Lit Hum Experience

**I**n working on this issue's special section celebrating the 75th anniversary of Literature Humanities, I discovered something interesting: I actually got more out of the course that I took 45 (yikes!) years ago than I ever thought.

I always believed that because I could not walk around a cocktail party reciting lines from St. Augustine's *Confessions* or conjuring images from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, I hadn't gotten what I should have from Lit Hum. It took me this long to realize that enabling me to become the most pretentious guy in the room was not the course's primary (or secondary, or tertiary) goal.

There is a saying that youth is wasted on the young; I thought the same applied to Lit Hum and me, and that I simply had not been ready for it at 18.

My freshman year was spent in the Engineering School. It seemed like a good idea at the time, as my dad was an accountant, I always had a head for numbers and I had aced my math SAT. It took a summer job at a civil engineering firm, combined with a blossoming love affair with sports writing largely courtesy of *Spectator*, to convince me to switch to the College and an eventual career in journalism.

The point is that during my freshman year, I was just taking the first steps toward finding my way. It was not the optimal time for me to be exposed to the great works of Western literature. I had my hands full with chemistry, physics and calculus, plus living away from home for the first time, trying to adjust socially and putting in long hours at *Spec*. Add the fact that freshmen took both CC and Lit Hum in those days, and my plate seemed to be overflowing.

As a result, I did not give the Lit Hum readings the attention they deserved. I read some texts, but not all. On occasion I took shortcuts, whether it was a used Lit Hum book that already had key (at least, I hoped they were key) passages highlighted or a CliffsNotes version that substituted for the real thing. The bottom line was I didn't do the work, at least not fully.

My first-year studies came to an abrupt end in April 1968, when demonstrators occupied six campus buildings and set in motion events that would lead to the early termination of the Spring semester. While the buildings were occupied, some classes continued in faculty apartments, coffee shops or on campus lawns, but most just faded away. As I tried to wrap my 18-year-old brain around the campus chaos, I took my "pass" grade and went home.

Since then, I always felt I had missed out on something. I've heard countless alumni wax poetic about the experience of reading a classic and then discussing it in a classroom filled with bright cohorts under the guidance of a brilliant faculty member, and I envied them. I wished I had found the time and the drive to do what David Denby '65, '66J did in middle age — go back and retake CC and Lit Hum. (See Columbia Forum in this issue for more on Denby's retaking of the Core.) Experiencing those great works after having spent a couple of decades in the so-called real world seemed like an ideal solution to the "youth is wasted on the young" dilemma.

But in working on this issue's special section, I realized that I had underestimated how much I had gotten from Lit Hum. To this day I love reading, especially old-school words on paper, and surely I can thank my exposure to the great works in Lit Hum for nurturing that love.

When asked to picture my happy place, I go to a thatched hut on a beach in Aruba, where I lie on a chaise lounge and alternately look at the azure sea and read the book that is in my hand. I've been doing that for 30 years and hope to be blessed to do it for many more. I'm sure that Lit Hum is at least partially responsible for the fact that while

I'm lying there, I never feel restless or a need to "do something" beyond reading.

The Lit Hum website says the course encourages students "to become critical readers of the literary past we have inherited. Although most of our Lit Hum works (and the cultures they represent) are remote from us, we nonetheless learn something about ourselves in struggling to appreciate and understand them." Surely, I realized, I had done the same from the countless books I had read since Spring '68. If instilling the ability to think critically is a measure of the course's success, then I was an A student.

That we are now celebrating Literature Humanities' 75th anniversary is ample evidence that for a majority of College first-year students, its canon is not wasted on the young. After reconsidering the course's impact and discovering its true lifelong lessons, I'm happy to say it was not wasted on me, either.

What was your Lit Hum experience like? What impact did the course have on you? Share your memories of Lit Hum with us at [c alumni@columbia.edu](mailto:c alumni@columbia.edu).

*Alex Sathare*



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

# AROUND THE QUADS

## Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2013

BY LISA PALLADINO

**F**ourteen classes will gather this spring for the College's biggest event of the year, Alumni Reunion Weekend. The four-day celebration, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, offers the chance for alumni to connect with old friends and make new ones, and to rediscover the campus and the city where they spent so much of their time. Celebrating are alumni from classes ending in 3 and 8, from 1943–2008. Reunion and Dean's Day events (the latter take place on Saturday, June 1, and are open to all alumni) will occur on campus and throughout New York City all four days.

Highlights of the weekend will include

- class-specific events planned by each class' Reunion Committee;
- cultural options such as the New York Philharmonic, New York City Ballet, Broadway theatre and art gallery tours;

Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2  
[reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu)  
[c creunion@columbia.edu](mailto:c creunion@columbia.edu)  
 212-851-7488

- the Young Alumni Party aboard the *U.S.S. Intrepid*, featuring a champagne salute to veterans and alumni on active duty;
- Dean's Day Public Intellectual Lectures and "Back on Campus" sessions featuring some of Columbia's best-known faculty and alumni;
- the presentation of the Society of Columbia Graduates' 64th Annual Great Teacher Awards;
- all-alumni Affinity Receptions for the Columbia Alumni Singers, *Columbia Daily Spectator*, varsity athletics, and veterans and alumni on active duty;

- the new and improved Camp Columbia for young Columbians, ages 3–17; and
- the all-class Wine Tasting and Starlight Reception with dancing on Low Plaza.

This year's reunion activities and lectures will build on last year's concept of innovation by exploring the "Wonders of Discovery." Columbia's world-renowned faculty and prominent alumni will present the latest thought-provoking research and understandings, demonstrating how discoveries in fields both old and new have changed our historical perspective.

"Reunion and Dean's Day are venues for generations of College students to come together to renew friendships, extend their intellectual connections to Columbia and revisit the campus that they remember so fondly," says Dean James J. Valentini. "I look forward to seeing many of you then, particularly on Dean's Day,



Two attendees get into the swing of things at the Starlight Reception; members of the Class of 1962 share a laugh at their 50th reunion class dinner.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO



when I invite all alumni and parents, including those in non-reunion years, to come to campus for thought-provoking lectures."

Alumni who attended last year's reunion noted how wonderful it was to be back on campus with classmates, whether for a 70th reunion or a 25th.

Dr. Melvin Hershkowitz '42, one of six Class of 1942 alumni who attended, says, "We met for a luncheon in Hamilton Hall 74 years after we entered in 1938 for Humanities and CC classes. All of us were happy to return to and thank our beloved alma mater for what it has meant to us for so many years."

"My 25th reunion exceeded my expectations," says Cathy Webster '87. "I caught up with friends from my freshman floor, from the Marching Band and Glee Club, and incredibly also met some classmates with whom I had never spent any time at the College. I did not think I'd be out until 2 a.m. on a Saturday, or visiting with alumni from many other classes, but both turned out to be memorable occasions."

Webster's classmate Ron Burton '87 agrees: "Great time, that 25th reunion! The echoes were awoken!"

Some alumni share the Columbia bond, and a reunion year, with their children. Ralph Schmeltz '63 says, "I am planning to be at Columbia to celebrate not only my 50th but also my son Andrew '93's 20th. Will be great to see whoever shows up. ... Fifty-year grads are 'old guys' but my mind still seems 18."

For details on all events, refer to the Alumni Reunion Weekend materials you will receive in the mail, go to the reunion website ([reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu)) or refer to the box at the top of your Class Notes column in this issue for staff contact information. For an idea of what to expect during the weekend, check out the "2012 Reunion Highlights" on the website.

## Clefangers Celebrate 25 Years

The Columbia Clefangers, founded in spring 1998 by Daniel Henkin '91, will host a 25th anniversary celebration on Saturday, April 20. For more information, contact [clefangersalumni@gmail.com](mailto:clefangersalumni@gmail.com).



"Students" hear fresh perspectives at a Dean's Day Public Intellectual Lecture; young alumni party aboard the U.S.S. *Intrepid*; and little Lions have fun at Camp Columbia.

PHOTOS: TOP AND MIDDLE: MICHAEL DIVITO; BOTTOM: EILEEN BARROSO

## Bernice Tsai '96 Heads CC Alumni Affairs

Bernice Tsai '96 became senior executive director of Columbia College Alumni Affairs on January 7, bringing the perspective of an alumna as well as considerable corporate experience in marketing and communications to this important position.

"Bernice is looking forward to working with all of our dedicated and committed alumni, and to expanding the number of alumni who are actively engaged with the College," Dean James J. Valentini said. "Her strong background in marketing and her passion for the College will enable her to strengthen the connections between former students and the College, and among former students themselves."

Tsai, who for several years interviewed prospective Columbia students as a member of the Alumni Representative Committee, came to the College from Citigroup, where she headed a new team focused on driving engagement and loyalty. She previously spent 12 years at American Express, where she led marketing efforts for several of the company's membership-based businesses.

"This is a rare opportunity for me to take the concrete skills that I have and marry them with a mission that to me is very personal, very meaningful and contributes to the future of an institution that I believe in and love," she said.

Tsai majored in English literature at the College and earned an M.B.A. at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. She notes that while the mission and goals of CC Alumni Affairs are being refined as part of the development of a five-year plan, her focus will be on alumni engagement.

"We want to build a lifelong relationship with our alumni (starting at the point when someone is a student) that creates opportunities for alumni to be involved in ways that are meaningful to them — volunteering at events, providing experience as mentors, advocating for the College or participating in the fundraising work," she explained. "We want to be inclusive, diverse and open, and allow alumni to partner in curating their experience as alums. We will focus on enhancing our communication approach, collaborating with the University and other key partners to create synergy and allow our alumni's voices to help direct our effort to highest impact opportunities."

Asked about her Columbia experience, she said, "My freshman year in Carman is particularly vivid. I recall students wan-

dering the halls in their sweats or pajamas, carrying works from the Core and gathering in clusters to talk about these incredible books from some of the greatest thinkers of all time. Not only was there a sense of community and unity in all being connected to the Core, but also in hindsight there was the amazing juxtaposition of raw youth being exposed to monumental works that had transcended time — pretty powerful — while eating ramen cooked in tiny hotpots in their rooms!

"In terms of a moment, I remember the first spring, sitting next to *The Thinker* near Philosophy Hall and realizing it was an authentic cast by Rodin himself," Tsai added. "Sitting there alone in the spring, with all this great intel-



Senior Executive Director of Alumni Affairs Bernice Tsai '96 (right) speaks with Laura Lopez '92, a member of the executive committee of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

lectual activity around me, was such an inspiring moment and made me grateful for the opportunity and the environment to learn, explore and seek knowledge."

## Class of 2013 Gives Back

The Class of 2013 Senior Fund kicked off its campaign for its class gift on January 28. The gift will be presented to Dean James J. Valentini and the Columbia College Fund at Class Day on Tuesday, May 21.

The Senior Fund Executive Committee, along with almost 200 members of the Class of 2013 and several alumni leaders, gathered to generate excitement for their last semester and to encourage classmates to donate to the Senior Fund.

Senior Fund Chair Maria Sulimirski '13 spoke enthusiastically about her time at the College and noted that the evening's event was an "induction into giving." She then introduced Valentini, who as he did last year presented his "3-2-1 Challenge," which asks seniors to pledge \$20.13 for three years, to encourage two friends to do the same and to have their gifts matched 1:1 by an alumnus. The dean announced that he would personally match all gifts made at the event, up to \$5,440, noting "We all owe the Col-

lege something." He asked attendees to tell him why he chose that amount, with the hints being "James K. Polk" and "Oregon." The number comes from a historical slogan, "Fifty-four Forty or Fight!", which is associated with a dispute between England and the United States over the border of Oregon.

Covering the "1" of the "3-2-1 Challenge," Gene Davis '75, '76 SIPA, '80L will match all gifts to the Senior Fund for the second year. In addition, Charles Santoro '82 pledged to donate \$5,000 to the College Fund when the Senior Fund has 250 donors, another \$20,000 at 500 donors and another \$75,000 at 750 donors.

The launch raised about \$7,430, securing the dean's match and placing the Senior Fund well on its way to its goal of \$22,000.

View the "Senior Fund Launch 2013" Facebook album: [facebook.com/ColumbiaCollege1754/photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaCollege1754/photos_albums).



Dean James J. Valentini with the Class of 2013 Senior Fund Executive Committee.

PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ **Jonathan Lavine '88** received the 2012 Distinguished Community Service Award from the Anti-Defamation League at a dinner in Boston on December 5. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the ADL in New England. Lavine, a University trustee who is managing partner and chief investment officer of Sankaty Advisors, was honored for his “civic leadership and influence to affect positive change in our community,” according to an ADL statement.



Jonathan Lavine '88

“It is fitting that we commemorate ADL’s centennial in New England by honoring Jonathan Lavine, who embodies the very principles that have defined ADL since 1913,” said ADL National Director Abraham H. Foxman. “He is a champion for those who need support, and for those who may be bullied or discriminated against.”

■ **Jennifer Medbery '06** was listed among the winners of *Marie Claire’s* third annual “Women on Top Awards” in October, honoring “the up-and-comers leading thought-revolutions, creating businesses and making names for themselves in fields from the military to the arts,” according to the magazine. Medbery is the founder and CEO of Kickboard, an educational software company that captures and analyzes students’ academic progress, skills and weaknesses and which was used by 150 schools in 15 states last fall. “In 2009, I was working at a high school in New Orleans, but I didn’t have a way of tracking students’ grades, learning habits, behavior and family contacts, so I sat at my computer and built Kickboard that summer,” said Medbery. (See CCT, Summer 2012.)

■ **Tony Kushner '78** was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Lincoln*, which stars Daniel Day-Lewis and was directed by Steven Spielberg. Although the Oscar went to Chris Terrio for *Argo*, Kushner won the Critics’ Choice Movie Award for Best Adapted Screenplay and was honored by the National Society of Film Critics and the New York Film Critics Circle,



Tony Kushner '78 delivered the 2004 Class Day address.  
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

among others, for Best Screenplay. Kushner — who co-wrote the screenplay for Spielberg’s 2005 film *Munich* — won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in Drama for his two-part play, *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, as well as Tony Awards in 1993 for its first part, *Millennium Approaches*, and in 1994 for its second, *Perestroika*.

■ **Stephen Sagner '88** has become the co-president and chief strategy officer of College Summit, a college and career readiness organization. Sagner, a longtime nonprofit executive, formerly was s.v.p., foundation and corporate relations, at Local Initiatives Support Corp. College Summit works with approximately 50,000 students at 180 high schools across the country to help them complete high school and prepare them for success in college. “I cannot think of a better place for me to have a positive impact on the economic future of our kids, their families and communities than with this extraordinary organization,” said Sagner.

■ **Ben Jealous '94**, president and CEO of the NAACP since 2008, was listed on *Fortune’s* “2012 40 Under 40” list in November. Under Jealous, a fifth-generation NAACP member and its youngest president, the organization’s revenue has grown 10 percent annually and its donor base had grown nearly tenfold. With black unemployment at record highs, Jealous has expanded the NAACP’s programs to include economic literacy training as well as taking education, health and environmental justice initiatives national.

■ **Frances Bodomo '10’s** short film, *Boneshaker*, was shown at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, in January. *Boneshaker*, which stars 2013 Academy Award nominee Quvenzhané Wallis, was one of 65 short films that were selected from more than 8,000

submissions, organizers said.

Also at Sundance: *Valentine Road*, on which **Yana Gorskaya '96** was consulting editor, competed in the U.S. Documentary category, and Daniel Radcliffe, of “Harry Potter” fame, starred as **Allen Ginsberg '48** in *Kill Your Darlings*, a film about the birth of the Beats and the killing of David Kammerer that was directed by John Krokidas.

■ **Katori Hall '03** was a finalist for the inaugural Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History for her play *Hurt Village*, which was produced by the Signature Theatre Company in New York. The winners were Dan O’Brien for *The Body of an American* and Robert Schenkkan for *All the Way*.



Katori Hall '03  
PHOTO: XANTHE ELBRICK

The prize, which carries an award of \$100,000 and was announced on February 22, is given to a new play or musical that “enlists theater’s power to explore the past of the United States, to participate meaningfully in the great issues of our day through the public conversation, grounded in historical understanding, that is essential to the functioning of a democracy.”

For more about the prize, go to [kennedyprize.columbia.edu](http://kennedyprize.columbia.edu).

■ **Jason Griffith '92** now is the global head of trading at Sanford C. Bernstein, reporting to Chairman/CEO Robert van Brugg. “As a 20-year industry veteran, Jason brings extensive experience in global equities and will play an integral role in helping us to better serve our clients,” said van Brugg. Griffith was most recently at Jefferies & Co., where he was global head of equities, responsible for overseeing cash and electronic trading, equity derivatives, convertibles and prime brokerage as well as sales and research. Prior to Jefferies, Griffith was the global head of the hedge fund investors group and equity-linked solutions at Bank of America, and later at Societe Generale.

■ **Alan Press '56**, s.v.p. and past CEO of the Wealth Advisory Group, a general agency of the Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America, was awarded the Huebner Gold Medal by The American College of Financial Services, its highest honor. The award, presented annually



Alan Press '56 and his wife, Hanna

since 1975, recognizes individuals whose support of the college and its programs and whose dedication to education and professionalism have been of particular meaning to the mission and progress of the institution. Press joined Guardian in 1956 and has more than 55 years of experience in financial services.

■ **Beau Willimon '99**, whose play *Farragut North* was made into the 2011 movie *The Ides of March* starring George Clooney and Ryan Gosling, has written another political drama: an American remake of the 1990 British mini-series *House of Cards*. Directed by David Fincher, the series stars Kevin Spacey as an ambitious Washington politician who trades secrets with an equally

Barolini, Lansing Win MLA Award

**T**eodolinda Barolini '78 GSAS, the Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian and chair of the Department of Italian, and Richard Lansing '65, professor of Italian studies and comparative literature at Brandeis, received the Modern Language Association of America’s (MLA) 15th annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies for their work, “Dante’s Lyrics: Poems of Youth and the *Vita Nuova*.” The award is one of 15 that was presented during the association’s annual convention in January.

Barolini is the author of *Dante’s Poets: Textuality and Truth in the ‘Comedy’*, which received the MLA’s Howard R. Marraro Prize and the Medieval Academy of America’s John Nicholas Brown Prize; *The Undivine Comedy: Detheologizing Dante*; and *Dante and the Origins of Italian*

*Literary Culture*, which won the Premio Flaiano di Italianistica. She is the editor of *Dante’s Rime giovanili e della ‘Vita Nuova’* and is working on the second volume of her commentary to Dante’s lyric poems for the Biblioteca Universale Rizzoli.

Lansing earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and is the editor of *The Dante Encyclopedia* (a Choice Outstanding Book for 2000) and *Dante: The Critical Complex*; the associate editor of *Medieval Italy: An Encyclopedia*; and author of *From Image to Idea: A Study of the Simile in Dante’s Commedia*.

The MLA and its 30,000 members in 100 countries work to strengthen the study and teaching of languages and literature. Founded in 1883, the MLA provides opportunities for its members to share their scholarly findings and teaching experiences with colleagues and to discuss trends in the academy.

ambitious reporter, played by Kate Mara. It’s the first major original programming effort for Netflix, the video streaming and DVD-by-mail giant, which broke the mold by releasing all 13 episodes of the show’s first season at one time, on February 1. “It’s fully in the audience’s hands to decide

what their own experience is, the same way that you read a novel,” Willimon said. “You can read *Anna Karenina* in two days, or you can read it over a year. And I think that’s better because it personalizes the experience.”

Alex Sachare '71

DEAN’S DAY • SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013 • NEW YORK CITY



Columbia College and the Columbia College Alumni Association are proud to sponsor Dean’s Day 2013. Scheduled for Saturday, June 1, the program provides the opportunity for alumni and parents to participate in thought-provoking lectures and discussions with some of Columbia’s finest faculty and prominent alumni.

We are proud to announce the Public Intellectual Lectures and Mini-Core Courses will build on last year’s concept of innovation by exploring the “Wonders of Discovery.” Presenters will discuss the latest thought-provoking research and understandings, demonstrating how discoveries in fields both old and new have changed our historical perspective. These stimulating discussions promise a day of intellectual discourse, which is the cornerstone of the Columbia academic tradition.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens — Alfred Lerner Hall
8:30–10:15 a.m.	Dean’s Continental Breakfast with Opening Address by James J. Valentini, Dean, Columbia College and Vice President, Undergraduate Education
8:30 a.m.	Camp Columbia, ages 3–17
10:30–11:45 a.m.	Public Intellectual Lectures
Noon–1:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00–3:30 p.m.	Mini-Core Courses
3:30–5:00 p.m.	Affinity Receptions



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Elisabeth Ladenson Ph.D. '94 GSAS is a professor of French and comparative literature as well as the general editor of Columbia's *Romanic Review*, a journal devoted to the study of Romance literatures. Born and raised on the Upper West Side, Ladenson earned a B.A. from Penn in French and comparative literature and an M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Columbia in French and Romance philology. She taught at Virginia from 1992–2005, after which she returned to Columbia; she has been chair of the Department of French and Romance Philology since September. Ladenson's books include *Proust's Lesbianism* (1999) and *Dirt for Art's Sake: Books on Trial from Madame Bovary to Lolita* (2007).

#### What did you want to be growing up?

You mean, did I dream of being an academic when I was a child? No, no; are there kids who dream of becoming academics? I was going to be a writer, and I guess I have become that in the sense that I write books. But I thought I was going to be a novelist or something of that sort. Just a writer, capital W.

#### What drew you to studying French?

When I went to college, I thought that I was never going to take French again because I'd been forced to take it for something like 12 years growing up. My first name is spelled with an "S" instead of a "Z" because part of my mother's family is French and she was a Fran-

disappointment. It's enriched my scholarship so much.

#### Shifting to your area of specialization, what would you say to someone who asks, "Why should I focus on this era in French literature?"

I don't think it's a particularly attractive time; it's not that I like the period, I like the authors who were both-

Goncourt, which was and still is France's most prestigious literary society. By the time she died, she was one of the most respected writers in France. The analogy that I finally came up with is it's as though Lady Gaga were to cap off her career by winning the Nobel Prize.

#### What's your favorite place to be?

My girlfriend and I bought a house in Normandy last year. ... Of course, there are lots

of places I haven't been that would be nice but I find that the older I get, the less I enjoy traveling. I like my living room quite a lot.

#### What books are on your nightstand?

An Irish novel, *Skippy Dies*, that's quite good.

#### What would you do if you weren't a professor?

I guess I lack imagination in the sense that books are all I've ever cared about and I can't really imagine caring about anything else. In that sense I have the best job in the world for me, because I get to write and read and talk about books.

But what does alarm me a little bit is that they are affected by digital technology. Yes, e-readers are wonderful innovations but I love books as physical objects. I don't want to read something that can run out of battery power or break. I can carry a book around and if it gets wet, it's still readable. Yes, they're heavy, but I can write in them, I can dog ear the pages. The demise of bookstores alarms me because browsing in bookstores has been one of the great pleasures of my life. I shudder to imagine a world in which one can't do that.

Interview: Alexis Tonti '11 Arts  
Photo: Isabelle Chagnon

## Five Minutes with ... Elisabeth Ladenson

cophile. But I quickly eliminated several other majors and also discovered a course called "French Cinema and the Novel," in which we watched films and read French lit but we also read theory, including Freud. And shortly after that, I learned that — even though I was at Penn — my financial aid package could be applied to the Columbia program at Reid Hall. So I went off to France and didn't come back for two years, at which point I spoke French well and had discovered French literature and had too many credits to major in anything else.

#### What do you teach?

Graduate and undergraduate 19th-century and early 20th-century French literature courses. I also taught Lit Hum for four years and would like to get back to it. But what I would really like is to take a crack at CC and then go for the trifecta, with Art Hum. I have a great commitment to the Core. ... In fact, when I came back here, the first thing I said in my interview was, "I really, really regret not having taught Lit Hum as a graduate student." I was not whistling Dixie, as they say; I really wanted to do that. And it has not been a

#### You're working on a book about Colette now. Tell me about that.

The book is my attempt to break out of a strictly academic kind of writing. And Colette, she's the author of *Gigi*; she published her first book in 1900 and her last book in 1949. Her first books were published under her husband's name, and they were kind of salacious. She also had a career as a journalist and as a music hall dancer. ...

She's a brilliant writer but I'm also interested in her career. She seemed to enjoy provocation and doing the opposite of what people expected of her. She bared her left breast on stage, creating a huge scandal. She seems to have been bisexual; she engaged in a protracted kiss with her female lover dressed in drag on the stage of the Moulin Rouge in 1907. But she also became the president of the Académie

## CAMPUS NEWS

■ **GLOBAL CENTER:** On January 14 Columbia opened its eighth Global Center, in Nairobi, Kenya — the first Global Center in Africa. Global Centers are designed to promote and facilitate international collaborations, research projects, academic programming and study abroad. In addition to Nairobi, Columbia's network of centers that have opened or have been announced includes Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Paris, Santiago and Rio de Janeiro.

■ **ZUCKERMAN GIFT:** Mortimer Zuckerman, the Canadian-born co-founder and chairman of Boston Properties, chairman and editor-in-chief of *U.S. News & World Report* and publisher of the *New York Daily News*, has pledged \$200 million to endow a Mind Brain Behavior Institute to support interdisciplinary neuroscience research and discovery by scholars across the University. President Lee C. Bollinger announced the gift on December 17.

The Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute will be located within the 450,000-sq.-ft. Jerome L. Greene Science Center, currently under construc-



President Lee C. Bollinger greets Mwai Kibaki, president of Kenya, at the dedication of the Columbia Global Center in Nairobi.

tion on the new Manhattanville campus. It will become the hub of cross-campus research on brain science, bringing together researchers from the Medical Center and Arts and Sciences as well as from Engineering and other schools to collaborate on pioneering research in the neural sciences and an array of academic fields involving human behavior.

■ **CURRIMBHOY GIFT:** Delhi-based entrepreneur Sharik Currimbhoy '02 has pledged \$12.12 million to Columbia in

a gift that will span multiple schools at the University and will support research and fellowships with a focus on India and emerging markets. The announcement of the gift was timed to coincide with 12:12 p.m. on December 12, 2012 — 12:12 on 12-12-12. It is the largest gift from an alumnus in India to Columbia.

Currimbhoy, who studied economics at the College, is the founder of Element Capital, an investment company with a focus on private equity and real estate.

■ **APPLICATIONS RISE:** Columbia received 33,460 applications for the College and Engineering Classes of 2017, an increase of 5 percent from a year ago and the second-highest total in school history. The Class of 2015, the first that had the option of using the Common Application, received nearly 35,000 applications, a record 33.4 percent increase from the previous year. It's not unusual for applications to spike in the first year of the Common App but after last year's dip of 9 percent, the number of applications for the Class of 2017 continues an upward trend that goes back to the 1990s.



## COLUMBIA COLLEGE ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND



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

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#### The weekend will feature:

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- ✦ New York City entertainment options including an art gallery crawl, Broadway shows and other cultural activities;
- ✦ All-class programs including the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception, with dancing, champagne and sweets on Low Plaza; and
- ✦ Camp Columbia, ages 3–17.

In an effort to reduce costs and be environmentally friendly, Columbia College Alumni Affairs and your class's Reunion Committee will communicate with you via email as much as possible.

Register today! For more information or to register visit [reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu).

If you register before Wednesday, May 1, you'll receive a 10 percent discount on all events, excluding Broadway shows, New York City Ballet and New York Philharmonic tickets.

Questions? Please contact Jane Bond, alumni affairs: [jb3556@columbia.edu](mailto:jb3556@columbia.edu) or 212-851-7834.



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



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Bryan Terrazas '13 Pursues Fascination with the Cosmos

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

**W**ith the goal of one day shedding light on some grand questions — “Why is the universe expanding? What is the 96 percent of matter and energy we can’t see right now?” — **Bryan Terrazas '13** has taken an ambitious approach to his undergraduate work in astrophysics.

Terrazas, a John Jay Scholar, spent summer 2011 at the renowned European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, which aims to understand the workings of the universe through particle physics. Funded by a Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program Summer Enhancement Fellowship, Terrazas plotted data resulting from the incredibly high-energy proton collisions within the Large Hadron Collider, the world’s most powerful particle accelerator. He then compared the results against how current theories state subatomic particles *should* interact. The aim: to find discrepancies that would signal the existence of previously undetected particles or forces.

Terrazas, who stayed in an apartment in the town of Saint-Genis-Pouilly in France and rode a bike across the border daily to CERN’s facilities, relishes having been part of that groundbreaking experiment, known as ATLAS. “It was amazing to feel the need, the urgency, the drive throughout everything that I was doing at CERN,” he says.

At CERN, Terrazas also realized that he prefers astronomy to pure physics. And so, last summer, he spent two months at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., where he created computerized models to simulate the evolution of radio lobes — perpendicular plumes of matter that rise from black holes at the center of galaxies and are believed to heat the atmospheres around them. The project was funded by the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, which

covered Terrazas’ expenses. “It was a very difficult project,” Terrazas says. “My adviser, astronomer Paul Nulsen, was amazing. He gave me a lot of tough things to do, which I had worked with before, but not to that extent.”

Just prior to leaving for Cambridge, Terrazas spent a week living at the MDM Observatory on Kitt Peak in Arizona, which is partly owned and operated by Columbia. He slept by day and spent nights learning how to use telescopes to observe changes in the brightness of cataclysmic variables — binary stars in which a dense white dwarf star tears matter from a normal star. Cataclysmic variables, Terrazas explains, allow astronomers to study the relationships between different types of stars.

Through his undergraduate work, Terrazas has narrowed his interests to extragalactic astronomy, which studies phenomena outside the Milky Way Galaxy. For his senior thesis, he is working with Associate Professor of Astronomy Greg Bryan to update models of how the universe’s first stars came into being. “As Bryan learns, he is clearly trying to put all of this information into some sort of coherent structure; he’s trying to piece together a big picture,” says Bryan. “Like the best scientists, he is forming models in his

head and using these models to make predictions about new situations.”

Born in Los Angeles to Bolivian immigrants, Terrazas was 3 when his family moved to northern Virginia. He traces his love of astronomy to a fourth-grade field trip to the local planetarium, and now tries to instill that same sense of awe in others. One night a month, through the Harlem Sidewalk Astronomy project, Terrazas and fellow students from the astrophysics department set up telescopes in Federal Plaza in Harlem and invite passersby to take a look at planets and other celestial bodies. “It’s not like they are going to an event where they are expecting to learn about science. I have to be able to engage them just like that,” Terrazas says. “It’s interesting to try to explain the concept as well as create wonder and get them enthralled with the subject. It’s a challenge, but it’s really fun.”

Given his scientific bent, few would guess that Terrazas also is an accomplished clarinetist. He began playing at 10 and, through Columbia’s music department, takes private lessons at The Metropolitan Opera. He also performs with the Columbia University Orchestra.

At press time, Terrazas was awaiting responses from several research fellowships and graduate programs. As he considers his next move, he finds himself motivated not by what he has learned thus far but by the many questions in his field that remain unanswered.

“It’s really not about being perfect at calculating what is already known,” Terrazas says. “It’s about pushing the boundaries of what you know. That’s really what research has taught me. Every single project that I’ve been a part of has incorporated this.”

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



Bryan Terrazas '13, shown here at the Rutherford Observatory atop Pupin Hall, has spent his undergraduate years sampling various aspects of astrophysics.

PHOTO: KRISTEN STRYKER



PHOTO: LORI GRINKER/  
CONTACT PRESS IMAGES

## IN MEMORIAM

■ **Karl-Ludwig Selig**, professor emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese and a Cervantes scholar, died on December 1, 2012, on the Upper West Side. He was 86.

Selig is regarded as one of the world’s foremost experts on Cervantes’ *Don Quixote*. Known for his course “The Novella: from Boccaccio to Cervantes,” Selig passionately made the case that the modern novel is dependent on Cervantes’ picaresque work. He also taught “Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy II,” also known as “Super Lit Hum.”

Those who took Selig’s class “could never get the books, or the professor, out of [their] mind. Fifty years later, people can recite his lectures,” said Christopher Allegaert '78 in a recent *Spectator* article.

Selig was born into a Jewish family in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1926. He and his parents fled to the United Kingdom in 1939, before the start of WWII, relocating to Erie, Pa. Selig earned a B.A. from Ohio State, where he also swam; an M.A. from Ohio State; and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, where he later taught. He received his United States citizenship in 1948 and taught at the University of Minnesota, Johns Hopkins, North Carolina and Cornell before joining Columbia in 1966. Selig was presented Columbia’s Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching in 1974. After leaving Columbia in 1989, he taught at the University of the South (Sewanee) and at the University of Greifswald, Germany.

Selig wrote or co-authored 45 books, many of which have been translated into multiple languages.

Selig always was willing and excited to speak with his students, and dozens attended his 86th birthday celebration last August.

*Harper’s Magazine* Publisher John MacArthur '78 referenced Selig last year in his Class Day address: “He wanted you

to embrace the text, to read it with rigor, but also with pleasure. However, like all of my best professors, Selig insisted that reading text was a fundamentally serious endeavor, that text must be respected.”

“He was resolved to fight as only a devotee of Don Quixote could,” said another former student, Dennis Klainberg '84, “by staying optimistic, fighting to live another day and keeping in close touch with all his friends, colleagues and especially, his beloved students.”

Selig had an appreciation for the row-

ing team, which named two skulls after him. A remembrance will be held for him this spring at the Columbia Class of 1929 Boathouse.

Karl Daum '15

Former students may share memories of Selig on the “Fans of Karl-Ludwig Selig” group on Facebook. Several of Selig’s former students have taken up a collection for his caretaker, Gilbert Adiaba. For information

on how to donate, contact Dennis Klainberg '84 ([dennis@berklay.com](mailto:dennis@berklay.com)) or Ted Allegaert '87 ([tallegaert@hotmail.com](mailto:tallegaert@hotmail.com)).

## Dean’s Scholarship Reception 2013

**N**early 500 named scholarship donors and student recipients filled Roone Arledge Auditorium on February 7 at the annual Dean’s Scholarship Reception. Each year, nearly 1,200 Columbia College students receive named scholarships as part of their financial aid package, and this event allows the students and donors to meet one another and share their College experiences.

Dean James J. Valenti welcomed attendees, saying, “We have, by all measures, the most diverse college among selective schools in the country. Financial aid is a tool that allows us to create the Columbia that we have.”

The evening’s donor speaker, James T. Brett '84, '90 Business, echoed the sentiment: “We are all here today because we

are invested in the future of Columbia College,” he said. “We want to remain competitive, and named scholarships allow us to do so.”

Brandon Lewis '13 spoke on behalf of the scholarship recipients. “What can I possibly say to thank you for this opportunity?” he said, addressing the donors in the room. “The day I received my letter of acceptance was a happy one but I wasn’t truly elated until I received the financial aid package that allowed it to become a reality.”



The reception allows scholarship recipients and their donors to meet.

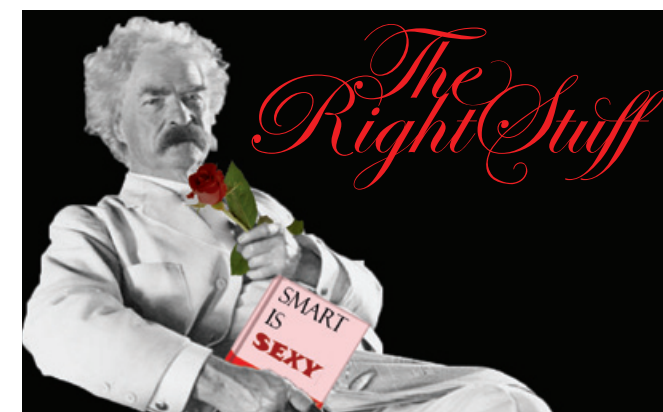
PHOTO: CHRIS BALMER '07

To view a video from the reception as well as the 2012–13 Scholarship Directory, go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct). To view photos from the reception, go to [facebook.com/ColumbiaCollege1754/photos\\_albums](http://facebook.com/ColumbiaCollege1754/photos_albums).

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# Roar, Lion, Roar

## Squash Opens Doors for Reyna Pacheco '16

**F**or Reyna Pacheco '16, squash has been far more than a sport. An immigrant from Mexico, Pacheco's discovery of squash was a defining moment in her life.

"I came to the United States with my mom and my brother when I was 4. That was hard because we were here, knowing that we could be kicked out any day," Pacheco says. "Because of that, I didn't feel like I could dream very far. I felt like I was limited. But when I was introduced to squash, that completely changed my life."

Pacheco discovered the sport in her early teenage years at a program in San Diego similar to the one that the Columbia men's and women's teams volunteer with at their home facility, the SL Green StreetSquash Center in Harlem. At a time when she was struggling in school and the thought of attending college was daunting, squash was something that Pacheco enjoyed and could pursue with vigor.

"When I got into the program, I just fell in love with everything about squash," she says. "It taught me things I couldn't learn in a classroom: respect, commitment, dedication and hard work."

Pacheco's dedication to squash led to success in school as well. She and her family began the process to gain documentation, and she applied both to Columbia and the Gates Millennium Scholars program. "I was sitting down with lawyers at the same time I was sitting down to do my college applications," Pacheco recalls.

With the necessary paperwork in hand and her applications complete, Pacheco received word soon after that she not only had been accepted to Columbia but also was one of 1,000 recipients of the Gates Millennium Scholarship, which provides students with financial aid, leadership programs and academic support.

"I just feel so lucky every day of my life and so blessed to have the opportunity to be here," Pacheco says of her time at Columbia. As one of the top recruits out of an urban squash program, Pacheco played as the primary No. 2 for



Squash helped Pacheco gain the self-confidence to succeed in school and become a Gates Millennium Scholar.

PHOTO: GENE BOYARS/COLUMBIA SPORTS INFORMATION

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

Columbia as a first-year, winning five of her first eight matches.

Seeing that her hard work has paid off and wanting to give back, Pacheco is happy to volunteer in the squash community. "Our team here volunteers every week at StreetSquash and I keep in touch as much as I can with the kids in San Diego," she says.

In December, Pacheco was a member of a four-person delegation representing the World Squash Federation that went before the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland, to make a case for squash's inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games. She was joined by WSF President N Ramachandran, CEO

Andrew Shelly and the No. 1 ranked men's player in the world, Britain's James Willstrop.

While the other three presenters were there to inform the IOC of the global reach of squash and the technical aspects of the game, Pacheco provided a human and emotional element to demonstrate the impact squash can have on an individual.

"My role was to show what squash has meant to my life," Pacheco says. "If you look at Olympians, their stories are very impactful in the way their sport made it into their lives. We wanted to show that squash is real and that it is touching a lot of lives."

A second meeting with the IOC is planned for May, which will focus on the technical aspects of the sport. A decision is expected in the fall.

"It was such a unique experience," Pacheco says of her trip to Switzerland. "Meeting all the people behind the whole movement, the president of the World Squash Federation, the CEO and the world No. 1 now — it was very impressive to be a part of that committee and to present to the Olympic Committee."

### Save the Date!

- APRIL 6** Lightweight Rowing D.C. event
- APRIL 13** Baseball alumni weekend
- APRIL 18** Women's Leadership Council spring event
- APRIL 26** Fencing team banquet
- APRIL 30** Varsity C Celebration
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# Literature Humanities Turns 75

**O**n the main floor of Hamilton Hall, just to the right as you approach the Dean's Office, is the Witten Center for the Core Curriculum. It's an interesting suite of rooms. The reception area has a corner cabinet filled with the current texts of Contemporary Civilization and Literature Humanities — open it and the faint, pleasant smell of new books fills the air. There's also a large conference room where Core faculty gather for weekly meetings, offices for administrators, and a library with floor-to-ceiling bookcases and tall, sliding ladders. The bookcases contain Core texts from different eras, and often several editions of those texts, along with works of criticism and other related subjects. Taken together, they provide concentrated, tangible evidence of a conversation that has been ongoing, in the case of Literature Humanities, for 75 years.

In all those years, countless hours have been given over to thinking about the texts. But as the College celebrates the 75th anniversary of Lit Hum, this is an opportunity to pay the course itself some considered attention: as an institution of Columbia College; as a tradition that bonds each first-year class as well as students across generations; as an exercise in reading and listening and critical thinking whose impact across two semesters — and beyond — differs for every student. There is no truth universally acknowledged about Lit Hum, and therein lies one of its greatest appeals.

The following pages contain articles about the origins and evolution of the course and the way it is taught, the perspectives of the faculty who teach it and the experiences of the students who take it, as well as a look at an alumni book club whose members make selections inspired by a Lit Hum ethos.

If reading this section rekindles your memories of Lit Hum, please share them with us at [ccalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:ccalumni@columbia.edu).

Alexis Tonti '11 Arts



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





# Students and Faculty Embrace Classic Readings, Modern Technology

*“The course is not a museum-like visit. It’s about the interrogation of texts.”*

BY TIMOTHY P. CROSS '98 GSAS

Literature Humanities can be described in many ways: ambitious, provocative, imposing, eye-opening. It is the first class that freshmen encounter — embodied in the gift copy of *The Iliad* they receive during the summer from the Columbia College Alumni Association — and a formative experience, one whose influence extends well beyond the classroom. Its teaching methods have expanded with technology, and its texts and the conversations surrounding them have evolved with attitudes. Indeed, after 75 years, what may be most remarkable about Lit Hum is how what began as an effort to buck the academic establishment has proven itself an adaptable and indispensable pillar of the Columbia College experience.

The origins of Humanities A — as Lit Hum was called originally — go back to the first days of the Core Curriculum. Emboldened by a successful experiment with a “war issues” course during WWI, in 1919 the College launched Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West. A year later Professor of English John Erskine (Class of 1900), who had championed a “liberal” education against those who wanted more pre-professional training at the College, began his General Honors seminar, co-taught by two professors. This course, spread out across the junior and senior years, featured one “great book” per class, which was read in translation and discussed in small sections.

Erskine saw this effort as a remedy for what he and his colleagues perceived as “the literary ignorance of the younger generation.” But what was truly innovative was his approach, reading “*The Iliad*, *The Odyssey* and other masterpieces as though they were recent publications, calling for immediate investigation and discussion.” As much as it horrified some colleagues — especially those enamored of German-style instruction that emphasized memorization and rote learning — Erskine’s approach caught on, though its impact was limited to those students enrolled in the General Honors seminar.

Erskine was, and remains, a controversial figure in Columbia’s



Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and chair of Lit Hum, says that to read the course’s texts “is to introduce yourself to being unsettled about life.”

PHOTO: MICHAEL DIVITO

history. Charismatic, attention-grabbing and attention-seeking, he always had ambitions that went beyond being a college professor, including writing music, poetry and fiction. As his biographer Katherine Elise Chaddock has observed, Erskine became America’s first “celebrity professor,” recognized as much for his potboiler novels — such as *The Private Life of Helen of Troy* (1925), which was made into a silent film — as for his educational achievements. These began pulling him away from Columbia, and by the late 1920s, when the College decided to require a second semester of Contemporary Civilization and abandon the General Honors course, Erskine was largely out of the picture.

But the seed Erskine planted had already taken root. In a few years, a handful of the College’s professors — including Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS, Irwin Edman (Class of 1916, Class of 1920 GSAS) and Raymond Weaver (Class of 1910, Class of 1917 GSAS), who had been Erskine’s students — resurrected the General Honors course as the Colloquium in Important Books. The colloquium, which adopted both the scope and format of the General Honors course, was taught regularly, then sporadically, for decades.

More importantly, it planted the idea in some of the same faculty’s minds that this sort of course might be appropriate for all undergraduates, not just a select few who decided

to enroll as juniors and seniors. Here the success of Literature Humanities’ older sibling, Contemporary Civilization, proved crucial. If the College’s freshmen could handle close reading and discussion in a small class format for CC, why not for literature?

The first College faculty meetings to draft a humanities course convened in 1934. The plan was to have a two-year humanities sequence in which undergraduates would confront literature, art and music, but difficulties in integrating music and art proved too much at first. Music Humanities and Art Humanities (together originally called Humanities B) became electives, but in fall 1937, the College introduced Humanities A as a new Core requirement.

In many ways, it’s striking how much of Erskine’s original vision lives on in today’s Literature Humanities. Classes generally still read one text per week, in translation. Students then discuss these texts in small sections, though there are a lot more of those sections now — about 65 — compared with only 20 when the course was created.

This format matters. “A student having book in hand each week makes a difference in conversation,” says Christia Mercer, the Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy, a former Lit Hum chair who will resume the post this fall. That’s why Lit Hum has never even flirted with the idea of creating readers,



The seminar format, with no more than 22 students per class, is vital to Lit Hum’s success.

PHOTO: MATTHEW SEPTIMUS





Students in Lit Hum are expected, in the words of Dean James J. Valentini, to “engage with others in a broad way about big ideas specific to the human condition.”

PHOTO: MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

*My Adventures with Homer, Rousseau, Woolf and other Indestructible Writers of the Western World* (1996) — in which Denby described retaking the Core in middle age (see Columbia Forum in this issue) — Harvard professor Helen Vendler bemoaned “Columbia’s tendency with literary texts, which is to fasten on the political and the moral over the erotic or aesthetic or epistemological; and such an emphasis is a standing invitation to correctness or incorrectness.”

Nevertheless, this emphasis on examining the human condition, approached through powerful and resonant works of literature, remains central to the Lit Hum experience and to a Columbia College education. As Edward Mendelson, the Lionel Trilling Professor in the Humanities, says, Lit Hum is a “course about problems people have never been able to solve.”

Kathryn Yatrakis, dean of academic affairs and senior associate v.p. for Arts and Sciences, underscores Lit Hum’s value as a bridge: “It provides a common intellectual experience that binds students to each other, and to generations of alumni.”

Here’s the answer to the most common question asked about Literature Humanities: *The Iliad*, *Oresteia*, *Oedipus the King* and *Inferno*. The question: What are the texts that have been read in Lit Hum every year since the course was first required? That’s it — four texts. (*King Lear* would make the cut were it not for several years when the syllabus only required students to read *one* Shakespeare play, leaving it to the teachers of each section to decide which one.)

For those who perceive Lit Hum as a staid, inflexible “great

*Lit Hum is a “course about problems people have never been able to solve.”*

which were the backbone of reading assignments in Contemporary Civilization for decades and which have made a comeback at Columbia in recent years.

More importantly, the approach matters. Any entering first-year expecting a formal literature course is likely to be surprised by Literature Humanities, because the course’s ambitions are so much broader. As Dean James J. Valentini says, students in Lit Hum are expected to “engage with others in a broad way about big ideas specific to the human condition.”

It’s fair to say that this approach — what Valentini describes as “thinking in a broad way as a civilized person” — has puzzled many, both on and off campus. In the early 1960s, a College committee reviewing Lit Hum chaired by Professor Fritz Stern ’46, ’53 GSAS, now University Professor Emeritus, had difficulty understanding “the philosophical or pedagogical ends of the course.” While the committee didn’t suggest abandoning Lit Hum, it noted that the traditional justifications — such as thinking in a broad way about books — were “scorned by the committee.” Similarly, in a savage *New Republic* review of David Denby ’65, ’66J’s *Great Books*:



Christia Mercer, the Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy, says, “Every generation has to reinvent Lit Hum.”

PHOTO: MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

books” course, four texts is not a long list. Indeed, anyone who looks to Lit Hum for a fixed canon that all educated people should read is likely to be disappointed. Humanities A initially used most of Erskine’s original syllabus, as had the earlier colloquium. But the course’s administrators have since adapted the syllabus regularly to reflect faculty and student interests. Molière and Voltaire were represented for decades but have fallen off; in the past 20 years, most students have read Cervantes, Austen and Dostoevsky.

Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and chair of Lit Hum, speaks for many instructors in rejecting the idea of a fixed list of “classic” books. “As a classicist, I object to that sort of viewpoint. The course is not a museum-like visit. It’s about the interrogation of texts,” he says. “I ask my students, why on earth read that book now?”

Mercer puts it another way: “We need to get the students to read the books and feel the importance of them.”

The variety of texts that have appeared on the syllabus during the last 75 years distinguishes Lit Hum both from great books programs, such as President Robert Maynard

Hutchins’ original experiment at Chicago and the successful program at St. John’s College (in Annapolis and Santa Fe). Lit Hum always has been flexible about which texts it uses, and remains so. Indeed, this flexibility calls into question whether “great books” is an accurate description of the course at all.

The books that make it, explains Mercer, are the “books that people keep commenting on,” just as Virgil mined Homer but adapted him to the exigencies of imperial Rome. Mendelson says Lit Hum embraces “books that people have been arguing about.” The point isn’t that everyone likes them or agrees about them, he says. “The point is they’re disturbing.”

Williams agrees. “To read these texts is to introduce yourself to being unsettled about life,” he says. The course “is intended to raise more questions than it answers, and to nurture a curiosity about written human experience.”

Non-Columbians often don’t appreciate the significance of apparently incremental changes. “What is astonishing about Columbia’s Core offerings is how little they have changed over the years,” says *The Boston Globe* columnist Alex Beam, who surveyed the “great books” movement at Chicago, St. John’s and Columbia in *A Great Idea at the Time: The Rise, Fall, and Curious Afterlife of the Great Books* (2008). (Beam is the father of Christopher ’06.) But the faculty who teach the course disagree. “The course has never been the same because the context has always changed,” says Williams. “The generation of WWII had a different experience from the first Humanities A students,” and the Cold War, civil rights and women’s rights, he says, all affected the context in which the course was taught.

*The books that make the syllabus are the “books that people keep commenting on.”*

“Every generation has to reinvent Lit Hum,” agrees Mercer.

That has never been more true than today. “The Lit Hum experience now is completely different from 20 years ago because our students grew up with the Internet,” Williams says. “Students’ minds work differently,” he adds, because they are used to easy and immediate access to information.

Paradoxically, that makes Lit Hum more valuable than ever. Lit Hum encourages the process of “slowly unfolding a steady stream of argument,” says Williams, for students “accustomed to nearly instantaneous communication.” He believes that “certain areas of the human experience resist the technological hand,” and in Lit Hum, students “learn to formulate, deliver and defend arguments, both in speech and in writing.” And they learn to listen. “The art of listening is a fundamental aspect of Lit Hum,” Williams says.

This is not to give the impression that Lit Hum encourages a community of modern-day Luddites, rejecting technology and the Internet in favor of dog-eared paperbacks full of scribbles. Nothing could be further from the truth. Under Mercer’s leadership, Lit Hum has developed a rich online presence to supplement class readings and discussion.

The thinking behind the website ([college.columbia.edu/core/lithum/texts](http://college.columbia.edu/core/lithum/texts)), says Mercer, was to make Lit Hum more intellectually engaging for students, more a part of their lives on campus.

## Lit Hum On Exhibit

For those who can’t get enough Literature Humanities, two 75th anniversary exhibits and an ongoing web exhibit offer the chance to go deeper.

An exhibit in the Hamilton Hall lobby highlights the material history of the Lit Hum texts, emphasizing that they are not only intellectual creations but also objects of craftsmanship, manufacture, publication and distribution. Two display cases focus on the contributions of John Erskine (Class of 1900) and Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS to the creation and evolution of the course.

The Columbia Alumni Center also will have a 75th anniversary exhibit, set to open in March.

Columbia University Libraries’ Rare Book & Manuscript Library, meanwhile, has established an online exhibit, “Core Curriculum: Literature Humanities” (along with a companion exhibit about Contemporary Civilization) featuring materials from the RBML collections. Among the items are a papyrus fragment of Homer’s *Iliad* dating from the first century BCE, an illuminated manuscript of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* and early editions of *Pride and Prejudice* and *To the Lighthouse*. View these and more at [exhibitions.cul.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/lit\\_hum](http://exhibitions.cul.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/lit_hum).

“We wanted to present Lit Hum as edgy as it really is,” she says. The goal was to make the course “more alive, more vital.” Mercer wanted students to be able to explore the contemporaneous worlds and artistic interpretations of their readings.

Using the theme of “explorations,” the website allows students to delve not simply into the context of Lit Hum texts but also into the conversations that have flowed from them. For *The Iliad*, for example, the website includes ancient depictions of the Trojan War from classical pottery and sculpture, examples of ancient arms and armor, and Renaissance depictions. But it also includes modern works, including streaming music — Bob Dylan’s “Temporary Like Achilles” (1966) and Led Zeppelin’s “Achilles Last Stand” (1976) — as well as a clip from the blockbuster film *Troy* (2004), starring Brad Pitt as Achilles. Other texts are accompanied by materials ranging from *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (a 2001 musical about a rock ‘n’ roll band with a transgendered German lead singer) to *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* (2009), a somewhat irreverent artistic response by Seth Grahame-Smith to Jane Austen’s masterpiece.

The website, says Williams, contextualizes readings and connects students to the history of discussion about them. “The website frames the texts,” he says. “It provides supportive picturing.”

Mercer sees this as an aid to instructors as well. “Teachers have to finesse how much time they spend on context in class,” she notes. The website makes this an easier task. It also provides



additional resources for instructors such as secondary readings and classroom materials.

"Each generation brings new tools to the course," says Mercer. "Why shouldn't we use all the tools available to us to make Lit Hum more engaging for students and easier for teachers to teach?"

The Lit Hum website has another motive: building connections among the Core courses. "I don't want the whole to be less than the sum of its parts," Mercer says. She envisions links between the Lit Hum website and its sister websites, say with the Lit Hum exploration of Montaigne linking to the Art Hum website's information on Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder. "We want to help students see the connections between the parts of the Core," she says.

"The value of technology is to expand the experience, to extend the interaction that students have in the classroom to out of the classroom," Valentini says. "It is something that expands and enhances, not replaces."

These sorts of educational enhancements wouldn't have been imaginable 25 years ago, and not just because the Internet was in its infancy. The growth in the size of the College since the 1980s — along with the large number of engineers and, now, General Studies students who take Lit Hum — makes administering the course (indeed, all the Core) more of a challenge than ever. But the College's commitment to the Core Curriculum has enabled it to meet the course's obligations as well as implement a host of improvements.

*"The value of technology is to expand the experience, to extend the interaction that students have in and out of the classroom."*

In the late 1980s, the primary administrator for Lit Hum and CC was a junior administrator who presided over two cramped offices on the seventh floor of Hamilton Hall that were packed with filing cabinets stuffed with decades of records and old syllabi, shelves of Core books and a chronically malfunctioning photocopier. The course's instructors had to wedge themselves into an East Campus conference room for their weekly staff meetings with the senior professor who served as the course's chair.

Austin Quigley, dean emeritus of Columbia College and the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature, made enhancing and institutionalizing the College's commitment to the Core Curriculum a central thrust of his administration in the last half of the 1990s and the first years of the new century, and Lit Hum clearly benefited from this push. To recognize and support teaching, he created a set of eight Core chairs for senior faculty who taught Core courses and also established incentives for junior faculty who taught in the Core. In addition, the College instituted a Core Lecturers program, so today the Lit Hum and CC staffs are augmented by a handful of postdoctoral scholars who receive highly competitive two-year appointments with faculty rank and teach two sections per semester.

Valentini is working to take this to the next level. For the past year, he has been making plans to start an endowment for the

Core — a financial foundation that will propel and enrich the Core's future. As indicated in the Dean's Message on page 3 of this issue, this multi-year campaign is beginning now, and the first focus of the campaign is to provide the resources to enhance and enrich the experience of faculty and students in Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization.

Lit Hum, CC and the other Core courses now are housed in the sleek, burnished Witten Center for the Core Curriculum, made possible through the generosity of former University Trustee Richard E. Witten '75. Located off Hamilton Hall's main lobby, the center is a vastly improved resource as well as a clear testament of the Core's central place in the College.

According to Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Roosevelt Montás '95, '04 GSAS, the center's director, the center has become a vital meeting ground for the Lit Hum faculty. "It is a space where conversations happen," he says.

The College has sought to expand conversations about the Core in other ways. The most dramatic has been the Core Scholars Program, another Mercer initiative, which was launched in the 2010–11 academic year. Each year the program invites any student who has completed a Core course to create a Core Reflection. The program encourages students to analyze, question, dramatize and interpret materials they encounter in the Core. Authors of exceptionally creative, well-executed reflections — as judged by a student-faculty committee — are honored as Core Scholars, with their reflections posted on the Core Curriculum website ([college.columbia.edu/core/scholars](http://college.columbia.edu/core/scholars)). Last year's win-

ners included a "Triptych For Ovid" by Rowan Hisayo Buchanan '12 and "The Ecstasy of Sonya" by Marian Guerra '14, a reflection on a scene from *Crime and Punishment*.

Other efforts to enhance the Lit Hum experience include staging a classical Greek play every fall and having Art Humanities instructors give guided tours of the Metropolitan Museum of Art to students.

Despite these enhancements, at its core, Lit Hum remains about small groups of students reading and discussing books that have stood the test of time. "The texts remain front and center," says Williams.

"The course will thrive as long as those texts are animated by bright 18-year-olds arguing about them," says Yatrakis, adding, "It's a wonderful foundation for the work they're doing for the following years."

Mercer puts it more simply. "Lit Hum is awesome," she says.

**Timothy Cross '98 GSAS**, a former CCT associate editor, is the advancement communications officer at Columbia Engineering. His history of the Core Curriculum, *An Oasis of Order: The Core Curriculum at Columbia College (1995)*, is available at [college.columbia.edu/core/oasis](http://college.columbia.edu/core/oasis).



# Faculty Find Lit Hum Challenging, Fulfilling

*"The course is a marriage of methodologies and the idiosyncrasies of the individual instructor."*

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

The year-long Literature Humanities seminar is in many ways an exercise in ambition: Take 22 first-year students through 21 or so foundational texts of Western literature — by Homer, Plato, Dante, Shakespeare, Dostoevsky, Woolf — at the rate of about one book per week. The purpose isn't only to focus on plot points and comprehension but also to change how these 17- and 18-year-olds read, think, see the world and, in the years to come, reflect upon their own life dilemmas.

"Lit Hum gives students a couple of dozen models of how to think about a problem — the problem of being human," says Margo Rosen '11 GSAS, a lecturer in Literature Humanities based in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. "You get Homer's world — it's a great way to start; he works by repetition and juxtaposition. Plato does it dialogically. St. Augustine goes inside the individual — it's an inward journey versus an outward journey. Every approach gives you more tools, and by the end students have so many ways to deal with this problem of life."

A crown jewel of the Core Curriculum, Lit Hum was founded in 1937 as Human-



**Margo Rosen '11 GSAS**, a Core lecturer, compares notes with **Richard Sacks**, an adjunct associate professor of English and comparative literature and one of a corps of mainstays who have taught Lit Hum for decades.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

ities A. Its goal: to explore major works of literature as a companion course to the existing Contemporary Civilization, which features philosophic works. The syllabus has included *The Iliad*, *Oresteia*, *Oedipus the King* and *Inferno* every year since its debut, with a slightly shifting cast of other classic works. All are chosen for their enduring relevance to modern life. "We talk about injustice, rage, family ties, identity, power — so many issues we deal with today come up over and over again in the Lit Hum readings," says Jo Ann Cavallo, associate professor of Italian, who has taught the course continually since the early '90s. "Even though the texts are very far from us in terms of a





time period, they're very close to us in life experience."

"There's a collegial aspect," says Joanna Stalnaker, associate professor of French, who has taught Lit Hum for seven of her 11 years at Columbia. "Everyone is reading the same works at the same time. There are very few colleges where that's taking place, and that's the most valuable thing I can think of. This course sends a message that literature matters and is central to a college education, and that's something that's endangered right now."

"That's what we do at Columbia: Lit Hum and CC," says Michael Seidel, a retired professor of English who taught Lit Hum for 30 years after coming to Columbia from Yale in 1977. "There's really nothing like it in the country, because of its history, its intensity, that it's a seminar and because it's Columbia students. I read those books with the same intensity the last time I taught it as the first time." Seidel adds that he misses Lit Hum and sometimes wakes up longing to teach a class.

Lit Hum's teachers hail from humanities departments such as English and comparative literature, philosophy, theater, classics and anthropology. The course includes about 65 sections, which puts it in constant need of those willing and able to take on the rigors

of teaching it. (The aim is for the faculty to be evenly divided with a third tenured faculty, a third junior faculty and a third graduate student preceptors.) Many instructors read the assigned text before class, and not just the first time they teach the course, but every time. "Anybody who reads books for a living never feels it's the same thing over and over again," Seidel says. "The books reveal themselves over time, with new insights and new ways of reading."

Elisabeth Ladenson Ph.D. '94 GSAS, professor of French and comparative literature and chair of the Department of French and Romance Philology, reads each work itself plus as much as she can get her hands on about the work. "I'm old-fashioned, so it's not Wikipedia I'm going to rely on," she says. "It's *The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*, dictionaries of mythology and things like that. It's not just the work; it's the context of the work, the author's life, the influences of the work, mythological references. I prepare for class surrounded by dictionaries and reference works and critiques of the work."

Another challenge to teachers is inherent in the nature of the course: With such a range of works, many are bound to lie outside the scope of individual expertise. "Some people only feel comfort-

*"You can teach the course only one way, and that's with humility. The works are so much greater than any of us."*



Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and chair of Lit Hum, conducts a weekly seminar for graduate preceptors who are teaching the course for the first time.

PHOTO: MICHAEL DIVITO

able teaching material they know intimately. Putting yourself in front of the major works of civilization is intimidating," Seidel says. "You can teach the course only one way, and that's with humility. The works are so much greater than any of us. You don't really teach it — you read the books alongside a lot of smart people, both people teaching the course and the Columbia students."

For first-time and any veteran instructors who choose to attend, a Wednesday lunch forum, with a guest speaker on the upcoming text, helps them prepare for the week ahead. The Witten Center for the Core Curriculum, meanwhile, maintains a library of resources online and at its office in Hamilton Hall. And the Lit Hum chair keeps materials — notes, articles, hand-outs — that have been passed down through the years.

"The first year is an *Iliad*," Rosen says. "You barely have time to read the work yourself before you're with the students teaching it. It was life-saving that I had generous colleagues who shared their Lit Hum notes and offered guidance."

Though she has taught the course four times, Rosen still attends every Wednesday presentation. "I love thinking about the work in the company of other people who also want to think about these texts," she says.

Seidel attended the Wednesday discussions every week for decades and found them one of the most enjoyable aspects of teaching the course. "They were always fruitful, with fascinating insights that were invaluable to the health and vitality of the course," he says, adding that he especially enjoyed getting to know colleagues from other departments — historians, anthropologists, philosophers, sociologists — who brought their own perspectives. "That had a tremendous impact on my work through the years and in the way I approached the whole academic experience."

The greatest challenge (and sometimes an enticement) for first-timers lies in developing even a basic knowledge of all the books. "These are towering works. One could spend one's life studying any one of them," Stalnaker says. "I'd never read Homer or Virgil or the Bible. I was coming into it with complete ignorance and loved the idea of reading these books myself. I now think it's crazy to work in literature and not have any knowledge of the Bible [for example], because it's so influential in the history of Western literature and in our language."

In addition to the Wednesday talk, first-time graduate preceptors are required to attend a Friday seminar series, led by the chair of Lit Hum — currently Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and chair of the Department of Classics — on how best to teach the course. Still, aside from the required readings and a standardized final exam, the faculty is given a good deal of free rein in how to approach their classes. One's approach might lean toward the historical, classical, philosophical, anthropological or textual. The discussion might be more student-driven or teacher-led. So although Lit Hum is a shared experience among students and faculty, individual sections tend to differ in trajectory, character and interpretational emphasis.

"One of the most important commodities is themselves: life experience," Williams says of the teachers. "Lit Hum is a marriage of methodologies, on which we agree, and idiosyncrasies of the individual."



Andrew Feldherr, a professor of classics at Princeton, visited one of the weekly Lit Hum staff meetings to offer an expert presentation on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, which was the featured text that week.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

Lit Hum's precise content is continually debated by faculty and students. A common complaint from students in recent decades has been that the Western-centric syllabus is exclusionary (the "Why are we reading the works of dead white males?" argument). Faculty are more likely to argue the merits of one individual text over another, and parse differences in translations to decide which should be the required versions.

The syllabus is reviewed formally, usually every two years, by current Lit Hum staff and those who have taught the course in the previous five years. It's a popular meeting. "A lot of debate takes place, often before the meeting. Discussion of and reflection about what texts should be taught go on all the time," Williams says.

He emphasizes that no text earns its place in the course by default: "It's not a bunch of people who worship the Western canon. Nobody is treating these as museum pieces. We're asking what aspect of the human experience these authors articulated that draws readers over time and strikes a chord with generation after generation. It's not an act of text worship, it's an act of text interrogation."

Currently, Boccaccio's *Decameron* is off the syllabus, Goethe's *Faust* is on. *Pride and Prejudice* has been suggested for the chopping block, perhaps in favor of an alternative Jane Austen novel such as *Mansfield Park*. Several years ago, in an effort to be more inclusive, the Mesopotamian poem *The Epic of Gilgamesh* was added but it was removed after just one year.



In addition to the required work, professors can add one or more texts of their own choosing. Popular selections include Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*. Ladenson adds Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad* — the story of the Trojan War from Penelope's point of view — to the Fall syllabus, following *The Odyssey*. In the Spring, she asks the class to vote on an additional text. "They suggest things like *One Hundred Years of Solitude*; I propose things like *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*," she says. "When we narrow it down, every single time they've voted for *Lolita*. It's a surefire hit, and it alludes to the entire tradition we've read."

Stalnaker doesn't assign additional reading and instead gives her charges breathing room to read and absorb the required texts. She says there's an ongoing concern among faculty about whether the students can and do read all of the works versus skim, skip or rely on SparkNotes, and "whether the ambition of the syllabus inspires superficial reading. My experience is that the vast majority of them do read and get a lot out of the experience."



Anne Holt, a first-year graduate preceptor, takes notes at one of the weekly Lit Hum staff meetings.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

*Students are known to contact their professors weeks, even years, after the course to tell them how much it meant to them.*

Ladenson has discovered the same: "It's a huge amount of reading — it's astonishing anyone does it all — but I've been impressed by how many students do most or all of the reading and come to class prepared," she says. "And even if they don't, it's good for them to be exposed to it."

The reading list always has been daunting, for nearly any student, but Williams thinks today's students are challenged more than ever due to technology. "The act of reading is not what it was 20 years ago. The Internet is a technological marvel in so many ways but it perhaps has had considerable consequences for traditional reading practices," he says. "These books presuppose a thoughtfulness about life and self-reflection, which are challenged by the speed of information retrieval in the Internet age. The students are as bright and committed as they ever were but now are used to instant access to information and a sense of speed. Books are slow burners. The character development and time frames are much slower than what the students are often used to, and that requires a recalibration."

The first-year students are largely divided between those who can't wait to delve into the venerated Core courses, starting with Lit Hum — for many, the Core is what attracted them to the College in the first place — and those who possess little innate interest in what they initially see as dusty, irrelevant or just plain hard-to-get-through books. "Sometimes you get somebody horrified

by the Core, who says, 'I'm a science guy' or 'whatnot, and then they find they love it,' Ladenson says. "That's a very gratifying pedagogic experience."

Students are known to contact their professors after the course — sometimes weeks later, sometimes years — to tell them how much Lit Hum meant to them and the impact it has had on their lives. Cavallo cites a student who returned to his home country of India and started a vocational training company he named after Athena. "It really touches me when students are inspired in their life choices by Lit Hum," she says.

Not everyone is so converted of course. Some students don't complete all the readings or participate actively in the discussions. "Not all of them care or pay attention or have a good time," Ladenson says. "With Lit Hum, as with everything, what you get out of it reflects what you put into it."

Cavallo says the romantic ideal of students debating the books in dining halls and residence halls turns out to be true. She wasn't sure until her two children came to the College and reported the phenomenon first-hand, which she was grateful to hear.

Although the course is billed as life-changing for students, faculty often get as much out of teaching it as the students do taking it. Intimacy with the texts informs the professors' research and writing in their own fields and enriches their personal lives as well. When Hurricane Sandy flooded much of Cavallo's home in Toms River, N.J., in October, she spent the night on the kitchen counter watching the tidal surge reach the windowsills and reflecting on Herodotus. "I was thinking of how Solon warned Croesus that you never know what's going to happen in life," she says. "It was a confirmation of the wisdom that can be found in ancient texts."

"If I could teach one course forever, it'd be Lit Hum," Rosen says. "But Lit Hum wants you to move on and do other things and come back to it, and each time you do, the books are different, the students are different, you're different."

Ladenson, too, enjoys being pushed out of her comfort zone and, in fact, values the experience of teaching Lit Hum so much that she's considering expanding her horizons. "I'm toying with taking CC — oh, that's a huge slip! — I meant teaching CC, or Art Hum. It'll be a stretch for me, which is why I want to do it."

Shira Boss '93, '97J, '98 SIPA is contributing writer to CCT. Her last feature was a profile of filmmaker, faculty member and Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race Director Frances Negrón-Muntaner in the Winter 2012–13 issue.



# Lit Hum for Life

*"I left Columbia with an understanding of the power of asking the right questions."*

BY ALEXIS TONTI '11 ARTS

On the day after his college graduation, the last thing Chuck Callan '78 did before leaving Morningside was visit Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig at his office in Hamilton Hall to ask for a reading list. "I did not want the power and pleasure of the Core to end," recalls Callan, who majored in economics. "Literature Humanities was transformative for me."

Selig obliged. Among the books were a trio by Mann (*Confessions of Felix Krull*, *Confidence Man*; *Death in Venice*; and *Doctor Faustus*) and two each by Flaubert (*Sentimental Education*; *Madame Bovary*) and Joyce (*Dubliners*; *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*). He also advised the short stories of de Maupassant, Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* and Forster's *A Passage to India*; Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* and Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*; and García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. All told, there were about 30 titles.

In 2010, Callan visited Selig a second time, this time at an assisted living center on the Upper West Side, to tell him he had finished the list and to ask for more recommendations. "Read them again," said Selig.

It is fair to say that, in 75 years, no student has left Literature Humanities untouched by the experience. Some are relieved to have made it through — and no looking back, thank you very much. Others come away with a sense of satisfaction, and the confidence that the course has in some essential way contributed to their becoming educated, well-rounded individuals. And many, many more experience Lit Hum as a kind of open-

ing out: It increases their appetite for reading and broadens their other interests, attunes them to an ongoing and long-lasting conversation about the world and equips them with new ways of engaging with others and with themselves.

"The Core is about great, enduring truths that neither I nor, I dare say, humanity, can live without," Callan says. (His literary adviser, Selig, died on December 1, 2012. See Around the Quads.)

"Before taking the course I thought the subject matter of many of the books would never apply to me because of the differences in times," says Dana Mondesire '14. "On the contrary, by the end of each class I was thinking about the questions posed in the works and how they may have applied to my own life; I found that the themes we discussed in class were just so relatable."

"It led to reevaluations of my own worldview. How much of what I believed was simply the result of our cultural tradition?" says Michael Carter '14. "Paradoxically, by examining the conventional, Western tradition, I became much more open to alternate ways of thinking. Everybody always tells you that college is a place to 'find yourself,' to develop your opinions, to understand who you are."



"Literature Humanities was transformative for me," says Chuck Callan '78.

PHOTO: CHRIS BALMER '07





Some first-years embrace Lit Hum, others are more skeptical, but none are unaffected by the course.

PHOTO: MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

And Lit Hum is a great way to do that."

"Perhaps one of the most important lessons I took from Lit Hum — and from the Core in general — was a feeling of empowerment to search and to question," says Scott Koonin '02, an investment adviser and a member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors as well as a Class Agent for the Columbia College Fund. "I left Columbia with an understanding of the power of asking the right questions and now, in my professional life, thoughtful questions have revealed a deeper understanding of my clients' needs, fears and desires. Questions have been a differentiator."

*"These books are masterpieces because they relate to everyone and incite a different feeling in each person."*

The College's incoming students fall at many points along the Lit Hum spectrum. At one end there are those who arrive with reservations of some kind — they may be intimidated or disinterested — and at the other end are those who are eager to dive into the course. With the former, conversion stories are common. And with the latter, the seminar experience serves only to amplify their enthusiasm.

"I came to Columbia largely because of the Core Curriculum and more specifically because of Lit Hum," says Zoe Wood '16. "As someone who grew up without once opening a bible, the fact that the first semester of Lit Hum studies the New and Old Testaments was hugely appealing. The course is about creating a base of knowledge, about having a point from which you can go in any direction and, as you go about your career in neuroscience or programming or Russian literature, maintain with you a basic understanding of the most important voices in Western thought."

"I was really daunted by the idea of engaging with the texts," says Anna Couturier '10. "I came from a middle-class California public school and, while I really enjoyed European literature,

ancient texts seemed completely above my head." She adds that, through Lit Hum, she gained confidence in her analytical abilities. "It set the pace for the next four years, in which I grew both as a critical thinker and an individual. Lit Hum made me understand that we are not alone in our creations."

Kathryn Reggio '14 admits she'd always been more interested in science, "with English being the most intimidating class on my schedule. And then when I found out that I'd been assigned to the chair of Lit Hum's class" — then Christia Mercer, the Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy — "I was definitely going to switch.

"But on the first day that changed. Christia was a great professor with such a kind and accepting personality. Class was never intimidating; it truly felt like a sanctuary where all thoughts were heard and encouraged. And although the books were challenging, I got much out of them. Most interesting were the interpretations we made during class about the texts ... these books are masterpieces because they relate to everyone and incite a different feeling in each person."

As with Reggio and Mercer, many students credit their seminar teachers for shaping the experience.

"My instructor, Nancy Workman, [adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures], knows how to run a seminar. She took — and takes, every year — a class of wet-behind-the-ears first-years and makes readers out of them," says Conor Skelding '14. "And students met her challenge and behaved intelligently. We weren't dutifully raising our hands once per class to ramble on about nothing for a 'class participation' grade; we were discussing literature."

"I have to give full credit to my instructor, Professor Richard Sacks, [adjunct associate professor of English and comparative literature], who taught me how to be both a more critical reader

and a more emotionally invested one," says Claire Sabel '13. "He constantly impressed upon us that all of these books are asking fundamental questions about what it means to be human, and that they're usually undermining their own premises rather than offering substantial answers."

Patrick McGarrigle '86 recalls his experience with James V. Mirollo, now the Parr Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature. "He brought the varied collection of classics to life with energy, humor and passion. I recall his 'juxtaposition' — one of his favorite words at the time — of *Confessions* and *Inferno* and how fortunate I was to hear this titan's love for Dante." McGarrigle adds that the class both prepared him for and encouraged him to pursue other literary challenges at the College, including a Quixote class with Selig and an Eliot, Joyce and Pound class with the now-deceased Wallace Gray '58 GSAS.

"Looking back and connecting the dots from Mirollo to Selig to Gray, the veritable Tinker to Evers to Chance of CC's English and comp lit department, it's clear that Lit Hum doesn't really end that first year, or ever," McGarrigle says.

Students also sound appreciation to their teachers for direct-

ing them to the resources of the University as well as New York City at large.

"We visited the Met to see Greek and Roman art, attended a *Medea* reading at Miller Theatre and watched *Oresteia* at the Broadway Theatre," recalls Caroline Shang '13E. "These experiences added another dimension of appreciation for these works, and I will never forget them." She notes that as an engineering student with the option of taking Lit Hum, it was no contest: "I was ecstatic about sinking my teeth into the classics."

Of course, the books themselves are at the heart of any Lit Hum experience. When asked, most every student — past or present — can cite one (or more than one) that had particular impact.

"*The Histories*, *Don Quixote* and *Pride and Prejudice* had the greatest impact on me," says Valerie Comenencia Ortiz '14. "One of the greatest things about Lit Hum is that, while it makes no assumptions about your previous knowledge of the texts, it takes books and authors that you already seem to know and shows you an entirely different side of them"

Ramon Giron-Melendez '14 also points to *The Histories*: "It shows that even 'recorded events' are triangulated through the evaluation of a variety of perspectives. I learned that although our own introspection is an indispensable leap forward to figuring out life, a variety of examining voices is still needed to discover an entire truth."

"I distinctly remember discussing a particular section of Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* that opened up the novel for me in a way that deeply touched me and has remained with me since, and which led me to explore her other novels and discover her genius," says Lena Moffitt '05, who majored in environmental biology.

"Before coming to Columbia, I got my *Iliad* and thought, cool, I'm gonna read the book that the movie *Troy* is based on," Monde-sire says. "But after reading it and discussing it in class, I realized that the epic was so much more than what Hollywood portrayed it as."

Wood cites *Lysistrata*. "I found it incredible that the people of 411 BCE were making essentially the same jokes that we make nearly 2,500 years later. I guess that could be seen as disheartening — should our collective sense of humor have made some more progress? — but I found it to be life-affirming, unifying, just funny."

With so many texts, it's not surprising that many current students speak to the difficulty of taking in what amounts to a book a week. But some see benefits to the pace.

"We go from Homeric poems to psychoanalytical 20th-century fiction — and, instead of feeling your way through the texts, you have to take the plunge and let the texts confront you," says Amir Safavi '14, a 2011 Core Scholar. "This is both a necessity — there is simply no time to leisurely muse about your reading — and a blessing, as it encourages us to trust our instincts and heightens our senses."

Sarah Fakhry '14 says the pace was both surprising and enjoyable. "I did not think it would be possible to do each book justice, but I was surprised at how much we covered. As a result, I am now probably one of the best speed-readers! It also was exciting when we found connections and similarities between the texts, such as the theme of friendship in *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid*."



Lit Hum provides a unifying experience for first-years, who read the same books at the same time.

PHOTO: MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

Significantly, Lit Hum creates a sense of community on several levels. It provides, first, a point of connection for first-year students as they get to know each other and, later, a reliable source of debate. Many also speak to the comfort that comes from being in the trenches together through late-night study sessions.

Hannah Rosner '14 says one of her favorite memories is camping out with friends in John Jay's lounge to study for the Lit Hum final. "All the freshmen were walking around with these huge boxes of books, trying to remember what happened in book six of *The Iliad* three months ago, and the lounge was full of other groups doing the same thing."

Wood echoes the sentiment: "It was nice to be able to come out of my room at 1 a.m. and say to anyone who happened to be out at that time, 'I'm only on book four,' and receive their much-needed empathy. It's not that we all constantly discussed *Medea*'s plight or *Odysseus*' pig-headedness, but the books really do come up in conversation sometimes, and when they do, everyone has something to say."

"There is always an opportunity to encounter someone who is contemplating the readings and engage in a discussion," says Justin Brathwaite '14. "As everyone is reading the same books, we are all aspiring to understand the themes at a much deeper philosophical level. ... The course captures the essence of what it means to be a Columbian, which involves being part of an intellectual community where all its members debate ideas like suffering, truth and life's meaning."

In addition to forging bonds among first-years, Lit Hum connects all students — current and former — to each other and to the College.

"Lit Hum is the great unifier for Columbia alumni, not because of the conclusions that we arrived at through the texts but by the act of searching for answers in the words," Couturier says. "I have been lucky enough to meet and work with Columbia alumni from many different generations and, while we often differ in our interpretations and takeaways, we share the camaraderie that comes from the hard work of critically engaging with the great texts."

As Reggio puts it, "If anything, talking about Lit Hum is one conversation I know that I can have with any alumni."

Alexis Tonti '11 Arts is CCT's managing editor.



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# Alumni Book Club Carries On the Tradition

*“The idea is to further our education and what we started in Lit Hum.”*

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

If a snapshot could capture the effect that a course like Literature Humanities should have on students, it might very well depict the gathering at Laura Lattman '01's Manhattan home on a Tuesday evening in November.

Near Central Park, in the Midtown apartment she shares with her husband, Lattman has laid out an antipasto platter, fruit and wine for her fellow book club members. On the table is a translation of Madame de La Fayette's 1678 novel *La Princesse de Clèves*, a seminal work of French literature and the subject of tonight's discussion. It was not the most leisurely or enthralling read, the group will conclude, but as one of the earliest incarnations of the modern novel — and given its place on the Lit Hum syllabus from 1986–90 — it was a fitting choice.

Three of Lattman's classmates, Ben Ryan '01, William Tsu '01

and Rodman Williams '01, along with Brette McSweeney '04 SIPA, arrive punctually at 7:30 p.m. Within a few minutes, a seminar-style discussion of the love triangle in the book is under way, interspersed with much more laughter than would be admissible in a classroom. The novel, set in the court of Henry II, was suggested by Lattman, a trust and estates attorney who majored in political science and French. With no designated moderator — except for Williams' asking the group “not to

lose the thread” when he deems a thematic point worthy of probing — the conversation flows and sometimes swerves. The group considers the nature of romantic love and compares their reactions to how readers in the 17th century might have perceived the title character's infidelity. By the end of the session, they are pondering whether she deserves their sympathy.

As with any other book club, the members present tonight, as well as those who were unable to attend — Jennifer Kim '01, Ben Wheeler '02 and newcomer Nikhil Shimpi '01 — are in it for the company and community aspect. But here there also is a loftier purpose: They consider their club a vehicle for exploring universal themes, as most of them did 15 years ago as first-year students in Lit Hum or, in McSweeney's case, as an undergraduate at Georgetown. In the spirit of the Core Curriculum, they select books that have had a widespread impact on subsequent writing and thinking. “I'm very thankful that I had Lit Hum as an experience because

it did what it was supposed to do, which was give me a solid foundation in the classics of Western Literature,” says Ryan, who majored in English and had the idea to start the club. “Our group is focused on reading things that are definitively canonical. The idea is to further our education and what we started in Lit Hum.”

Ryan, a journalist who recently completed his first novel, reconnected with Tsu, Kim and Wheeler, members of his Lit Hum section, at the Class of '01's 10-year

Alumni Reunion Weekend. (Wheeler, who as a student helped relaunch CULPA, an independent, student-run evaluation site for Columbia courses and professors, entered with the Class of 2001 but graduated in 2002 after taking a semester off to be a web developer.) Their shared desire to engage in dialogues they had not experienced since college, combined with nostalgia, resulted in



(Left to right) Brette McSweeney '04 SIPA, William Tsu '01, Ben Ryan '01, Rodman Williams '01 and Laura Lattman '01 discuss *La Princesse de Clèves*.  
PHOTO: NATHALIE ALONSO '08

the book club. The group later expanded to include Lattman, Williams and McSweeney, and, most recently, Shimpi, an attorney for the U.S. National Labor Relations Board.

“After spending time away from a university setting, I hungered for intellectual rigor and existential inquiry through the humanities,” says Kim, a founding board member and communications coordinator for the Shantideva Meditation Center in Manhattan. “I love being among bright minds who enjoy learning for the sake of learning and sharing their insights — people who make me think more deeply and see things from different perspectives.”

Though inspired by Lit Hum, the group's picks go well beyond the scope of the course, both geographically and chronologically. To date, they have read mostly fiction published in the mid-19th century and later. Since their first read, *Moby Dick*, the group has tackled *The Age of Innocence*, *Crime and Punishment*, *The Sound and the Fury*, *A Bend in the River*, *The Optimist's Daughter* and *American Pastoral*. *Moby Dick* and *Crime and Punishment* have appeared on the Lit Hum syllabus.

The club tries to meet every 10 weeks, though accommodating everyone's schedule often means varying the time between sessions. In addition to Lattman's apartment, they have held meetings in Ryan's home, at World Wide Plaza on Manhattan's West Side and at Coffee Shop in Union Square. The group gives them the rare opportunity, they say, to go beyond the small talk of everyday life. “As adults, what do you do? You go to parties or you go to dinners or out to bars. It's really hard to have a deep conversation,” explains Ryan. “This way, we have to; that's what we're here for.”

As in a typical Lit Hum section, the members of this book group bring a variety of interests, experiences and perspectives to the table: Kim has been v.p. of a software company and lived off the grid in a Buddhist retreat center in California's redwood forest; Tsu, an East Asian studies major, works in asset management; Wheeler, who is married to Kate Cortesi '01 and is the group's only parent, majored in history and computer science and now develops algorithms for a high frequency trading company. Williams also majored in history and is an administrator at Fordham Law's research library and McSweeney is the executive director of Eleanor's Legacy, which works to advance women in elective office in New York State. Yet what is perhaps most interesting about the group seated around Lattman's drop-leaf table is their newfound bond. While most knew each other in the College, none would describe another as a close friend during those years.

## Capital Club

New York-based alumni are not the only ones reconnecting thanks to Lit Hum and the Core Curriculum. Take Joseph Feuer '87, '91 SIPA, an international development consultant who in 2010 co-founded a Core-inspired book club in the Washington, D.C., area.

Feuer is on the board of the Columbia University Club of Washington, D.C. Through his initiative, each month a subset of club members gathers at the home of Ralph Stephens '58, '60 Business in Chevy Chase, Md., to discuss a text or author that has appeared on the Lit Hum or Contemporary Civilization syllabus. Of roughly 25 committed participants — a mix of College alumni and graduates of other Columbia schools — 12–15 attend any one meeting. “I thought it would be interesting, whether you've been out of the College 10 years or 50 years, to take another look at these texts, which are so profound,” Feuer says.

Each month, Feuer, who started the group with Montse Ferrer '06 (she has since left the D.C. area), gives members a few options from which to choose. Lucretius' “On the Nature of Things,” Plato's *Republic* and Dante's *Inferno* are among the works they have tackled. “It was going to be almost like a second year of CC and Lit Hum with more secondary texts, but we decided to really just stick to the Core,” Feuer says.

The group rarely reads an entire work; instead, Feuer identifies excerpts with Deborah Martinsen Ph.D. '82 SIPA, '90 GSAS, associate dean of alumni education. Martinsen then collaborates with Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and Lit Hum chair, to develop study questions for the group. Feuer usually leads the conversation although, at his invitation, a fellow from Harvard's D.C.-based Center for Hellenic Studies has facilitated.

“It's a very bright group,” Feuer says. “Some do outside reading and bring a lot to bear. People come from a wide range of fields and they generally have many interesting things to say.”

— N.A.

In September 2011, David Lipscomb '98 GSAS, who taught the Lit Hum section in which the book club's four founding members met and now is a consultant based in Washington, D.C., participated in the group's discussion of *American Pastoral* via Skype. That meeting ran more than three hours, making it one of their longer sessions to date. Lipscomb remembers that particular Lit Hum class as having a special chemistry. “I remember thinking it was somehow wrong when the class ended — like a great rock band was breaking up too soon,” he says. “That sounds hyperbolic, I know. But they really were amazing together — building off each other's comments, challenging each other, never taking themselves too seriously while really digging deeply into the literature.”

It is gratifying for Lipscomb, but not entirely surprising, that members of that Lit Hum section would reconnect in such a way and that Ryan would be the one to bring them together. “Ben Ryan would talk about characters in Homer or Jane Austen as if they were personal friends who drew strong reactions from him, sometimes amazing him and sometimes really annoying him,” Lipscomb recalls. “He had that rare ability to be insightful and hilarious at the same time, and he still does. And others in the class would quickly respond to Ben and we'd be off and running. Jennifer Kim, Ben Wheeler and William Tsu also had that ability to spark things.”

Following their discussion of *La Princesse*, as they do after most meetings, the group debates what to read next. While the club's premise is clear, the wide range of options — and opinions — means that it does not always translate into obvious book selections. Ultimately, at Wheeler's suggestion, they settle on a foray into East Asian literature — the 1962 novel *The Woman in the Dunes* by Japanese author Kobo Abe and a few stories and essays by Chinese writer Lu Hsun — though it is not a unanimous decision.

If there is one thing they all agree on, however, it is that they are more poised now, with more life experience under their belts, to engage with literature. “I'm a little bit more comfortable in my own skin in this stage in my life. That makes the sharing and respect even more possible than when you are in a class theoretically competing with other people,” says Lattman, to which Williams adds, “Our reading lives have deepened because our actual lives have deepened.”

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



[COLUMBIA FORUM]

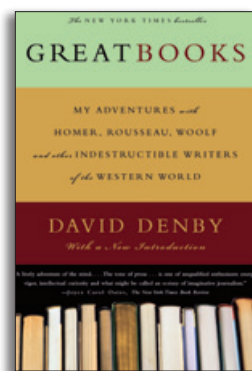


# Lit Hum Revisited

*At 48, David Denby '65, '66J proved you can go home again — to the classics*



PHOTO: CASEY KELBAUGH



struggles as an older student wrestling in his middle years with the slippery classics of Lit Hum, in particular *The Iliad*.

Denby's other books include *Do the Movies Have a Future?* (2012), *Snark* (2009) and *American Sucker* (2004).

Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard

David Denby '65, '66J is a familiar name to readers of *The New Yorker*; he has been a staff writer and film critic at the magazine since 1998. Earlier, he was the film critic for *New York magazine* for 20 years and won a 1991 National Magazine Award. During his time at New York, Denby returned to the Morningside Heights campus and his Core Curriculum roots and retook *Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization*. The result was the *New York Times* bestseller *GREATBOOKS: My Adventures with Homer, Rousseau, Woolf, and Other Indestructible Writers of the Western World* (1997). In the excerpt that follows, he relates his

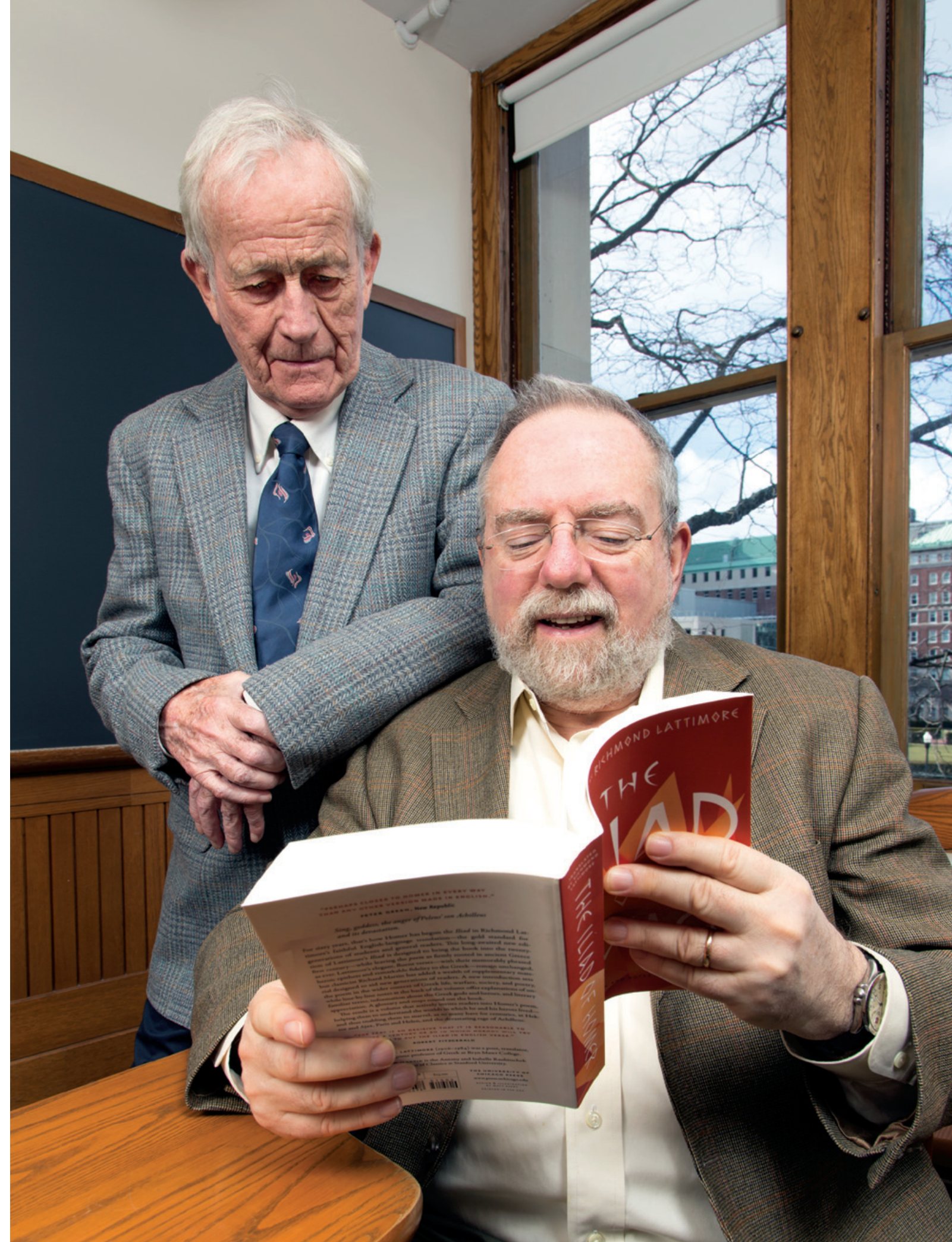
In the fall of 1991, thirty years after entering Columbia University for the first time, I went back to school and sat with eighteen-year-olds and read the same books that they read. Not just any books. Together we read Homer, Plato, Sophocles, Augustine, Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Virginia Woolf. *Those books. Those courses* — the two required core-curriculum courses that I had first taken in 1961, innocently and unconsciously, as a freshman at Columbia College. No one in that era could possibly have imagined that in the following decades the courses would be alternately reviled as an iniquitous oppression and adored as a bulwark of the West.

One of the courses, Literature Humanities, or Lit Hum, as everyone calls it, is (and was) devoted to a standard selection of European literary masterpieces; the other, Contemporary Civilization, or C.C., offers a selection of philosophical and social-theory masterpieces. They are both "great books" courses, or, if you like, "Western civ" surveys, a list of heavyweight names assembled in chronological order like the marble busts in some imaginary pantheon of glory. Such courses were first devised, earlier in the century, at Columbia; they then spread to the University of Chicago, and in the 1940s to many other universities and colleges. They have since, putting it mildly, receded. At times, they have come close to extinction, though not at Columbia or Chicago.

Despite my explanations, my fellow students in 1991 may well have wondered what in the world I was doing there, sitting in uncomfortable oak-plank chairs with *them*. I was certainly a most unlikely student: forty-eight years old, the film critic of *New York*

(Opposite): David Denby '65, '66J (seated) returned to Hamilton Hall in February and revisited *The Iliad* under the watchful eye of the Lionel Trilling Professor Emeritus in the Humanities Edward "Ted" Tayler.

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







magazine, a husband and father, a settled man who was nevertheless unsettled in some way that may not have been any clearer to me than it was to them. Was it just knowledge I wanted? I had read many of the books before. Yet the students may have noticed that nothing in life seemed more important to me than reading those books and sitting in on those discussions.

**T**he project began when my wife suggested that I put up or shut up. In 1989 or 1990, somewhere back there, Cathleen Schine and I were reading, with increasing amazement, the debate about the nature of higher education in this country. Merely reciting the clichés of the debate now induces a blue haze of exasperation and boredom: What role should the Western classics and a “Eurocentric” curriculum play in a country whose population was made up of people from many other places besides Europe — for instance, descendants of African slaves and American Indians? Should groups formerly without much power — women, as well as minorities — be asked to read through a curriculum dominated by works written by Dead White European Males?

The questions were not in themselves unreasonable, but it now seems hard to believe that anyone above sixteen could possibly have used, as a term of blame, the phrase “Dead White European Males.” The words have already taken on a quaint period feel, as moldy as the love beads that I wore once, in the spring of 1968, and then flung into the back of a dresser drawer. Such complaints, which issued generally from the academic left, especially from a variety of feminist, Marxist, and African-American scholars, were answered in turn by conservatives with resoundingly grandiose notions of the importance of the Western tradition for American national morale. In their consecutive stints as chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, William Bennett and Lynne V. Cheney said some good things about the centrality of the humanities in the life of an educated person. But the clear implication of their more polemical remarks was that if we ceased to read the right books, we could not keep Communism or relativism — or whatever threatened the Republic — at the gates. There were national, even geopolitical considerations at stake. Literature had become a matter of *policy*.

As I made my way through the debate, I began to suffer from an increasing sense of unreality. Thirty years earlier, I had enjoyed Lit Hum and C.C. a great deal, but then had largely forgotten them, as one forgets most college courses one takes. Exactly how the books for the courses had remained in my mind, as a residue of impressions and a framework of taste and sensibility, and even of action, I could not say. That was the mystery, wasn’t it? — the mystery of education. Exactly how does it matter to us? The participants in the debate, however, seemed to know. They made extravagant claims for or against the books and the Western tradition the books embodied. At the same time, they discussed the books themselves — works of literature, philosophy, and political theory — in an unpleasantly featureless and abstract way that turned them into mere clubs and spears in an ideological war. Shakespeare an agent of colonialism? Rousseau part of the “hegemonic discourse”? The Greek classics a bulwark of democracy? Was it really literature and philosophy that people were discussing in such terms? One had the uncanny sense that at least some of the disputants hadn’t bothered to read the books in question in more than twenty years. Could such classic works actually be as boring as the right — or as wicked as the left — was making them sound? The books them-

selves had been robbed of body and flavor. And in so many of the polemics, the act of reading itself had become hollowed out — emptied of its place in any reader’s life, its stresses and pleasures, its boredom, its occasional euphoria. It had lost its special character of solitude and rapture.

Yet strange as the debate seemed to me, it had a galvanizing effect. For months, I was angry and even pained. I felt I had been cheated of something, and it didn’t take long to realize why. If some of the disputants appeared to be far away from the books in question, I knew that I was far away from them, too. I had read, I had forgotten, and I felt the loss as I did the loss of an old friend who had faded away.

I worked myself into a high state of indignation, and Cathy, both a novelist and a reader, shared my view but grew tired of my outrage. There she sat in our apartment in New York, reading book after book, in bed, in the living room, at the chair by the living-room window. Often she read with a cat in her lap, the animal happily purring; its mistress, lost in her reading, scratched its head for hours. My wife was too kind, and perhaps too busy, to point out something that later seemed obvious: I had become something of a nonreader myself; or, let us say, a reader of journalism, public-affairs books, and essays on this or that. “If you’re so upset about this,” Cathy finally said, “why don’t you take your Columbia courses again?”

Thus the revenge of the reader on the nonreader: why don’t you read and stop complaining? Certainly the means to answer my questions lay at hand. Columbia was only a couple of miles from my apartment on the West Side of Manhattan. And the courses, though somewhat different in their selection of texts, had not changed much in conception.

Reading “the great books” may seem an odd solution to a “midlife crisis” or a crisis of identity, or whatever it was. Why not travel or hunt elephants? Chase teenage girls? Live in a monastery? These, I believe, are the traditional methods — for men, at least — of dealing with such problems. But if I wanted adventure, I wanted it in a way that made sense for me. Reading seriously, I thought, might be one way of ending my absorption in media life, a way of finding the edges again.

But why not just sit and read? Why go back to Columbia? Because I wanted to see how others were reading — or not reading. The students had grown up living in the media. What were they like? What had happened to teaching in the age of the culture debate, in a corner of the university far from the war yet obviously touched by the noise of battle? One way of dispelling the crudities and irrelevancies of the “culture wars” was to find out what actually went on in classrooms.

And I wanted to add my words to the debate from the ground up, beginning and ending in literature, never leaving the books themselves.

**I** had forgotten. I had forgotten the extremity of its cruelty and tenderness, and, reading it now, turning *The Iliad* open anywhere in its 15,693 lines, I was shocked. A dying word, “shocked.” Few people have been able to use it well since Claude Rains so famously said, “I’m shocked, *shocked* to find that gambling is going on here,” as he pocketed his winnings in *Casablanca*. But it’s the only word for excitement and alarm of this intensity. The brute vitality of the air, the magnificence of ships, wind, and fires; the raging battles, the plains charged with terrified horses, the beasts unstrung and falling; the warriors flung

*I began to suffer from an increasing sense of unreality. Thirty years earlier, I had enjoyed Lit Hum and C.C. a great deal, but then had largely forgotten them, as one forgets most college courses one takes.*

facedown in the dust; the ravaged longing for home and family and meadows and the rituals of peace, leading at last to an instant of reconciliation, when even two men who are bitter enemies fall into rapt admiration of each other’s nobility and beauty — it is a war poem, and in the Richmond Lattimore translation it has an excruciating vividness, an obsessive observation of horror that causes almost disbelief.

Simoeisios in his stripling’s beauty, whom once his mother descending from Ida bore beside the banks of Simoeis when she had followed her father and mother to tend the sheepflocks.

Therefore they called him Simoeisios; but he could not render again the care of his dear parents; he was short-lived,

beaten down beneath the spear of high-hearted Aias, who struck him as he first came forward beside the nipple of the right breast, and the bronze spearhead drove clean through the shoulder.

He dropped then to the ground in the dust, like some black poplar ... (IV, 472-82)

The nipple of the *right* breast. Homer in his terrifying exactness tells us where the spear comes in and goes out, what limbs are severed; he tells us that the dead will not return to rich soil, they will not take care of elderly parents, receive pleasure from their young wives. His explicitness has a finality beyond all illusion. In the end, the war (promoted by the gods) will consume almost all of them, Greeks and Trojans alike, sweeping on year after year, in battle after battle — a mystery in its irresistible momentum, its profoundly absorbing moment-to-moment activity and overall meaninglessness. First one side drives forward, annihilates hundreds, and is on the edge of victory. Then, a few days later, inspired by some god’s trick or phantasm — a prod to the sluggish brain of an exhausted warrior — the other side recovers, advances, and carries all before it. When the poem opens, this movement back and forth has been going on for more than nine years.

**T**he teacher, a small, compact man, about sixty, walked into the room, and wrote some initials on the board:

W A S P

D W M

W C

D G S I

While most of us tried to figure them out (I had no trouble with the first two, made a lame joke to myself about the third, and was stumped by the fourth), he turned, looking around the class, and said ardently, almost imploringly, “We’ve only got a year together. ...” His tone was pleading and mournful, a lover

who feared he might be thwarted. There was an alarming pause. A few students, embarrassed, looked down, and then he said: “This course has been under attack for thirty years. People have said” — pointing to the top set of initials — “the writers are all white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. It’s not true, but it doesn’t matter. They’ve said they were all Dead White Males; it’s not true, but it doesn’t matter. That it’s all Western civilization. That’s not quite true either — there are many Western civilizations — but it doesn’t matter. The only thing that matters is this.”

He looked at us, then turned back to the board, considering the initials “DGSI” carefully, respectfully, and rubbed his chin. “Don’t Get Sucked In,” he said at last. Another pause, and I notice the girl sitting next to me, who has wild frizzed hair and a mass of acne on her chin and forehead, opening her mouth in panic. Others were smiling. They were freshmen — sorry, *first-year* students — and not literature majors necessarily, but a cross-section of students, and therefore future lawyers, accountants, teachers, businessmen, politicians, TV producers, doctors, poets, layabouts. They were taking Lit Hum, a required course that almost all students at Columbia take the first year of school. This may have been the first teacher the students had seen in college. He wasn’t making it easy on them.

“Don’t get sucked in by false ideas,” he said. “You’re not here for political reasons. You’re here for very selfish reasons. You’re here to build a self. You create a self, you don’t inherit it. One way you create it is out of the past. Look, if you find *The Iliad* dull or invidious or a glorification of war, you’re right. It’s a poem in your mind; let it take shape in your mind. The women are honor gifts. They’re war booty, like tripods. Less than tripods. If any male reading this poem treated women on campus as chattel, it would be very strange. I also trust you to read this and not go out and hack someone to pieces.”

Ah, a hipster, I thought. He admitted the obvious charges in order to minimize them. And he said nothing about transcendental values, supreme masterpieces of the West, and the rest of that. *We’re here for selfish reasons*. The voice was pleasant but odd — baritone, steady, but with traces of mockery garlanding the short, definitive sentences. The intonations drooped, as if he were laying black crepe around his words. A hipster wit. He nearly droned, but there were little surprises — ideas insinuated into corners, a sudden expansion of feeling. He had sepulchral charm, like one of Shakespeare’s solemnly antic clowns.

I remembered him well enough: Edward “Ted” Tayler, professor of English. I had taken a course with him twenty-nine years earlier (he was a young assistant professor then), a course in seventeenth-century Metaphysical poetry, which was then part of the sequence required for English majors at Columbia, and I recalled being baffled as much as intrigued by his manner, which definitely tended toward the cryptic. He was obviously brilliant,





*“You may not believe that God created the universe,”  
Tayler said, mournful, sepulchral, “but, anyway, look  
what God is doing in this passage. He’s setting up  
opposites. Which is something we do all the time in life.”*

but he liked to jump around, keep students off balance, hint and retreat; I learned a few things about Donne and Marvell, and left the class with a sigh of relief. In the interim, he had become famous as a teacher and was now the sonorously titled Lionel Trilling Professor in the Humanities — the moniker was derived from Columbia’s most famous English literature professor, a great figure when I was there in the early sixties.

“The Hermeneutic Circle,” Tayler was saying. “That’s what Wilhelm Dilthey called it. You don’t know what to do with the details unless you have a grip on the structure; and at the same time, you don’t know what to do with the structure unless you know the details. It’s true in life and in literature. The Hermeneutic Circle. It’s a vicious circle. Look, we have only a year together. You have to read. There’s nothing you’ll do in your four years at Columbia that’s more important for selfish reasons than reading the books of this course.”

Could they become selves? From my position along the side of the classroom, I sneaked a look. At the moment they looked more like lumps, uncreated first-year students. The men sat with legs stretched all the way out, eyes down on their notes. Some wore caps turned backward. They were eighteen, maybe nineteen. In their T-shirts, jeans, and turned-around caps, they had a summer-camp thickness, like counselors just back from a hike with ten-year-olds. *Give me a beer.* The women, many of them also in T-shirts, their hair gathered at the back with a rubber band, were more directly attentive; they looked at Tayler, but they looked blankly.

Tayler handed out a sheet with some quotations. At the top of the page were some verses from the beginning of Genesis.

And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: And God divided the light from the darkness. ... And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

“You may not believe that God created the universe,” Tayler said, mournful, sepulchral, “but, anyway, look what God is doing in this passage. He’s setting up opposites. Which is something we do all the time in life. Moral opposites flow from binary opposites. There are people you touch, and people you don’t touch. Every choice is an exclusion. How do you escape the binary bind? Look, St. Augustine, whom we’ll read later, says that before the Fall there were no involuntary actions. Before the Fall, Adam never had an involuntary erection.” Pause, pause. ... “If Adam and Eve wanted to do something, they did it. But you guys are screwed up; you’re in trouble. There’s a discrepancy between what you want to do and what you ought to do. You want to go out and have a beer with friends, and you have to force yourself through a series of battles. After the Fall, you fall into dualities.”

There were other quotations on the sheet, including one from John Milton, but Tayler didn’t say right then what their significance might be. He looked around. Was anyone getting it? Maybe. Was I? We would see. Then he turned all loverlike and earnest once more. And he said it again. “Look, keep a finger on your psychic pulse as you go. This is a very selfish enterprise.”

By the time the action of the *Iliad* begins, the deed that set off the whole chain of events — a man making off with another man’s wife — is barely mentioned by the participants. Homer, chanting his poetry to groups of listeners, must have expected everyone to know the outrageous old tale. Years earlier, Paris, a prince of Troy, visiting the house of the Greek king Menelaus, took away, with her full consent, Helen, the king’s beautiful wife. Agamemnon, the brother of the cuckold, then put together a loose federation of kings and princes whose forces voyaged to Troy and laid siege to the city, intending to punish the proud inhabitants and reclaim Helen. But after more than nine years of warfare, the foolish act of sexual abandonment that set the whole cataclysm in motion has been largely forgotten. By this time, Helen, abashed, considers herself merely a slut (her embarrassed appearance on the walls of Troy is actually something of a letdown), and Paris, her second “husband,” more a lover than a fighter, barely comes out to the battlefield. When he does come out, and he and Menelaus fight a duel, the gods muddy the outcome, and the war goes on. After nine years, the war itself is causing the war.

How can a book make one feel injured and exhilarated at the same time? What’s shocking about the *Iliad* is that the cruelty and the nobility of it seem to grow out of each other, like the good and evil twins of some malign fantasy who together form a single unstable and frightening personality. After all, Western literature begins with a quarrel between two arrogant pirates over booty. At the beginning of the poem, the various tribes of the Greeks (whom Homer calls Achaeans — Greece wasn’t a national identity in his time), assembled before the walls of Troy, are on the verge of disaster. Agamemnon, their leader, the most powerful of the kings, has kidnapped and taken as a mistress from a nearby city a young woman, the daughter of one of Apollo’s priests; Apollo has angrily retaliated by bringing down a plague on the Greeks. A peevish, bullying king, unsteady in command, Agamemnon, under pressure from the other leaders, angrily gives the girl back to her father. But then, demanding compensation, he takes for himself the slave mistress of Achilles, his greatest warrior. The women are passed around like gold pieces or helmets. Achilles is so outraged by this bit of plundering within the ranks that he comes close to killing the king, a much older man. Restraining himself at the last minute, he retires from the combat and prays to his mother, the goddess

Thetis, for the defeat of his own side; he then sits in his tent playing a lyre and “singing of men’s fame” (i.e., his own) as his friends get cut up by the Trojans. What follows is a series of battles whose savagery remains without parallel in our literature.

It is almost too much, an extreme and bizarre work of literary art at the very beginning of Western literary art. One wants to rise to it, taking it full in the face, for the poem depicts life at its utmost, a nearly ceaseless activity of marshaling, deploying, advancing, and fleeing, spelled by peaceful periods so strenuous — the councils and feasts and games — that they hardly seem like relief at all. Reading the poem in its entirety is like fronting a storm that refuses to slacken or die. At first, I had to fight my way through it; I wasn’t bored but I was rebellious, my attention a bucking horse unwilling to submit to the harness. It was too long, I thought, too brutal and repetitive and, for all its power as a portrait of war, strangely distant from us. Where was *Homer* in all this? He was everywhere, selecting and shaping the material, but he was nowhere as a palpable presence, a consciousness, and for the modern reader his absence was appalling. No one tells us how to react to the brutalities or to anything else. We are on our own. Movie-fed, I wasn’t used to working so hard, and as I sat on my sofa at home, reading, my body, in daydreams, kept leaping away from the seat and into the bedroom, where I would sink into bed and turn on the TV, or to the kitchen, where I would open the fridge. Mentally, I would pull myself back, and eventually I settled down and read and read, though for a long time I remained out of balance and sore.

Other men may have more active recollections — scoring a goal, kissing a girl at the homecoming game, all that autumn-air, pocket-flask, Scott Fitzgerald stuff — but my sweetest memory of college is on the nuzzling, sedate side. At the beginning of each semester, I would stand before the books required for my courses, prolonging the moment, like a kid looking through the store window at a bicycle he knows his parents will buy for him. I would soon possess these things, but the act of buying them could be put off. Why rush it? The required books for each course were laid out in shelves in the college bookstore. I would stare at them a long time, lifting them, turning through the pages, pretending I didn’t really need this one or that, laying it down and then picking it up again. If no one was looking, I would even smell a few of them and feel the

pages — I had a thing about the physical nature of books, and I was happy when I realized that my idol, the great literary critic Edmund Wilson, was obsessed with books as sensuous objects.

Obviously, it wasn’t just learning that excited me but the *idea* of reading the big books, the promise of enlargement, the adventure of strangeness. Reading has within it a collector’s passion, the desire to possess: I would swallow the whole store. Reality never entered into this. The difficulty or tedium of the books, the droning performance of the teacher — I might even have spent the entire previous semester in a self-absorbed funk, but I roused myself at the beginning of the new semester for the wonderful ritual of the bookstore. Each time I stood there, I saw myself serenely absorbing everything, though I was such an abominably slow reader, chewing until the flavor was nearly gone, that I never quite got around to completing the reading list of any course.

And so it has been ever since. Walking home from midtown Manhattan, I am drawn haplessly to a bookstore — Coliseum Books, at Broadway and Fifty-seventh, will do — where I will buy two or three books, which then, often enough, sit on my shelves for years, unread or partly read, until finally, trying to look something up, I will pull one or another out, bewildered that I have it. I like to *own* them: I had grown into a book-buyer but not always a book-reader; a boon to the book trade, perhaps, but not a boon to myself.

At the age of forty-eight, I stood in front of the shelves in Columbia’s bookstore at 115th Street and Broadway, a larger and better-lit place than the store in my day, which was so tightly packed one

never got away from that slightly sweet smell that new books have. I was absurdly excited. There they were, the books for the Lit Hum and C.C. courses: the two thick volumes of Homer; the elegant Penguin editions of Aeschylus and Hobbes, with their black borders and uniform typeface; the rather severe-looking academic editions of Plato and Locke, all business, with no designs on the cover or back, just the titles, and within, rows of virtuously austere type. They were as densely printed as lawbooks. I was thrilled by the possibility that they might be difficult. I would read; I would study; I would sit with teenagers.

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Denby (right) studied Lit Hum under Tayler as an undergraduate and again 30 years later, when he took the course as an alumnus and wrote *Great Books*.

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



# Alumni News

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PHOTO: COLIN SULLIVAN '11

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MESSAGE FROM CCAA PRESIDENT KYRA TIRANA BARRY '87

## CCYA Builds Engagement Among Newest Alumni

**W**here can you find almost 2,000 Columbia alumni in one place? At the Young Alumni Party on the *U.S.S. Intrepid* during Alumni Reunion Weekend. This is no surprise: CCYA is Columbia's strongest, most vibrant alumni program.

It is a constantly evolving alumni organization with a tradition of passionate leaders and a calendar of multi-class events tailored to the interests of young alumni.

The Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) can learn from CCYA's success and develop programming that reflects former students' ever-changing interests and needs, in order to increase connections within the general alumni population.

CCYA creates a community for alumni from graduation through the 10th reunion through programs such as

- summer rooftop cocktail parties,
- a wine and chocolate tasting,
- the Young Alumni Fund Spring Benefit,
- career-focused events that bring together students and young alumni,
- networking events and
- community service events.

Like previous CCYA leaders, President Calvin Sun '08 and V. P. Robyn Burgess '10 have considerable experience as Columbia student leaders and a passion to keep CCYA on track and growing to serve our newest alumni.

Sun was v.p. of his class and president of the Columbia University Asian American Alliance. Now a medical student, he is on the Board of Directors for the East Coast Asian American Student Union, the oldest and largest ethnic-interest collegiate organization in the country. Sun says the key to CCYA's success is its "continual shift in emphasis to respond to the desires of the newest alumni and in helping graduates make the transition from college life by continuing the close community that existed on campus."



Young alumni in the Bay Area volunteered with the San Francisco Food Bank, one of CCYA's growing number of community outreach efforts.



Social events such as the happy hour at NYC's Sky Room on July 26 have long been a popular part of CCYA programming.

PHOTO: SCOTT RUDD PHOTOGRAPHY

Burgess, who works in client services for email marketing company Experian CheetahMail, was a leader of the Black Students Organization and v. p. of campus life for the Columbia College Student Council. She sees her role in CCYA as related: "When I got involved I noticed that there wasn't enough multicultural representation at alumni programs, so I wanted to help tie my network

to the organization. CCYA offers a space for young professionals to interact with people from different professional backgrounds, leading to greater creativity in all of our pursuits. That's why even our frequent happy hours help young alumni to become stronger adults and stronger alumni."

During the past two decades, CCYA has expanded from a series of networking events to the multifaceted organization it is today. The recent creation of its Community Service effort is one example. Since 2011, CCYA has been working with organizations including the Bowery Mission, Paddle for Autism, A Better Chance, Let's Get Ready, the San Francisco Food Bank, Toys for Tots and the NYC Parks Department.

This year, CCYA will participate in Columbia Community Outreach Day on Saturday, April 6, which is organized by the student organization Columbia Community Outreach. CCYA Community Service Chair Christina Macchiarola '10 encourages everyone in our young alumni network to go out and serve their communities on that day ([columbia.edu/cu/outreach](http://columbia.edu/cu/outreach)). We hope other CCAA members will get involved as well.

CCAA is very interested in adapting CCYA's approach of connecting classes and interacting with current students. Alumni of all ages tell us that in addition to class reunions they would like more opportunities to get together with the other classes that were on campus when they were there.

Dean's Day, which occurs during the Saturday of Alumni Reunion Weekend, is one such opportunity. And we are excited that the Society of Columbia Graduates has moved its Great Teacher Awards celebration to Dean's Day so a broader group of alumni can come together for a communal celebration. This luncheon brings together faculty, students and former students — three of the College's greatest assets — to honor our most inspiring and supportive teachers.

CCYA is a good model for CCAA and for College Alumni Affairs as we continue to think about building ever-stronger relationships with our alumni. Please continue to write to me about what interests you ([ccaapresident@columbia.edu](mailto:ccaapresident@columbia.edu)).

I hope to see all alumni — not just those in reunion years — on campus at Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2.

*Kyra Barry*

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A PASSION FOR

CIVIL  
LIBERTIES

BY VALERIE SEILING JACOBS

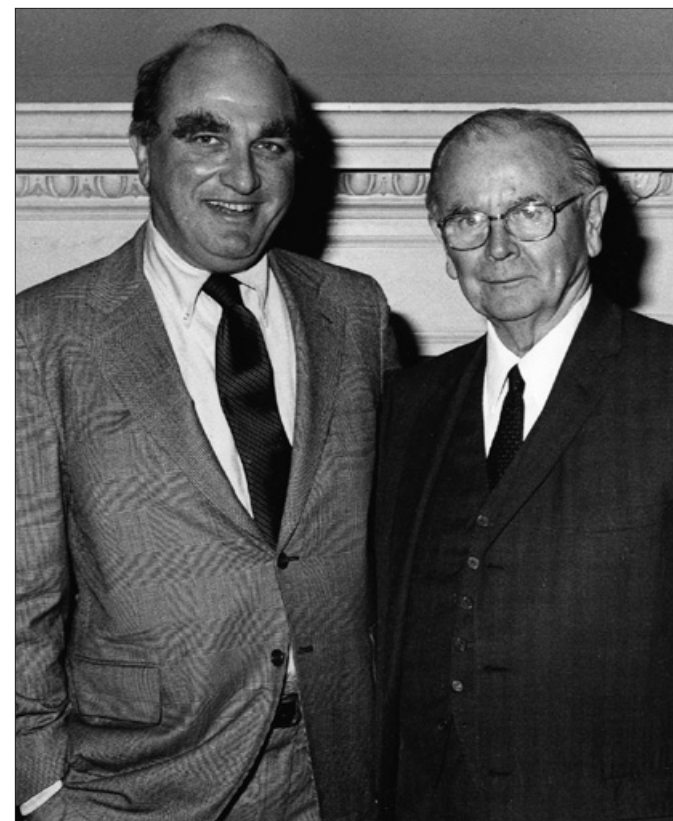
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hen Norman Dorsen '50 arrived at Columbia College in fall 1946, he was not your average freshman. First, there was his age. At 16, he was younger than most of his classmates. And then there was his physical appearance. Though at 5-foot-10½ he was tall enough to snag a spot on the JV basketball team, he was, in his own words, "not physically prepossessing," especially when compared to the many WWII veterans who were flooding the University thanks to the G.I. Bill. Adding to Dorsen's sense of isolation was the fact that he still lived at home. While other students socialized on campus, he generally trundled home on the subway to his parents' apartment on West End Avenue and 92nd Street — where he worried obsessively about his grades. Indeed, listening to Dorsen's description of his college-age self ("I was pretty pathetic," he says, laughing), one pictures a scrawny, naïve kid adrift in a sea of strapping, savvy undergraduates.

But that image, like so many of Dorsen's stories about himself, is too modest. In fact, Dorsen was the high scorer on the JV team during his sophomore year and later was promoted to varsity. And buried in those anecdotes are the seeds of his later success, including the intellectual acumen and work ethic that propelled him to Phi Beta Kappa, the *Harvard Law Review*, a Fulbright Scholarship and an endowed chair at NYU Law. Dorsen became one of the most influential civil liberties lawyers in the country, leading the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) efforts for several decades and spearheading scores of legal challenges to discriminatory legislation and other injustices. Name almost any civil liberties controversy since the 1960s — from a woman's right to an abortion, to a minor's right to a due process hearing, to the government's right to conduct warrantless electronic surveillance — and Dorsen's name surfaces. He has famously defended even the most unpopular parties in the cause of preserving free speech and other fundamental freedoms, including the Nazis' right to march through Skokie, Ill., a town that in 1977 had a large population of Holocaust survivors. Dorsen has received so many accolades that NYU Law has set up a special seminar room to hold the photographs, plaques and other memorabilia from his long and distinguished career.

Dorsen cannot recall the exact moment his passion for civil liberties began, but

For more than a half-century, Norman Dorsen '50 has fought for fundamental freedoms and against discriminatory legislation



(Top) Photos on the walls of Norman Dorsen '50's office at NYU attest to the remarkable breadth of his career.

PHOTO: THOMAS F. FERGUSON '74

(Left) Dorsen with the late Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. in the 1970s.

(Above) Left to right, Claudio Grossman, dean of the Washington College of Law at American University, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and Dorsen at the Breyer-Scalia debate in 2005.

PHOTOS: COURTESY NORMAN DORSEN '50



there were hints of his liberal leanings during his undergraduate years. He recalls one professor who labeled his opinions “a little spicy” — a characterization that Dorsen does not dispute. “I was no radical,” he says, laughing again, “but I definitely had *views*.”

It may have been that outspokenness that brought him to the attention of the Office of the Secretary of the Army in 1954 when, only a year out of Harvard Law, he was tapped to help represent the Army during the McCarthy hearings. With only four people on the Army’s legal team, Dorsen played a critical, albeit behind-the-scenes, role: He was responsible for preparing the legal memoranda and other documents needed for the weeks of testimony. While Americans watched on television, a relatively new medium at that time, Dorsen got an up-close look at Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy and his counsel, Roy Cohn ’46, ’47L, a man whom Dorsen describes as being “even less sensitive to individual rights than his boss.”

McCarthy’s behavior — what Dorsen once described as his rude interruptions, his crude jokes at the expense of others and, most important, his frequent aspersions on the loyalty of his perceived enemies — left a lasting impression. And the experience (“an extraordinary morality play,” he says) cemented his commitment to protecting civil liberties and changed his life. “There is no doubt that being confronted by the McCarthy crowd, and in particular by Roy Cohn, sensitized me to issues of fairness in hearings and other proceedings and the drastic harm that the government can do to free expression,” Dorsen says. “This experience led me to become a civil libertarian.”

So Dorsen was “overjoyed” when, in 1961, after two federal clerkships, including one with Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan, and a brief stint practicing law in New York City, he was offered

a faculty position and the directorship of the Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Program at NYU Law. It was there he met his wife, Harriette, a woman who shared his liberal views (she became one of the country’s most influential publishing lawyers) and with whom he raised three daughters.

Running the civil liberties program at NYU proved a daunting task. The program, which had been established three years earlier in memory of Hays, also a Columbia alumnus (Class of 1902, 1905L) and a former general counsel of the ACLU, was floundering. The two previous directors had resigned. “Three strikes and you’re out,” Dorsen recalls the dean saying. It was up to Dorsen to stabilize the situation.

He did much more than that. He turned the program into what Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. later called “the most effective and important center in the country for the training of law students for public service on behalf of individual rights.” Under Dorsen’s direction, the program has provided practical, hands-on instruction for hundreds of fellows, many

of whom continue to work in the public interest as civil liberties lawyers in government and legal services organizations and as law professors.

One of those former fellows is Judith Resnik, now the Arthur Liman Professor at Yale Law. According to Resnik, Dorsen’s egalitarian attitude toward students and his willingness to engage with them critically set the program apart. She tells how Dorsen listened to students “who may not agree with him” and always provided room for genuine debate. And he matched that open-mindedness with an open-door policy, instructing his assistant never to ask who visitors were or what they wanted. He made it a practice to answer his own phone whenever he could. But it was his vision, Resnik explains, that made the program so successful. “He was ahead of the curve,” she says. “Not just once, but over and over again.”

In 1967, for example, Dorsen challenged the constitutionality of Arizona’s juvenile court procedures after a 15-year-old boy was sentenced to six years in prison for making an obscene phone call, even though he had not been provided with an opportunity to confront witnesses, given written notice of the charges or provided with an attorney. It was, Dorsen says, the “worst of both worlds,” a system where children were “subjected to the kind of incarceration and criminal penalties that adults were, but without the protections of the Bill of Rights that adults had if accused of the same thing.” The case, which Dorsen successfully argued before the Supreme Court, extended constitutional guarantees to juveniles, a group that previously had been without such protections.

In another groundbreaking case a year later, Dorsen convinced the Supreme Court that a Louisiana statute that denied “illegitimate” children the right to recover damages for the wrongful death of their mother violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The case was important not only because it granted constitutional protections to children born out of wedlock but also because it suggested that discrimination based on criteria other than race could trigger a high level of scrutiny by the courts. The case helped pave the way for other discrimination cases based on non-race classifications, including gender.

It was that kind of vision that prompted the ACLU to offer Dorsen a leadership position within the organization — first as general counsel (1969–76) and then as president (1976–91). With the ACLU’s backing, Dorsen continued to fight for the constitutional rights of children, prisoners, war protesters, homosexuals, women and the indigent. In 1969, he brought one of the earliest petitions for Supreme Court review of alleged discrimination against a gay man. And in 1971, he argued the first abortion rights case before the Supreme Court, a case that prefigured *Roe v. Wade*, where he also was counsel of record. Dorsen also wrote *amicus curiae* briefs in a number of other landmark cases, including *Gideon v. Wainwright*, *U.S. v. Nixon* and the Pentagon Papers

case. Indeed, during his tenure, the ACLU was involved in some of the most famous civil liberties cases in U.S. history.

Dorsen also played a critical role within the ACLU itself, especially after the fallout from the infamous Skokie case. In spring 1977, when the ACLU announced that it would defend the Nazis’ right to march through that Chicago suburb, 4,000 members of the ACLU wrote letters in protest. Within months, the organization lost more than 30,000 supporters. By the end of the year, the number had grown to 41,000 (more than 25 percent of the ACLU’s total membership) and the organization was on the verge of bankruptcy. Anthony Romero, the ACLU’s current executive director, puts it bluntly: “We were faced with extinction.”

Once again, Dorsen rose to the occasion. First, he refocused the debate on the First Amendment, reminding critics that even the most unpopular speakers are entitled to free speech. He was unflappable, recalls Romero, an important skill given the escalating tensions. He soothed frayed relationships with former supporters and attracted new members without compromising the ACLU’s core goals. “His ability to remain cool and focused was absolutely essential for the organization at the time,” Romero says.

Second, Dorsen set out to solve the ACLU’s internal problems. His knowledge of the law, as well as what Romero calls the nuts and bolts of the organization, afforded him a unique perspective and enabled him to help shape policies and facilitate board decisions that would ultimately right the organization. “He was the quintessential senior statesman, quietly exercising leadership behind the scenes,” Romero says. By the time Ronald Reagan entered the White House in 1981, the ACLU’s membership was growing again, its finances and management were stable and it was well positioned to defend against the next round of civil rights abuses.

Dorsen, for his part, is quick to deflect praise. “It’s such a big story — no one person is responsible,” he says, speaking of the ACLU’s success. While that technically may be true, other evidence points to the importance of Dorsen’s diplomacy. As J. Anthony Lukas, the late Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author, observed in *The New York Times* as early as 1978, Dorsen had a “magic touch for healing organizational wounds.” And Dorsen’s team-building skills have been a recurring theme in the myriad tributes to him: he received a Medal of Liberty from the French Minister of Justice in 1983, the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 2000 and the first lifetime achievement award from the Association of American Law Schools in 2007, to name but a few.

Dorsen recognizes the value of his ability to bring people together. “If I do something myself,” he says, “that’s one thing, but unleashing the capacities and energies of people toward mutual goals is a way of multiplying the impact and effectiveness one can have.” In fact, his ability to forge alliances helped him found a global consortium of legal scholars, a task that took years of

effort and culminated in 2002 with the publication of *IgCON*, a new international journal of constitutional law. He employed those same talents when he joined forces with other law professors to organize the International Association of Law Schools and became the founding president of the Society of American Law Teachers.

But the real secret to Dorsen’s success may be how personable he is, even with those who disagree with him. His friendships cross party lines and extend from Manhattan, where he has an apartment, to the quiet corners of Cornwall, Conn., where he spends weekends (Harriette died in 2011). On visits to Washington, D.C., he’s been known to dine with the legal elite — regardless of their political leanings. “He’s a likeable fellow who likes to be liked, even if it’s by the likes of Antonin Scalia,” Romero says, hastening to add: “But just to be clear, he has a very discerning mind.”

Of his ability to remain friendly — even with those who oppose his liberal views — Dorsen simply shrugs. “No mind has ever been changed at a dinner party,” he says.

Perhaps that explains why he continues to pursue justice in other venues. Most days you can find Dorsen in his office on Washington Square, working on another speech or law review article. He recently finished editing a volume of the last 11 lectures from NYU’s James Madison lecture series, which are delivered only by Supreme Court justices and U.S. Court of Appeals judges. And he remains co-director of the law school’s Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Program, where he takes an active role in training civil rights lawyers.

Dorsen still answers his own phone and types his own letters, many of them on the

manual typewriter that sits on a stand beside his desk; the bulky gray Royal dates to the 1960s, a tangible reminder of just how long Dorsen has been at this. He also still teaches, though his course load has been reduced to make room for other responsibilities (he is counselor to the university’s president and recently agreed to chair a major study on multi-school programs). And he continues to be involved in the ACLU, both as a member of its National Advisory Council and an informal adviser to its current officers. In fact, in recognition of his more than 50 years of outstanding service, the ACLU recently announced the establishment of the “Norman Dorsen Presidential Prize,” one of only two prizes awarded by the organization. It is a fitting tribute to a man whose life personifies the ACLU’s motto: “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”

Valerie Seiling Jacobs is a freelance writer, an M.F.A. candidate in the School of the Arts and a teaching fellow in the College’s University Writing Program. Before turning to writing, she practiced corporate law. Thomas F. Ferguson ’74 contributed to this article.



As general counsel (1969–76) and president (1976–91) of the ACLU, Dorsen fought for the constitutional rights of various groups, including women and children.

PHOTO: COURTESY NORMAN DORSEN '50



Dorsen accepts an award from the Society of American Law Teachers from Co-presidents Carol Chomsky (left) and Margaret Montoya in 2000.

PHOTO: COURTESY NORMAN DORSEN '50



# Bookshelf

**The Voice is All: The Lonely Victory of Jack Kerouac '44** by *Joyce Johnson*. Johnson explores Kerouac's dual identity as a French-Canadian and an American, and assesses how being caught between the two cultures and languages affected his writing (Viking, \$32.95).

**The Mating Flower** by Dr. *Enoch Callaway* '45. Callaway's novel revolves around a mystical flower and the research to harness its love potion-like powers, leading to tales of love and crime-solving (self-published, \$10).

**Betty Sue's Homecoming and Her Rocky Path to Respectability** by *Durham Caldwell* '48. In this novel, a young woman returns home 27 years after disappearing to find she must adapt to small town life and overcome the demons from her years in NYC (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, \$14.95).

**Vastation** by *Lewis E. Birdseye* '60. In this novel, a father and son take a journey on the trails of Oregon's Willamette National Forest, gaining an understanding of life and its complexities along the way (Xlibris Corp., \$19.99).

**The Mountain of Long Eyes: An Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy** by *Thomas Wm. Hamilton* '60. This collection includes more than 25 stories on subjects such as time travel, alternate history, horror, politics and space opera

(Strategic Book Publishing and Rights, \$13.95).

**Qualities of Duration: The Architecture of Phillip Smith '61 and Douglas Thompson** by *Alastair Gordon*. This book showcases the work of architects Smith and Thompson, whose designs embody a sense of spatial quietude and inspiration (Damiani/Gordon de Vries Studio, \$50).

**John Dante's Inferno, A Playboy's Life** by *Anthony Valerio* '62. The author recounts tales of hedonism, excess and friendship from the 26 years his late friend and Playmate recruiter — under the pseudonym John Dante — lived in the Playboy Mansion (Daisy H Productions, \$9.43).

**The Man Who Got Lost: North Quabbin Stories** by *Allen Young* '62. In this collection of articles and columns written between 1978–2012, Young describes life in the area north of Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts (Haleys, \$15).

**To Show and To Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction** by *Phillip Lopate* '64. The School of the Arts professor assembles a comprehensive guide to writing literary nonfiction (see this issue's featured book for the story of Lopate's other new work) (Free Press, \$16).

**The Death and Life of Main Street: Small Towns in American Memory, Space, and Community**

by *Miles Orvell* '64. Orvell studies the nostalgic construct of Main Street in American culture, including its allure, ideology and function as a space (The University of North Carolina Press, \$39.95).

**The Ellington Century** by *David Schiff* '67. Schiff examines the work of American composer Duke Ellington and other composers of his time, their relationship to music's modernization and their effects on their successors and music today (University of California Press, \$34.95).

**Moneywood: Hollywood in Its Last Age of Excess** by *William Stadiem* '69. Digging into the culture of 1980s Hollywood, Stadiem highlights a crooked cast of the era's powerful executives and producers who cheated, embezzled and womanized their way to the top (St. Martin's Press, \$26.99).

**The Magician's Twin: C.S. Lewis on Science, Scientism, and Society** edited by *John G. West*, featuring essays by *M.D. Aeschliman* '70 and others. Aeschliman discusses Lewis and scientism in two essays (Discovery Institute Press, \$24.95).

**The Life & Times of Fred Wesley Wentworth: The Architect Who Shaped Paterson, NJ and Its People** by *Richard E. Polton* '70. More than 130 photos illustrate Polton's chronicle of the life and work of Wentworth, a little-known New Jersey architect (Pine Hill Architectural Press, \$34.95).

**The Complicity of Friends: How George Eliot, G.H. Lewes, and John Hughlings-Jackson Encoded Herbert Spencer's Secret** by *Martin N. Raitiere* '70. Raitiere discloses the neurological disorder that afflicted philosopher Spencer and explores the impact it had on the few who knew his secret (Bucknell University Press, \$95).

**The Ethical Challenges of Human Research: Selected Essays** by *Frank G. Miller* '70. The author compiles 22 essays that address the challenges posed by the use of humans as test subjects (Oxford University Press, \$55).

**Communicating the Bird** by *Robert Ronnow* '73. Ronnow explores political, sexual and emotional themes in this collection of poems (Broken Publications, \$10).

**Casebook of Interpersonal Psychotherapy** edited by *John C. Markowitz* '76 and *Myrna M. Weissman*. This book responds to the need for a foundational text to supplement manuals on interpersonal psychotherapy (Oxford University Press, \$55).

**Inside CEO Succession: The Essential Guide to Leadership Transition** by *Tom Saporito* and *Paul Winum* '77. The authors present a comprehensive overview of how boards can manage CEO succession while maintaining corporate success (Wiley, John & Sons, \$50).

## Phillip Lopate '64 Takes Stock

By JESSAMINE CHAN '12 Arts

The personal essay as a literary form resists easy definition; it can be erudite, intimate or irreverent, as suited for debating the wider world as it is relating matters of the heart. Celebrated practitioners include authors as varied as Michel de Montaigne, George Orwell and Joan Didion. Today, savvy readers often associate the essay with **Phillip Lopate '64**, editor of the influential 1994 work, *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present*.

The latest collection from the famed essayist and director of the graduate nonfiction program at the School of the Arts is *Portrait Inside My Head: Essays* (Free Press, \$26), a diverse — or as admitted in the introduction, “motley” — assortment of personal and critical reflections. Organized into four sections — “The Family Romance,” “The Consolations of Daily Life,” “City Spaces” and “Literary Matters” — the book wrestles with topics including his daughter's health crisis as an infant; his marriage; baseball; his appreciation for femme fatales; his relationship with Brooklyn; and his resistance to reading Thomas Bernhard. Throughout, Lopate's wry voice and an awareness of his own limits offer unifying threads.

In January, sitting in the book-lined, top-floor office of his Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, brownstone, Lopate discussed *Portrait*, his memories of Columbia, the writer's life and what he still hopes to achieve in a career that has already produced an entire shelf of books.

As the son of textile clerks growing up in the then-ghettos of Williamsburg and Fort Greene, Brooklyn, Lopate recalls his culture shock upon entering Columbia. “I felt a chip on my shoulder,” he says. “You're dropped into this genteel environment, where it is sink or swim.” In addition, he says, “I was trying to solve the problem of women” — a particularly challenging endeavor for a 16-year-old freshman in an all-male college.

Lopate recalls positive aspects of his experience as well, such as working on the *Columbia Review* and founding clubs for filmmakers and jazz aficionados. He worked two jobs, one at Ferris Booth Hall where he made sure students were wearing the expected jackets and ties. From professors such as Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS and Eric Bentley, he learned that “when you study literature or art history with a great professor, you're studying the professor as much as you're studying the subject.”

During his “powerless and in the dark” years in the mid- to late-1960s, Lopate responded to calls for editorial assistants (ghost writers, really) on Columbia's unemployment wall and earned money working on manuscripts for psychologists, social scientists and educators. He chronicles this early period in his essay, “The Poetry Years,” admitting that of his 15 years writing poetry: “I am tempted to rub my eyes, as though recalling a time when I ran off and joined the circus.” Despite the “bluffing” that

the form required, Lopate's 12 years as a consulting writer-poet in a Manhattan public school informed his memoir, *Being with Children: A High-Spirited Personal Account of Teaching, Writing, Theatre and Videotape*. It was also the foundation for a teaching career that has since included positions at the University of Houston, Hofstra and Bennington.

Lopate's prodigious output encompasses three essay collections, two novels (*Confessions of a Summer* and *The Rug Merchant*), a pair of novels and three poetry collections, not to mention a volume of movie criticism, a meditation on the New York waterfront, a study of Susan Sontag and the many anthologies he has edited. A guide for writers, *To Show and To Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction*, was published simultaneously with *Portrait* in February (see Bookshelf). His awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Arts grants.

Speaking fondly of the place teaching holds in his career, Lopate says, “For me, teaching is a form of writing out loud. [It's] a little like being a jazz musician; it's very improvisatory. I'm chasing meaning, much the way that essays are an exploration. There's also a psychological dimension to being a teacher where you're in front of people with their hopes and dreams and pain. This is the drama of being a human being and in almost every situation, it comes down to responding in a human way and in a commonsensical way.”

Though readers of his earlier essay collections may feel that they know Lopate intimately, he's not as curmudgeonly and nature-averse as his work suggests. “In real life, I'm perfectly content to have a good time, and I can even have fun at a dinner party,” he says. Writing offers an opportunity for control, much more than he has in his daily life as a husband and father. “I go up to my room and close the door, and I can control the field of the page,” he says.

Taking stock, he says that he's achieved more than he ever expected. “When I went to Columbia, a trembling freshman, I had two models in my head,” he says. “One was to become a great writer like Dostoevsky and the other was to be an utter failure. I didn't imagine being a successful ‘minor writer.’ I have my place in the culture, and it's not a huge place, but it's respectable. Anything I write from now on will have to come from the pleasure of experimenting.”

That said, he would like to write a proper autobiography, noting the difference between individual essays and memoirs. “Personal essays are like guerilla raids,” he says. “You get in there, you rip off a sheep and you go back.”

“The hope or rationalization is that people will read my writing and think, oh yeah, I feel better about my own silliness and mistakes. It's an attempt to create a community of consolation.”

Jessamine Chan '12 Arts is a reviews editor at Publishers Weekly.

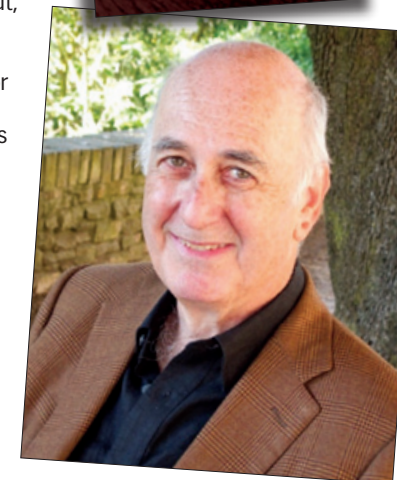
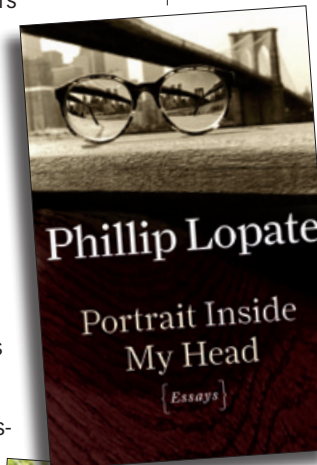


PHOTO: SALLY GALL





**Biomedical Consulting Agreements: A Guide for Academics** by *H. Robert Horvitz* and *Edward Klees* '81. A guide for academic scientists and physicians who are considering consulting work in the field of biomedicine (The MIT Press, \$30).

**Change the World Before Bedtime**, by *Mark Kimball Moulton*, *Josh Chalmers* '86 and *Karen Good*. With rhyme, Chalmers teaches children that, through simple deeds, kind words and smiles, they can change the world a little at a time (Schiffer Publishing, \$16.99).

**The Pope Stories and Other Tales of Troubled Times** by *George Guida* '89. Guida addresses Catholicism, family conflict and personal strife in this collection of satirical and philosophical fiction (Bordighera Press, \$15).

**How to Look Hot in a Minivan: A Real Woman's Guide to Losing Weight, Looking Great, and Dressing Chic In the Age of the Celebrity Mom** by *Janice Min* '90. Min pulls together fashion, nutrition, fitness and beauty tips from Hollywood's top experts for new or expecting mothers (St. Martin's Press, \$26.99).

**Plaguewalker** by *Gemma Tarlach* '90. In Tarlach's dark fiction debut, Marcus of Ansborg, an executioner in plague-ravaged 14th-century Bavaria, embarks on a journey of atonement and redemption while searching for his missing daughter (Grunaskhan Books, \$8.99).

**Mobile Marketing: An Hour a Day** by *Rachel Pasqua* and *Noah Elkin* '91. Learn how to develop and deploy mobile marketing strategies for

everything from brand building to lead generation and sales to establishing a compelling mobile presence (Wiley, John & Sons, \$29.99).

**Glorieta** by *Quinn Kayser-Cochran* '92. Two young lovers find each other during the decisive battle in the New Mexico Campaign of the Civil War (Westland Books, \$19.95).

**Your Next Big Thing: 10 Small Steps to Get Moving and Get Happy** by *Ben Michaelis* '95. Practical strategies, quizzes and exercises to help those who are feeling "stuck" to realize their purpose, achieve their goals and learn about their true selves (Adams Media, \$24.95).

**A Secret History of Coffee, Coca & Cola** written and illustrated by *Ricardo Cortés* '95. In this work of artistic journalism, Cortés explores the history of the coca leaf and its controversial relationship with the Coca-Cola Co. (Akashic Books, \$17.95).

**Jewish Jocks: An Unorthodox Hall of Fame** edited by *Franklin Foer* '96 and *Marc Tracy*. This collection of biographical, sociological and reflective pieces by numerous authors, including Foer, explores the influences of significant Jewish athletes, coaches, broadcasters, trainers and team owners (Twelve, \$26.99).

**Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism** by *Sarah Bunin Benor* '97. The author explains how non-Orthodox Jews learn Orthodox language and culture through interactions with community veterans and other newcomers (Rutgers University Press, \$27.95).

**The Politics of Energy and Memory between the Baltic States and Russia** by *Agnia Grigas* '02. Grigas dissects the relationship between Russia and the Baltic States in terms of energy security concerns, foreign policy and historical legacy (Ashgate, \$99.95).

**Tokyo Utopia** by *Yuma Terada* '05. Observing Japanese society from within and abroad, Terada addresses foreign perceptions of Japan and Japanese culture and also how Japan should respond to these misperceptions (Bungheisha, JPY 1,200).

**Taking It Big: C. Wright Mills and the Making of Political Intellectuals** by *Stanley Aronowitz*. The author describes the role of the late Mills, a professor of sociology at Columbia from 1946–62, in transforming the politics of the American Left in the 1940s and '50s and his influence on student protests and antiwar movements of the '60s (Columbia University Press, \$32.50).

**Globalization and Sovereignty: Rethinking Legality, Legitimacy, and Constitutionalism** by *Jean L. Cohen*, the Nell and Herbert Singer Professor of Contemporary Civilization and Political Theory. Cohen analyzes the new sovereignty regime emergent since 1990 and argues for the continued importance of sovereign equality (Cambridge University Press, \$36.99).

**Theos Bernard, the White Lama: Tibet, Yoga, and American Religious Life** by *Paul G. Hackett*, lecturer in the discipline of classical Tibetan in the Department of Religion. Through interviews,

diary entries and personal documents, Hackett examines the religious, political and cultural impact of Bernard, only the third American to enter the holy capital city of Lhasa, Tibet (Columbia University Press, \$32.95).

**The Generation of Postmemory: Writing and Visual Culture After the Holocaust** by *Marianne Hirsch*, the William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature. Hirsch posits that the memory of others' traumatic events can shape the behavior of their family members and the culture at large (Columbia University Press, \$27.50).

**Lead Wars** by *Gerald Markowitz*, adjunct professor of sociomedical sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health, and *David Rosner*, the Ronald H. Lauterstein Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and professor of history. An incisive examination of lead poisoning during the past half century and a call to action for more responsible public health and prevention in the face of powerful polluters (University of California Press, \$34.95).

**Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Battle To Save the World** by *Evan Thomas*. Working with newly declassified papers, Thomas reveals how President Eisenhower, also the 13th president of Columbia, made a high-risk but ultimately successful bluff with nuclear weapons during the Cold War (Little, Brown and Co., \$29.99).

Karl Daum '15



# Obituaries

1 9 3 0

**Malcolm S. Mason**, attorney, Earlsyville, Va., on November 1, 2011. Mason was born in the Bronx in June 1910. He was a 1934 graduate of the Law School and had lived in the Earlsyville area since 2003. Mason was an expert in federal grants law and was legal counsel in several federal agencies, including the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Up to the time of his death, he was serving as a senior fellow to the Administrative Conference of the United States. Mason was predeceased by his wife, Irma; brother; and sister. He is survived by his daughter, Jan, and her husband, Ed Freundsuh; son, Mike; and two granddaughters.

1 9 3 1

**Paul E. Queneau**, Hanover, N.H., on March 31, 2012. Queneau was born on March 20, 1911, in Philadelphia. He earned a B.A. as well as a B.S. (1932) and Ph.D. (1933), the latter two at Engineering, and began work at International Nickel Co.'s (INCO) Huntington, W.Va., alloy plant. Queneau graduated from the Army Engineer School and was deployed to Europe with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and



Paul E. Queneau '31

earned five battle stars on his ETO ribbon. In 1945 he returned to the Reserve as a lieutenant colonel. In 1949, Queneau explored, mapped and photographed the Perry River region of the Arctic. He retired from INCO after 35 years and in 1971 joined the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth, teaching there for 25 years. Queneau and his wife, Joan (née Hodges), spent their free time on their farm near Cornish, N.H. She predeceased him. Queneau is survived by his children, Paul and his wife, Jean, and Josie; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and brother, Bernard '30, '33E, and his wife, Esther. Memorial contributions may be made to the Queneau Scholarship Fund, Town of Cornish, 488 Town House Rd., Cornish, NH 03745, or the Fry Fund, Kendal at Hanover, 80 Lyme Rd., Hanover, NH 03755.

1 9 3 2

**Leonard S. Bases**, otolaryngologist and surgeon, Sarasota, Fla., on January 25, 2012. At the College, Bases was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At the depth of the Great Depression he and his brother, Joe, won his first year's P&S tuition by betting on a long shot at the races. He earned the rest of his tuition by working as a shoe salesman and selling his blood. Bases graduated from P&S in 1936 and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He was an intern, resident and house surgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital, a diplomate of the American Board of Otolaryngology and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. During WWII, he served in the Army Medical Corps. After the war Bases was a Special Fellow in head and neck surgery at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. He served chiefly during the next 30 years as an attending otolaryngologist at the

Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, N.Y. He also devoted 10 years to teaching and practicing medicine in Afghanistan and Java as a volunteer with CARE/Medico. Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Ann; sons, John and Terry; daughter-in-law, Deborah; two grandsons; and two nephews.

1 9 3 9

**Thomas P. Armstrong**, retired business administrator, Russell, Mass., on April 15, 2012. Armstrong and his two brothers were raised on the Columbia Stock farm, a thoroughbred horse operation on Long Island, N.Y. After the College, he studied Japanese at Penn while serving in the Army during WWII. Armstrong's career included sales, business ownership and finally business administration with Gowanda State Hospital in New York. He retired in 1983. Armstrong loved the outdoors and remained active for years after retiring. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Grace Elizabeth (Bette) Cornell; second wife, Carma Goodrich; son, Robert; and son-in-law, Robert Apolant. He is survived by his wife, Jean Walther; sons, Thomas, and Steven James Walther; daughters, Pamela Armstrong Apolant, Carma Lynne Goodrich Uhrich, Royanna Goodrich Law, Cynthia Goodrich Cowan, Emily Walther Golinski and Karen Walther McCann; 17 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, Box 353, Huntington, MA 01050; American Red Cross, Westfield Chapter, 48 Broad St., Westfield, MA 01085; or The United Church of Christ, Second Congregational Church, 487 Western Ave., Westfield, MA 01085.

**Edward C. Biele**, retired attorney, apple farmer, Seattle, on November 3, 2012. Biele was born on June 29, 1917, in Hackensack, N.J., and grew up in Yonkers. He earned a scholarship to Columbia and upon graduation entered the Law School. He applied for and was accepted into a naval officers program during his second year of law school, which led to four years' service in the Navy during WWII. Biele served as lieutenant commander on the submarine *U.S.S. Sea Devil* during four patrols in the Pacific during 1944 and 1945. After the war, he returned to the Law School, graduating in 1946. In 1950, Biele moved to Seattle, where he practiced

admiralty law until his retirement in 1982. He had a second career as an apple farmer, which began in the mid 1970s when he partnered with his oldest son to acquire and operate orchards in Eastern Washington. Biele was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Mary. He is survived by his sons, John '69 and Alec '71; daughter, Polly Lenssen; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1 9 4 0

**Gilbert H. Glaser**, retired medical school professor, North Haven, Conn., on January 21, 2012. Glaser, a 1943 graduate of P&S, trained in neurology at The Neurological Institute of New York at New York Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Medical Center and then served at Brooke AMC from 1946–48. He was recruited to Yale as head of the neurology section, beginning a 45-year career at Yale. Glaser became full professor in 1963 and was named chairman when neurology became a department in 1971, a position he held until his 1987 retirement. Glaser was internationally known for his clinical expertise and research in epilepsy and also was a leader of a new generation of physician-scientists committed to disease-oriented laboratory research as the basis for understanding basic disease mechanisms as a prerequisite to developing novel therapies. Glaser was president of the American Epilepsy Society in 1963 and president of the American Academy of Neurology from 1973–75. He was editor of the journal *Epilepsia* and on the editorial boards of many other journals. Yale honored him in 2006 by establishing the annual Gilbert H. Glaser Lectureship and in 2010 by creating the Gilbert H. Glaser Professorship.

1 9 4 1

**Richard H. Kuh**, retired attorney, New York City, on November 17, 2011. Kuh was briefly the Manhattan D.A. in 1974, serving between the resignation of Frank S. Hogan '24, '28L and the election of Robert M. Morgenthau. Kuh was born in Manhattan on April 27, 1921. He served as a combat infantryman in Europe in WWII and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law in 1948. Kuh went into private practice in New York in 1948 then was an ADA from 1953–64, serving as chief of the Criminal Court Bureau and as Hogan's administrative assistant. Kuh's role in the 1964 obscenity trial of stand-up come-





## Daniel J. Edelman '40, '41J, Public Relations Pioneer

**D**aniel J. Edelman '40, '41J, a pioneer in the public relations field and chairman of the international public relations company Edelman, died in Chicago on January 15, 2013. He was 92.

Edelman was known as a staunch advocate of the public relations profession who established high standards and a code of ethical practices, many of which now are standard in the field. He also was active in public service, working for such causes as Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS (now GBCHealth) and Save the Children.

Edelman was born in New York City on July 3, 1920, and attended DeWitt Clinton H.S. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College and, after earning an M.S. from the Journalism School in 1941, became sports editor and reporter for a Poughkeepsie, N.Y., newspaper. He was drafted into the Army in 1942, and while in the service produced a daily newspaper that reported on the latest war developments. He later served as an analyst of German propaganda, after which he earned a commission in Germany and served in the U.S. Army Information Control Division in Berlin.

After leaving the service, Edelman was a news writer

for CBS and a publicist at Musicraft Records in New York before moving to Chicago in 1947 to become PR director of the Toni Co., which sold hair styling products. He expanded on the company's successful advertising campaign, which used twins to compare its product to those of competi-

tors, by conducting the first modern media tour and sending six sets of twins to 72 U.S. cities.

In 1952, Edelman launched his eponymous company in a small office in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Toni became his first client, followed by brands such as Sara Lee, KFC, Microsoft, Pfizer, General Electric, Wal-Mart Stores, Abbott Laboratories, Samsung, Royal Dutch Shell, Kraft, Johnson & Johnson and Unilever. Some of Edelman's greatest marketing successes were establishing the Butterball Turkey Talk-Line and helping Advil to switch from prescription to over-the-counter medicine. Edelman also is known for creating the Mail Preference Service, an opt-out list for people wishing to avoid marketing solicitations, in 1970.



Daniel J. Edelman '40, '41J holds his street sign during ceremonies honoring him in Chicago in 2000.

Today, Edelman is the world's largest public relations firm; it encompasses 66 offices and more than 4,500 employees worldwide, with affiliates in more than 30 cities. It has earned numerous awards for being a top agency, including from magazines such as *Adweek*, *PRWeek* and *Advertising Age*.

Edelman was presented one of the College's John Jay Awards for distinguished professional achievement in 1990 and the Journalism School's first annual Dean's Medal for Public Service in 2005.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ruth Ann Rozumoff Edelman; sons, Richard and John; daughter, Renee '80L; niece Cornelia S. '86L; and three granddaughters.

Karl Daum '15

dian Lenny Bruce brought him to public attention. In 1980 Kuh, then in private practice, was hired by the family of Martha "Sunny" von Bülow to prosecute her husband, Claus, on charges that he tried to kill her with insulin injections. As D.A., Kuh established the sex-crimes unit. He authored *Foolish Figleaves? Pornography in — and out of — Court* (1967) and contributed to other periodicals. Kuh, who lived in Greenwich Village, was a founder of the Village Independent Democrats. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Dattel Kuh; son, Michael; and daughter, Jody. His brother, Joseph '39, '43 P&S died on November 16, 2012.

1 9 4 2

**Elliott C. Levinthal**, physicist, inventor and professor, Palo Alto, Calif., on January 14, 2012. Levinthal was born in Brooklyn on

April 13, 1922. He earned an M.S. from MIT in 1943 and a Ph.D. from Stanford in 1949 under the direction of Felix Bloch. His dissertation, on the magnetic resonance of the hydrogen atom, was part of Bloch's Nobel Prize-winning discoveries. In 1948, Levinthal joined Varian as a founding employee and was research director and director of the company. In 1953, he founded Levinthal Electronics Products, developing some of the first defibrillators, pacemakers and cardiac monitors. In 1961, Levinthal joined the genetics department of Stanford School of Medicine. During a two-year leave Levinthal was director of the Defense Sciences Office at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. He returned to Stanford, becoming a research professor in the mechanical engineering department and director of the Stanford Institute for Manufactur-

ing and Automation, then associate dean of research at the School of Engineering. Levinthal was active in philanthropy and politics and traveled to all seven continents. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Rhoda; children, David and his wife, Kate, Judith and her husband, Randall, Michael and Daniel; and seven grandchildren.

**William A. Mazzarella**, retired IRS employee, Oceanside, Calif., on January 2, 2012. Mazzarella was born in Oakland on December 31, 1919. He served in China and Korea with the Marine Corps in WWII. Mazzarella was a life member of the 1st Marine Division Association, the Chosin Few, the China Marine Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He retired from the IRS in 1978 after 30 years. Mazzarella also gave more than 3,000 hours as an auxilian for the Tri-City Medi-

cal Center. In 2006, he received a Diamond Trophy from the Tri-City Hospital Foundation and an award as a charter member of the Towers of Faith from the St. Thomas More parish. An avid hunter, shooter and ammo maker, he was a patron member of the NRA and a life member of the California Rifle and Pistol Association and the North American Hunting Club. Mazzarella was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Rita, and daughter, Judith. Surviving him are his companion, Marguerite Moore; children, Rita M. Gray, Patricia C. Larson, William Nicholas and Wendy; son-in-law, Timothy Nichols; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

1 9 4 3

**Sidney Warschausky**, retired educator, Ann Arbor, Mich., on April 9, 2011. Warschausky grew up in the Bronx and earned a B.A. (Phi Beta Kappa) as well as an M.A. (1949) and Ph.D. (1957), the latter two both in philosophy from GSAS. He served as a lieutenant in the Army Air Forces, 1943-46. Warschausky's last 10 months of service were spent in the Occupation Force in Japan, where he taught English to the villagers. He later taught at Illinois for three years, at Mount Holyoke for two years and at Michigan for 33 years, where he chaired the humanities department several times. After retirement Warschausky was a weekly volunteer discussion leader of a literary group at the JCC for 18 years. He was a member of the Chaverim B'Shirim choir at the JCC. Poetry also was a passion and he was collating his for publication. Warschausky is survived by his wife of 57 years, Lorraine Nadelman; children, Seth and his wife, Sandra Finkel, Judith and her husband, Gary Childrey, and Carl and his wife, Laurie McCollum; sister, Thelma Solomon; and eight grandchildren.

1 9 4 8

**Robert B. Mellins**, physician professor emeritus, New York City, on December 12, 2012. Born in Brooklyn, Mellins earned an M.D. from Johns Hopkins and subsequently returned to Columbia to be trained in pediatrics, cardiology and pulmonology. He was an internationally recognized authority on childhood asthma. Mellins established the Pulmonary Division of the Department of Pediatrics at P&S and was president of the American Thoracic Society, the Fleischner Society and the Louis Augustus Jonas Foundation as well as v.p. of the American Lung Association. He received the Physicians and Surgeons Distinguished Service Award in 2012. Mellins also was an accomplished musician, skier, figure skater and gardener as well as an avid reader.

He is survived by his wife, Sue; children, Claude Ann and David Rustin; son-in-law, Michael Conard; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Louis Augustus Jonas Foundation in support of Camp Rising Sun or the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in support of Humanism in Medicine.



Richard Stang '48

**Richard Stang**, professor emeritus, St. Louis, on December 14, 2011. Stang was born on July 3, 1925, in Brooklyn, N.Y. At 18, he joined the Army, fighting in the European Theater. He then earned a bachelor's in chemistry and biology as well as a master's (1949) and Ph.D. (1958), both in English literature, studying under Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS. Stang specialized in 19th-century English literature, particularly the Victorian period. He was an instructor at the University of Washington from 1953-54, a lecturer at the City College of New York from 1954-58 and an assistant professor at Carleton College from 1958-61. He joined the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis in 1961 as an associate professor of English, was named full professor in 1964 and became professor emeritus in 1997. Stang's publications include *The Theory of the Novel in England 1850-1870* (1959) and *Discussions of George Eliot* (1960). He also co-edited *Critical Essays: Ford Madox Ford* (2002). In addition to his wife, Susan Hacker Stang, he is survived by a daughter, Elizabeth Anton; sons, David and Sam; and three grandchildren. His first wife, Sondra, died in 1990.

1 9 5 0

**Richard D. Cushman**, retired v.p. and general manager, Auburn, Calif., on November 9, 2011. Cushman was born February 14, 1929, in Norwich, N.Y. Drafted into the Army, he served from December 1952-June 1954, receiving an honorable discharge as a first lieutenant in the Finance Corps. He remained on reserve duty with the Army until 1964. In 1957, Cushman began a 28-year career with Diamonds International Corp., retiring as v.p. and general manager of the Western Retail Division. In 1988, he began a

## Peter B. Kenen '54, Economist, Former Provost

**P**eter B. Kenen '54, a leading international economist and University Provost from 1969-70, died on December 17, 2012, at his home in Princeton, N.J. He was 80. Kenen, who was an expert on the Eurozone, taught economics at Columbia from 1957-71, chairing the department from 1967-70.

Born in Cleveland, Kenen moved with his family to New York, where he attended Bronx Science. He graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. from the College and earned an M.A. (1956) and a Ph.D. (1958) from Harvard. From 1956-57 he was a research student at the London School of Economics.

Kenen was appointed provost after the protests of the late 1960s. He opposed the Vietnam War and was an alternate delegate for Eugene McCarthy at the Chicago Democratic National Convention in 1968 but also opposed the student occupations of Columbia campus buildings and took part in a small faculty counter-protest. Nonetheless, he strongly opposed the use of police force to remove the students and helped tend to injured students at a hospital near campus. In 1977, Columbia awarded Kenen the University Medal for Excellence. After leaving Columbia he taught at Princeton from 1971-2004, and continued to teach part-time until 2011.

Kenen authored and co-authored numerous books and monographs, including *British Monetary Policy and the Balance of Payments: 1951-57*,

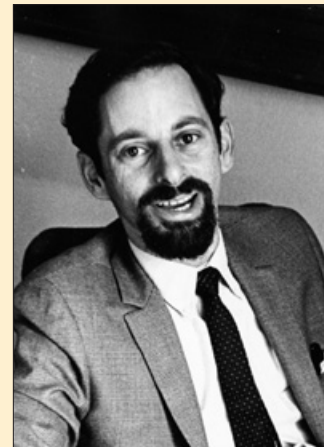


PHOTO: COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR

winner of the David A. Wells Prize at Harvard for 1958-59. His textbooks *International Economics* and *The International Economy* were standards for generations of undergraduates entering the field. He was a founding member of the Group of Thirty, an organization that seeks to deepen understanding of international economic and financial issues, and a member of the Bellagio Group, an international group of academics and public officials from finance ministries and central banks. He also was a member and former fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations as well as a consultant to the

Council of Economic Advisers, the Office of Management and Budget, the Federal Reserve, the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Economic Advisory Panel of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Kenen is survived by his wife of 57 years, Regina H.; children, Stephanie, Joanne and her husband, Ken Cohen, Judith and her husband, Jim Gordon, and Marc and his wife, Leslie Fisher-Katz; and five grandchildren, including Zachary Natan Cohen '13 GS/JTS. Memorial contributions to benefit undergraduate financial aid may be made to the

Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025. Donations also may be made to Secure@ Home of the Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Mercer County, 707 Alexander Rd., Ste 1-A, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Elena Hecht '09 Barnard

second career as a volunteer with the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program, helping seniors fill out their tax forms. A year later, he became the program coordinator and also joined the Literacy Support Council as a tutor. He also helped the program achieve nonprofit status and acquire grants. Cushman was named the 962nd Point of Light by President George H.W. Bush in 1992. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Pamela; daughters, Cynthia Louise Hickman and Melissa Cushman Banczak; sisters, Sara Bouchonville and Cynthia Whited; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Literacy Support Council, PO Box 5291, Auburn, CA 95604-5291.

1 9 5 5

**Philip D. Bleser**, sales manager, Bonita Springs, Fla., on October 28, 2011. Bleser was born on May 6, 1933, in Schenectady, N.Y. He earned a B.S. in 1956 from Engineering

and was a member of Sigma Chi. Bleser traveled abroad and lived in Mexico and Venezuela. He was a founding member of the Naples Columbia University Club as well as an avid fisherman and boater. Bleser is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ellen (née Hadley); children, Philip and his wife, Carol, Steven, Susan Copeland, Scott and his wife, Sally, and Laura; brother, David, and his wife, Gail; and seven grandchildren.

**Stuart M. Kaback**, retired scientific adviser, Cranford, N.J., on February 13, 2012. Kaback was born in Elizabeth, N.J., and moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., where he spent his childhood. He earned an M.A. (1956) and a Ph.D. (1960), both in chemistry and from GSAS. Kaback joined Esso Research and Engineering Co. in June 1960 and retired in 2002. He held numerous patents, was published frequently and was internationally recognized as an expert in his field. Kaback is recognized for his

significant contributions in polymer science and engineering patent information with the American Petroleum Institute, Chemical Abstracts Service, Derwent Information, Questel-Orbit and the Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology. Kaback was a member of the American Chemical Society and won many awards for his work in patent information, including the prestigious Herman Skolnik Award. He had been a member of Temple Beth-El since moving to Cranford in 1966, serving as its president, chair of its board of education and in a number of other capacities. Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Marilyn; children, Robin and her husband, Jim, and Gilbert and his wife, Deborah; and five grandchildren.

1 9 6 8

**John R. Tait**, attorney, Lewiston, Idaho, on February 1, 2012. Tait was born in Toledo, Ohio, and was an Eagle Scout before winning a full



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.

- 1938** Leo D. Kellerman, ophthalmologist, Douglaston, N.Y., on November 18, 2012.
- 1939** Joseph R. Kuh, retired physician, New York, N.Y., on November 16, 2012.  
William J. Stibravy, Foreign Service officer, Norwalk, Conn., on January 5, 2013.
- 1940** Francis H. McCullough Jr., retired orthopedist, Centralia, Wash., on January 15, 2013.
- 1942** Morris Grossman, retired philosophy professor, Fairfield, Conn., on December 12, 2012.  
William J. Scharffenberger, retired business executive, New York City and Ghent, N.Y., on December 12, 2012.  
Anthony E. Ventriglia, retired professor of mathematics, Bronxville, N.Y., on August 28, 2012.
- 1943** Cleomenes Generales, physician, La Jolla, Calif., on December 31, 2012.
- 1944** Gordon Cotler, author, musical producer, New York, N.Y., on December 20, 2012.  
Robert A. Fishman, neurologist and retired hospital chair, Tiburon, Calif., on December 4, 2012.  
Robert L. Rosenthal, hematologist, Flushing, N.Y., on February 1, 2013.
- 1945** Alan A. Grometstein, retired mathematician, Stoneham, Mass., on November 4, 2012.
- 1946** Eugene Bruck, musicologist, New York, N.Y., on December 8, 2012.
- 1947** William H. Hayes Jr., retired philosophy professor, Santa Cruz, Calif., on August 27, 2011.
- 1948** Grant B. Dellabough, family physician, Dumont, N.J., on November 21, 2012.  
James St. Andrew, retired, Mooresville, N.C., on December 13, 2012.  
Paul P. Woolard, business executive, New York City, on January 10, 2013.
- 1949** Frederick W. Scholl, Hendersonville, N.C., on April 11, 2011.
- 1950** John L. Maracle, retired insurance executive, Irondequoit, N.Y., on January 3, 2013.
- 1951** Herbert H. Beardsley, Episcopal priest, Cutchogue, N.Y., on January 26, 2013.  
Myron “Mickey” Winick, physician and nutrition expert, New York City, on November 1, 2012.
- 1952** Salvatore J. Capone, retired ophthalmologist, Staten Island, N.Y., on December 16, 2012.
- 1954** John W. Brackett Jr., retired pulmonologist, Oxford, Conn., on December 8, 2012.  
Leon H. Frey, Delray Beach, Fla., on July 8, 2012.  
John J. McGill, consultant, Sandestin, Fla., on February 17, 2012.  
David R. Williams, retired music professor, Memphis, on December 6, 2012.
- 1955** Ihor Koszman, chemical engineer, Montgomery, Texas, on August 9, 2012.  
Raymond D. Panetta, retired urologist, Seaside Park, N.J., on December 25, 2012.
- 1956** Stephen Forstein, retired rabbi, Topeka, Kan., on December 19, 2012.
- 1959** Michael Marks Cohen, former naval officer, former Law School professor, New York City, on December 1, 2012.
- 1960** Michael J. O’Connell, engineer, New Bern, N.C., on August 11, 2012.
- 1961** John C. Leonardo Jr., retired computer executive, Ketchum, Idaho, on December 18, 2012.
- 1962** George M. Abodeely Jr., West Boylston, Mass., on June 30, 2012.
- 1963** Robert E. Dyson, Sarasota, Fla., on July 30, 2011.  
Henry A. Sellner, retired ob / gyn, Danbury, Conn., on January 25, 2013.
- 1964** Frederick H. Levine, physician, Amherst, Mass., on September 18, 2012.
- 1968** Barry Deutsch, attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 29, 2012.
- 1969** George S. Eisenbarth, medical executive, professor of pediatrics and diabetes researcher, Golden, Colo., on November 13, 2012.
- 1972** Richard A. Arcaro, retired electrical engineer and computer analyst, Laurens, N.Y., on January 9, 2013.
- 1984** Richard G. Anderson, art dealer and maritime preservationist, Nyack, N.Y., on January 21, 2013.
- 1985** Robert Z. Mesko, development executive, Denver, on November 16, 2012.
- 1992** Andrew Littell, financial executive, Boston, on December 17, 2012.  
Kevin B. Pratt, architecture professor, Ithaca, N.Y., on February 19, 2013.
- 1993** Tania E. Gregory, homemaker, Berkeley, Calif., on December 11, 2012.  
Suzanne M. Weber, neuroscience researcher and lab manager, Tempe, Ariz., on January 7, 2013.



John R. Tait ‘68

scholarship to Columbia. He was class treasurer and a reporter for WKCR. Tait was a counterintelligence special agent in the Army and graduated from Vanderbilt Law. He was an expert in worker’s compensation law and was special deputy attorney general for the Bureau of Child Support. Tait also was Clearwater Bar president, Idaho State Bar Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility chair and a board member of the Workers Compensation Section of the Idaho State Bar, Idaho Trial Lawyers Association and the State Board of Idaho Legal Aid Services. He received the Pro Bono Award from the Idaho State Bar and in 1994 was nominated by President Clinton to serve as federal district judge. Tait’s career was dedicated to winning complex worker’s compensation cases for little remuneration. He is survived by his wife, Christina Bjornstad; brother, Paul; daughters and sons-in-laws, Gretchen Bjornstad and Alastair Gemmell, and Mary Tait and Nathan Abraham; and a granddaughter.

1 9 8 5

Nicola Tanelli, attorney, North Caldwell, N.J., on January 4, 2013. Born in Italy, Tanelli was raised in Verona, N.J. In high school, he excelled in basketball and track but his true passion was soccer. As a member of the Columbia team from 1981–83, Tanelli experienced three Ivy League titles. The 1983 squad became the first Ivy League program to compete in an NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship contest. According to Columbia’s 1982 men’s soccer media guide, Tanelli’s sophomore season, he was listed as the team’s swiftest man. Tanelli earned a law degree from New York Law and was an attorney with JPMorgan Chase in New York City for the past two years. Prior to that, he was employed by Citigroup in New York City for 15 years. He is survived by his wife, Beth (née Holmes); children, Matthew and Isabella; parents, Orazio and Franca; and brother, Pasquale, and his wife, Mary Ann.

Lisa Palladino



Class Notes

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Columbia College Today  
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Milton Kamen ‘40 writes from New York, “When I recently signed in at a senior citizen expo in NYC, the young woman at the registration desk noticed my year of birth and asked if I had been in WWII. I answered, ‘Yes. During WWII I proudly wore an Army uniform for over three years,’ fully expecting the usual response of, ‘Thank you for your service.’

“But what I got was, ‘It must have needed a good dry cleaning.’”

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I recently returned from a wonderful vacation at the Grand Velas Riviera Maya Hotel in Mexico with my friend, Fran, and her family. There were 17 of us. And by the time you read this, I’ll have returned from a February trip to Ixtapa, Mexico, with my family of 26, including 12 great-grandchildren.

Wm. Theodore “Ted” de Bary sent the following update: “It’s not exactly news but I still teach three days a week, conducting an Asian Humanities course and an upper-level Core course, Classics of East and West, on the theme of nobility and civility. I commute by shuttle bus from Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Institute in Rockland County. Among other things I conduct a series of public meetings on Keys to the Core, starting with John Erskine [Class of 1900], Mark Van Doren [’21 GSAS] and Jacques Barzun [’27, ’32 GSAS], meeting Fridays at noon in the Heyman Center for

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

the Humanities. My next book, *The Great Civilized Conversation*, is due out in spring.”

Ted is an amazing classmate. We all graduated 72 years ago, but Ted does not pay much attention to the passage of time.

Tell me, friends, what are you doing?

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Melvin Hershkovitz  
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Robert Kaufman, a young 91, in a telephone call on October 14 reported the sad news of the death on October 11, 2012, of Margaret L. Cicchetti, wife of our loyal friend Nicholas Cicchetti. She is survived by Nick; son, Stephen James; and daughter, Laraine Ann. In the Spring 2012 issue of CCT, I reviewed Nick’s distinguished career as an educator and administrator in the New York State school system; by the time he retired, he was superintendent of District 11 schools. We send condolences to Nick and his children on their loss.

On October 9, Arthur Smith sent a picture of his 9-month-old great-grandson, Landon, lying on his back, looking at the photo of Dean James J. Valentini on the cover of the Fall 2012 issue of CCT. Art’s son and grandson were wondering if Landon might grow up to be the fourth generation of Smiths to attend Columbia, possibly with the Class of 2034. Art’s son, Arthur Jr. ‘71, ’73 TC, became an environmental attorney. Arthur Jr.’s son, Jeffrey ‘07 SIPA, is an environmental engineer. Art (92) and his wife, Audre, together for 65 years, reside in an independent living facility in Venice, Fla., where Art, who has chronic myelogenous leukemia, has done well with seven years of therapy with “miracle” drugs Gleevec and Tasigna. We send warmest greetings to him and his family, along with a hug and high hopes for Landon as a future Lion.

Your correspondent, accompanied by his devoted designated driver, son-in-law Steve Hathaway, came from Northampton, Mass., to the Homecoming game versus Dartmouth on October 20. It was a beautiful, warm fall day, and I was impressed by the large number of enthusiastic, rambunctious undergraduates who came out to support our team. I was pleased

to greet our talented CCT editorial staff under the Big Tent before the game, giving me the opportunity to thank Alex Sachare ’71, Lisa Paladino and Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts for their exceptional skills in producing this excellent publication.

Sitting with me at the game were my lifelong friends, Ray Robinson ‘41 and Dr. Gerald Klingon. Ray (91) and Gerry (92) shared my anguish at yet another painful Columbia loss, 21–16. Dartmouth has two good young quarterbacks, a freshman and a sophomore, and an outstanding freshman running back, Brian Grove, who looks like a potential All-Ivy star. Dartmouth coach Buddy Teevens has recruited several good young players. We hope that Columbia coach Pete Mangurian has done the same and, with his experience and leadership, we continue to hope for an Ivy League championship sometime soon.

Wm. Theodore “Ted” de Bary ‘41’s book *The Great Civilized Conversation* is due out this spring.

Although they were unable to make it for Homecoming, Robert Kaufman of Scarsdale, N.Y., and Dr. Arthur Wellington of Elmira, N.Y., reported that one week later, on October 27, they greatly enjoyed watching Columbia beat Yale 26–22 in a game shown on the YES Network. Columbia scored the winning touchdown in the last minute of the game, which was called “an Ivy League thriller” by ESPN. Not such a thriller was our subsequent 69–0 loss to Harvard on November 3 in Cambridge, a score that ranks high in Ivy League annals as one of the most crushing defeats since the League began in 1956. Columbia also lost by 69–0 to Rutgers in 1978 and lost 77–28 to Holy Cross in 1983.

Easing memories of these prior defeats, Columbia bounced back from the Harvard loss with a surprising and gratifying 34–17 win over Cornell at Wien Stadium on November 10, with strong running by Marcorus Garrett ‘14 and three touchdown passes by quarterback Sean Brackett ‘13. We finished the schedule on November 17 with a 22–6 loss at Brown, giving coach Mangurian three wins in his initial season as our head coach. We hope for more triumphs in 2013.

On October 30, Don Mankiewicz

wrote a lengthy snail mail letter that reported on his status at home in Monrovia, Calif. Don (90) is doing well, enjoying time with his wife, Carol; son, John; and adopted daughters, Jan and Sandy, whose children have made Don a happy grandfather. Don’s father, Herman Mankiewicz ‘17, won an Academy Award for his screenplay of *Citizen Kane*, and his uncle, Joseph Mankiewicz ‘28, won an Academy Award for writing and directing *A Letter to Three Wives*. Don himself won the Harper Prize Novel award in 1955 for his novel, *Trial*, and was nominated for an Academy Award for his screenplay for *I Want To Live!* There seems to be some genetic basis for this multilinear transmission of genius and talent.

I was sorry to receive a note on December 7 from Betty Galen Reuther, reporting the death of her husband, Leo Reuther III, on October 19, 2012, in Flat Rock, N.C., af-

ter a short battle with pneumonia. He was 90. I last heard from Leo on April 23, when he sent regrets at being unable to attend our 70th reunion luncheon on campus in June. Leo and Betty recently had moved into a new house in Flat Rock, but he was able to enjoy it for only a few weeks before his unfortunate death. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Leo came to Columbia from the Barnard School in New York City. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps after graduation and, following flight training in Texas and Kansas, served as a fighter pilot in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre, flying 142 missions in P-47 and P-38 aircraft. Discharged as a captain in 1945, Leo was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Air Medals, a Presidential Citation and the Purple Heart. He was one of the greatest WWII heroes among many in our class.

After the war, Leo joined the FBI as a special agent; he served at various stations and ended his career in 1975 as supervisor in charge of major crimes and New York airports, based at the FBI office in New York City. After retirement, Leo lived in Vermont and South Carolina until 1999, when he moved to Flat Rock.



He is survived by his wife; daughters, Loralee Neal of Longwood, Fla., and Leslie O’Keefe of Stony Point, N.Y.; and two grandchildren.

At Columbia, Leo played freshman basketball, was on the varsity swim team, participated in *The Varsity Show* and was a member of Columbia Players, the Dolphin Society, the Newman Club and the Rifle Club. I remember Leo as an excellent student, a fine athlete, a modest hero and a loyal Columbia alumnus. For myself and on behalf of Leo’s friends in our class, I send condolences to Betty and their family.

Finally, as 2013 gets under way, I am grateful to be in touch with many Columbia friends and classmates (several mentioned in this column), who continue to defy their chronological age and are functioning well as they progress past their 90th birthdays. As Shakespeare said in the words of *King Lear*, “Ripeness is all.” To which we may add: Long may Columbia stand!

Warm regards and good wishes to all.

REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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In just shy of three months, on Saturday, June 1, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of our graduation by gathering on campus for a special reunion lunch with the Class of 1948.

The Alumni Reunion Weekend website (reunion.college.columbia.edu) offers you the chance to make a pledge to attend (reunion.college.columbia.edu/attend) as well as an easy way to be sure Columbia has your contact information (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate).

Watch for information, via mail and email, in March, and please take a look at the reunion preview in this issue. You also can contact either of the staff members in the box at the top of the column.

No news from classmates. Our numbers decrease day by day — all the more reason for us to keep in touch. Write to me or CCT with news. Mine follows.

Our trip to the United Kingdom in October went well. The tour of the Bangor region of North West Wales was full of historic interest

as well as very scenic. The medical meeting in London was held in the Barbican Centre, not one of the city’s more attractive buildings. We took time from the meeting to visit the WWII underground cabinet room, where Churchill and his government were bunkered during the awful weeks and months of the Blitz. Well worth a visit.

On our return, we spent a few days with family members on Schroon Lake, north of Albany, N.Y.; thence to Rochester, N.Y., to participate in my granddaughter Sara’s ordination as a deacon of the Episcopal Church.

We had three guests for a pleasant Thanksgiving, made even more pleasant after a call from Sara. She told me to be ready to become a great-grandfather come July 4!

I’m saddened to report the deaths of **David Norr**, a financial analyst, investment adviser and CPA, Scarsdale, N.Y., on August 19, 2012; **Harold C. Vaughan**, a retired history teacher, Fort Lee, N.J., on September 22, 2012; and **Edward M. Buyer ’43E**, a retired electrical engineer, Adamstown, Md., on February 4, 2012.

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Henry Rolf Hecht  
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My apologies to all who sent news or comments of late, even if I previously sent an acknowledgment. After Hurricane Sandy left me powerless for five days, my computer was a shambles and I couldn’t locate any notes. In addition, I’ve reluctantly concluded that I’m no longer able to act as class correspondent. I will try to help in a subordinate capacity to the extent I can, but please send notes or news directly to CCT Managing Editor Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts at alt2129@columbia.edu or via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Best wishes to you all.

— Henry Rolf Hecht, Proudly ’44

If any classmates are interested in writing the column in Rolf’s stead, you also can contact Alexis at the above email address or at 212-851-7485.

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**Howard B. Henderson** ’51 Arch. was in the yard raking leaves and generally tidying up after Hurricane Sandy when his wife called him to the phone to take my call. Obviously, he remains in good shape.

As happened to many in our class, Howard’s college days were interrupted by the war and he returned to get a degree from the Architecture School. He has been retired for about 10 years and lives in Greenwich, Conn., though he occasionally still goes to the drafting table which, he commented, is now an archaic artifact (he says the current generation does everything on computers, and even uses them to take examinations). Howard was a sailor until about 10 years ago but has given up the pastime. He also confessed to a love of travel and takes a trip abroad on almost an annual basis, though now he finds it can be a bit onerous.

**Frank Herman ’45E**, ’49E, ’53 GSAS went into the service after graduation. Following two years in the Navy, he returned and earned both a master’s and a Ph.D. in physics from Columbia. He spent most of his career working on the theoretical physics of semiconductors at the IBM Center in San Jose, Calif. However, for the last 10 years he has been retired. Frank’s health remains good and his only physical exercises are long walks. He reads extensively, remains fascinated with his field of theoretical physics, attends lectures at Stanford and sometimes teaches there, too. Lately, his principal occupation has been finishing a book on the theory of semiconductors.

Dr. **Samuel Hemley** had just returned to his home in Snowmass, Colo., when I called. Snowmass is around 9,000 feet in altitude, and we chatted a bit about President Barack Obama ’83’s poor showing in the first presidential debate in Denver, speculating as to whether some incompetent physician had failed to make him take precautions due to the altitude. Sam then kindly offered to speak with me more the next day, so I called again and we had a long chat. With the short-term memory of the typical 88-year-old, I hope that I do justice to all that we discussed.

Sam recalled growing up in Brooklyn, where he lived with his uncle, who was a state Supreme Court judge. He attended Boys and Girls H.S., which at the time was just Boys H.S., and had excellent grades and fine recommendations. He wanted to go to Cornell but was turned down. The head of his high school was distressed by this and, on inquiry, found that Sam fell outside of a quota that the college had. The young Hemley then was sent to talk to Columbia College Dean Herbert Hawkes, who said he should go to Columbia and suggested that he take the admission tests. That he did and, at 15, was admitted to the freshman class. Sam lived in Livingston [now Wallach] Hall

and ran on the cross country team, coming in second as a freshman at a race in Princeton; he later won a gold medal at a race in Annapolis in which all the Ivy League schools took part.

Years later, Sam took his wife to campus and tried to find Livingston Hall, only to discover the new Wallach name, which, he confessed, upset him. Later still, he was having dinner with a friend to whom he complained about the renaming, only to find out that the same Wallach was the friend’s brother-in-law.

Sam graduated from NYU medical school, where he studied radiology. During his service with the Army he was promoted from lieutenant to captain in a combat zone. After the war he came back to New York, ran the radiology department in a major hospital and did pioneering work with catheters.

Sam is an avid skier; 43 years ago, while on vacation in Colorado, a beautiful young lady literally fell over a mogul and landed at his feet. They are still skiing together (having moved to Colorado early in their relationship, about 40 years ago). Friends have told him that a movie should be made of his romance.

I remember Snowmass well because the Winter Conference on Brain Research often was held there. Sam tells me now that, though the skiing is still excellent, the conference facilities have been so improved that they are too expensive for most scientific meetings.

Sam says he loved his time at the College and feels privileged to have been Dean Hawkes’ protégé. He remains supportive of the track team and was pleased to note the accomplishment of Kyle Merber ’12, its first sub-four-minute miler.

Sam’s current project is teaching trap and skeet shooting. He has five students! He adds that, at our ages, we should ignore the advice of others and keep doing what we have been doing, since we have so far beaten the odds (as well as the life expectancies as put forth by our physicians).

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I recently was asked about admissions to Columbia College. This year’s freshmen — the Class of 2016 — includes 1,090 students, selected from more than 25,000 applicants. It brought to mind a class luncheon some years ago, when **Harry Coleman ’46E** was dean of the College. He commented about the continuing rise in applicants to

the College, their incredibly high SAT scores and the small number who were admitted. One of us (don’t remember who) wondered whether we could have successfully competed for admission if we were applying in the current era. Unhesitatingly, Harry said, “Absolutely. No question about it.”

**John McConnell**, our faithful correspondent in Post Falls, Idaho, wrote that he “decided to do something with his violin and viola besides take up space.” He upgraded his instruments, received professional coaching and now plays six to eight gigs a month. John teamed up with a former USO entertainer who brought female glamour to troops in the South Pacific, Japan and Korea.

Dr. **Lawrence Ross** ’51 P&S told us he enjoyed the piece by Dr. **Paul Marks** ’49 P&S that appeared in this column (Fall 2012). Larry said: “Medicine has come a long way since I was a plodding, practicing pediatrician.”

**Alan Berman** suggested that he also be inscribed on the Great-Grandfather Cup (Summer 2012 column). Alan has four great-grandchildren and, by the time we go to press, the fifth probably will have arrived. Indeed, he should join Dr. **Lawrence Jukofsky** and **Paul Rotondi** with the distinction.

Recently, when I was riding the No. 1 subway, a young man leaned over and said, “I am Class of ’98.” I realized he had spotted the Columbia ring I wear. I replied, “My Class is ’46,” and he blanched. I suppose he was trying to digest our class year and the fact that we are still around.

I am sorry to report the passing of **Charles J. Fabso** ’47 Business in Durham, N.C. A loyal member of our class, Chuck enjoyed a stellar career as a general manager of General Electric.

I add with regret the death of **I. Myer Pincus** ’45E, ’49L in December. Following our 60th reunion in 2006, Mike wrote in a letter to this correspondent, “A good deal of my openness of mind and attitude derive from those wonderful men at Columbia who inculcated that what is true is what you have examined up close with an open mind. But truth changes as we grow older and experience the world and other people’s truths.”

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Classmates, please share news with me about yourself, your family, your career, your travels or

even a favorite Columbia College memory using either the email or postal address above. You also can send news to me via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

This column is a wonderful way for us to stay connected. I hope to hear from you.

REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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In just shy of three months, on Saturday, June 1, the Class of 1948 will celebrate the 65th anniversary of its graduation by gathering on campus for a special reunion lunch.

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Watch for information via mail and email in March. You also can contact either of the staff members in the box at the top of the column.

We hope to see you there!

Now, onto news from classmates.

**Durham Caldwell**’s newest book, *Betty Sue’s Homecoming and Her Rocky Path to Respectability*, tells the story of Betty Sue Hannaford, who disappears at 3. The police chief theorizes she has drowned in a flood-swollen stream but her father keeps his porch light on every night for 27 years, convinced she someday will come back to him. Through an intriguing chain of circumstances she does, and she brings with her a lifestyle she knows will alienate her newly rediscovered family but which she is reluctant to give up. The novel relates the smiles and tears of her struggle to conform to small-town family life. [See Bookshelf.]

Durham also shared these thoughts: “The recent death of professor Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS at 104 reminded me of my collision with his formidable intellect in the spring semester of 1944, when I was a callow, 17-year-old, first-term sophomore. I had elected at the end of my freshman terms to apply for the Colloquium on Great Books in preference to

taking Humanities B. For some reason, the schedule makers — instead of placing me in Colloquium 1 — put me in Colloquium 4 with Professors Barzun and Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 GSAS.

“My classmates were mostly upperclassmen, among them such brains as Richard Bauman ’45, ’46L. I was clearly out of my league. When the profs told us they wanted a paper, I didn’t have the slightest idea of what to write about. I settled on what to a 17-year-old was the most noteworthy part of the term’s first few books: the authors’ predilection for sex as part of their plot lines. I titled my paper ‘Colloquium 4 Is in a Rut.’

“Barzun returned the paper to me with the notation that I might just as well criticize the *Decalogue* for being 10 percent about sex. I surmise he thought I wouldn’t know what the *Decalogue* was. Actually, I did. Trilling’s comments were less acerbic but hardly complimentary. I pulled myself up later in the term with a paper comparing Fielding’s *Tom Jones* from Humanities A favorably with the mildly amusing Dickens novel (*Our Mutual Friend*), which was assigned in Colloquium 4. I seem to remember that I ignored Fielding’s (and Tom Jones’) interest in sex. I ended up with a B for the term even though I made the mistake of categorizing *Tom Jones* as the *ne plus ultra* of the modern novel. Barzun wrote in the margin, ‘Where did you get that?’

David Brainin ’48 retired from the law but is active as an arbitrator and occasional mediator.

“I must have made some minor impression on Trilling. I haven’t read it, but I understand he has a character named ‘Caldwell’ in his 1947 novel, *The Middle of the Journey*.

“I took another term of Colloquium when I returned from the Army in 1946. I’m not sure, but I think that this time they put me in Colloquium 3. The profs were Donald Frame ’41 GSAS and Arthur Szathmary. Frame was the good guy, Szathmary the intellectual. They had us rotate reading our papers out loud at the beginning of each class. The only one I remember was handed in by **Ed Paul**, later our senior class president. For some reason Ed was ‘unavoidably late’ on the night he was due to read and arranged for a classmate to read the paper, which Szathmary proceeded to rip apart. Ed turned up at the strategic moment. He disclosed that the paper wasn’t his but was a distinguished scholar’s

printed introduction to the edition of the book Ed was supposed to be commenting on, which a jokester friend had typed up and sent along for the other friend to read and for Szathmary to light into. My recollection is that Ed timed his arrival at class toward the end of the Szathmary diatribe, explained what the profs and the class had just heard and for once left Szathmary speechless.”

**David Brainin** writes, “Just past the midpoint of my 88th year, I retired from even part-time active law practice. At this writing I am preparing to celebrate the 80th birthday of my wife, Sema, on December 9. I’m still active as an arbitrator and an occasional mediator. I’m looking forward to our 65th reunion and hope to be there. Best to all.”

**John Zanders** turned 87 on October 21. He writes, “I am in sound health and, while retired from employment, I remain active. I am a member of three local coin clubs and belong to the Jade Buddha Temple here in Houston. I reside in an apartment and continue to pursue independent living. People often comment about the fact that I do not look my age. I accept these comments as flattery!”

“I have nine grandchildren, among them a 12-year-old girl who is pursuing the dream I could not complete. She is living with her parents in New Jersey, where she attends private school. This year they introduced Mandarin language instruction, and she is an enthusiastic

participant. She appears to have a genuine talent for language and she rapidly is becoming bilingual (English/Chinese). She is able to learn written characters with ease and rapidity. I am a doting grandfather.

“I am the oldest living individual within my family, for generations. I have fond memories of my time at Columbia.”

Dr. **Bob Mellins** passed away on December 12, 2012. He was 84 and lived in New York City. [Editor’s note: See Obituaries.] A few weeks before his death, Bob sent this note: “**Bob Mellins**, although Professor Emeritus at P&S, is still active as a special lecturer and runs a research grand rounds for the Department of Pediatrics. Music Humanities and Art Humanities at the College still make it possible for him to enjoy music and art. Regrettably, age has made it necessary for him to give up figure skating.”

**Robert Silbert**, upon hearing



the news of his former roommate’s death, sent this note: “As I read *Columbia College Today*, I’ve thought how lucky we are to be alive. More and more of the short notes from classmates list the everyday things that they are doing, what their kids have done or are doing, who they have lost and who their friends were at Columbia. Memories are vivid, nostalgia is obvious, thankfulness is apparent. We were so lucky to be at Columbia after the end of one war and before the beginning of the next. We should not waste a minute of any day and live every hour as best we can, as long as we are able. Time passes, more quickly than we realize. Live your life as best as you can, as long as you are able. Bob did.”

**Richard Impola** writes, “After retirement from teaching at SUNY New Paltz, I began to work on Finnish, the language of my parents and their friends. I have translated 20 Finnish works, the most notable being a trilogy titled *Under the North Star* by Finnish realist author Väinö Linna. It was probably that book that won me the civilian Order of the White Rose from the Finnish government.”

**Harvey Gardner**, who describes himself as “‘48 ex-‘45 still extant,” sent this note: “With Jean (married in 1947), travel only between Nyack home and second home in South Egremont, Southern Berkshire County, Mass. In touch weekly with Marcel Gutwirth ‘47, ‘50 GSAS and **Charles Simmons**.”

Still active with the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps, Dr. **Sidney Fink** ‘52 P&S “otherwise spends his time hiking, playing bridge and visiting his extended family, which includes 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren!”

**Robert DeMaria** is “doing research for a new novel that takes place in summer 1936 in Europe, especially Berlin where the summer Olympics took place. I welcome any good anecdotes or rare information about this event: debobaria@aol.com.”

**Frank Marcus** writes, “This year promises to be a busy one. I practice, teach and pursue research at the University of Arizona. I was an invited speaker at a pediatric cardiology conference in Orange County in January; later that month I was, at this writing, to present grand rounds in a hospital in Miami. I am scheduled to give a talk at the American College of Cardiology meetings in March in San Francisco. In April, I plan to travel to Paris to give a talk at the European Cardiac Arrhythmia Society. In May, I plan to give a presentation at the Heart Rhythm Society in Denver. That same month, I will be pleased to receive the Lifetime Achievement

Award from the Pima County Medical Society in Tucson, Ariz.

“In addition to the above, I try to keep in touch with my three grown children and six grandchildren, who range in age from 19 months to 21 years.”

CCT is sorry to report the death of **Bernard W. Wishy** ‘58 GSAS, a history professor who taught at Columbia and who resided in San Francisco, on April 28, 2012.

**Joe Russell ‘49 and his wife, Charlotte, celebrated their 65th anniversary on December 20.**

CCT needs a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti ‘11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, please send updates to CCT at the postal or email address at the top of the column or via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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Let me begin with an apology for the following rather poor excuse for content. By the time you are reading this, I am confident that I will be back to my “old” self and will have more in the way of regular news to share.

As for what’s happened, here in Sheephead Bay, Brooklyn, we felt the power of the storm named Sandy. Heretofore that name invoked the charm of a lovable mutt who accompanied Little Orphan Annie. No longer is that so. The devastation in the Rockaways and Breezy Point, Queens; on Staten Island; in Red Hook, Brooklyn; and along the Jersey shore is all too familiar through the news reports. But on East 11th Street, while our house still stands, our basement was flooded by the backup of the sewers at the height of the surge and at this writing we are only beginning to restore normalcy after the damage. It is encouraging to be able to report that FEMA was on the job quickly and was a great help. Nevertheless, it has been a great distraction.

I do recall, however, that we had a warm gathering in the tent at Homecoming. **Bob Rosencrans**, **Fred Berman**, **Bill Lubic** and **Marvin Lipman** all were in fine form and good health.

Speaking of Marv, we heard from his wife, Naomi Lipman ‘51 Barnard, ‘52 GSAS, who is obviously his press agent: “Marvin has

been honored yet again: The White Plains Hospital Auxiliary threw a wonderful party on November 15 celebrating him and two other longtime members of the hospital attending staff. It marked Marvin’s 52nd year of service to the community in many varied voluntary positions on the hospital board and committees, and as chief of the endocrine section and department of medicine. Of course, it wasn’t a

retirement party: He’s still going strong, seeing patients and working as a writer, blogger, and editor at Consumer Reports; he’s been with them for 45 years. Can’t keep a good man down!”

A real lift to my spirits, I received an update from **Joe Russell**, former occupant of this “chair.” He expressed admiration for the content of the latest CCT before turning to his news: “My wife, Charlotte ‘51 GSAS, and I celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary on December 20. (She is professor emerita of chemistry and biochemistry at CCNY and the CUNY Graduate Center; I also am retired but active part-time as a hearing officer for the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings and a busy arbitrator for FINRA.) To mark the occasion we had a quiet dinner at home with our son James ‘74 (salutatorian, the Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard) and his companion, Dennis Cordell. Our younger son, Josh ‘79 Hamilton College (history teacher at The Birch Wathen Lenox School in Manhattan) and grandson Isaac (seventh-grader at Oratory Prep in Summit, N.J.) were unable to join but were with us in spirit.

“Our marriage took place on December 20, 1947, the first day of that year’s Christmas break at Columbia, allowing us a week for a wonderful honeymoon in a beautiful inn some miles up and across the Hudson River, from which we returned home to Brooklyn at the tail end of the heaviest snowstorm that had hit the city since the blizzard of ‘88. I will not bore you with the story of our trip from Midtown that night, or our struggle through several blocks of unplowed fresh snow while pulling our luggage on a borrowed sled. At the very end, the front stoop of the house looked suspiciously like a ski jump, but we conquered it. A wonderful party hosted by my former roommates, Bob Gibson ‘50 and Gene Plotnik ‘50, was the occasion for shared joy, just a few days away.”

Thank you, Joe.

I conclude with a wish for all to keep on keepin’ on. There is much to look forward to, including reunion. Mark your calendars now for our 65th Alumni Reunion Weekend: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014.

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**Bud Kassel** had surgery on his right hand to fix what he calls his two “trigger fingers,” so that he can continue two favorite activities. Now he can grip a tennis racket and a ski pole with equal comfort and so be able to continue his hosting functions in the Stowe, Vt., ski area. The third main event of his life is listening to his wife, Ruth, sing with two choral groups. Bud adds that he is very envious of her abilities.

**Bernie Prudhomme**, after 43 years in Atlanta, Coca of which were spent with Coca-Cola, has left the big city and moved to the small town of Thomson, Ga., where his daughter and her husband have a medical practice. Bernie feels that his flying days are over and probably will no longer attend class reunions and so he takes this opportunity to send best wishes to all 1950 classmates.

**Arthur Thomas**, reminiscing on the history of Columbia and of the United States, regards his stay at Columbia as a high point. A descendant of a colonist who came to these shores prior to the founding of King’s College, he considers it justifiable that the crown, denoting stability, remains as Columbia’s symbol. Arthur notes that Professor Richard Hofstadter ‘42 GSAS’ book *America at 1750: A Social Portrait* is a clairvoyant observation of America at the time the College was founded.

**Rudy Weingartner** has filed for divorce from his second wife and sold the home in Pittsburgh in which he lived for 25 years. After disposing of its contents, Rudy flew to Mexico City to move into the home of his daughter, Eleanor, who has been the principal clarinet of the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional for more than 20 years. Now he much enjoys hanging out with his two teenaged grandchildren and continues to write compulsively.

Sadly, we have three deaths to report: **Emmett C. Harris** of Bloomington, Ind., September 2012; Dr. **Robert C. Runyon** of Concord, Mass., January 2012; and Dr. **Harold Tapley** ‘51E of Bakersfield, Calif., August 2012.

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As we begin the New Year let’s review our list of class officers and how we keep in touch with them.

**Robert T. Snyder** continues as class president. He and his wife, Elaine, live at 150 E. 61st St., Apt. 12H, New York, NY 10065-8530; 212-751-1106; robertsnyder@gmail.com. Bob faithfully attends Columbia football and basketball games, supports alumni activities and represents our class at campus events such as the recent Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony and the Dean’s Scholarship Reception.

Class v.p. **Elliot Wales** and his wife, Fran, reside at 52 Riverside Dr., Apt. 15BC, New York, NY 10024-6501; 212-787-2309; elliotwales@aol.com. Elliot, although mostly retired from the practice of law, keeps busy with part-time work. He leads an intellectual life with frequent visits to museums, art galleries and music halls. He has a strong interest in the Columbia College Alumni Association and traveled recently with the University’s Alumni Travel Study Program on excursions to Spain and Turkey.

Class treasurer **Willard Block** and his wife, Roberta, recently sold their home in Sands Point, N.Y., and now reside in two locations. In addition to their summer apartment in NYC they have homesteaded at 1512 Pelican Point Dr., Apt. BA 164, Sarasota FL 34231; 516-972-8385; willardblock@aol.com. If this plan does not work out, the Blocks plan to become gypsies, visiting family and friends around the country and especially in Vermont.

Class secretary **George Koplinka** and his wife, Peg, live at 24 Mayfair Way, White Plains, NY 10603; 914-592-9023; desiah@verizon.net. In the summer months try 802-425-3257 for the Vermont connection. The cell phone back-up is 914-610-1595.

**Donald A. Beattie** keeps in touch. He has been a jet pilot, a geologist, a NASA researcher and manager, and consultant for both government and private industry. Don is the author of numerous articles in professional journals as well as several books including *History and Overview of Solar Heat Technologies* and *Taking Science to the Moon*.

Recently Don sent along a copy of his latest publication, an autobiographical account of his life and multi-faceted career, *No Stone Unturned — A Life Without Bounds*. Here is an amusing excerpt from the Columbia days we all shared: “Freshmen were required to wear a small Columbia-blue cap for the

first months. One of the hazing rituals was placing a cap on top of a tall, thick pole planted in South Field. If the freshman class could figure out a way to climb the pole with no mechanical help and remove the cap, the requirement to wear the silly looking cap was rescinded. The pole must have been at least 20 feet high and was covered with heavy grease. No freshman class in Columbia’s 193-year history had ever succeeded in removing the cap. Class of 1951 became the first to accomplish the impossible. A quickly assembled gang with several NROTC freshmen ([**Ollie Van Den Berg**, **Jay Dee Battenberg** and **Wendell “Doc” Sylvester**], all on the freshman football team) among those at the bottom locked their arms around each other and the pole and hung on. I was in the next tier, standing on Doc’s shoulders, also holding on to the pole. Others stood on our shoulders and we built a pyramid of yelling guys. Little **Al DeBartolo** [now **Al Bart**] climbed over all of us and grabbed the cap. As far as I know no other class accomplished this amazing feat.”

If you would like a copy of Don’s book, contact him at 904-287-0222 or db1030@bellsouth.net.

Here is a change of address for **Theodore D. Bihuniak**: Ted and his wife, Marilyn, sold their home in Wilton, Conn., last October and moved to Florida. Their new address is 10100 Cypress Cove Drive, Apt #385, Fort Myers, FL 33908; 239-437-2724.

**Myron (Mickey) Winick** died on November 1, 2012. He earned a master’s from the University of Illinois and an M.D. from SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Following an internship in Pennsylvania and pediatrics training at Cornell he joined P&S and became a world-renowned authority on nutrition. A list of Mickey’s many awards appeared in our 60th Reunion Directory, reaffirming his contribution to the world. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; two sons; and two grandchildren.

I know it’s late, but this is the first chance I’ve had to ask: Did you make a resolution for 2013 that you would send in news for this column? If not, do it now! Make my days happy.

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As I write this in December, it has been a difficult couple of months for New Jersey.

On October 28 and 29, Hurricane Sandy came ashore. I live part-

time in the Toms River, N.J., area and was there to witness Sandy’s arrival. My wife and I are familiar with hurricanes, as we were in Florida when Wilma struck five years ago. We lived in Boynton Beach and took a direct hit.

Sandy came into New Jersey at right angles, which is unusual but more dangerous. Add to that a full moon, high tides and another storm coming in from the West, and you have what they called “a perfect storm.” The damage from Wilma and Sandy was extensive.

Fortunately, my wife and I survived both storms very well. Mother Nature packs quite a wallop. Lucky for us all, there is advanced technology that can detect and follow these hurricanes and provide the knowledge we need for defensive measures.

From **Ted Topalian** we hear, “After graduation and commissioning in the Marine Corps (I was in the NROTC program) I spent six months in basic training at Quantico, Va. Following further training in California I was shipped to Korea, where I spent the last four months of the fighting and the next seven months of the truce. The next duty station was MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., where I met Carolyn, who became my wife. We recently celebrated our 57th wedding anniversary.

“Leaving active duty in ‘55, we moved to Charlottesville, Va., where I earned a law degree at UVA. The next 36 years were spent working in the home offices of three insurance companies, including the Prudential, Mutual of New York and the U.S. operation of Sun Life of Canada. Retiring in ‘94, we moved to Syracuse, N.Y., to be near our

daughter, Hilary. Several years later, work took her away and she now lives in Chandler, Ariz., with her black Labrador puppy, Zeppelin. She works out of her home for Liberty Mutual Insurance. It must be in the blood. Our son, David, lives in northern New Jersey and is the v.p. of a construction company. I try to keep up with what’s going on in Morningside Heights and still bleed blue for our teams, whatever the sport.”

Your reporter wishes all the members of the Class of 1952 good health and good luck.

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**  
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Incredibly, we’re going to celebrate our 60th reunion at Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. Ten of our wonderful classmates serve on the Reunion Committee: **Bill Frosch**, **George Lowry**, **Jay Kane**, **Lewis Robins**, **Jules Ross**, **Ed Robbins**, **Pete Pellett**, **Jim Steiner**, **Donald Taylor** and **Ary Zolberg**. Thanks to the efforts of **George Lowry**, I can report the good news that the director of Columbia’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Michael Ryan, has offered to host an early evening reception on Thurs-

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

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day, May 30. The exhibit is expected to be “Treasures from Romanoff Archives” and should be fascinating and informative. As far as I know, our class is the first to be offered a private visit to the Rare Book room on the sixth floor of Butler.

Also relating to the big weekend, I recently received a remarkable offer from **Eliot Hearst**, who was captain of the Columbia chess team during the 1949–53 seasons when it won the national collegiate chess championship; he also was captain of the U.S. Olympic Chess Team in 1962. Eliot has offered to hold a reunion event where he simultaneously plays 10 or 12 chess games. He admits to being somewhat hesitant of taking on the contest because very few, if any, masters older than 80 have ever attempted such a simultaneous exhibition. If you would like to participate, or know of anyone in other reunion classes who might like to participate, please send me their names and email addresses.

The Edouard Foundation recently acknowledged the exemplary life of **Morton Freilicher** '56L with a donation of \$5,000, in honor of his 80th birthday, to support the activities of Post-Polio Health International. When he was 17, Mort contracted polio, leaving his right arm paralyzed and his left arm, neck and diaphragm partially paralyzed. After graduating from the Law School, he specialized in trusts and estates, authored a book on estate planning and was an adjunct professor at Fordham Law. After retiring, Mort donated his services to the work of the Edouard Foundation, which supports disaster relief, medical care and other services for the impoverished throughout the world. In a recent newspaper article, Mort told the reporter that he attributes his continuing survival to “staying active, exercising his usable muscles, benefiting from using a nighttime ventilator, a wonderful wife and plain, old-fashioned good luck.”

Keep up the good work! Our class humorist and orthodontist, Dr. **Larry Harte**, has published a new book, *Journey with Grandchildren, A Life Story*, which includes a chapter about his intriguing years at Columbia. I hope the following excerpt reminds you of what it was like to attend the College: “At 17 and being from Brooklyn, I was not quite ready for the social aspect of the education process. The kids were dressed in white bucks, grey flannel pants and blue sports jackets. Fortunately, I do not recall how I was dressed. It was a learning experience.”

Circling back to reunion, as of the beginning of January, the following

classmates have indicated they will attend: **Bill Frosch, George Lowry, Jay Kane, Lewis Robins, Jules Ross, Ed Robbins, Pete Pellett, Jim Steiner, Donald Taylor, Ary Zolberg, Joseph Aaron, Morton Freilicher, Larry Harte, Seymour Hendel, Arthur Hessinger, Donald Hymes, Allan Jackman, Jay Kane, Richard Kleid, Richard Lempert, Martin Saiman, Ken Skoug, Robert Walzer, Dennis Adnreuzzi, Gordon Henderson, Fred Ronai and Eliot Hearst.**

My apologies if your name is not on the list and you are planning to attend. You can make a pledge to attend on the reunion website, [reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu). Through this site you also can keep up to date on reunion events as well as update your contact information with the Alumni Office so as not to miss any reunion-related mailings or emails. You also can contact either of the staff members in the box at the top of the column.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all!

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**Howard Falberg**

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Every so often I hear from some members of our class, and when I do I am delighted, as I remember them with good feelings even though nearly 60 years have passed since graduation. A good example is **Scott Glover**, who spent the bulk of his career with ExxonMobil. During that time he was stationed in Japan and Houston. He and his wife now live in New Jersey. They have two children and are involved with civic activity as well as sailing and boating. I hope that we will see them at our next reunion (Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014).

I hadn't been aware that **Jack McGill** died last year in Miramar Beach, Fla. In July, **Bob Ambrose, John Lees, Chuck Graves** '54E and **Bob Viarengo**, along with their spouses, went to Florida for a joyful memorial service.

In other sad news, **John Brackett Jr.** passed away on December 8, 2012, at his home in Oxford, Conn. He was on the varsity crew at Columbia and continued his interest and activity in rowing as a member of the New Haven Rowing Club. John earned an M.D. from P&S in 1958 and served in the Navy for 12 years. He, his wife, Nancy, and their children later moved to Connecticut, where John was president of several medical associations and was active in community organizations. I looked at what he had written in our *2004 Reunion Yearbook*. His thoughts included, “We have

no regrets about our life decisions and experiences, and I owe a big thank you to Columbia for allowing me to spend nine formative years under her guidance.”

John will be missed by many. **Peter Kenen** died on December 17, 2012, after a battle with emphysema. Peter and I were classmates at both Bronx Science and the College, and I had the pleasure and honor of serving for him when he was the news director of WKCR. Peter earned a Ph.D. from Harvard and taught at Columbia from 1957–71. During that time he was chairman of the Department of Economics and was named provost. He then was director of the international finance section at Princeton from 1971–99. Peter was greatly respected as a result of his many publications as well as his positions, which included consultant to the Council of Economic Advisors, the International Monetary Fund and the Federal Reserve. The last time that I saw Peter was at one of our Homecoming games. I know that in addition to many others, I will miss him. [Editor's note: See Obituaries.]

I was happy to learn from **Bob Viarengo** that he and his wife, Del, continue to be blessed with good health. He writes, “We recently returned from a visit to India. While we have visited many nations through the years, we felt that this country was the most complex and interesting of them all.”

Another classmate who continues to travel extensively is **Arnie Tolkin**. Arnie is the father and the grandfather of a group of Columbia alumni. Like a good number of us did during December (including me), he celebrated his 80th birthday. I hope and trust that many members of “The Class of Destiny” are having similar gatherings.

The above reminds me that in about 15 months we will celebrate our 60th reunion. I know that **Bernd Brecher** is working on our reunion program and would be very happy to hear from you.

By the way, I also would be very happy to hear from you for Class Notes. Finally, as I write this toward the end of 2012, here's hoping for a very happy and healthy new year.

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**Gerald Sherwin**

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Where there is news to be made, turn to your favorite school in the City of New York. It is Columbia that makes headlines locally and around the world.

One of our favorite professors, Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS, whom many of us had for various

classes, passed away on October 25, 2012, at 104. [Editor's note: See Obituaries, Winter 2012–13 issue.]

On an upbeat note, The Campbell Sports Center opened uptown near Robert K. Kraft Field at the Baker Athletics Complex. It is a magnificent edifice dedicated to a person, William V. Campbell '62, '64 TC, who has given so much to Columbia Athletics and to the University.

Columbia Engineering Entrepreneurship Night was held in December with a crowd of more than 450. Star attractions were many trustees (including Campbell) and “show and tell” demonstrations by various entrepreneurs.

The Columbia Alumni Center always has something going on, most recently a special exhibit featuring a history of the Columbia Marching Band. The Center is located at 622 W. 113th St., between Broadway and Riverside Drive.

The Columbia Alumni Association Worldwide Networking Event this year included even more participation by alumni clubs around the globe and in major cities in the United States. The Alumni Travel Study Program also keeps getting bigger. In 2013, planned trips include “Wild Alaska Journey” and “Africa's Wildlife” plus a cruise exploring the treasures of Provence, Languedoc and Catalonia. Included will be classical music performances. It's not too late to get your tickets.

Believe it or not (as the saying goes), the feisty “Class of Destiny” (that's us!) received another accolade: We finished Columbia's Fiscal Year 2011–12 year as the highest participating group in the Columbia College Fund. A large amount of credit goes to the Class Agents: **Don Laufer, Ron Spitz, Aaron Hamburger, Larry Balfus, Lew Mendelson** (out of Washington, D.C.), **Allen Hyman, Dick Kuhn, Elliot Gross** and **Jeff Broido** (of the West Coast Broids).

We heard from **John Naley** (living in New Jersey), who keeps in touch with his Brooklyn Tech buddies: **Rod Thurston** (retired from Los Alamos National Labs) and **Tony Coppola** (living in Wilmington, N.C.). Keeping in touch with your favorite correspondent, **George Raitt** and **Ron McPhee** send all tidbits of information via Twitter and through their blogs. Who says we haven't caught up to the modern modes of communication? Not needing a blog is **Charlie Sergis**, our award-winning radio announcer in New York and Los Angeles.

We missed seeing some of our class in San Francisco when the basketball team visited the Bay Area — **Tom Morton** (still practicing law,

not basketball), **Bill Mink** (one of our favorite oarsmen), **Ed Sacks** (enjoying the West Coast), **Bernie Kirtman** (**Bill Epstein's** pal back East) and **Jack Stuppin** (continuing to paint).

Other members of our class who are staying fit and participating in their community are **Elliott Manning** (teaching at the University of Miami), **Ralph Wagner** (living in New England; we hope to see him when he visits New York next time around), **Mike Vaughn** (professor of physics at Northeastern), **Stanley Friedman** (also a professor, at the State University of New York in Brooklyn) and the former WKCR announcer, **Dave Sweet** (living in Warwick, R.I., and working in the Internet marketing field).

We ran into **Norm Goldstein** at an event at the Columbia University Club of New York. Norm is back in Manhattan from Hawaii, and he promises to be more involved. **Jud Maze** is our psychiatrist in Westchester, and as for **Al Momjian**, we see his son, Mark '83, '86L, more than we come across Al (still in Philadelphia).

A sad note to report — **Ihor Koszman** recently passed away. Condolences go to his family and friends.

My favorite and talented classmates.

Maintain your equilibrium even in the face of difficult times.

Believe that the glass is half full.

The 60th is looming closer.

Love to all! Everywhere!

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To follow up on our class theme of traveling, I received emails from **Jerry Fine** about his three-week trip last summer to Patagonia and the southernmost part of South America, and from **Maurice Klein** about his drive through Germany. Jerry and his wife, Barbara, started in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and ended in Santiago, Chile. They traveled around Cape Horn and through the Strait of Magellan, seeing some spectacular sites while visiting a few national parks; they also walked with the penguins on Magdalena Island. Sounds like a real *National Geographic* trip.

Maurice and his wife, Judy, took an 18-day trip to Germany, principally to visit the Swarovski Crystal factory in Watten, Austria (near Innsbruck), to participate in a 25th anniversary Swarovski event. (Maurice is an avid Swarovski collector.) As he tells it, they had been opted out of the Swarovski-sponsored trip, as it sold out early.



Members of the Class of 1956 gathered in November at the Columbia Alumni Center for a signing of the 2006 book *Living Legacies at Columbia*, edited by Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, '53 GSAS, provost emeritus (seated, left); Jerry Kisslinger '79, '82 GSAS, chief creative officer for the Office of Alumni and Development (seated, right); and Tom Mathewson, manager of the University Senate office (not pictured). Standing, left to right: Vic Levin, Dan Link, Ron Kapon, Ralph Kaslick, Al Franco '56E and Steve Easton.

Using ingenuity, I assume acquired at Columbia, they opted for an 18-day trip through Germany, including visits to Berlin, Munich, a cruise down the Rhine and ending up at the Swarovski factory for the 25th anniversary celebration. Talk about turning lemons into lemonade! In the process, they drove and used public transportation to get to most of their German destinations. Maurice writes of his high regard for the helpfulness of the German people and was particularly complimentary of their transportation system.

As we are on the subject of travel, I have to put in a few sentences about my and my wife Elke's trip to China, as we left after the last Class Notes went to print. We spent three weeks visiting eight cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, a river cruise down the Yangtze River and a two-day trip to Tibet. The most impressive part of the trip was the building, road development and dam construction that have been done in the last 10 years. Even some of the smaller cities have 20- to 30-story buildings.

The people like everything American but are developing a very nationalist attitude. All the young people, of course, have iPhones, iPads and computers. Everyone under 40 wants to 1) own a condo (bank/government financed), 2) own a car (bank/government

financed) and 3) travel — in that order. It was an eye-opening education in what can be accomplished in a short time. Of course, there is a downside to the type of government-controlled economy under which the Chinese operate.

A number of classmates take adult education courses at Columbia and other universities. Specifically, **Peter Klein** and **Bob Sirot** took courses through the Rutgers adult ed program twice a week last fall, thus missing some of our class lunches. Bob reports that his course, “The Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection,” was informative, as he'd never heard of the Philippine-American Insurrection, and the Spanish-American War really involved Mexico and led to the United States' acquisition of the land that now is much of our western states.

Bob attended an evening meeting of the Columbia Club of Northern New Jersey (of which he is the immediate past president), which hosted professors Richard Pious and Robert Shapiro of the Department of Political Science; they discussed the presidential election on the last night of the presidential debates, which also now are history.

Further on the adult education subject, Columbia's Heyman Center for the Humanities is offering spring colloquia featuring Allan Silver (“Friendship in East Asian &

Western Civilizations”) and Peter Pazzagliani '77 GSAS (“Philosophy as a Way of Life”). Those who attended our 55th reunion may remember Peter as our outstanding Saturday dinner speaker. Go to [heymancenter.org](http://heymancenter.org) for further information.

Our class lunch in November was held at the Yale Club, with **Len Wolfe** acting as host. In addition to our New York City regulars, we were joined by **Maurice Klein**, who was thankful that it was held on a day he was not working, and **David Schuster**, who has moved back to Manhattan, is more fully retired and had the time to attend. He and **Mark Novick** shared their love of the New York Philharmonic, which both had attended the previous night (small world department).

**David Schuster**, professor emeritus of chemistry at NYU, also sent the following report: “On the occasion of his official retirement and 70th birthday in 2005, a full-day event was held in David's honor, organized by some of his former undergraduate and graduate research students. This well-attended event, the first of its kind in chemistry at NYU, held on June 3, 2005, featured an all-day symposium followed by a large reception and dinner, all held at NYU. The symposium included talks by former students now working in academia or the



pharmaceutical industry and colleagues from universities here and abroad as well as a finishing talk by David summarizing his career activities, punctuated by lots of pictures. These pictures can be viewed on his NYU website, nyu.edu/projects/schuster/people/schuster/schuster.htm. A large cocktail party at David's home on East 30th Street in New York was held on the evening preceding the event.

"Subsequently, he was asked to teach a few courses, but following the hiring of several new faculty members he has not taught for several years. He continued to do research with undergraduates and a postdoctoral fellow until 2011, and decided to close his lab permanently earlier in 2012. He continues to write papers with his collaborators in Europe and is working on an invited perspective article on his career for the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*. He was the recipient of a 2012 Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society, which was presented following a symposium at a recent meeting of the ACS in Philadelphia. The award consists of a plaque, a cash award and a research grant, which David intends to use to travel to scientific meetings here and abroad as well as to laboratories and scientific institutions around the world with which he has been affiliated. He also works occasionally for law firms as an expert witness on patent litigation issues and other matters in his areas of expertise in organic chemistry.

"In addition to these professional activities, he volunteers one

day a week at the archives of the New York Philharmonic, where he writes metadata for its database in connection with ongoing digitization of all the extensive holdings of the archives dating back to the orchestra's founding in 1842. These files concern music and musicians, personnel matters and all business aspects of the organization. Currently, efforts are directed toward 1943-70, the so-called International Era, during which time the Philharmonic's activities broadened considerably under the leadership of Leonard Bernstein. As David has been attending concerts of the New York Philharmonic since 1950, he frequently is consulted regarding various files and photographs that draw on his extensive concert experience and his knowledge of music and musicians. He studies the piano and occasionally performs solo and chamber concerts at his home in New York and at scientific gatherings in the United States and in Europe. He and his wife, Carlotta '57 Barnard, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, live full-time in Manhattan and participate fully in the cultural and culinary life of our great city."

**Hillel Tobias** writes, "Having just read the latest copy of *Columbia College Today*, I am inspired to write. The inspiration came from **Jack Katz** [who reported that he is still working]. I also work full-time and enjoy every minute of it; I am medical director of the Liver Transplant Service of NYU Langone Medical Center, where they have yet to fire me as clinical professor of medicine and surgery. In addition, I consult for Concorde Medical Group, which

I founded in the '90s and which, with 43 doctors, now is probably the largest private multispecialty group in Manhattan.

"My wife, Wendy, an anesthesiologist, works full-time. We week-end year-round in the Hamptons at our house in Water Mill and in between try to keep up traveling, although not quite to the level of our retired friends. Last spring we toured Botswana and Namibia, and in January we went to Southeast Asia and Myanmar with Ira Jolles '59 and his wife, Andrea. In between we hobnob with my Phi Sigma Delta fraternity brothers, **Robert Cabat**, Munro Levitzky '57 and Ira. [Like Jack], I also don't play bridge or golf — not even tennis — so I intend to keep working in the style of the older generation M.D.s: until death do us part. As they say, if I get as much joy out of working as others get out of golf, must I change?

"Incidentally, if there are any '56ers in the Hamptons (there must be some), can we get together for lunch or dinner sometime?"

Winter get-together in Florida, summer get-together in the Hamptons — sounds good to me.

In November, we had a book signing event at the Columbia Alumni Center for *Living Legacies at Columbia* by Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, '53 GSAS and Jerry Kisslinger '79, '82 GSAS. This amazing book was sent as a gift to all Class of '56 John Jay Associate-level contributors to the Columbia College Fund. In attendance were the authors and **Vic Levin** and his wife, Fran; **Danny Link**; **Ron Kapon**; **Ralph Kaslick**; **Al Franco '56E**; **Stephen Easton**; and **Len Wolfe**. (See nearby photo.) In addition to the formal signing, Professor de Bary regaled us with his knowledge of the development of the Core Curriculum; his involvement in Asian studies at Columbia; the writing of his 31st book at 93; and his continued love of Columbia football, win or lose. Everyone who attended the event thoroughly enjoyed it. Just a note, last year we had 22 John Jay-level contributors. It would be nice if we could increase that number to 40 (or more) for our 60th reunion year.

On December 18, I joined 34 other Class Agents for a Columbia College Volunteer Celebration, sponsored by the Columbia College Fund. Our class has **Danny Link**, **Stan Soren**, **Al Franco '56E** and myself as Class Agents. Among other functions, we do solicit for contributions to the Columbia College Fund, which also gives us an opportunity to reconnect with class members (we do not just ask for money). I would be remiss if I did not encourage each and every class

member who so desires to contribute. The fund year (2012-13) ends on Sunday, June 30. You can give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline, by calling the Alumni Office at 212-851-7488 or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

I again ask all class members who want to keep in touch to update their email addresses with **Lou Hemmerdinger**: lhemmer@aol.com. This seems to be the best way to stay in touch with the majority of our class members. Please be a part of our mission to reconnect.

As spring turns to summer, I wish every one of our class members and their families good health and good fortune.

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**Ken Bodenstein** attended the 2012 USA/ITA National Indoor Intercollegiate Championships tennis tournament, held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y., and hosted by Columbia. He took issue with *Spectator's* comments on the Columbia team's performance there. "I don't think the reporter did the Columbia participants justice. This tournament brought the best U.S. men and women collegiate players to NYC, and both Columbia men and women showed they can play with the best. Nikki Bartnick '13, Columbia's No. 1 woman, had an outstanding tournament, beating the No. 7-ranked player in the country from USC and the No. 4-ranked freshman in the country from North Carolina. The [Columbia] men's No. 1 doubles team also had a great tournament. Robin Andrews from UCLA won the women's singles. I was a tennis junkie for the weekend, spending 9 a.m.-9 p.m. each day at the new indoor facility at the National Tennis Center."

**John Breeskin** recently published his book, *Training Wheels for Beginning Psychotherapists/A Personal Memoir*, which he has been writing for more than 30 years. It has info that he wishes he had learned when he was starting in the field of professional psychology. Professor Fred Keller is represented in the book as John's mentor and there are a few scenes referring to his close friends of the Class of 1957 and the Columbia College scene in general. He adds, "The book is halfway between a comic book and an encyclopedia and, if you choose

to read it, I would welcome your feedback greatly."

John's website is johnbreeskin.com/book/book.html.

**Dick Cohen** writes, "Continuing an annual [West meets East reunion] established two years ago in Chicago and last year in Italy, **Dick Cohen** (San Francisco) and **Art Bernstein** (Setauket, Long Island) met in October — along with their wives, Sandra Cohen and Edith Bernstein — for two weeks of exploration in London, Paris and Amsterdam. We witnessed some of the greatest art that man has produced and experienced great music performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London ('Beethoven's Ninth'), the new opera house in Paris ('The Marriage of Figaro'), and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam (a piano recital). Art came up with the idea of each of us choosing two items from the British Museum and preparing a mini-lecture to be presented to the others in front of the item at the museum. It was a delightful experience. We are already discussing plans for continuing this tradition next year."

**Lawrence Merrión's** "recent biography of illustrator Pete Hawley has been published in *ILLUSTRATION* magazine. Lawrence, a retired architect in Concord, Calif., gathered information about Hawley when they met in the '50s at his Fifth Avenue studio. Hawley provided Lawrence with graphic materials for a paper he presented to a CC class in 1955. Hawley was noted for his outstanding advertising illustrations for Jantzen swim and sportswear, published in leading slick magazines. *ILLUSTRATION* and the biography can be reviewed at illustration-magazine.com."

**Jerome Tarshis** writes, "Although not completely inactive in society, I am more retired from a career as an art journalist than I was the last time I submitted an update to Class Notes. Once upon a time I wrote for periodicals of wide circulation, among them *Smithsonian* magazine, *American Heritage*, *Art in America* and (for 30 years) *The Christian Science Monitor*.

"Now I do what the English might call parish-pump journalism; I write occasional pieces for a San Francisco neighborhood monthly, the *New Fillmore*, which covers upmarket though still-lively Pacific Heights. In a way I've come full circle, as my first published writing after Columbia was for the *Village Voice*, in those years very much a neighborhood paper serving Greenwich Village.

"As for what else I do for kicks, there is always walking in the city; I browse streets as well as bookshops, libraries and art galleries. Art journalism was in many

ways an extension of my almost compulsive walking around.

"If anybody is wondering, I do in fact run into, and have come to know, a fellow San Francisco *flâneur*, novelist and essayist Herbert Gold '46."

**Martin Fisher** writes from sunny Florida: "This is the second winter that we have enjoyed the relaxed and healthy atmosphere down here. We do miss the cultural institutions in NYC, including alma mater.

"I was able to get to five or so football games last fall, including our heartwarming victories over Yale and Cornell. I like our new coach's [Pete Mangurian's] approach to the game and am grimly awaiting payback time when we host Harvard in 2013."

**Gene Wagner** reports, "On September 22 we again had our Columbia So Cal luncheon in Long Beach. We had seven classmates and five wives, who sat separately. We have set a precedent [on the seating arrangement, because] our wives have bonded just as have their husbands. Attending were **Jerry Werksman**, **John Taussig**, **Ken Bodenstein**, **Bernie Lynch**, **Jon Lubin**, myself and **Mike Gold**. We made a tribute to **Ken Silvers**, who had been a regular attendee. He will truly be missed.

"Jon has since left our group and moved to the cold climate of the Twin Cities. If we have any classmates living in that vicinity, I'm sure that Jon would welcome a message from them; his email address remains jonathanlubin@mac.com. Jon is a great guy who has had a successful and interesting career.

"As usual, **Mike Gold** led us in a political discussion. He tried to avoid the controversy of the presidential election and so we settled on California propositions: a very safe conversation. Everyone walked away happy."

Yours truly attended a gathering of the Columbia University Club of Washington, D.C., at the Library of Congress on October 4, at which Dean James J. Valentini spoke on the theme of "Shared Ideas + Common Values = Community." As Dean Valentini stated in his letter dated September 28 to former students, he was interested in hearing from the "highly accomplished former students who care deeply about the College and its future ... to talk about our various visions of the College, to use our critical thinking skills and to find things that we agree on and can all support to propel us to provide a better undergraduate experience. ... We need to come together to learn from one another and figure out what the very best undergraduate education should entail from the Core to Com-

mencement and beyond."

I also attended the Homecoming game on October 20 and a pre-game luncheon, meeting **Dick Lowery** and his wife, Erica; **David Kinney** and his wife, Kathleen; **Tony Antonio** and his wife, Carol; and **Carlos Muñoz**.

I have two deaths to report: **Edward A. Earle**, of Wilmington N.C., died on April 25, 2012, and **Pasquale "Pat" A. Loconto**, of Austin, Texas, died on August 9, 2012.

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**  
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We're hoping for a well-attended 55th reunion, to be held Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2. Dean's Day will take place during the same weekend, on Saturday, June 1. In addition to a variety of all-class events, at this writing the Reunion Committee was recruiting a speaker for the class dinners on Friday and Saturday and participants for a class panel on Saturday. We expect these events to live up to our long tradition of interesting speakers and lively panel discussions. New this year, **Stu Huntington** and **Paul Gomerz** are organizing a Navy-Air Force ROTC Affinity Reception on Saturday afternoon, to mark the return of ROTC to campus.

For more details about the weekend, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. Also, while you're on the site, update your contact information to be sure you receive all the latest reunion news and make a pledge to attend.

The annual (mostly) New York area Homecoming reunion shifted to a new location for 2012: the University Club. Those attending were **Ernie Brod** and his wife, Ruthie; **Bernie Nussbaum** and his wife, Nancy; Allan Gardner '59 and Ruth Cowan '61 Barnard; Ira Jolles '59 and his wife, Andrea; **Mark Weiss** and his wife, Joan; Richard Gochman '63 and his wife, Alice; Mike Berlin '59 and his wife, Nancy; Arnie Abrams '61 and his wife, Phyllis; **Howard Orlin** and his wife, Anita; Clara Londoner (wife of **David Londoner**, who, sadly, died in 2012); **Sid Rosdeitcher** and his wife, Linda; **Arthur Radin** and Miriam Katowitz; Martin Nussbaum '67 (unfortu-

nately his wife, Kane, was sick and couldn't be there); **Peter Cohn** and his wife, Joan; and **Shelly Raab** and his wife, Judy. My wife, Carol, and I couldn't make it because we were vacationing in Turkey. Allan Gardner '59 called the roll and reported that "the party was very nice, with good attendance, good food and very good company."

We only recently learned of the death of **Walter M. Stern** on May 18, 2011. Walter was a graduate of New York Medical College and was awarded a fellowship in dermatology at Johns Hopkins. He had been with National Health Services and at his death was retired from a family practice in Forest Hills, N.Y. He is survived by his daughter, Sabine.

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

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It is with great sorrow that I inform you of the deaths of three classmates: **Jose W. Noyes**, financial executive, New York City, on October 18, 2012; **Arthur L. Schatten**, attorney, West Orange, N.J., on August 31, 2012; and **Michael Marks Cohen**, attorney, New York City, on December 1, 2012. They will be missed.

**Dave Clark** reports on his experience with Hurricane Sandy. "It sure wasn't fun, but Mike (my second son) and I survived nearly two weeks without heat and light courtesy of Sandy, the ensuing nor'easter and the incompetence of the Long Island Power Authority. That said, we only lost two trees and the food in our refrigerator and freezer. A lot of people on the south- and east-facing shores fared a lot worse. I hope our New York and New Jersey classmates got by OK. I'm still in pretty good health, bowl in two leagues and enjoy attending all our family gatherings, birthdays, holidays and so forth. See you at the next reunion."

From **Alvin Halpern**, we have the remainder of his submission from the last issue of CCT.

"We are greatly enjoying spending time with our two grandchildren, Luke and Zak, who live in the suburbs of San Diego with my son, Marc '95, and his wife, Heidi. Marc is a partner in a small, successful law firm and Heidi



is a marine biologist for NOAA and based at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. My older son, Kenneth '91, recently moved to Boston. He had a successful career on Wall Street (after getting his Ph.D. in theoretical particle physics at MIT and finding the job market in his field essentially nonexistent), but is now in a new phase of his life, developing a specialized software business and enjoying the intellectual climate he missed on Wall Street.

"Last winter, we spent enjoyable time with **Joe Krieger** and his wife, Rose, when they came out to California and stayed in San Diego for a few weeks. [As of this writing, we were] planning to spend a week or so in the New York area in October to see the foliage, as well as catch up with family and friends and with our beloved Manhattan."

To **David B. Smith**, I apologize for using a wrong middle initial. David sent some interesting observations about his past year's travels, which you may recall took him for two months to Turkey, mostly on the Aegean coast of Anatolia:

"When we think of ancient Greece and the roots of Western civilization, Athens comes to mind, perhaps Sparta. Or, if we recall Homer, which we all read, we may envision the Mycenae of Agamemnon or Syracuse and Odysseus or the walls of Tiryns. We all know of Helen and the Trojan War. But how many of us understand that the war was fought in Anatolia and as much over Asian trade as the infidelity of Helen? How many of us know that immediately after the fall of Troy, Aeolian Greeks established trading outposts on the Anatolian shore at the mouth of the Meander River at modern-day Miletus? Shortly after, at the beginning of the first millennium BCE, a huge Ionian migration settled most of western Anatolia.

"Herodotus, whose histories we all remember from Humanities, himself from Halicarnassus, modern Bodrum, tells us that the first Ionian migrants did not bring women. When they conquered the Anatolian shore, they killed all the native men and took their women for wives. Because the Greeks killed their fathers, husbands and sons, the women by oath thereafter refused to sit at a table with their husbands or address them by name.

"Thales was the first great Greek mathematician. Some will know that he visited Egypt, but how many know that he came from Miletus? Thales was in the company of the early physicists Anaximander and Anaximenes, both also from Anatolian Miletus. Heraclitus, the first Greek to formulate an atomic theory of matter,

hailed from Ephesus. The historian Hecataeus and the first Greek city planner, Hippodamus, were from Miletus. Hippodamus famously laid out the plan of Priene on a grid. (We won't mention that in the Indus valley they did the same thing 2,000 years earlier.) Much later, Isidorus of Miletus, a renowned mathematician, completed the construction of Justinian's Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.

"Two of the seven wonders of the ancient world were in western Anatolia: the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus and the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus. The Colossus of Rhodes, a third wonder of the ancient world, was but a few miles off the Anatolian shore.

"It seems that the West owes as much to Anatolian Greeks as it does to the Peloponnese and mainland Greeks."

After receiving a contribution from **Matt Sobel** '60E, I asked about his position with the economics department at Case Western Reserve, in the Weatherhead School of Management, as I remembered him as an engineer, stringing wires for ham radio antennas. He responded, "Yes, I did string an antenna wire between the roofs of the buildings that in that era were Engineering and the School of Mines. Through the years I've done some high mountain hiking and climbing but I've never felt as exposed to a drop as I did then.

**Matt Sobel '59, '60E is the chair of the Department of Economics at Case Western Reserve.**

"A few years after my engineering degree, I did regional water quality planning for an agency that became part of the EPA when it was created years later. The others in our group were engineers, biologists and oceanographers, and by default I became the link to the social and behavioral sciences. In typical engineering fashion, at first we did our planning by figuring out how much waste should be removed from the effluent of each town, city and manufacturing plant. Meanwhile, I was reading articles written by 'regional science' scholars who originally had been economists. They argued that price systems could be employed to induce people to behave, of their own volition, in the way that one wanted them to behave. Since then, these arguments have been used and abused and seem quite common. At the time they were novel. Anyway, that sucked me into economics.

"I sought a doctoral program at a university that was excellent in economics, particularly economic

theory, as well as in my nominal discipline, operations research. Part of the attraction of operations research was its interdisciplinary origins. Stanford more than met my hopes, and my office there was in the small building housing the economic theorists. During the course of my career since, I've often hung out with economists and I've written some papers in economics journals. Many times I've been the only non-economist at seminars presented by economists.

"The attraction of chairing the economics department at Case Western is primarily the wonderful intellectual community that its faculty members and students have fostered. I thought that my unit leadership days were over, but it is a privilege to be in the midst of this group shortly before retirement."

**Art Lloyd** '62L writes, "Greetings from the North Country (Stowe, Vt.)! For those who may remember me, and even those who don't, here's my long-postponed contribution to the Class Notes. I have had a great 50 years or so after Columbia, up to and including the present. During law school, I married my wonderful wife and best friend, with whom I celebrated 50 years of marriage last year. We have three daughters: a trial lawyer, a music director and an educator.

"I was in private and corporate law practice in New Jersey for seven years before joining a major

international bank in New York City, where I specialized in international trade and commercial law. I eventually headed a legal and investigative unit, becoming the company's chief 'fraud buster' domestically and overseas. After my retirement, I joined a British security consulting firm, where I set up a corporate investigation operation covering the western hemisphere. I retired a second time in 1997, but freelance as an expert witness on the occasional juicy fraud case.

"Never having escaped the spell of the humanities nurtured at Columbia, I also have been a semi-pro operatic baritone. During the '60s and '70s I appeared with various companies in the New York area. The voice is still serviceable but these days I do fewer solo appearances and, since our move to Vermont 15 years ago, restrict most of my singing to church, choruses and the shower. I spend as much time as possible revisiting the DWMs of the literary canon and am trying to keep up my creaky French

language skills by slogging through Proust (I'm about halfway through at my current pace).

"Vermont is as close to paradise as I am likely to get. I have become heavily involved in town activities, chair our local electric commission, ski almost every day during the season, have rationalized a mediocre golf game and fly fish whenever possible. That said, our greatest joy these days comes from a close relationship with our children and grandchildren and their extended families."

**Ben Miller** reports, "I had spinal surgery the day after the election. I lifted a page from Ronald Reagan's book and said to the doctor, 'I hope you're a Democrat.' He laughed. And I survived, so I guess he was. Recuperating slowly. It's taking longer than I thought. This getting-old stuff is a real nuisance.

"Saw **Ed Mendrzycki** and his wife, Cathy, in early October. They were in town for a wedding. We spent a lovely afternoon and early evening together. He looked good but frail. And he tires easily. He's a trooper."

**Jay Brandstadter** '60E writes, "This summer and fall had some Columbia content in it. In August, my wife and I visited the Adirondacks in upstate New York and caught up with **Richard Peters** '60E and his wife, Ann, at their place in Saratoga Springs. Rich is a retired marketing executive in high-tech products and management consulting. After a successful international career, he and Ann now divide their time between Georgetown in D.C. and Saratoga. I've known Rich since we were freshmen and he, like myself, was in the '3-2' program and got a B.S. in electrical engineering. Both of us also were members of the Dumbbells, an Engineering School 'honor' society (can't remember the admittance criteria; perhaps it was beer consumption).

"We also had lightweight football in common. Remember lightweight or 150-lb. football? In 1956, I was one of the student managers of the lightweights (the varsity was in the capable hands of **Norm Gelfand** and **Mike Tannenbaum**), and Rich played defensive back.

"Rich and I recalled the October 27, 1956, morning game against Navy in Annapolis. Final score: Navy 59, Columbia 0. Afterward, the team bus returned to Baker Field right at the conclusion of the varsity's game against Army. Final score: Army 60, Columbia 0. So for the day: Armed Services 119, Columbia 0. Ouch! You don't forget days like that. There might have been a JV or freshman game that weekend to add to that ridiculous total outcome, but enough already. As a postscript, Columbia didn't

play Army again in football until 1982. As for lightweight, it's now called 'sprint football' and Columbia hasn't had a team in a number of years. And, yes, the service academies still dominate it.

"Another Columbia connection emerged in the recent 2012 elections. The incumbent in my restructured congressional district in Maryland was challenged by John Delaney '85. John is the son of a union electrician and was awarded an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers scholarship to Columbia. (This is the same path that I followed.) I volunteered for his campaign and contributed where I could, mostly making telephone calls. John has an interesting background; he earned a law degree but made his mark as an entrepreneur and venture capitalist, unusual for a Democratic candidate. He was endorsed by *The Washington Post* and President Clinton and won the House seat by a 2:1 margin. Definitely a political star in the making."

From **Jay Neugeboren**, we hear about his 19th and 20th books, both novels, out this winter and spring. The first, *The Other Side of the World*, was published in December, and the second, *The American Sun & Wind Moving Picture Company*, was, at this writing, slated for publication in February. His new play, *We Gather Together: A Musical-Comical-Tragic Thanksgiving Entertainment in Two Acts*, received a robust staged reading recently, with Kathleen Chalfant and Paul Hecht in the principal roles. This spring, Jay will teach a master class in the graduate writing program at the School of the Arts.

**Stephen Basson** writes, "Seven months ago, my son and his lovely wife welcomed a daughter, our first grandchild, Phoebe. My wife has been called back to work to help the high school where she taught for 39 years because a staff member left suddenly; we both hope that this January-May stint will end her formal career. I am giving a class on opera as a benefit for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, an activity I have sustained since retiring as a player in 2001, but I admit to being more tired than I used to be from such efforts.

"Our class was about 600 men; I understand that nowadays a larger and much more diverse group makes up the freshman class. I hope they have at least as rich an experience as we did."

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Our First Thursday of the Month Class Lunch brought **David Kirk**,

**Bob Berne, Art Delmhorst, Richard Friedlander, Victor Chang and David Goldman** to the table at the Columbia University Club of New York on December 6. Only a week before the Class Notes deadline, and me with nary a note to lead with.

Conversation spans the range, from economics to climate change. Victor supplies background perspective and Bob current data as we rapidly approach the Fiscal Cliff. **David Kirk** relates a professor's lecture that Manhattan is sinking as its tectonic plates shift. Everyone weighs in with opinions

**Rabbi Clifford Miller '61 was honored on December 1 and 2 by Temple Emanu-El in Bayonne, N.J., the congregation he has served for more than 25 years.**

on raising tax rates. The discussion continues on capping deductions and rebates. The experiences of Storm Sandy and the ensuing nor'easter, the climate has become far more fierce and dramatic. Days without heat and nights without light, power recovery on the East Coast, erratic. A grand piano, **David Kirk's** gift to his daughter, silenced forever, her home awash in saltwater. The saving of heirlooms and irreplaceable albums; exhausting effort, frenetic, manic. Through it all, the nation's economy, still moribund and static. Doctors' fees face precipitous decline. Dr. **David Goldman** reports as he flinches. Medical reimbursements being reduced line by line. The futures of some young M.D.s fade to dark, seemingly stolen by bureaucratic Grinchess. Doctors' fees? Is there nothing at all left that is sacred?

The lunch would not be complete without coverage of the Great Game. Aging: Our most competitive sport. Time, our formidable adversary. Always a recap, a medical report: Everyone is more or less satisfactory. **David Kirk's** septum deviates when his poorly grounded ladder falls fast. At the annual Delmhorst family football game, Art snares a hard-thrown pass: One broken finger is now in a cast. Bob is off to race against Time on the ski slopes of Utah. His proficiency will draw that classic Western exclamation from spectators, "Woohaaah." We ask no quarter, we make no concessions, we take our lumps but hold Time at bay. When we meet again we'll reassure each other that we're doing "just great," same as we do on every First Thursday. We'll share, as always, serious thoughts, tales of our accomplishments with just a bit of embroidery, laugh with abandon and discuss future plans, revel

in our half-century camaraderie.

As 2012 slipped away with so much left uncertain, so much angst in a struggling and divided nation, we bid each other a good New Year and with a quantum of hope, a measure of optimism and a dose of reality that's sobering, we send those very same best wishes to you all and hope that you'll join us for a First Thursday gathering.

**Paul Nagano** reliably commemorates each Lunar New Year with a painting. This year is the Year of the Snake. Do visit Paul's magnificent work on his website, flickr.com/photos/ptnagano.

**Bill Tanenbaum** and **Bill Caldwell** regularly kept me up to date on observations during the presidential campaign, but now it's over and seems unlikely that you want a reprise. Besides, we are now into the 2016 campaign cycle, unfortunately. Makes one long for the British system, which limits campaigns to a month.

Otherwise, the mailbox has been uncharacteristically empty since the last issue of CCT, bringing on not just a state of alarm but also an abiding curiosity. Where have you all been? I've been reading about research to achieve "induced hibernation in humans" as a protective mechanism during surgery and to increase longevity. Got me wondering whether all in the class had volunteered to participate in such a project en masse. The slowing of breathing and heart rates. A suspension of eating and excreting. A lowering of metabolic activity. Abstinence from, you know, any proclivity. The absence of all animation. A moratorium on email communication? To what end? Life extension? Not a bad idea. And who needs winter? Or was it that you all opted for early voting and sought respite from the remainder of the drawn-out, caustic, highly unpleasant and largely meaningless \$2 billion campaign cycle directed entirely at the 5 percent of "undecideds"? Hibernation, the perfect political campaign avoidance strategy. Makes sense. But why didn't anyone let me in on how to do it? Now it's all over.

Awaken. I miss your emails. The honor of the class is at stake and so, too, is the tranquility of my state of mind, make no mistake, as — faced with a deadline and nothing to write — it tends to be fragile contemplating a most embarrassing sight, our prominent blue 60

'neath which not a spot of ink, as if the Class of '60 inexplicably had become extinct.

My very best to all.

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Rabbi **Clifford Miller** was honored on December 1 and 2 by Temple Emanu-El in Bayonne, N.J., the congregation he has served for more than 25 years. His wife, Debby Uchill Miller '66 Barnard; daughters, Arielle and Adinah; and grandchildren, Zeke and Zoey Timen, and Eitan Nadiv Feder, were joined by more than 100 guests from California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and New York, in addition to those who wrote to him from far and near. Since earning an M.L.S. from Rutgers, Clifford has practiced a second profession, remaining on Morningside Heights and cataloging rabbinical literature in the library of The Jewish Theological Seminary. He has not retired yet!

**David Konstan** was elected honorary (foreign) fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

**Tom Lippman** made a three-day trip to Tokyo in November to deliver a paper and give a lecture, "The Arab Spring and U.S. Interests." Talk about jet lag — he arrived Wednesday evening, spent Thursday and Friday at the conference and flew home on Saturday. He learned he's not as resilient as he used to be.

**Morrow Wilson** has published a new book, *David Sunshine: A Novel of the Communications Industry*, a somewhat biographical novel. A fun read.

**Sam Marateck's** paper, "Yang-Mills and Beyond," was published last summer in the *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*. It describes the theoretical work leading up to the discovery of the Higgs boson.

Sam lives in Long Beach, N.Y., an area hit hard by Hurricane Sandy. He was out of his home until early December, and almost every car in Long Beach, including Sam's, was damaged beyond repair. His was swept into a busy intersection by the ocean surge.

**David Blicher** passed away on October 26, 2012, in Sacramento, Calif., succumbing to lung cancer. A remembrance and tribute to David was held on November 20 in Sacramento. **Don Roberts, George Perry and Marty Kaplan** attended, and comments from letters written by **Burt Ehrlich** and **Marty Margulies** were read at the ceremony.

**Marty Kaplan** also provided a remembrance of David at the



memorial service at the request of David’s wife, Terrie Lind. Several excerpts appear below.

“David had a large network of friends, reflecting the trust and admiration of fellow students. He was an active leader of three service organizations on campus, and elected chairman of the student government his senior year. He was active in NSA [National Students Association] and, no surprise, he was NSA chairman of the Student Body Presidents Advisory Board, selected by his peers. On all matters, he went for ‘What’s fair? What’s the right thing to do?’ Thus, it was no surprise that later in life he worked for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in Montgomery, Ala.; The Legal Aid Society; Planned Parenthood; Child Action; and Opening Doors.

“Nothing David did for others could surprise any of us who knew him in College, but he went beyond expectations when he celebrated his 60th birthday by joining the Peace Corps, which he had wanted to do when he graduated from college. He spent three years in Kenya, supporting the

Lobanoff, put together a set of photographs remembering David’s life. For those who are interested, go to youtube.com and search for “Celebration of Life - David M. Blicher.” One can simply enter “David Blicher” and the show will come up. There are even some shots from Columbia days.

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After a marathon, a runner requires rest. During the past three years alone you’ve written more than 22,000 words, culminating in your thoughts about our 50th reunion last year. For that effort you deserve many thanks and some rest, which you’ve clearly taken the past three months, hence the paucity of news in this report. But please don’t rest on your laurels. Send fresh reports about yourself, your families and classmates. Otherwise I’ll be out of a job, and your classmates will be confined to the dark.

Of course, the biggest news of

**Dr. Bob Lefkowitz ‘62, a professor at Duke, was awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.**

small business efforts of women, implementing microfinance and training people to install and operate solar energy systems.

“Following that, he facilitated a two-day conference of a foundation’s Latin American grantees, none of whom even knew the others, but by the end of the experience some were making plans to collaborate, and they continued to do so.

“**Bob Randall** asked to remind us all of ‘David the gardener, who was bonkers for bonsai; the lawyer who loved being a judge; the high school football player; the politician at a College that mostly eschewed politics; the guy who had loved chatting with Harry Truman; the hiker who loved the California landscape; the wine maven; and, more than anything else, the devoted son, brother, father and husband, and the loyal friend.’

“A person’s life is best measured by the impact on others — how many people did you help? How deep is the affection and admiration of those you knew? How lasting are the memories you leave? In all those areas, David’s life was one of great abundance. The years were too few, but our love for him and the memories will be with us all the years of our lives.”

David’s nephew, Matthew

the past three months is that Dr. **Bob Lefkowitz**, the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine at Duke as well as professor of biochemistry, was awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his studies of G-protein-coupled receptors. He is the 18th College alumnus/a to win a Nobel and the 82nd of all schools of the University, faculty, adjunct faculty, researchers and administrators.

Bob also is widely recognized for his dedication to mentoring and his devotion to his students. He has trained more than 200 graduate and postdoctoral students in his laboratory. Among his mentees was Brian Kobilka, with whom he shared the Nobel Prize.

When it comes to his own research, Bob says he remains fascinated by the way it “continuously renews itself and always feels fresh. I come to work every day with a sense of great anticipation and curiosity about what new discoveries and insights will come our way. Every question that we can answer poses several new ones that seem even more interesting than the one we’ve just answered.”

We should have anticipated Bob’s exceptional work when he graduated, for he was barely 19. His list of honors is far, far too long to list here, but you may see it and

a description of his research online.

Thanks, Bob, for your great contributions to medical science and for giving the rest of us another reason to boast of our being members of the Class of 1962.

I received an interesting email from Thomas Vinciguerra ‘85, ‘86], ‘90 GSAS. He writes, “I have just made an interesting discovery in *Spectator’s* newly digitized archives [spectatorarchive.library.columbia.edu]. In the year of your graduation, an attempt was made to revive the Philolexian Society by the assistant to the dean, Robert Pinckert ‘52, himself a former member of the society. For a long time, I did not know that any members of the Class of ‘62 had been inducted as members; I thought that Philo activity only got under way after you left campus. But I now see that Bob named two of your classmates to Philo’s ranks.” Those esteemed undergraduates were **John Alexander** and **Vic Wolfenstein**.

According to *Spectator* (Volume CVI, Number 70, 16 February 1962) — **Allen Young**, we’re depending on your editorial oversight — the Philolexian Society was Columbia’s first extracurricular activity and “the third oldest literary society in the nation.” It was founded in 1802 and, like most literary societies of the time, initially was a debating club. In the late 1920s it altered its constitution to encompass literary and cultural activities. According to the article, by Karl Schaeffer ‘65, ‘66], “It was famed throughout the city for its dramatic presentations. ... The rejuvenated society will hold discussion meetings on various topics and attempt to promote other cultural activities on campus. There also may be an official society journal. Dean of Graduate Faculties and Provost Jacques Barzun ‘27, one of the notable members and once president of the society, has recalled Philolexian began to lose appeal for College students during the Depression, ‘which turned all minds away from literature and toward social problems.’”

Philo has been fully active since Tom revived it in 1987. Currently, 73 students are members; more than 400 students have joined since its 1987 re-inception.

A note came from **John Boatner**, saying that a film on his life and work was shown at the Indie Memphis Film Festival on November 4. The film was titled *Spiritual Transit* in order to show, in John’s words, “the transit of my life from Memphis to Seattle.” David Goodman, a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, directed and produced the film.

Capt. **Howard Douglas Bohaboy**, U.S. Navy, quietly passed away on August 10 after an extended

illness. His obituary in the *Alameda Sun* says, “He was born and raised in New Jersey, and received his undergraduate degree at Columbia University and his law degree at Rutgers University. He was an avid athlete all his life, devoted to his beloved Navy, loving and caring to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.” According to the obituary, a burial at sea by the Navy was planned. Doug is survived by his son, Spencer.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 29–JUNE 2, 2013**  
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By now you should have received enough material from Columbia about our 50th reunion to prove that it is an unavoidable fact. We graduated 50 years ago — an unbelievable landmark in life and one that deserves to be celebrated. Our Reunion Committee has been planning a weekend that we hope will give you a chance to reconnect with Columbia and, more importantly, classmates. The dates are Wednesday, May 29–Sunday, June 2. Plans include a reception at Donna and **Phil Satow’s** loft on Wednesday evening, a reception at President Lee C. Bollinger’s house on Thursday evening and a luncheon and boat cruise touring New York Harbor on Friday. There will be panel discussions, tours of the campus, Affinity Group gatherings and ample time for classmates to discuss what they have been doing for the last 50 years. On Saturday we will enjoy two of Columbia’s great rooms, with a lunch in Casa Italiana and a banquet in Low Rotunda.

Since our last column I have been contacted by many of you, including **Rich Juro**, **Andy Lewin**, **Bob Bilenker**, **Alan Jacobs**, **Bob Morantz**, **Harvey Schneider**, **David Saxe**, **Steve Clineburg**, **Michael DiLorenzo**, **David Orme-Johnson** and **Michael Nolan**. If my email is any indication, everyone is looking forward to returning to Morning-side, and we will have a record turnout. Look for more information at reunion.college.columbia.edu and be sure to update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate. Join us!

My wife, Ruth, and I enjoyed seeing many of you at Homecoming in October. Among those attending were **Bob Kraft**; **Ed Collier** (back for the Marching Band reunion); **Richard Gochman** and his wife, Alice; **Don Margolis**; **Phil Satow**; **Jerry Dwyer** and his wife, Jane, along with grandchildren; **Doron Gopstein**; and **Larry Neuman**. (All assure me that they will attend reunion.) It was a perfect day except for our loss to Dartmouth. Several weeks later I sat with **Henry Black** and **Bruce Kaplan** to witness the team’s great performance in a blowout of Cornell, a much more pleasing result.

**Jerry Glickson** was awarded the Gold Medal from the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine for introduction of NMR spectroscopy to the study and management of cancer. The award was made in Montréal on May 9, 2011, and was shared with Dr. John R. Griffiths of the UK Cambridge Research Institute. Jerry is professor of radiology and the director of molecular imaging at Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine.

Congratulations to **Bob Kraft**, who was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Low Library in October.

**Mike Hassan** writes, “All is well here in sunny Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where I am semi-retired. I say ‘semi,’ as I recently completed building a beach home on speculation and I have attached a few photos [see our website, cc63ers.com] just in case someone wants to live in a magical place with unobstructed ocean and mountain views, 100 yards from a pristine beach and so on. There, you have my marketing campaign.

“On a more personal note, I have gotten cyber-engaged after 40 years of single life with the last 10 roaming the globe. (The relationship is real; only the engagement was done cybernetically.)”

**Marc Galanter** writes, “I am married to Dr. Elizabeth Hill (also a psychiatrist). On top of that, my daughter, Cathryn, is a psychiatrist, and our daughter Margit is a Feldenkrais Practitioner. I am a professor of psychiatry at NYU Langone Medical Center and direct its Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. In addition to teaching, I do research on Alcoholics Anonymous.”

**Bob Morantz** is a retired neurosurgeon in Florida. He was honored by the Education Foundation of Collier County as one of the 2012 Men of Distinction. This was based on his service to the not-for-profit sector of Naples, Fla., where he is on the board of directors of four

philanthropic organizations.

**Larry Apple’s** one-act play, *Feldman & Sons*, was presented in February as part of the Midwinter Madness Short Play Festival at the Roy Arias Studios on West 43rd Street. Larry also has completed a film on Alzheimer’s and a full-length play, *MOM*, that had a staged reading through the Dramatists Guild of America Friday Night Footlights program. He continues to work in the senior housing and real estate business.

**Zev bar-Lev** (né Rob Lefkowitz) writes, “Looking forward to seeing you all at the 50th reunion and glad to be thriving in my almost 50th year of blurry mist ... I mean, married bliss ... with Shoshana (née Jane Wirth ‘63 Barnard), after getting all too friendly with the Angel of Death. Pleased not to have seen his ugly face for more than a year.

“I marked my last week at San Diego State University, after 33 years and 60-plus publications in linguistics covering Hebrew, Arabic and a bunch of other languages, and teaching cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, language and politics, and Hebrew. I have settled into my new projects, including new frontiers in my research exploring common origins of English and Hebrew that have been hiding in plain view for centuries. Not the Tower of Babel, but surprising new turns in language structure and history, expanding the system I developed for analyzing and teaching Hebrew for 30 years to suddenly include English, Latin and so on.

“Our five grandchildren are on their way to being bilingual in large or small measure. I will share my 70th with Shoshana and Jaxon aka ‘Kobi Dan’ (our third grandkid, I think, age 6), and I’m planning to chant the Divine Mooning (Exodus 33, my favorite Torah selection for 47 years) for the occasion. All this, just a year after the doctor at the rehab hospital told me — after a five-month coma that my sister and brother, Sandy Lefkowitz and Larry Lefkowitz ‘60, helped Shoshana pull me out of — that I shouldn’t hope to read Torah ever again. In my spare time, I’m formulating the TUOT (theory of the universe and other things, pronounced ‘toot’) and exploring the fifth dimension with Shoshana.”

**Ralph Schmeltz** writes, “I am planning to be at Columbia to celebrate not only my 50th but also my son’s 20th. Will be great to see whoever shows up. Fifty-year grads are ‘old guys’ but my mind still seems 18, until it asks my bod to do something.”

**David Pittinsky** and his wife, Alecia, sent detailed notes on their annual pilgrimage to Saint-Tropez,

where they stayed for the 10th year at Résidence de la Pinède. There, they celebrated David’s 70th with family and friends. The detailed list of favorite restaurants and the descriptions of the feasts enjoyed can be found at cc63ers.com. Mouthwatering ...

**Robert Smith** writes, “I’m active in psychiatry research and clinical work as a research professor of psychiatry at NYU and a research psychiatrist at Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research (NKI), where I lead a biological psychiatry research group. Much of this professional life is involved in research projects, grants and papers. I also have a small outpatient private practice. I give medical student lectures at St. John’s Hospital. My mentor and supervisor at NKI still leads his research department after his 90th birthday and recently retired as editor of the *Journal of Neurochemistry*, and I take him as a model to emulate. My wonderful wife, Sultana, teaches two courses in French at Hofstra, and one of her colleagues taught there part-time into his 90s. I retired from one clinical job about 18 months ago, so now I have two jobs instead of three and can organize my work life and free time with greater personal freedom and control. It’s sometimes stressful but also interesting and enjoyable. You have to have the right type of creative craziness.

“I’m not certain I’ll be at the 50th reunion. I’d like to but the NCDEU meeting on clinical psychopharmacology in psychiatry may occur at the same time, and I often attend and present at this meeting.”

Robert, I hope you can make reunion. Our 50th only comes once!

I often receive emails and Facebook links from **Michael Nolan**, who, among many other activities, offers assistance with ancestry searches. I enjoy the tales of his own Irish Catholic/Jewish roots. If you need help in researching your family history, contact him: mikeydavy@gmail.com.

**Michael Klare** was honored to appear on a panel on resource scarcity at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit, held September 7–8 in Vladivostok, Russia. Featured speakers included Presidents Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation and Hu Jintao of the Republic of China and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He also spoke at the Energetika XXI: Economy, Policy, Ecology conference on energy geopolitics at the Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance in October. Michael was on sabbatical this past fall from his position as a Five College professor (at Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and

Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts Amherst) and used the time to promote his latest book, *The Race for What’s Left: The Global Scramble for the World’s Last Resources*.

A new CD by **Hank Davis** has been issued by Bear Family Records in Germany (available on Amazon). It contains excerpts from Hank’s 50-year recording career. A 50-page illustrated booklet includes Hank’s time at Columbia and a song recorded with Art Garfunkel ‘65.

**Walter Stein** is recovering from the amputation of his right foot. He bravely attended a recent reunion planning meeting, where he sat next to me in the gimp section (I am recovering from a surgically repaired, ruptured left Achilles tendon). We both promise to be ready to dance at reunion.

Remember, our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are a great place to reconnect. If you’re in NYC, try to make one of the next few; they’re scheduled for March 14, April 11 and May 9 (always the second Thursday of the month). Check cc63ers.com for details.

In the meantime, if you haven’t already, make sure you register for and attend our 50th reunion! And as always, let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next.

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Although I am writing these Class Notes in December, they will not appear until 2012 is history. So I take this occasion to wish all of you and your loved ones a happy and healthy new year.

**Barry Bley** writes from Colorado: “I continue my volunteer activities with the Alumni Representative Committee [studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/resources]. For the past 30 years or so, I have spent many a pleasant hour interviewing applicants for admission to Columbia. On average, I interview 50-plus each year, and it is a great pleasure meeting with these highly intelligent, highly motivated young people. It is my way of giving back to Columbia for the outstanding education I received.

“My Columbia education was financed in large part by a scholarship from the Leopold Schepp Foundation in New York City. This year the foundation has awarded me its Outstanding Schepp alumnus award, and I will be featured in its annual bulletin.

“On another point, now that I am happily retired from a 42-year



teaching career in the public schools of Suffern, N.Y., and Denver, I am enjoying spending lots of grandpa time with my four grandchildren."

**Steve Henick** writes, "When I retired from business I quickly found out that, for me, hobbies, sports and the like were not going to provide a satisfactory retirement; having traveled extensively for business, doing more was not high on my list of priorities either. Instead, I was a volunteer mediator and started teaching as an adjunct at my local community college. That led to my teaching as an adjunct at the University of Maryland University College.

"Last spring, UMUC offered me the opportunity to go back to work full-time as an associate professor and as the academic director of the undergraduate marketing and international business programs. I accepted and so, at 70, I am working full-time. UMUC is Maryland's open enrollment university and it has a national and international student body. The school has specialized in distance learning (now online) for decades although we do offer face-to-face courses. Teaching marketing and international business is within my comfort zone but educational administration is new, and that makes this job interesting and enjoyable. Education is experiencing major changes driven by disruptive technology, and the application of this technology to achieving educational objectives and student success is fascinating. I am grateful that I can be a part of it."

In September, **Allen Tobias** gave a talk at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, Netherlands, on Allen Ginsberg '48's composition of *Kaddish*.

In December, at a dinner in the home of President Lee C. Bollinger, **Steve Case** was honored by the University Trustees and awarded the Nicholas Murray Butler Medal for his work with the Columbia Alumni Association. In presenting the award, Bollinger called Steve, who was a trustee for 14 years, "a citizen of the University."

At the dinner I sat next to John H. Coatsworth, University Provost and a leading scholar of Latin-American economic and international history. I am pleased to report that Professor Coatsworth is a strong supporter of the Core Curriculum.

**Gene Meyer** writes from Maryland, "I was devastated to learn in the latest issue of *CCT* of the deaths of **Peter Shack** and **Nick Rudd**. I was especially good friends with Pete in college, while he was at Georgetown Law and I was working and living in D.C., and later when I was living in Philly and he was fighting for the rights of

migrant workers in South Jersey. We lost contact after he moved to California but reconnected at the last reunion. Nick was an Organization Man, the Mad Man before *Mad Men*, ebullient, gregarious, a great guy whom I got to know better during our reunion planning. Both will be missed.

"Now for some good news: A group of classmates in D.C. has been having more or less regular lunches with presidential historian Robert Dallek '64 GSAS, who taught some of us CC our freshman year. Most recently, nine of us met with him to talk presidential history and politics post-election in a penthouse conference room of the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson, courtesy of partner **Shelley Hochberg**, **Dan Press**, who knows Bob personally, has organized what I think are now four or five of these enjoyable meetings.

"I see **Ed Leavy** and **Steve Case** fairly regularly and also **Barry Shapiro**, who is a Silver Spring, Md., neighbor.

"I've been the editor of the quarterly *B'nai B'rith Magazine* for three years. I also write occasional commercial real estate articles for *The New York Times*, along with other publications. We were displaced by last June's derecho storm and finally moved back into our house in suburban Washington, D.C. My wife, Sandy, and I have a high school senior along with a college senior, and I also have a 41-year-old son who's a computer guy and professional bluesman (guitar and bass) in Durham, N.C. Best to all."

Join them in Washington, D.C., or join us at the informal class lunch held on the second Thursday of the month at the Columbia University Club of New York.

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**Andy Fisher** (andrewfisheriv@gmail.com) sent a great note about Steve Brown, who entered with our class: "I spent a recent weekend with Steve and Carolyn Brown at their year-round house in Medina, Ohio, and the log cabin near Port Clinton on the Portage River where they spend as much time as possible.

"Steve and I have known each other since freshman week in 1961. He grew up in the projects on the west side of Cleveland, the oldest of 12 children, dreaming that someday he would live in Medina, a charming little city west of Akron. Family financial problems kept him from starting college until he was 21 and he got a generous

financial aid package from Columbia. He played on assistant football coach Jack Armstrong '55, '58 TC's freshman team and laughed at the stories I would bring back from WKCR. He decided that we should room together and predicted that we would be able to snag a coveted two-room suite. Sure enough, we wound up with 934-935 Furnald Hall, arguably the finest room on campus, and it was my home for the rest of my time at Columbia. But it was not Steve's. Trying hard to get through Columbia in three years, he flunked a few courses and his scholarship was taken away. He dropped out and was promptly drafted.

"The next time I saw Steve, I had just graduated and was about to be drafted myself. He had just left the Army, had married Carolyn and was working in Ford's foundry in Cleveland and going to Case Western Reserve at night. I figured he'd never make it to Medina but, again, I was wrong. Twenty years later, a letter arrived at my NBC office. I didn't even have to open it. The return address was 'Stephen J. Brown, Attorney-at-Law, Medina, Ohio.' Since then, we have never been out of touch for long, and he is a cherished friend. He and Carolyn drove 400 miles to attend my wife Sharon's wake and funeral; 500 miles five years later to meet my sweetheart, Annie; and 400 miles last fall to be with us at our wedding.

"Steve maintains his law practice in Medina, with his younger daughter, Jenny, as his law partner. I have never heard him complain about the twists and turns his life and career have taken, and I was deeply touched to hear him say how much his three semesters at Columbia meant to him, how they defined the process of learning for him and what a privilege it was to spend any time at all at the university we too often take for granted. He would like to be counted among us, to be regarded as a member of the Class of 1965 and to join with us in 2015 as we celebrate No. 50. I already consider him one of the most important people I knew during my Columbia years and one of the greatest of the many gifts of my years at Columbia. He will always be my classmate and roommate."

**David Obelkevich** (obelkevich@aol.com) wrote this in August: "My wife, Lyn Dominguez, and I are in a small town in New Mexico called Las Vegas (not the sin city in Nevada!). Our life here is running, cycling, bird watching, hiking, looking for animals (we saw three badgers recently) and enjoying a quiet rural life before returning to West End Avenue in Manhattan.

"Most of the Columbia grads

list their intellectual accomplishments. Mine have been more in the sports realm. I have the longest streak (36 years and counting) of consecutive finishes in the ING New York City Marathon. You can read about this in Chapter 18 of the book *A Race Like No Other: 26.2 Miles Through the Streets of New York* by Liz Robbins, from 2008. Another distinction is that I was the first U.S. citizen to finish the Comrades Marathon 10 times. This is a 56-mile race in South Africa, considered the most prestigious ultra-marathon in the world, with more than 12,000 finishers. In the musical arena, I play regularly with the Riverside Orchestra, a local community orchestra that plays on the Upper West Side. My stand partner in the first violin section is Jerry Bergman '70.

"Lyn has had a career in foreign currency, teaching high school social studies and now translating Spanish into English. It was her idea, 23 years ago, to cycle across the United States. I bought maps from what was then Bikecentennial, and we planned a 4,000-mile route from NYC to Oceanside, Calif., lasting eight weeks. Fortunately, the summer vacation from NYC public schools was almost 10 weeks that year, so we had some time to rest up before resuming teaching in September. Las Vegas, N.M., was on the route from Larned, Kans., to Oceanside. It's a working-class town about the size of my hometown of Johnson City, N.Y., and most of the people are Hispanic. As Lyn's father was born in Mexico and she speaks Spanish fluently, she fits right in. The climate in the summer is a perfect antidote to the excessive humidity of NYC, and the air at 6,500 feet is always clean and pure. We love it here!"

**Neil Smith** (neilasmith@comcast.net) has some great, career-capping news: "I have been appointed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to serve as an administrative patent judge on the new Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), which will hold hearings and decide important patent validity and related issues. This is a great opportunity for me to serve the profession. I clerked for a judge on the predecessor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in my early years, Giles S. Rich '29L, and have wanted to do something like this for the profession. They are opening a new PTO office in San Jose, Calif. With the new patent law, the America Invents Act, the new PTAB will have greatly expanded jurisdiction for trials on important patent validity issues."

**Dan Waitzman** (danwaitz@sprynet.con) reports: "An expanded

version of my essay, 'Up From Authenticity, or How I Learned to Love the Metal Flute — A Personal Memoir' has been published as an Amazon Kindle book, along with supplementary material including a discussion of an early 18th-century French painting depicting a one-keyed flute with additional tone-holes. Search Amazon to find it.

"When I receive *CCT*, I always turn to this column on the doings of our Class of '65. I read with a mixture of pleasure, nostalgia and sadness: pleasure from learning of the continuing accomplishments of our classmates; nostalgia to think of our college years during which we, as one of the last generations to grow up before the profound social changes wrought by the Vietnam War experience, tried as best we could to make sense of those turbulent years; and sadness at the thought of those who are no longer with us and at the thought of our facing the problems and challenges of old age and retirement. How incredible it seems that we should have traveled this road!"

"In particular, I paid special attention to **Doug Barnett**'s account of his knee replacement surgery [Summer 2012 issue], for I face the same problem. So far I have been able to cope, after a fashion, by resorting to a cane rather than surgery. I wish him, **Paul Hyman** and all of us who must confront the so-called senior years (what an ugly term!) all the best. I must say that being a 'senior citizen' is not quite like being a senior at Columbia, and the thought of graduating can be daunting at times. Will we have to wear beanies once again, after we graduate?"

I asked Dan if he'd been in my Music Humanities class and told him that I remember the way he clutched his flute case close to his chest as he walked around campus. He replied: "Unfortunately, I never had the pleasure of taking a course with Jack Beeson. My Music Humanities teacher was Peter Westergaard, whose musical views were at opposite poles from my own in regard to his espousal of 12-tone music but whose analytical brilliance and ability to articulate aspects of musical style made the experience of studying with him a most rewarding and pleasurable one. What fine teachers we had, some of them! Sometimes I think that I was too young to appreciate them fully. It took years after my college experience for me to absorb their wisdom, and I am still working on it.

"Yes, I was a bit extreme in the way in which I carried my instrument cases and books! I did not mean to paint so gloomy a picture as my remarks [on aging] may

have implied. There are compensations. How wonderful the new electronic devices are! The young are often criticized for their short attention spans and lack of verbal abilities, and there is plenty of truth to these criticisms (and I for one lament the marked decline in the quality of contemporary writing) but I cannot help but think that the new electronic readers, computers and means of communication tend to foster literacy and ease the process of learning, rather than the other way around. I never thought that I should become a devoted acolyte of electronic books but it is a great boon to be able to look up words on the fly; to annotate, highlight and retrieve one's annotations and marks; and to search for passages and words with such unparalleled facility, to say nothing of the conveniences of electronic storage versus mountains upon mountains of books. What a world we live in! The downside, I fear, is the inherent fragility of electronic media: If the Greeks and Romans had computers, I wonder how much of their legacy would have come down to us."

Finally, a personal note. I recently read **Steven Millhauser**'s new story, "A Voice in the Night," published in *The New Yorker* of December 10. This is a short story about a 68-year-old man (like most of us 1965-ers) remembering how as a young boy in Connecticut he used to lie awake listening for the voice of God, interwoven with the biblical tale of Samuel hearing the voice of God in the night (1 Samuel 3:9). I found it deeply moving and profound and recommend it to all classmates.

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Welcome back, classmates. I think I owe all of you a brief précis of my life after matriculation, if for no reason but to level-set my presence here and your expectations.

I entered the College when I was barely 17 and accomplished two things of note that year, aside from football, track and joining Sigma Chi.

I successfully instigated a huge, and possibly the last, panty raid on Barnard during spring finals, exploiting an enormous cache of firecrackers purchased during Spring Break and tossed indiscriminately from a Hartley window. This was enough to rouse the sullen studying crowds and get them outside, where we reached critical mass and someone yelled, "Let's go to Barnard," whereupon hundreds of us marched to Broadway, picking

up reinforcements as we traveled. Reaching our goal, we were showered with water, soda and various underthings, and returned to the dorms sated with our achievement.

I also initiated (statute of limitations?) the U.S. savings bond chain letter which, you may recall, swept much of the campus that year. I was tipped to the idea by a pal at Rutgers and created my own version, selling several of them, possibly to some of you. Within a week it seemed everyone was trying to get someone else in on it. Fortunately, by the time the administration clamped down, my name was off the list and I escaped scot-free and profitable.

I left school after that year, probably to the relief of several deans, returned the next, left again for two years to complete my military obligation and hang out in California, and finally graduated in 1969. But my heart has always been with '66.

Upon graduation, I married and stayed that way for seven years. I remarried in 1984 to Kathleen and we will celebrate our 29th anniversary this spring. During all that time I discovered the world of high-tech and have had more than my share of good fortune in the realms of hardware and software sales, where I still work. I have lived in Tennessee, California, New York and New Jersey, and have frequently relished being a gadfly to local town governments and boards of education.

I have four children, three still living, and two grandchildren, and have absolutely no intention of going gently into that good night. Kathy and I travel, cook, read and spend time with old friends, some of whom are reading this column. And if you do not keep me posted on your doings, I promise you will learn more about my life than you ever wanted to.

**Tom Chorba** writes that his son, Phillip, made his movie debut in November in *Silver Linings Playbook*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture and its leads, Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, for Best Actor and Best Actress. "Phillip appears in a scene opposite Cooper. Everyone who has had a career in film starts somewhere, and this is a huge opportunity and break for Phillip. When he told my wife and I that he was in a movie opposite Bradley Cooper, we asked, 'Who is Bradley Cooper?' Apparently he is a mega star and was voted 2011's sexiest man alive by *People* magazine. So much for being up-to-date on popular culture."

Yet another post '66 grad who affiliates with our class, Peter Burmeister '70 (pburmeis@norwich.edu), writes, "I have been a full-time lecturer in psychology at Norwich University for the past 2½ years, and for the past nine

years have lived in rural Vermont. I dropped out in fall '65, returned in '69-'70 but didn't graduate, then finally returned and got my degree in 2000.

"I had a long career (30-some years) in the commercial printing industry as a sales exec and eventually CEO of two small companies. During that time I had about 20 years of psychoanalysis, and eventually I decided that my true vocation was in that realm. I got my M.A. in organizational psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson in 2002 and shortly thereafter moved to Vermont, where I practice as a therapist and teach psychology full-time as a lecturer at Norwich, which is America's oldest military college. My work in the area of resiliency and empowerment has gotten some attention and I have a devoted cadre of students, who will be some of the leaders of the next generation, both in the armed forces and in the helping professions.

"My wife, Katherine, and I have an 83-acre farm in Berlin, Vt., where we raise grass-fed, all-natural heirloom Normande beef cattle and poultry and a wonderful Australian cattle dog named Boo."

**Richard Beggs** finally has hung up his suspenders. "I retired from Daiwa Capital Markets America as CEO on October 1 and we sold our New Jersey house on December 11. My wife, Gerry, and I stayed at our Pennsylvania place through the holidays and headed to our Florida home in early January. I'll do some board and consulting work going forward."

**Harvey Kurzweil** '69L, one of the country's top litigators, writes, "After graduating from the Law School I joined what was then known as Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood, where I began practicing commercial litigation. I became a partner seven years later and fully expected to spend my entire career at Dewey, Ballantine. Five years ago, the firm entered into an ill-advised merger that culminated in its liquidation last spring. I wasn't ready to pack it in and accepted a partnership

## What's Your Story?

Letting classmates know what's going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes!

ONLINE by clicking [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.



at Winston & Strawn, a Chicago-based firm with a significant New York office. I continue to practice commercial litigation, which I still find enormously satisfying.

“My wife, Barbara, and I are up to five grandchildren with a set of twins on the way. We split our time between our apartment in NYC, our home in New Jersey and our summer home on Nantucket, where one of the annual highlights is the weekend visit of Kathy and **Rich Forzani**.”

Harvey was a member of the track team and is an avid Lions sports fan. He can be seen muttering to himself on any given autumn Saturday at Robert K. Kraft Field.

We hear from another long-lost classmate. **Richard Postupak** writes, “I left the College after my freshman year, having played frosh football and met some terrific people from all over the United States. I really loved Morningside and stayed in the area for several years, but then traveled to Tucumcari, N.M., where I lived on a commune and gained great knowledge in working with clay and also in transcendental meditation. The two disciplines seemed synergistic to me and I found great peace of mind.

“Through total happenstance, I became interested in philosophy and, in the early ’70s, was for some reason granted a fellowship to the College of Philosophy in Sansepolcro, Italy. This is in a beautiful area of southern Tuscany, just north of Umbria. After graduation, I was an instructor at the college for several decades, until it became defunct, occasionally traveling back to the U.S. as well as throughout the world. One of my great life experiences was having a conversation for several precious moments with the Dalai Lama, in the early ’90s. Since leaving the world of education, I have earned my keep as a baker of French pastry, having taken an extensive training program in Auxerre, France. I find this new vocation has many parallels to my early days as a potter.

“While I have never achieved the great accomplishments or wealth of so many of my classmates, I am constantly reminded of my incredible good fortune in finding a gentle, satisfying and intellectual path through life, and I wish all of you the peace and love I have gained on my way.”

**Ron Brookshire** writes, “After retiring I went back to work for a former boss to help out for a while. Now, years later, I guess he thinks he still needs help. Thank goodness it is three miles from home and only part-time. More important news is that my oldest daughter is married and living in Indio, Calif. She works in the Cal State system

in marketing/event planning but is thinking about Washington, D.C., after being involved in a successful political campaign for a rep (apple fell far from the tree). One of my twins recently moved to San Francisco with her long-term boyfriend and got the first job she interviewed for (clearly that apple also fell far from the tree). My other twin is finishing her degree at Cal State Long Beach next semester (she had an academic career more in line with mine).”

**Tom Harrold** reports, “I practice law in Atlanta with Miller & Martin, which was founded 145 years ago and is one of the oldest law firms in the South. [RF: Tom is one of the oldest lawyers in the South.] I am the partner in charge of the international practice group and in 1987 was one of the founders of the world law group, which now has 52 member firms in 41 countries joining more than 12,000 lawyers. From 1995–96, I was president of the World Law Group.

“My wife of 42 years, Connie, and I are most proud of our daughter, Beth (Dr. Elizabeth V. Ratchford), who after Dartmouth and the Yale School of Medicine finally became affiliated with a decent university and did her residency in internal medicine at Columbia. She is the director of vascular medicine at Johns Hopkins. A couple of years ago, Beth and I had a nice lunch with my former Columbia roommate, **Dr. Ed McCarthy**, who is a preeminent orthopedic surgeon at Johns Hopkins. Beth’s husband, Jack Ratchford ’03 P&S, unfortunately went to Princeton undergraduate but he saw the light and graduated from the Medical School. He is in the neurology department at Johns Hopkins and they have two sons, ages 4 and 7, who are very good and loyal Georgia Bulldawg fans.”

**Barry Nazarian** shares, “I moved from New Jersey to San Diego, where three of the four children I raised as a single parent have migrated, one by one, during the past 15 years. I trained 200 miles a week my first year in this land of cyclists and runners. [RF: Barry is an ardent cyclist.] I haven’t found work yet and can only hope this dearth of jobs persists.”

Finally, yet another view from the West weighs in. **Neill Brownstein** writes, “Glad to report that all is well with the Brownsteins, with four granddaughters — all West Coast — although two are in Seattle and two are in the San Francisco Bay Area. During 2012, I feel that time and Neill were in sync; mostly I was doing what I wanted to do when I wanted to do it. In the previous year, there had been too many ‘gotchas,’ where I spent precious time in ways that did not seem that

good from my view. Our daughter is Emily Hamilton ’13; we are looking forward to her graduation in May.”

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The Cleverest Crew is at it again. **Marty Goldstein** writes, “It’s impossible to top **Jon Jarvik**’s poem (see below), but let me add a little background. The Royal and Ancient Brotherhood of Buf-foons, which centers around the crew cohort of the Class of 1967, give or take a few years, holds a reunion row every five years, customarily coordinated with the class reunions. This year, because of construction in the boathouse area, we chose to push it up to the October Homecoming day, which proved to be a brilliant choice, as it coordinated with the opening of The Campbell Sports Center as well as with the football game against Dartmouth.

“We had our row in the morning, putting out an eight, coxed by the redoubtable **Jimmy Menasian**, as well as a four, which I helmed. It was a daunting experience for me at first, since this was a four rigged with the cox in the bow, facing forward, with the crew behind him facing backward, giving me a feeling akin to driving a car from the back seat. It was spooky at first, especially after the apprehensive head crew coach warned us of difficult tide and current conditions, as well as the fact that an eight costs around \$30,000 these days, and even minor repairs to the fiberglass and carbon fiber constructions cost thousands. We got the hint: Don’t screw up.

“We didn’t, and managed a good row, with no damage other than to our aged bodies, and after washing the shells down and putting them away unharmed, we went to the tent for the most excellent buffet luncheon, with a wonderful setup outdoors for the many kids who attended. We all felt part of a wonderful tradition, and shared our love of the College and the whole Columbia community.

“The game against Dartmouth was a good one, close, with Columbia showing up and playing hard, a good omen for the new head coach, Pete Mangurian. We then resumed our gathering at the new [Havana Central at The] West End, over dinner and libations — a truly wonderful day we all wished would never end. We’ll be back for our 50th in 2017.”

The aforementioned poem by **Jon Jarvik**:

Once upon a midday cheery  
While I pondered long and leery  
Over many a quaint and curious long  
forgotten oar,  
While I nodded nearly napping,  
Suddenly there came a tapping  
As of someone gently rapping,  
Rapping at the boathouse door.  
“Tis some coxswain bold,” I muttered,  
Tapping on the boathouse door,  
Only this and nothing more.  
Ah, distinctly I remember  
It was in the bright October  
And each separate oar and rigger  
Wrought its shadow on the water  
And the silken splashing, rustling  
Of each catch of water bubbling  
Thrilled me with fantastic tremors  
Felt again from years before.  
And the coxswain, never flitting  
Ever sitting, ever sitting  
On the narrow seat of fiber  
Near against the strokeman sure.  
And his eyes had all the seeming  
Of a dreyfool dreaming dreaming  
And the sunlight o’er him streaming  
Threw reflections on the shore.  
But the coxswain sitting lonely  
On the placid seat spoke only  
Three short words as if his soul  
In those three words he did outpour.  
Nothing further then he uttered,  
Oars were feathered, boat it fluttered,  
Till I scarcely more than muttered,  
“Other friends have flown before.”  
Quoth the coxswain  
“Pull that oar.”

**Paul Gewirtz**’s son, Julian, recently was named a Rhodes Scholar. Julian, a senior at Harvard, will pursue a degree in modern Chinese studies at Oxford. Congratulations to the Gewirtz family.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**  
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Greetings to the class. Winter approaches as I gather notes for this column; always a great time to reflect upon the good days ahead for us all. I do like snow and am looking forward to some in Central Park and at my place in Saratoga. To those of you who are in Naples, Fla., Tel Aviv, Paris, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Boston, Washington, D.C. and New York — and all the other great places around the world — accept what will be my belated wishes that 2013 be a great year for you and your families.

In early December I went to an



Crew members of the Class of 1967 (give or take a few years) hold a reunion every five years. Last fall, it coincided with Homecoming on October 20. Standing outside the Big Tent, left to right: Tom Huseby ’69, Carl Carlson ’65, Dave Green ’69, Eric Dannemann ’67, Dick Hansen ’62, David Blanchard ’67, Gerry Botha ’67, Jon Jarvik ’67 and Dick Dumais ’67; kneeling, left to right: Bob Malsberger ’67E, Proctor Schenk ’69, Jeff Brensilver ’67, Charlie Miller ’67, Jim Menasian ’67, Marty Goldstein ’67 and Robert Chapla ’68; front: John Gormley ’69.

PHOTO: MARTY GOLDSTEIN ’67

event sponsored by the Society of Columbia Graduates (SOCG) and hosted by **Paul de Bary**, with Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC, chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees and the evening’s speaker. Bill’s report on the state of Columbia was upbeat. Among other things he talked about how the University is making progress on many fronts, including rankings; how the College is the center of the University family; and how our Global Centers are doing well, with interest in Columbia growing around the world.

All in all, he was impressive in his comments and thoughtful. As you may know, Bill has had enormous success in Silicon Valley — he was great friends with Steve Jobs and is on the board of Apple — and so he brings to Columbia a sense of the importance of being open-minded and innovative while also being careful. Bill also was refreshingly appreciative of the Core and the special nature of Columbia in the City of New York.

I am interested in athletics, too, as you know, and Bill showed great confidence that we are moving in the right direction. Football for sure had a better year. I am hoping that the basketball season ends well. One highlight so far was the team’s crushing Villanova on its court; we hit 21 foul shots in a row at the end

of the game to ice the deal. Coach Kyle Smith is the real thing!

I went away inspired by Bill’s commitment and ready to call each one of you, both for a donation to the Columbia College Fund (college.columbia.edu/giveonline) and to encourage you to come to Alumni Reunion Weekend (Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2), as many of you have in the past. Our last one had a great turnout, and I am sure this one will be even better attended; there seems to be strong interest. The Reunion Committee is working with spirit, energy and wit. I predict good cheer and good fun. Look for information at reunion.college.columbia.edu. And while you’re at it, take the time to update your contact information so you don’t miss any news about the weekend (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate).

Returning to the subject of the SOCG event, there was a group of four from the Class of 1968: **Paul de Bary** was very funny in his introduction of Bill. **Paul Gallagher** was in from New Haven, Conn., where he and his wife, Pam, have moved to be closer to his consulting firm. He looked great and was in good humor. (I think that he does work with Yale, too; he will have to clarify at some point.) Then there was the always charming

and magnificent real estate star lawyer **Andy Herz**, now more actively involved in good causes; he says he is so glad he has more time for outside good deeds.

I was happy to see Paul, Paul and Andy, all of whom enjoyed Bill’s comments. I also had a chance to talk to Bill about football, and he is as positive about the new coach as you might expect. We agreed that beating Yale and Cornell this year was good, and that the close losses to Dartmouth and Penn (Ivy champs) also boded well.

Speaking of football, I read that we have an incoming first-year next fall — 7-foot-1, from Minnesota. I hope that is right. He should fit in well with our 6-foot-11 returning forward, Cory Osetkowski ’16.

**John Roy** sent in some great news. “Son Noah Roy ’95, ’99 PH (also a Ph.D. from Penn) married the lovely Ann Fuller in Forest Hills, Queens, on November 18. They live in Maryland. Noah is a researcher at NIH and Ann is a nurse.

“My days have been brightened here by teaching the Great Books at a local college.

“I look forward to seeing you in May.”

Congratulations and look forward to seeing you, too!

I heard from **Randy Bregman**. It had been a while but I do believe

he was a neighbor in Fernald. He says, “I am writing because I have started teaching at SIPA as an adjunct and have been thinking a lot about our days as college students. The course is titled ‘Modern Russian History from the Inside.’ We start with perestroika and go to the present. I enjoy being part of that community again. Teaching makes me feel 20 years younger. I try to get to the campus early to walk around and reminisce. I was quite proud to get my first paycheck; it was good for once to get a check from Columbia.

“**George Bernstein**, a professor at Tulane, provided good professional advice to prepare me for this assignment. In some way, teaching this course is a kind of looking back at my career for the last 25 years. I have done work as a lawyer on Russian matters — transactions, arbitrations, regulatory and anti-bribery issues — and continue to do so. In the early ’90s, my wife, Patrice, and I lived in Moscow, where I managed the office of a Washington, D.C., law firm and Patrice started a local tour company. We are now based in Washington, raising Roman and Artyom, our sons adopted from Siberia. Both are growing into fine young men, if I may say so myself. I split my time between D.C. and New York



City. Patrice manages a program for Russian orphans to visit the United States and possibly themselves be adopted.

“One of the benefits of spending part of my time in NYC has been a renewal, after many years, of my friendship with **Peter Janovsky**. We meet every few weeks for lunch in Rock Center (in honor of Columbia’s previous real estate ties and the annual band Christmas eviction) to discuss politics, education, family and children, careers and the meaning of life. All of these subjects look different from our earlier viewpoint in Carman Hall except, of course, the meaning of life.”

Randy, make sure George comes up from New Orleans for reunion, please. And how old are your sons? Maybe we can recruit for Columbia.

**Jeff Kurnit** is ebullient over having free time and still singing. He writes, “My wife, Abby ’68 Barnard, and I enjoy retirement. After 60 years of having to adhere to school calendars — Abby as a high school science teacher and me as a college English professor — we love being able to do things when we please. In October 2011, we spent nearly two weeks in Italy and, in October 2012, we spent another two weeks in Arizona and New Mexico, part of that time visiting family. These are trips we would have had to make in the summer before we retired. How nice it was to travel at a different time of year!

“Shortly after we returned from the Southwest, our daughter, Miriam Kurnit-Katz ’00 Barnard, had our first grandchild, Charlotte Beatrice Katz. Naturally, we are thrilled. When Miriam goes back to work, we will be taking care of the baby one day a week, another opportunity afforded by retirement. We also deliver Meals on Wheels one day a week and are active in synagogue choir and with The Village Light Opera Group.

“We look forward to seeing old friends at the Barnard and Columbia reunions in June. And speaking of reunion, Columbia Alumni Singers is holding an event on the Saturday of Alumni Reunion Weekend, June 1, and we hope that everyone will either attend or participate. We will celebrate the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Columbia Glee Club. Anyone who sang with any campus organization at Columbia or Barnard is welcome to participate. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday morning and a concert in the afternoon. We did similar events during reunion in 2010 and 2011, and the concerts were extraordinary. Both were recorded, and CDs are available. If you want to sing, there will be information in your reunion reg-

istration materials. If you are not a singer, please attend the concert; you will have a great time.”

Jeff, thanks for the invite. It sounds like fun. Maybe we can do *Roar, Lion, Roar*?

**Larry Susskind** wrote, “My latest book is called *Water Diplomacy: A Negotiated Approach to Managing Complex Water Networks*, written with Shafiqul Islam. I teach environmental policy and planning full-time at MIT (42 years on the faculty) and help run the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law. I’ve passed the management of the Consensus Building Institute, the not-for-profit that my wife, Leslie Tuttle, and I started almost 20 years ago, on to the next generation, although I am chief knowledge officer.

“I’ve been married for 30 years to Leslie, a photographer who has spent most of her professional life documenting the status of women in developing countries. Our son, Noah, a mediator in NYC, recently started at NYU Law. He’ll be married this summer to Dafna Alsheh, who helps to manage the amazingly sustainable IceStone company in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. My daughter, Lily, runs a dance company in Baltimore, Effervescent Collective, and is a force for arts collaboration in B’More.

“I have teams of MIT, Harvard and Tufts students working on 1) Middle East water negotiations, 2) efforts to protect the interests of indigenous people (Mapuche) in Chile from the adverse effects of hydro-development, 3) sustainable city development in Malaysia and 4) helping coastal New England communities anticipate and respond to the impacts of climate change. From freshmen to postdocs, my students are amazing. I recently returned from the Salzburg Global Seminar in Austria. We are working with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to implement multinational corporate social responsibility guidelines in 44 countries. I try to reflect on all these ongoing efforts in my blog (theconsensusbuildingapproach.blogspot.com).

“I hope to make it to at least part of our 45th reunion. There are a great many classmates I’d really like to see. As far as retiring? No. I’m going to keep teaching until someone tells me that I’m not following the conversation.”

Larry, sounds like a good plan if you have the energy for the students. I saw Ted de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS at a recent Columbia event, so you have another 30 years for sure!

We have and have had a distinguished group of professors through the years. I wonder if our class may have some national record (it wouldn’t surprise me): professors of

philosophy, English, law, business, medicine, art history, international affairs, history, statistics, public health, urban affairs, music, real estate, mathematics, physics, astronomy, astrophysics, chemistry — and others whom we might call professors of entertainment such as **Jon Bauman** (Sha Na Na, still going strong), and for those who may recall **Paul Spitzberg** from Little Rock, Ark., I believe he is a renowned star of television poker. I remember playing with him — I was pretty good, he was very good — at the end of the hallway in New Hall.

Well, that’s it from here. I really do hope to see all of you at reunion. I have discovered that the Class of 1968 is a class that College students have heard about. When you say you are ’68, the response is a curious, knowing look. My guess is they have seen **David Shapiro** sitting in the President’s Chair in Low Library. And by the way, David, a female colleague of mine’s son is a young, aspiring poet living in Chicago. I told his mom I knew you and could arrange a meeting between her son and you — he can’t wait, says you’re great!

See you in a few months, I hope.

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Congratulations to **Jerry Nadler**, who has been reelected to an 11th full term in Congress.

**Bill Stadiem**’s latest book, *Monteywood: Hollywood in Its Last Age of Excess*, was published in January. (See Bookshelf.)

From **Woody Lewis**: “I’m writing this from the fourth floor of Butler Library. Since relocating from the Bay Area back to New York City in mid-2010, I’ve probably spent more time here, or in the Business School library at Uris, than I did when I was in the College or B-School. I work mostly from my home office these days, running my Web software consulting business. After a second stint with Cisco Systems as a solutions architect, and working with a couple of startups, I’m enjoying being independent. Five years ago, while still in California, I earned an M.F.A. in fiction from Bennington through its low-residency program. I’m editing the draft of a novel in my spare time and also working on a series of personal essays.

“It’s great to be back in New York, particularly when I run into classmates like **Robert Friedman** on the subway. My wife, Cathryn,

and I initially were in a high-rise apartment on 110th and Morning-side, a great location because of the proximity to Columbia. Now, we’re in another high-rise on the edge of Fort Greene in Brooklyn. My son, Woody III, also lives in Brooklyn and is a junior at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, where he studies film and video. The contrast between our idyllic life in San Carlos, a small town just north of Palo Alto, Calif., and our renewed urban adventure is great, and that’s part of the enjoyment. I’m even a member of the Columbia University Club of New York, so will meet classmates for a drink with little prompting.”

**Jim Gagné** writes, “After graduating from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1973, I did two years of internal medicine residency at the old Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx. During the middle 1970s, it seemed to me that NYC was falling into decaying little pieces, and I couldn’t wait to move to California. I settled in Los Angeles shortly after finishing my training and have been here ever since. In 1989, I married Vassar alumna and fellow internist Mary Hardy.

“In addition to general internal medicine, I’ve developed some expertise in treating addiction and chronic pain. I’m somewhat of a computer geek and have developed my own website, jamesgagne.com, for patients who want to know more about who I am and how I approach medical care.

“I remember my years at Columbia fondly. I learned a lot and grew intellectually. But the experiences that stand out are playing in and composing music for the Marching Band (the cleverest band in the world), Tau Epsilon Phi and, of course, the 1968 rebellion. My brother, David ’71, still lives in Morningside Heights. He’s a professor of music at Queens College. Alas, I haven’t had time to pursue music since leaving Columbia, and I miss it.”

**John Bernson** reports, “I’m in the Middle East, based in Beirut, doing bank advisory and corporate finance projects. In September, my wife and I attended the wedding in New York of **David Parshall**’s daughter, Lily ’01, ’10 SIPA, who has a Ph.D. in sustainable development. Both of Lily’s siblings (Jane ’06 and Anthony, who entered with the Class of 2002 and completed his B.A. at the University of Vermont) attended the College.”

David — who joined the email chain between John and me — noted that Lily and her husband met in Beirut in 2001 under John’s “oversight as Lily’s godfather,” leading John to add, “I am her very proud godfather.”

David further reports, “I continue to work at our firm, PEI Funds, which invests in private equity secondaries, in venture capital and other private equity funds and private companies. This is a firm that I co-founded 20 years ago. I expect to be doing this forever, subject to ultimate mortality constraints. I love my work, and the longer I work, the more I can give to Columbia, which has been fundamental to my formative, marital and parental years. I met my wife, Jane ’76 Business, at the Business School.”

From Houston, **Gary Mason** offers reflections on one day in his life, writing: “Today is Sunday. I slept alone on the floor last night, favoring it over my mattress. My spine — particularly L5 to S1 [vertebrae] — seems to need more firmness these days. [As I write], my wife is in New York visiting her 90-year-old mother who, though suffering dementia, lives by herself in Astoria. My companion today was *The New York Times*. The blue-wrapped Sunday paper was in its spot on the driveway waiting for me to retrieve it with my freshly brewed Gevalia coffee and mug in hand.

“Later, the temperature reached the glorious 70s, so after cleaning the pool of a plague of acorns, I settled on my sunlit patio to read about the immortality of a little jellyfish being studied in Japan for its ability to clone itself seemingly forever. This made me reflect on what exactly I have been up to. So I thought I would chronicle a single, relaxed day as a way of sharing news. Watered the indoor Rafus palms, picked the last of the now-ripe Satsuma oranges from my yard, disconnected the 17-year-old KitchenAid dishwasher and moved it to the garage in anticipation of the delivery of its replacement. Checked my daughter’s latest Facebook photo posting. Put in a brokerage order to sell naked puts on the S&P weekly index. RSVP’d to a friend’s annual Christmas party. Bought tickets online for the Memorial H.S. Theatre production of *Almost, Maine*.

“Next, I’ll move on to Rodney Yee’s yoga tape ‘Back Care Yoga for Beginners,’ to help me stretch after sitting and thinking at this laptop. I want to be limber tomorrow when I bend over an operating microscope to perform a half-day of cataract extractions scheduled for my patients. In the afternoon, it will be my turn to be a patient when I visit the doctor for my cholesterol and muscle enzyme assay.

“Yup, the Class of 1969 sure feels a long distance away, but those were the best days, when Morningside Heights was the center of our universe. Time passes but so

far those incredible memories of growing up as an undergrad at Broadway and 116th are indelible keepers.”

From **Doran Twer**: “Much to my surprise and delight, a svelte and gray-bearded **Ron Tarrington** showed up unannounced (as he had threatened in a phone conversation a year ago) at my son Aden’s Gettysburg vs. Dickinson football game on the evening of November 2 in Carlisle, Pa. (think Jim Thorpe). It was our first face-to-face since graduation. Happy to say that he got to see Aden score on a 59-yard TD reception for his Gettysburg team. Ron had driven seven or eight hours from Raleigh directly to the game and then turned right around after the contest. He’s still dancing (a reference for those who remember the Martha and the Vandellas/Dionne Warwick campus concert) to his own drummer.”

**Dick Menaker** writes, “I’m in active practice [Menaker & Herrmann]. Our settlement of the Lehman Brothers liquidation issues with Citibank is on the front page of today’s [November 19, 2012] *Wall Street Journal*. No retirement plans for the moment; our firm recently re-upped on our lease for another 10 years. Still playing tennis and the cornet, the latter in the Bronxville Pops outdoor concerts during the summers. Can’t hit the high Es with the same power as singer Johnny Amoroso, however, who also plays in the Pops. Of course he’s almost 80, so there’s still time to catch up with him.”

From **Larry Wolfson**: “After a 40-year career in advertising, sports and marketing, and helping Times Square make a comeback, I retired in September 2011 after working for a few firms through the years. The best was a nine-year run with Katz Communications, where I sold television time for 25–30 stations in the Midwest. I followed that with four years at Madison Square Garden’s fledgling cable network ... all sports. I left to become a v.p. for Dorna USA and introduced the now-common rotating signage that runs the length of basketball courts — first the pros, then we added colleges and Major League Baseball. Got to know and become real friends with some awesome athletes and executives. I stayed for nine terrific years before I was lured to Spectacolor to sell permanent and then digital signage, which Times Square has always showed off. Eventually we were acquired by Clear Channel and not much fun was happening anymore. From the late ’90s through 2011, I was v.p. and district manager, calling on clients and ad agencies in the Midwest and Southeast.

“Then, last August, I decided

to say goodbye to 42nd Street and retire. What truly accounted for my leaving when I did was that, while I was still the best at what I did in Times Square and Las Vegas, the airport scenes were really getting to me and I wanted to be involved with my grandsons and daughters. Some days I miss the action; other times I get a grip on reality (which was never my forte).

“My wife of 43 years, Robin, and I are blessed with two daughters and three grandchildren, two great boys and [as of mid-November] a three-week-old granddaughter. Life has been good — never perfect — but still a privilege to be here.

“Biggest bummer is our sports teams, i.e., Columbia football and basketball, a real travesty that should once and for all be acknowledged and addressed. We simply are a non-contender and should stop playing in the Ivies if we continue to lose in 69–0 games to John Harvard. I need to stop writing about this because I really get crazy from the scene.

“Anyway, still love rock and Sinatra, read a ton and pray for Israel. That’s a pretty quick summary, but there it is. Just one more thing: My ‘big brother,’ Joe Cody ’66, passed away too young, at only 57, in 2001. I miss him constantly and never would have gotten through the College without him. A terrific, wonderful human being.”

**Rick Winston** writes: “*Vermont History*, the journal of the Vermont Historical Society, has published my article, *A Sinister Poison: The Red Scare Comes to Bethel*. It examines a forgotten episode from 1950, in which two nationally known summer residents of Vermont came under suspicion of aiding the Communist Party. One was East Asia scholar Owen Lattimore, who had been named by Sen. Joseph McCarthy as the ‘No. 1 spy’ in the State Department, and the other was Arctic explorer and scholar Vilhjalmur Stefansson. It’s a fascinating story, and the entire article can be read at [vermonthistory.org/journal/80/VHS8001SinisterPoison.pdf](http://vermonthistory.org/journal/80/VHS8001SinisterPoison.pdf). I’m doing more research on this period, and I hope to write a book about other events that unfolded during the McCarthy era in my adopted state.”

The about-the-author line that accompanies the article says that Rick “was co-owner of Montpelier’s Savoy Theater for 29 years, and is currently programming director for the Green Mountain Film Festival.”

Please see the Obituaries’ Other Deaths Reported box for information on the passing of **George Eisenbarth**.

To get news, I sent a blast email to all classmates for whom we have email addresses, and a letter to the

balance of the class. This yielded about 15 responses (some will appear next issue), but I hope more classmates will send in news soon.

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My friend **Phil Russotti** gave me this good news: “I’m leaving for Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, for a destination wedding for **Dennis Graham**’s oldest son, Scott. [Also attending will be] **Terry Sweeney**. This follows Dennis’ and Terry’s trip to London earlier this year for my youngest son Peter’s wedding. So that’s what we’re doing: globetrotting and following our kids all over the world.”

News arrives from **David Lehman**, editor of *The Oxford Book of American Poetry*, series editor of *The Best American Poetry* and poetry coordinator of The New School’s Writing Program: “Classmates might like to know that in April we will observe the 25th anniversary of *The Best American Poetry* — the annual anthology that I initiated in 1988 — with a special volume, *The Best of the Best American Poetry*. Former U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky is choosing the poems from the first 25 volumes in the series. Scribner will publish. I remain the general editor. The year’s regular volume, *The Best American Poetry 2013*, will come out in September.

“Meanwhile, I am working on a manuscript of my *New and Selected Poems* to be published by Scribner in April 2014. My last nonfiction book, *A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs*, won the Deems Taylor Award from ASCAP in 2010.”

**Richard Smolev** writes, “My

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novel, *Offerings*, was published October 15 by Academy Chicago Publishers. Here is what one reader posted on Amazon: ‘The fantastic knotty debut novel from Richard Smolev unfurls in the world of Wall Street machinations, and serves as a modern day reminder of the extent that the dealings of Wall Street affect the day-to-day existences of individuals. With *Offerings*, Smolev crafts a cracking narrative of financial intrigue that forces you to confront the role of Wall Street in your own existence while following an intricate narrative to its logical endpoint. This one is impossible to put down and will leave afterimages in your head months removed after finishing the novel. I have not read a thriller as top-notch and high-stakes this year.’”

**Joseph Stillman** reports, “After a career working on policy and programs concerning urban poverty in the nonprofit and foundation worlds, several years ago I decided to jump into the trenches, and have been teaching social studies in a high school in the South Bronx. It is by far the hardest, and often the most rewarding, job I have ever had, keeping me young and on my toes. (When asked, I tell my kids I am 149 years old. Sometimes they believe me.)”

**William C. Longa** notes, “Buoyed by the come-from-behind win at Cornell and the earlier win against Yale ... and somehow not discouraged by the 69-0 drubbing by Harvard ... **Jack Probolus**, John Hughes ’71 and I forged ahead with an on-and-off tradition of attending the Columbia/Brown contest at Brown. Sadly the tailgate and two early field goals by the Lions were the highlights, and the finish was yet another defeat. The weather was great and we had a delightful mini-reunion of former crew guys, which will likely repeat itself next season. Others were invited but must have had a premonition of the outcome.”

**Jack Probolus** followed up on the note from William: “It was interesting in that the cost of parking exceeded the price of admission to the contest on the gridiron. Yes, our optimism still blooms despite the travails and fluctuations of the team. We are yet again in the building mode. Some positive and encouraging signs and perhaps a dynasty is in the making! Let’s hope.”

**Frank Motley** sent a brief note: “Nothing much to report: entering my 35th year as dean of admission at Indiana University’s Maurer School of Law, enjoyed the holidays with most of my 19 grandchildren (!) and enjoying Hoosier basketball after several very difficult seasons without ‘the general,’ Bobby Knight.”

**Rob Leonard** directs our attention to several recent articles in which he was featured, including one in *The New Yorker* from July 23, 2012, “Words on Trial.” You can find it on its website. Rob continues, “For some comic relief, *TIME* recently deemed me the second smartest rock star in history, behind Brian May of Queen, who is an astrophysicist. I believe I shall sue! Heck, I went to Columbia! See [entertainment.time.com/2012/09/07/school-of-rock-10-super-smart-musicians/#class-acts](http://entertainment.time.com/2012/09/07/school-of-rock-10-super-smart-musicians/#class-acts).

“If the *New Yorker* article whets your interest, here is more: A clip from a recent *Nightline* I appeared on: [abcnews.go.com/Nightline/video/missing-ariz-girl-911-tapes-released-16354671](http://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/video/missing-ariz-girl-911-tapes-released-16354671). And two short clips in which I explain forensic linguistics: [investigation.discovery.com/videos/solved-forensic-linguistic.html](http://investigation.discovery.com/videos/solved-forensic-linguistic.html) and [hofstra.edu/Academics/Colleges/Hclas/FLP/MAFLP/index.html](http://hofstra.edu/Academics/Colleges/Hclas/FLP/MAFLP/index.html).”

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If you are not receiving the ’71C eNews and would like to, please email me.

**Dennis Langer**, a clinical professor in the department of psychiatry at Georgetown’s School of Medicine, is a director of Innocoll, a biopharmaceutical company. According to his Innocoll biography, “Dr. Langer is a director of Myriad Genetics, Myrexis and several private health care companies. He has served as a director of several public and private biotechnology, specialty pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies, including Sima Therapeutics (acquired by Merck & Co.), Ception Therapeutics (acquired by

range from device development to drug discovery, biodefense, clinical evaluative research and health policy. He is e.v.p. of life sciences at MacAndrews & Forbes and has been a director of CircuLite since November 2011.

“In addition to his work with MacAndrews & Forbes, Dr. Rose has been chairman of the Department of Health Evidence and Policy at the Icahn School of Medicine since 2008. He also has served as a director of SIGA Technologies since 2001, becoming chairman and CEO in 2007.

“From 1994–2007, he was chairman of the Department of Surgery and surgeon-in-chief of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Rose is a past president of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation and was also the Morris & Rose Milstein Professor of Surgery with P&S’ Department of Surgery. ...

“Dr. Rose has an M.D. from P&S and a B.A. from Columbia.”

**Richard Belous** writes, “I have read the column through the years but until now I have never sent in anything (except money).

“To make a long story short, I earned a Ph.D. in economics. I am v.p. of research and chief economist for United Way Worldwide (the national and international headquarters for the United Way network). I also am an adjunct professor in economics at The George Washington University.

“My wife, Debbie, and I have five children who range in age from 28 to 9. The 9-year-old has expressed interest in Columbia. We live outside of Washington, D.C. In a household of vegetarians, I remain the only meat eater (if you don’t count the cats).

“I don’t believe that most people want to retire. What they want is a long vacation.”

feel like, whenever I want.

“So how do I plan to spend the free time looming ahead of me for years to come? Well, I made several decisions already.

“*Travel (domestic)*: There are several cities and areas of the country I have always wanted to see but never had the time: Charleston, S.C.; Savannah, Ga.; the Grand Canyon; New Orleans; Chicago; the California vineyards; Big Sur; and others. I might become adventurous and rent a car to drive cross-country, stopping off at these places on my way to the West Coast, then traveling to Vancouver, Canada, to visit friends and returning to the East Coast by driving through the rest of Canada. For those who have innocently listed your address with the Alumni Office, don’t grab your shotgun and hustle your spouse, kids and pets to a locked room in the house if in the middle of the night you hear banging on your front door: Just peer through your window and if you see a guy standing on the front steps with a toothbrush in one hand and a rolled-up sleeping bag in the other, it’s me, ready to accept your kind offer of hospitality!

“*Travel (foreign)*: I am seriously considering renting an apartment for one summer in Madrid and using that as a base to explore the rest of Spain and maybe the west coast of France. It would certainly force me to improve my mastery of Spanish. Later on, I hope to visit India, Japan, Eastern Europe, the Nordic countries and Brazil/Argentina/Chile.

“*Classes*: As to be expected of an Ivy League student, I plan to enroll in a few language classes, starting with Italian (always wanted to read Dante in the original, though I have been warned it is the equivalent of reading Chaucer in Ye Olde English), to be followed by French, German, Latin and ancient Greek. Another goal is improving my baking skills and becoming adept in the cuisines of France, Vietnam and India.

“*Reading*: I am now at the point where I can no longer fit additional books in my condo. I have estimated that if I were to read two books a week, I could dispose of my entire holdings by the time I am 100. And all those read books will be contributed to my local public library as I finish them so that others can enjoy them as well.”

**Alex Sachare** writes, “My wife, Lori, and I spent 18 days in Israel last fall, touring the country and visiting with our daughter, Deborah ’14 Barnard, who spent the semester at Tel Aviv University.

“We had a fabulous time seeing the sights from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the Galilee to Eilat. We went

to the Western Wall three times, including once as a family and once for the start of the Sabbath on Friday night, which was amazing. We floated in the Dead Sea, took the cable-car to Masada (my climbing days are history), went to Shabbat services at the Jerusalem Great Synagogue, stayed on a kibbutz, saw more ruins and archaeological sites than I can remember and visited a secret, underground bullet factory from the 1948 war for independence. My wife and I even had ceremonial bar and bat mitzvahs in Jerusalem!

“Exhausted, we got home two days before the start of the rocket launching from the Gaza Strip. Our daughter, however, got the full experience of life as an Israeli, with visits to bomb shelters in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. She stuck it out, however, and is now back at Barnard, where she majors in environmental policy. If anyone wants to know of a tour company that does a great job on guided tours to Israel with a Jewish orientation, please be in touch ([as801@columbia.edu](mailto:as801@columbia.edu)).”

**Bob Brintz** has written “A Path to Survival Part II,” a sequel to a post on [patientslikeme.com](http://patientslikeme.com) for those “PLMers” who have ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly Lou Gehrig’s disease) and their friends. (The original “A Path to Survival” was included in the ’71C eNews of March 2012 and excerpted in our Spring 2012 Class Notes.)

In Part II, Bob, who is paralyzed and on a ventilator for life support, sets out specific techniques for dealing with ALS (and, in broader scope, life). Some excerpts follow; italics and capitalization are Bob’s.

“Your unconscious mind is conditioned to interpret these losses of self-image and of so many pleasures, or even the threat of these losses, as highly aversive. As you consciously dwell on these losses, you reinforce this negative conditioning, which signals for you to react with aversion, and your mood deteriorates. ...

“There are two qualities of the mind that come into play if we are to break this downward spiral. First, the main determinants of how we feel emotionally emanate from our subconscious mind. *Second, the subconscious is very malleable. We can retrain (reprogram?) our subconscious if we put our (conscious) mind to the task.*

“But first, let me tell you where I came from. When I was first diagnosed I was a bundle of negative, harmful emotions — anger, fear, worry, despair. I dreaded becoming paralyzed. I expected to be dead in two or three years. I wasn’t ready to die. ... I felt like I was failing my wife and children. My life was

over. I wanted a take-back, a redo, to wake up in the morning and be okay.

“Rather than just allowing the pain to set my agenda, I did some critical thinking about my situation. I set some goals that I could live into. I had promised my children I would do everything in my power to survive. What would that look like? I would be paralyzed. I started asking myself many questions. What kind of role model do I want to be for my children? How can I use my remaining time to teach my children about life and death? What messages do I want to leave them with? What kind of father and husband could I be with advanced ALS? How do I want to be remembered? Who am I? Who will I be when I am paralyzed? *Who do I choose to be?*

“I began to form a vision of how I wanted to be and how I didn’t want to be, as the disease progressed. I knew that terminal illness sometimes turns formerly kind and loving individuals into angry, bitter tyrants. I would not inflict my suffering on my loved ones. Rather than suffering, I chose happiness.

“I started to close my eyes and create a mental vision of myself in a wheelchair, paralyzed, smiling, my family around me also smiling, feeling love for my family and feeling their love for me, everyone just being themselves. This visualization would manifest a few years later as part of my reality. [Here, on the website, Bob inserts a photograph of such.]

“How did this transformation from dread of paralysis to ‘paralyzed and happy,’ and from fear of death to acceptance, happen?”

Bob then starts discussing particular techniques. This excerpt is from his section on visualization: “I frequently did visualizations of rigorous exercises I used to do. Pick something you were really into and can’t do anymore. Place your visualizations in the present tense!

“Roadbike up a steep hill: the key is to make the mental image as vivid and detailed as you can. Relive the experience. Get all of your senses involved. Recall and feel the feelings. See and feel the strength in your muscles as you power to the top and crest the hill. Then treat yourself to the downhill side — 60 mph on a bicycle, BOOYAH! *What a rush!*

“What does this do for me? Road biking is no longer a loss. It’s no longer a cause for bad feelings. Rather, it is a cherished memory, a memory I enjoy recalling. The visualization is also a mood elevator. This particular visualization also reinforces my sense of strength (of will), power (to make a difference), endurance (to go the distance),

determination (to keep going and growing) and ass-kicking fun (my *joie de vivre*).

“Other visualizations I have done include: do a ridiculous number of pull-ups; run five miles (runners’ euphoria — YEE HAH!); backpack in the Grand Canyon (and looking at and showing my photos); bound across high peaks (a fantasy visualization).

“Another technique is to recall your best accomplishments, successes and triumphs. Recall the qualities that enabled your success. Recall how you felt. Remind yourself that the person who achieved that was and still is you.”

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**Jeffrey Laurence** received the Red Ribbon Foundation *Visionary Award* for his work in the fight against AIDS. In addition to his day job as a professor at Weill Cornell Medical College, Jeffrey is senior scientific consultant at the American Foundation for AIDS Research. The award ceremony and dinner took place at the recently renovated Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, N.Y., and was a benefit for Lifebeat, Music Fights HIV/AIDS.

**Jeff Matloff**, writing in for the first time in 40 years, shares some memories of back when. “When I first interviewed at Columbia in 1967, I was told by an assistant dean that it was much like the Marine Corps: It would make a man of me. I knew that it was an all-male, Ivy-League institution — intellectually rigorous and challenging. I will always appreciate the quality of the education I received as well as the intellect of my peers who provided me both a foundation for my strengths and an awareness of my limitations.”

As for life since graduation, Jeff says, “As an intellectual and social late bloomer, I also credit my Columbia experience for teaching me basic social skills (mostly from my peers) on how to get along with, and thrive later, in the agora of life. Learning social skills from adolescent males, however, may have had its pitfalls, as I remained a committed bachelor with utterly too brief moments of sybaritism for many years. That condition finally changed a few years ago when I married Nancy, also a ‘first-timer.’ I cannot directly credit this achievement to my college experience. I do thank Columbia, however, for having also taught me the powers of discipline and sublimation to have waited this long to find the love of my life.

“I know that most of my classmates who contribute to CCT regularly talk about their professional achievements, children and grandchildren. My progeny may be summarized briefly. I’m the proud owner of a 1 ½-year-old Labrador retriever who is a dropout of the Canine Companions of America program. She’s been a delight and no disappointment in terms of needing drug rehab, penal incarcerations or long-term residential care for dementia. I will miss her dearly when she’s gone.

“In terms of my professional career, I started working as a psychology aide at the Washington DC VA Medical Center, during my summers in college. Right after college I earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and have since devoted my professional career to working with combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder, for the past 30-plus years at the VA Medical Center in San Diego.

“While I officially retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007, I work as a contractor providing my experience, skills and support to the previous and current generation of veterans as both a consultant and clinician. I also maintain a teaching appointment on the faculty of UC San Diego in the Department of Psychiatry. In my spare time, I enjoy the ambience of living in coastal southern California and occasional forays into the arts/culture. My biggest regret of late is that I’ve not traveled much in recent years. However, this condition is somewhat mitigated by the knowledge that, despite my relatively sedentary lifestyle, I can drive my Porsche in nearly perfect year-round weather.”

Whether battling AIDS or helping veterans, let us know how you’ve made the world a better place, too.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**  
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Our 40th approacheth apace. Let us not go gentle — make plans to attend Alumni Reunion Weekend and thus reaffirm our (relative) youth. For those who have yet to mark the calendar, the dates are Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. And for those who want more



information or need to update their contact information, visit reunion.college.columbia.edu.

**Mike Byowitz** is a member of our stalwart Reunion Committee. He is routinely selected as a Super Lawyer in New York each year in his specialty of antitrust. His daughter, Suzanne '13, will graduate in May — quite a treat to commemorate his 40th!

**Bob Pruznick** also is a Reunion Committee member; he wrote a piece for our 30th that wasn't published then, so here it is: "When we arrived on College Walk in 1969 full of excitement, ambition and muted apprehension, we were not dissimilar to cohorts 40 years before or since — or were we? As the first class to make an informed choice to attend Columbia since the '68 bust, we were either full-blooded Aquarians or incredibly tolerant, open-minded young men. Our freshman year opened with a bang, literally — the small bomb planted in *Alma Mater* — and ended precipitously after the massive demonstrations of the April student strike led to the shortening of the semester. Whether you loved those heady days or regretted the chaos and the diversion from scholarship, you must admit that we shared incomparably interesting times at one of the preeminent hubs of the counterculture. Coming of age during an era when one questioned not only authority but also reality, the Class of 1973 certainly had a claim to distinction, dubious or not.

"If you believed the rhetoric, we were stardust, we were golden, and we were finding our way back to the garden. We hoped, as Ten Years After implored, to change the world. We pushed idealism to exponential proportions — we couldn't be co-opted, wouldn't sell out and would *never* grow to resemble our fathers. And then you hit 60, and the lyrics to the Kinks' 'A Well-Respected Man' start to sound like an indictment; one wonders where our youth, with its naïve optimism and its wonderful excesses, has gone.

"Well, I hope that some small part of that radical heart still beats within you, that you haven't been crushed completely by convention and responsibility and you can still follow your bliss. If so, please carve out a few days from your impossibly hectic schedule to make a pilgrimage back to Morningside Heights to recapture the magic of our shared youth. Consider participation in our [40th] reunion activities; you might just rediscover yourself in the process as you reconnect with kindred spirits and enrich the social fabric of your life with fascinating new acquaintances. *Tempus fugit — memento mori!*"

Well said, Bob!

**Fred Schneider's** law partner retired after 22 years together, so Fred is now a partner and head of the matrimonial and family law department at the firm of Ballon Stoll, an 80-plus-year-old firm. His wife, Harriet, is the director of the Office of Attorneys for Children at the Appellate Division, 2nd Department, of the New York State Courts. Their older daughter, Lauren, is an assistant v.p. at BHI Bank, formerly Bank Hapoalim; their younger, Stephanie, is a second-year law student at CUNY in Long Island City. Fred is looking forward to seeing everyone in May.

**Greg Gall** is an architect, living in Tarrytown, N.Y., and practicing mostly in the tri-state area. He is on the CU Fencing Alumni Committee and coaches fencing at the Hackley School in Tarrytown. Greg is involved in the community in Tarrytown as a trustee of the historical society and a member of Little Gardens, where he often jogs. Greg's wife, Kim, is global director for industry sales enablement at IBM; his daughter, Christine '12 Haverford, is at Shelburne Farms in Burlington, Vt., pursuing her interest in sustainability education and farming. They have a 'camp' on Galway Lake, just west of Saratoga, N.Y., where they spend time in the summer and when they can get away.

**Steve Hornstein** lives in Falls Church, Va., where he says life is interesting. In 2012 he received a sweatshirt from Eastern Virginia Medical School for doing well on his independent study; had poetry published in an international collection; and received another one-gallon blood donation pin and T-shirt. He's looking forward to reunion.

**Joel Glucksmann** originally was in CC '72 but left for a year to do his Army Reserve active duty and thus graduated in '73. He lives in New Jersey but has been back to campus often, as two of his three sons and his nephew are College alumni. At 63 and a grandfather, he's "somewhat nostalgic for my own days on campus. It was an exciting time to be there, and great to be in NYC; I just wish that I could go back and redo the Core."

'Tis a consummation ... devoutly to be wished. May we all reunite in May! To what — a class reception will be held at the Columbia University Club of New York on Thursday, May 30; a High Line tour and lunch, led by landscape architect **Steve Cantor**, is scheduled for Friday, May 31; a Class of 1973 panel discussion, Affinity Receptions and Wine Tasting will be held on Saturday, June 1; and a reunion brunch is set for Sunday, June 2.

That and much, much more is not to be missed.

74

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I don't know what you guys were thinking as you watched the amazing "12-12-12 concert" last year, but it seemed to me that parts of it were like the soundtrack to our life story. We grew up on The Who, the Rolling Stones and Bruce Springsteen (to name but a few), from our days before Columbia to the days after. But it was strange to see that our idols have aged significantly. After all, Bruce is 63, Pete Townshend is 67, Roger Daltrey is 68 and Mick is 69.

It is amazing how differently a half-century has affected each of these cultural icons. Bruce and Mick seemed still full of youthful vigor, while Pete and Keith seemed to have succumbed to the ravages of the years. Mick was still strutting and grinding, while Pete's voice and presence seemed like a weaker rendition of his glory days. Perhaps it is a good lesson for us. As is inscribed above the fireplace in the John Jay lounge, where we assembled almost 40 years ago for Class Day, "Hold fast to the spirit of youth. Let the years come, do what they may."

The latest news shows that the Class of '74 has a firm grasp on the "spirit of youth"; many in the class are charging ahead in their career path at an age when members of older generations were booking time to receive a gold watch at their retirement party. Here are just some of the stories I have been privy to:

I caught up with **Roger Kahn** a while back and got an update on him and his family. About two years ago he left Burnham Securities, a boutique investment bank, for Northeast Securities (both in Midtown). He continues to focus on healthcare deals (e.g., he recently sold a medical device company for "a bigger medical company in New Jersey" and is also working on a sale of a company in Israel).

His older daughter, Amanda, is completing the "post-bac, pre-med program" at Columbia (which I am guessing is a program for young folk with undergraduate degrees to qualify for medical school), and his other daughter, Charlotte, studies art history at NYU. Those getting Roger's Facebook posts know he always seems to be off to some rock 'n' roll venue around town. What is left out is that he frequently sits in with the bands — he plays the drums. (There is some apropos quip here about "marching to the beat of a different drummer," but I won't reach for it. Sorry, I guess I did.)

When Roger said he was doing healthcare deals, I let him know

that **Ed Kornreich** recently was named a "2013 Lawyer of the Year for New York" by *Best Lawyers*, the respected peer review guide, in the area of healthcare law. Maybe they will make "beautiful music" together! (Sorry, again.) Ed is a longtime partner at the Midtown law firm Proskauer Rose.

Before moving on, we need to note that in an ad in another publication, *The New York Area's Top Rated Lawyers*, said, "We salute **Arthur Schwartz**, rated as an AV Preeminent Attorney by Martindale-Hubbell for 15 years, one of New York's leading plaintiff's employment, civil rights, civil liberties and union-side labor lawyers." For more than 30 years, Arthur has been general counsel for numerous labor organizations and, for the past 15 years has been an elected Democratic District Leader or State Committee member for various areas in lower Manhattan. He is lead lawyer for Advocates for Justice Chartered Attorneys, a public interest law firm that, his website says, "goes toe-to-toe with wrongdoers such as corporate polluters, discriminatory employers and unsafe manufacturers."

When you hear of a high-profile political scandal, many of us instinctively start to look for news of D.C. attorney **Abbe Lowell**. Sure enough, reading the accounts last fall of former CIA director David Petraeus and "unpaid social liaison" Jill Kelley, we were not shocked to find Abbe involved. The surprise was that Abbe was representing Kelley. Turns out he took the case as a result of a longstanding relationship with the Kelleys. That was not enough to stop the gossip website Gawker from commenting, "It's like hiring David Boies because your friend got a speeding ticket."

Another classmate involved with controversy is **Peter Sullivan**, a partner in the Midtown law firm Gibson, Dunn. Peter and his team have been representing UBS in the worldwide regulatory investigation surrounding UBS' involvement in the setting of London Interbank Offered Rate interest rates. He also is representing UBS in 25 other civil actions in the United States.

I recently found out we have a real life *Law & Order* equivalent in our class. **Joe Ippolito** has been a New York ADA for 34 years. What is unique about his career is that he works at the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York. I asked what the "special" part of the title was about, and he said his office has jurisdiction over narcotics felony cases that arise anywhere in New York City's five boroughs, while the borough's

individual DAs are limited to cases arising in their own borough. (If you listen closely, you may hear "ching-ching!")

The career of **Steve Simon** is more along the lines of NCIS. Steve worked in and around the Middle East for the State Department until 2003, interrupted by a five-year stint at the Clinton White House and three years at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London. (For those outside the military-industrial complex, the IISS website says it is "a world-leading authority on global security, political risk and military conflict.") Steve became a senior fellow for Middle East studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. More recently, he was the senior director for the Middle East and North Africa — basically, all the Arab Spring countries — at the National Security Council (the group, chaired by President Barack Obama '83, that includes all of the administration's top officials). Steve says he now is "back to think tanking" at the IISS. He will take over both the Washington, D.C., and Gulf offices of the organization. He adds, "I'll miss working the beat I'm on now but you know, I'm really getting too old for it anyway." (Especially if the Arab Spring becomes the Arab Fall!)

Similarly spanning the globe is **Ken Krug**, CFO of The Asia Foundation for the past couple of years (previously he was CFO of The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and, before that, an executive of the RAND Corp.). The Asia Foundation website describes itself as "a nonprofit organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just and open Asia-Pacific region." What clued me in on Ken's international travels were Facebook postings. In October, he said he was in Islamabad (Pakistan) and in December, he wrote, "I'm at the Asia Foundation office in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) serving as officer in charge until December 25."

Another international and military note came from up the Hudson River. **Peter Zegarelli**, a dentist in Tarrytown, N.Y., sent in news on his two kids. He writes, "James was an infantry officer with a platoon of Marines and Afghan soldiers in the Marjah area of Helmand Province. He soon will be off to Okinawa. He was married last November." Daughter Clare graduated from Colgate last year and is at the Taylor Institute for Global Enterprise Management at Franklin College, where she is working on a master's in international management.

Returning to these shores (literally) is **Howard Tom** '77 Business. After a long career in the Navy, Howard is using his training from the Business School and UCLA to

extend his real estate career. A recent Facebook post says he "added a job at Ralph Coti Real Estate to his timeline." (Has **Ralph Coti** '77L, '77 Business become the new "Donald"?)

**Ted Gregory** was among a small group of alumni inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame at a black-tie dinner the Thursday before Homecoming. This year there were only 18 former student-athletes so honored. Ted also was honored at halftime during Homecoming. Ted is director of diversity initiatives and talent retention for the University's Office of Alumni and Development and has 14 years of experience in the executive search field.

When UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School inaugurated a combined M.D./M.B.A. program, through which students get the two degrees across a five-year stint, it must have been a challenge to find professors with experience in both fields. **Steve DeCherney**, however, fit the bill. Having both an M.D. and master's of public health, he had the medical side covered. His long career running various global drug testing firms gave him the business experience. And now Steve has been appointed adjunct professor of healthcare business for the school. He writes, "It is a little weird, but I must be one of the only M.D.s to be a professor in both a med school and a business school."

We got an update from **Bryan Berry** in Joliet, Ill., about his children. His eldest daughter, Adrienne, gave Bryan his first grandchild. Bryan's son, John, is engaged and training as a U.S. Navy pilot. His middle child, Sister Aeiparthenos, is a nun who recently celebrated her three-year vows and is the assistant leader of the Novitiate of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará in Upper Marlboro, Md. Bryan and his wife, Jill, joined their daughter on a five-day pilgrimage to Italy followed by an 11-day pilgrimage to Israel. Bryan adds, "The company of a nun wearing a habit opened a lot of doors in the Holy Land."

There you have it. Classmates doing business together and taking care of business around the world. It is clear from these short vignettes that the Class of '74 has "held fast to the spirit of youth"!

75

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After starting a recent email with "this is the first that you or anyone from CC '75 has heard from me since graduation," **David Cassidy**

reported that he's maintained his ties to Columbia. He looks forward to CCT and news about the College. During the past 22 years, after a few stops along the way with the U.S. Army Medical Corps, David has been in cardiology practice in Lexington, Ky. He says, "Every time I ride my bicycle past a tobacco field, I know I have job security." This fall, daughter Darcy '16 Barnard started college. During Family Weekend in October, he walked the Columbia campus with his daughter, wife and sons. "It was my first trip back in years, and all of us loved it — the combination of old and new, the excitement of the coming century. Makes me proud to be a graduate of that great College."

### Ted Gregory '74 was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame and also has a new job at Columbia.

After months of impossible-to-coordinate schedules, **Jim Dolan** and I finally met for drinks and some fine munchies at Baltimore's new Four Seasons Hotel. After catching up on current events, we (of course) reminisced about our College days. We hadn't realized our mutual connections — mine all second-hand but his first-hand — with Schuyler Hall, the Opus Dei residence at Columbia. Numerous classmates were mentioned: Fr. **C.J. McCloskey**, **Bruce Grivetti**, **Michael Ansaldi** and my former roommate, Norman Nicholais '76E, among others.

One of Jim's stories was about standing in line to score tickets for the Metropolitan Opera Gala Honoring Sir Rudolph Bing with Bruce and Michael, after which Jim became an opera buff, too. After Bruce moved out of Schuyler, his mother paid for me to feed him; I cooked meals for the three of us using my hot plate, electric coffee pot and toaster oven. I wonder how many current Carman or John Jay residents have the kind of kitchens we all had back in the days when the only meal plan option was 15 meals, M-F, but not of any great quality! (In a separate conversation later that evening, **Bob Schneider** reminded me that he lived in Schuyler his freshman year, 1972-73; Bob graduated in three years. **Michael Ansaldi** had told Bob about 21 *great* meals a week!) Michael Liccione '80, an honorary classmate — he didn't graduate until 1980, after making a million sandwiches at Mama Joy's — was also mentioned by Jim. While all of this was going on, **Terry Mulry** just watched, listened and gave us his

wicked grin.

To all mentioned above or *not* mentioned, please take no offense! For many, Schuyler, Opus Dei and what both provided were and are serious touchstones in their lives. No offense intended to anyone, just sharing stories and memories.

At the same time as all of the above was going on, I was seriously involved in the two other Roman Catholic communities at Columbia: the Woodstock Jesuits and the Catholic Campus Ministry. **Fran Minarik** was, too, and he became my godfather when I converted to Catholicism on Pentecost Sunday in St. Paul's Chapel my freshman year.

Funny thing: Before I got married in St. Paul's Chapel the summer after graduation, Fr. Paul

Dinter checked the books and couldn't find a record of my being confirmed. But since it was well documented, including the center spread in *Jesuit Magazine* a couple of months later, with pictures, he somehow got it all resolved so that I could be married "in the Church." **Terry Mulry** was my best man and Steve Eichel '76 was one of the ushers. I won't list the Barnard credentials of my former wife or two of her attendants — all that is another story, and many of you know parts of it. Ask if you want to know more.

The Columbia University Band Alumni Association is looking for **Steven Lawitts!** The band is updating mailing lists and looking for current emails. Steven, when you read this, please email me, and I'll get your address to them. Steven is the first deputy commissioner with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and lives in the greater NYC area.

Meghan Schneider, daughter of **Bob Schneider** and Regina Mulahy '75 Barnard, has been invited by the Harvard College Undergraduate Research Association to attend the National Collegiate Research Conference at Harvard. Meg is a senior at Penn. Bob and Regina recently returned from a visit south to see son John '07 and his wife, Stephanie, in Houston. While there, they visited Galveston, Texas; Baton Rouge and New Orleans; a Louisiana plantation, Oak Alley; and Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas. In Baton Rouge, their three favorite things were the Louisiana Old State Capitol, the Old Governor's Mansion (the "Little White House" built for Huey Pierce Long when he



was governor) and the Capitol Park Museum, especially its exhibits on Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, the all-but-forgotten John Fred and his Playboy Band (who recorded “Judy in Disguise (With Glasses)”) at a recording studio in Baton Rouge.

As usual, our class was represented at several Columbia events this fall. **Ira Malin** attended the Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, and both Ira and **Bob Schneider** attended the annual Society of Columbia Graduates meeting and dinner, all in October.

My recent books in progress have included *What is Gnosticism?* by Karen L. King, Harvard Divinity School Professor of Divinity. In September, she unveiled a newly discovered Gnostic fragment she titled “The Gospel of Jesus’s Wife,” which also was featured in *Newsweek*. I wonder whether **Terry Mulry, Sigmond Wissner-Gross** and other religion majors and students have been following this as much as I have.

Paul Valliere Ph.D. ‘74 GSAS, a favorite Columbia professor who now has been at Butler University for many years, wrote to me on the subject: “I imagine there’s not enough material on the papyrus to allow for much of an interpretation, though who knows. The study of Gnostic traditions continues to flourish.” Paul continues to work on Russian and Eastern Church tradition. He brought out a fairly big book, *Modern Russian Theology*, in 2000 and earlier this year Cambridge published the book he spent the last six years on, *Conciliarism: A History of Decision-Making in the Church*.

Dean James J. Valentini is placing special emphasis on alumni engagement with the College. There are myriad opportunities for alumni to engage, including: the Alumni Representative Committee (interviewing potential students); externships (allowing a student to shadow you at work); sponsoring summer internships at your firm; coaching alumni on best job interview practices; and lots more. Another of Dean Valentini’s goals is to create a mentorship program through which every undergraduate has an alumni mentor to connect with throughout his or her time at the College. Classmates interested in these and other options should visit college.columbia.edu/alumni/getinvolved. If you haven’t already, please consider getting involved. It’s incredibly rewarding to coach the College’s progeny!

And, of course, the Columbia College Fund year will be drawing to a close a few months after you receive this (on Sunday, June 30). If you have an outstanding pledge,

don’t forget to pay it! If you haven’t yet donated, please consider doing so now, and be generous. You may give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline, by calling the Alumni Office at 212-851-7488 or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

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**Larry Lubka** reports a season of changes. His daughter was married in the fall at a winery in Sonoma County; the wedding was outside and in perfect Northern California weather. Larry was delighted that **Dan Gottlieb** and his wife could attend.

Larry also left his law firm of 17 years to set up Lubka & White in Monrovia, Calif., just outside Pasadena. To his surprise, he’s still excited about practicing law and is looking for good lawyers: “One more time into the fray! My hope is to grow the office and then set up a satellite office in Sonoma in about five years. Now if the government can only find some funds to fix all that broken infrastructure. Not only is my daughter up in the area, running a race car program at Infineon Raceway (now Sonoma Raceway), but my son — who graduated from Dartmouth — moved to San Francisco to set up an office for the management consulting firm he works for.”

After more than 11 years working with Columbia donors and alumni, **Dan Baker** is taking his leave of the Alumni Center to devote himself full-time to his non-profit consulting practice. “I’ve had a great run here at Columbia,” writes Dan. “It’s been incredibly fulfilling to be part of our development program, working with generous fellow alumni and dedicated colleagues. I feel called to new challenges and this is the right time to make the leap.” Dan can continue to be reached at dpb21@columbia.edu and looks forward to hearing from classmates and all the other good friends he’s made during his time at Columbia.

In sad news, **Andrew Thurman** passed away on October 22. He earned a law degree from William & Mary and became an expert in medical ethics. Donations in his name may be made to The Children’s Center (tcocok.org), which he and his father developed into the

state-of-the-art center it is today. Finally, to all classmates, please send me an update in 2013. You can use my email address at the top of the column or submit through CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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No news to start off 2013 but I hope and expect to have some items to report next time. Of course, this partly depends on you. Email makes it easy — use the address at the top of the column or the webform at college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus. I am also, at the insistence of my graduate students, on Facebook. Thinking seriously about a Twitter account, too. I’ll let you know.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**  
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As the Reunion Committee continued the countdown to our 35th Alumni Reunion Weekend (Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2), we started a new tradition with our first class column survey, sent out in December. Ten percent of the class responded, a fine number given that I only have emails for about 80 percent of you. [Editor’s note: Update your contact information with Columbia at college.columbia.edu/cct/update\_contact\_info. CCT can then pass an updated email list to Matt.] I will be adding questions leading up to May and hope to be able to put together a class “life survey” for the reunion, which 91 percent of you say you would likely fill out.

Based on the survey I can tell you that about 20 percent of you are planning to be at the reunion and another 50 percent are thinking about coming. Either number would be some sort of record for us, so that is good news. Also, 50 percent say they are planning to give money to Columbia and only 18 percent wouldn’t consider it at all. Eight-eight percent of us now have some sort of positive relationship with the school. Thirty percent of us

have been to campus recently and seen all the construction at the new Manhattanville campus near West 125th Street. As for our careers, 67 percent of us plan to be doing the same thing a year from now, while 5 percent think they may be able to retire within the year.

Send in some questions you’d like to have the class answer (note my new email address, at the top of the column). Thanks to everyone who responded.

Also, visit the reunion website, reunion.college.columbia.edu, to stay up to date on reunion events as well as to make a pledge to attend and to update your contact information, if needed.

**Paul Tumbleson** writes, “Last summer I observed my 10th anniversary with Chubb Group of Insurance Companies’ house counsel office in Manhattan. Two months later, Hurricane Sandy flooded our building in lower Manhattan and knocked out all power and phones. As of today [December 27], we are still unable to return due to the continued lack of telephone (and Internet) service, so I have been working remotely via computer from my daughter’s bedroom and look forward to resuming my life as a commuter in 2013.”

**Tom Reuter** reports, “[I’ve been] spending a lot of time visiting my two sons. Tim ‘11 is a former Ron Paul campaign worker and now is a fundraiser for the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. Matthew ‘07 is a second-year resident in orthopedic surgery at Monmouth Medical Center in New Jersey. Watching the hours he puts in helps me understand why I did not want to be a doctor. My wife, Grace ‘78 Barnard, teaches computer technology, and I continue my work improving the efficiency of large engineering organizations.”

**Bruce Fraser’s** family members have been light on their feet. He notes, “Since the last time I reported, I have again moved firms, this time to Sidley Austin. I’ve been there now more than seven years. It is a great firm and I practice real estate finance. We’re in better shape than my last firm, Dewey Ballantine. My two children have not yet approached college age; we’ll see if they will follow their dad into the law. In the meantime they are not following me in their extracurricular activities, as both are near-professional status in the ballroom dancing world, sweeping up awards on both coasts!”

**John R. (Rick) MacArthur** kvels, “Last year I was proud to join the ranks of my fellow ‘78ers, **Joe Greenaway** and **Tony Kushner**, as Class Day speaker and even prouder of my daughters, Sophie and Emme, who respectively

started college (Pace) and sixth grade (Trevor Day School). Sadly, I lost my sister, Solange MacArthur ‘87 P&S. My latest book, *L’Illusion Obama: Chroniques d’un intellectuel libéral aux États-Unis*, came out in France in September and I had the incomparable pleasure of doing a promotion tour in Paris.”

**Chuck Spungen** is doing his part to keep the country strong. “For many years I manufactured components for hydraulic systems in a factory outside of Chicago. We were pioneers in bringing manufacturing back to the United States in the 1990s by use of robotics and automation. In 2011 I sold the company to a buyer who is making good on a promise to keep up investment and expand the Chicago plant. I am now looking to embark on a second career.”

**Jeffrey E. Baron** has tales of coincidence to share: “My wife, Harriet, and I live in Park Slope, Brooklyn. I am a partner in a small law office, Baron & Shelkin. Scott Shelkin and his wife, Linda, were a year behind me at Brooklyn Law School, and Linda set Harriet and me up on a blind date. The rest is history.

“My older daughter recently finished her last class at the Bank Street School and will walk in May or June. She also was Linda and Scott’s flower girl, a while ago. My younger daughter took off from school and has alternated working in my office and teaching at our Hebrew school. She’s applying for transfer now. My office handles immigration and naturalization matters, house closings, wills and estates, matrimonial and L&T work. I recently ran into **Joe Cimiigliaro** at Villabate Alba bakery in Brooklyn, and we’re planning to get together. I hope to renew some old friendships.”

On the medical front, **Raphael Kieval** is a “rheumatologist practicing for the past 25 years in Brockton, Mass. I am married to Nadine Evans ‘79 Barnard and we have three kids, Jacob (26), Adam (23) and Sarah (20).”

**Alec Bodkin** writes, “I’m studying new mood drugs, seeing patients and consulting for lawyers. I am starting to organize home concerts and searching for money to construct a website. My avocations are squash, daily workouts and studying philosophy. My middle son, Sam ‘12, is home working on a scheme to bring classical music back to the people [through] informal but high-quality musical events.

Through Sam’s efforts I have gotten interested in opera after a lifetime of dismissing it in favor of ‘pure’ music. I saw Janáček’s *Janůfka* last night and was floored, and made it through Wagner’s *Ring* for the first time this

fall in high def from the Met over four glorious nights. This was a peak experience.”

**Chuck Meltzer** is doing well. He writes, “Living in wine country north of San Francisco. Practicing head and neck surgery at Kaiser Permanente. Feel very fortunate to have had Columbia as part of my prep for what has been a very good life and career to date. Still have fond memories of the Marching Band and the antics. Looking forward to perhaps catching up at the reunion.”

Turning to the creative arts, **Frederic Lahey** is founder and director of the Colorado Film School, which, he notes, was recognized by *The Hollywood Reporter* as a top-25 global film school in 2011. He continues, “We had a delegation out from the Hunan province this fall that is proposing that we create a Colorado Film School at their university in China. Our program is just 450 undergraduates, but our students make more than 1,000 films a year, with some excellent ones in the mix. My wife, Elizabeth, opened a restaurant, TreeHaus, this past year that received ‘Top of the Town’ designation in Denver and a number of great reviews, but it didn’t have a great business plan, so we’re closing it.

“My son, Xavian, is finishing up a B.F.A. at a local university while working for an art consulting service, creating art collectives and being a sought-after curator for night spots. My daughter, Aubrielle, has started high school, which she

Columbia and stay in touch with a few great teachers and a handful of friends from WKCR. Life is good.”

Conductor-composer **Paul Phillips** is in his 24th year as director of orchestras and chamber music at Brown. “I conducted a gala performance of *Beethoven’s Ninth* at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence in 2012 with the Brown University Orchestra and Chorus and will lead the BUO on a concert tour of Ireland in 2013. My most recent compositions are *Battle-Pieces*, a song cycle on poems by Herman Melville, which was premiered in 2011 by baritone Andrew Garland with the Pioneer Valley Symphony (which I also conduct), and *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a collaboration with two-time Grammy winner Bill Harley, who premiered it in 2012 with the Allentown Symphony Orchestra.”

Paul’s book, *A Clockwork Counterpoint: The Music and Literature of Anthony Burgess*, the first comprehensive study of Burgess’ music and its relationship to his writings, is due out in paperback this year.

**Amittai Aviram** and his partner, Octavio, moved from New York City to Boston last August “so I could start work in September at MathWorks (makers of MATLAB and Simulink) as a senior software engineer on a compiler-related team, thus completing my career change from literature professor. I finished my computer science dissertation just in time and have heard officially that I have been granted my second Ph.D.

**Joel Frullo ‘79 has been promoted to s.v.p. at CBS Television Distribution, where, with a colleague, he is in charge of programming and development.**

loves, and declared that she was going to audition at the film school in January. I’m still trying to get more interesting projects off the ground while getting over-involved in the media end of state government. Denver has matured as our family has grown, but we still have occasional pangs from missing life in downtown Manhattan.”

Pulitzer Prize winner **Tim Weiner** says, “I’m a very lucky and very happy guy. My wife of 19 years, Kate Doyle, was recognized last year with a major award for her human rights work in Guatemala. Our daughters are thriving, one a junior at LaGuardia and the other finishing eighth grade at Cathedral. My new book, *Enemies: A History of the FBI*, comes out in paperback soon, made some top 10 lists and sold well here and abroad. I’ll be writing books for the rest of my life. I teach the occasional class at

“So far, MathWorks is a fantastic place to work, and Boston is a wonderful place to live. Our apartment is across the street from the Back Bay train station, on the border between the Back Bay and South End neighborhoods, and six blocks from Copley Square. Octavio is having a great year, too: Spain chose him to represent it as curator at the prestigious Venice Biennale art exhibition; he is curating the headliner show of Shirin Neshat at PhotoEspaña as well as the project rooms at the first Lima Biennial in Peru. My son, Blake, finished with honors at Fordham Law last spring and works at Kirkland & Ellis in the Big Apple, living in Long Island City. I am in touch occasionally with **Alex Demac**.”

**Marvin Siegfried** has been teaching high school for more than 25 years in Brooklyn, following five years practicing law. “I enjoy this a

lot more,” he says. “I was married about three years ago, but I still feel like a newlywed!”

**Ed Ferguson** closes the column for us: “I can’t remember when I last wrote, so am not sure whether there’s much to report. In light of December’s sad events in Connecticut, all ‘news’ seems mundane beyond the grateful realization that one’s children are alive and well. I hope all of our classmates’ families are doing well, and best wishes to everyone for 2013.”

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On January 1, **Richard N. Baer** was named s.v.p. and general counsel of Liberty Media Corp. Richard was former e.v.p. and chief legal officer of UnitedHealth Group, where he oversaw the company’s legal, regulatory and compliance matters. He holds a J.D. from Duke.

**Joe Ferullo** has been promoted to s.v.p. at CBS Television Distribution. He is in charge of programming and development with colleague Maureen FitzPatrick. The division produces shows, including *Judge Judy*, *Dr. Phil*, *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Rachael Ray Show*, which are syndicated to TV stations around the country. The newest, a late-night talk show starring Arsenio Hall, debuts in September.

The news from **George Jirotko** is that he still is a Circuit Court judge in the 6th Judicial Circuit in west central Florida. “I handle general civil trial cases such as contract disputes, automobile accidents and other liability / damage claims and mortgage foreclosures — lots of mortgage foreclosures,” he writes. “Best wishes to all!”

**Thomas Pontos** recently began working at a new company in Silver Spring, Md. He writes, “After 32 years of software engineering with a B.A. in philosophy, I am still doing interesting work and trying to help the world as best I can. So far, it has been commercial, military and medical. Printers, disk drives, blood analyzers, elevators, centrifuges, switchboards, EEG machines, radar for the Navy, fighter planes for the Air Force, autonomous navigational vehicles for the Army, point-of-sales devices for school cafeterias, green whole-house battery backup and fixing a few washing machines, dryers and ovens! Thanks, Columbia, for the Marching Band, which made it all happen, and my mentor, Eliot Solomon ‘73.”

Having ridden his bicycle across the United States and through 46 of the 50 states, **Jeffrey Light** has turned his attention to the rest



of the world. Recent stops have included New Zealand (his home away from home), France, Spain and Italy. He was planning to be in Australia for the holiday season to watch the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and will hike, trek, climb and ride in Tasmania this year, being sure to stay away from those devils!

**Robert C. Klapper:** This issue's Columbia thought returns to my freshman year and my mother's visiting our great university for the first time. To paint the scene, I am pretending to be an octopus holding five boxes and suitcases. As we enter the elevator my mother immediately smiles and begins a conversation with the only other adult standing in the mobile cube. She makes it clear that this is the greatest day of her life and this innocent bystander will be the recipient of this emotional barrage. She then remembers that common courtesy dictates that she introduce herself. Pleasantries are exchanged as she states, "Hi, my name is Lilian Klapper," whereupon a very sweet and soft-spoken Asian man sticks out his hand and says, "I'm Dr. Lee." My mother responds, "Oh, what kind of doctor are you?" He explains he is chairman of the astrophysics department at either MIT or Caltech (I can't remember which). To my chagrin (story of my life), my mother rolls her eyes. The elevator door closes and I am once again trapped in first-generation immigrant hell here in America. As the elevator begins to rise, this most brilliant, learned man states, "I know ... my mother doesn't think I'm a real doctor either!"

With all due apologies to those of you reading this column, who labored endlessly on your theses and are proud recipients of a Ph.D., I want you to know, I have all the respect for what you've done. But when your days on this earth are over, and if you should meet my mother in heaven, when she introduces herself, please, just first names.

God bless you, Mom, and to all of the mothers from the Class of 1979. Roar, lion, roar!

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"Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it guarantees all others."

That's a quote from Winston Churchill in *Great Contemporaries*, also cited by Paul Reid in the preamble to *The Last Lion*. Reid observes, "He believed in virtue and

right ... he taught himself well and created a code he could live by."

Congratulations to **George Yan-copoulos M.D., Ph.D.**, on being selected to receive a 2013 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. George is president of Research Laboratories and chief scientific officer at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. He has a distinguished record of scientific achievement and is the author of a substantial number of publications; he also is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. [Editor's note: See Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct for a photo gallery of the March 6 event.]

I received a nice email from **Ray Stukes** in response to last quarter's report on the Grinder aka **Dave Cromwick '80E**. Ray is a sales executive with Meggitt Polymer Solutions and lives in Atlanta with his family. We look forward to seeing him at a baseball game this season.

**Jim Gerkis** has been named to the board of governors of the Columbia University Club of New York. In addition to his work with the Columbia College Fund's Fund Development Council and partnership at Proskauer Rose, Jim has been a driving force for fundraising for our class.

Congratulations to **Shawn Fitz-Gerald** and **David Malooff** on their sons' admittances to the College. Nothing better than seeing your child attend alma mater and follow the legacy tradition.

Hope to see you around campus or up at Robert K. Kraft Field. Drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

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I keep checking the mail (OK, email) for updates from the Class of 1981 and, as of the CCT deadline, had nothing to report. This rejection is making me feel empty, even depressed ... similar to how I felt on November 6. (Q: For the bankers out there, can I put a "stop payment" on the last check I wrote supporting Mitt Romney after the fact?)

We have had a good run of classmates reporting in, so I'm going to consider this column to be halftime.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and had a safe and happy New Year's celebration. Don't forget to send me an update in 2013! Use my email address at the top of the column, or submit through CCT's easy-to-use web-form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

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Remember when you were young and your mother would chastise you for succumbing to peer pressure? "If Billy jumped off the bridge would you do it, too?" The right answer was, of course, no. The true answer, however, was probably yes. **David Shine** understands this social dynamic and managed to persuade several members of the illustrious Class of '82 to join him as he plummeted off the bridge and into the pages of CCT. Huzzah! In recognition of his contribution, he is this year's winner of either Brooklyn Dodgers box seats or 2012 rink-side Rangers tickets.

David reports, "I am a partner at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, & Jacobson in New York and am co-head of the firm's M&A practice. My wife, Karen, high school junior son, Matthew, and I live in Armonk, Westchester. My daughter, Rachel, will graduate this spring from Northwestern, and Karen and I are looking forward to moving back to the city as soon as Matthew heads off to college. Haven't been to a Grateful Dead concert in many years, but did see Neil Young on his recent tour — spectacular."

To paraphrase Jacques Cousteau, "Who knows why the humans do what they do?" (Substitute "salmon" for "humans," pronounce with a French accent and you'll remember what I'm referring to.) My wife, Jody '84 Barnard, '85 SIPA, and I will be swimming back to Manhattan as soon as our last one heads off to college as well.

David, hope to see you there and thanks for getting the ball rolling!

Following David's lead, **Gavin Miles** writes, "I am an executive ADA at the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, where I specialize in fraud investigations and prosecutions. My wife, Sarah Berger, and I live in Brooklyn with our son, Benjamin, who is a senior at The Beacon School in Manhattan. I have fond memories of my years at Columbia and the friends I made there. I remain a strong believer in the Core Curriculum, although I haven't yet had occasion to reference the 'Myth of Er' professionally (but I'm pretty sure it's applicable)."

Given Gavin's legal focus, and my lengthy career in the asset management industry, I'm surprised that our paths haven't crossed. (Anyone from the SEC who happens to be perusing this column: I'm kidding.)

I attended last year's Great

Teacher Awards ceremony, sponsored by the Society of Columbia Graduates, and am pleased to report that the Core Curriculum is in great shape. The College winner was the Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities Cathy Popkin, who is a mainstay of the Literature Humanities faculty and well known for hosting reunions with her former Lit Hum students when they are seniors. Her acceptance speech was inspiring.

Following Gavin "Iron Fist in the Velvet Glove" Miles' advice, **Phil Teverow** writes, "**Gavin Miles** gently offered the opportunity to join him and other College friends in providing an update. No pressure, really.

"I'm writing from Brooklyn, where I've been tucked away almost since graduation. My wife, Josephine, and I have three kids. Rosie is a junior at Oberlin, Henry is a first-year student at St Andrews in Scotland and Ruben is still trapped in the NYC public school system as a high school sophomore. Professionally, I've never shaken the merchant impulse that sustained me through college at Fumald Grocery. I help clients turn food ideas into food businesses and help them run those businesses. Strangely enough, it's kept me busy as a solo practitioner consultant for the last 16 years, and I love doing it."

Alas, the Fumald Grocery is no more but its soul lives on.

Also leaping off the "bridge" this quarter was another of our accomplished esquires, **Edward Hermsstadt**. He reports, "I live in Brooklyn with my documentary filmmaker wife, Maia Wechsler '83 Barnard, and my daughter, who is a junior in high school. I suspect that my son, who is a sophomore at Colorado College, spends too much time celebrating the recent referendum victory in his new home state and skiing. I am a partner in Hermsstadt Atlas and focus on employment and intellectual property litigation. Like most Columbia grads, I spend most of my time trying to look as good as **Evan Hollander** and wondering if in my next life I can be **John Rexer**, who lives in Guatemala and is busy managing a booze empire around his ridiculously good illegal Mezcal."

Edward, thanks for checking in. John, in case you're reading this, I enjoy small batch, hand-crafted, artisanal mezcal. Just saying. If you care to write in, that would be awesome, too.

Also succumbing to peer pressure, the (by all accounts) handsome **Evan Hollander** writes, "I am a partner in the New York office of Arnold & Porter, having recently made the move after 18 years at White & Case (the last 12

as a partner). My practice focuses on complex financial restructuring and insolvency matters. I live on the Upper West Side with my wife, Anne Doyle '95 SIPA; my daughter, Rachel (a fifth grader at The Chapin School); and our dog, Elliot. I have aged somewhat but remain significantly better looking than Messrs. Shine, Miles and Hermsstadt, along with **David Fishman**, **Larry Sacks '82E** and Charles Hess '83, by all objective measures."

Oh, yeah! Trash talk. Excellent!

Not to be outdone, **David Fishman**, an associate at Robert A.M. Stern Architects, reports, "I haven't strayed too far from campus and live with my wife, Stephanie, on 110th Street just east of Broadway, with daughter Claire in her junior year at Brandeis. This fall, I have a new book coming out, co-written with Robert A.M. Stern '60 and Jacob Tilove, *Paradise Planned: The Garden Suburb and the Modern City*."

This is so cool! Jody, whose undergraduate degree is in urban studies and master's is in public administration, will be lining up outside Barnes & Noble the night before the release date.

The final esteemed member of the Shine bridge-jumping team, **Larry Sacks**, writes, "I have been living in London for more than five years now with my wife, Kay, and son, Benjamin, who is in year five (fourth grade to you Colonials). I recently was granted indefinite leave to remain by the home office so will likely be staying here for some time (though after earlier, similar stints in Hong Kong and Sydney, who knows?). I am a director in risk management with Mitsubishi UFJ Securities Int'l."

A quick sidebar with Larry:

What's your favorite copula, Gaussian, Archimedean or T? **Jeffrey Lautman** and his wife, Teri '81 Barnard, proudly announce the engagements of both their children, Adira and Yaniv: "Adira will be wed to Simeon Botwinick from Riverdale (Yeshiva University) on June 16, and Yaniv will be wed to Talya Margulies (Stern College for Women) on July 18."

Jeffrey is the chief of nephrology and chief of staff at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. Teri is the business manager for Cleveland Kidney & Hypertension Consultants. After two weddings in the space of about a month, he says, they will no doubt take some kind of vacation!

The talented **Lou Orfanella** has announced the upcoming release of his latest novel, *Manhattan Equinox*. From the press release: "It takes the intertwined storylines of [Armistead] Maupin's *Tales of the City*, the multiple narrative voices of [Bret Easton] Ellis' *The Rules of*

*Attraction*, the episodic nature of [Sandra] Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, and the New York City sensibility of [Pete] Hamill's *The Invisible City: A New York Sketchbook* and introduces readers to the denizens of The Golden Grotto, a bar one street below street level in a university neighborhood that just might look familiar to Columbia alumni. The book reminds us that although our lives might seem like isolated incidents, we can live with the hope that, when all is said and done and we look back, we might just find that the parts have merged to create a satisfying whole."

Looking forward to reading this one!

Finally, the thoughtful and erudite **Thomas O'Keeffe** reports, "After several years of teaching at Stanford and living in San Francisco, I have moved back to the East Coast to become chair of the West Hemisphere Area Studies program at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute in Washington, D.C."

Well, I must say that I'm quite gratified by all these contributions. Keep 'em coming!

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**  
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It is with great sadness that I report the passing of my friend, mentor and extended family member, Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig, on December 1, 2012. I met Professor Selig (KLS) when I was a high school senior. I was invited to a reception for prospective freshmen at Dr. Frederick Lane '28, '32 P&S's home overlooking Long Island Sound. Professor Selig was the featured speaker and he spoke passionately about Columbia's Core Curriculum, outstanding faculty and talented students. Significantly, during my last visit with KLS two weeks before he died, I read to him the faculty names and course listings from the most recent CC course catalog. We also spoke about his many former students who had visited him this fall. His love for Columbia and, most notably, his former students was unwavering.

Professor Selig was first and foremost a scholar. Dennis Klainberg '84, a fellow CCT class correspondent, used to bring KLS the results

from searching his name on Google. They were pages long. Professor Selig spoke many languages and loved to converse with my father in Italian. KLS would insist on sitting in the front seats of taxis so he could speak with the different drivers about their home countries, often exchanging words in their native tongue. Professor Selig always lamented the fact that young people were not better versed in geography. He had an outstanding memory and tremendous intellectual curiosity. Once, he was mugged while waiting for the subway to get to one of his classes at Columbia and afterward spent several weeks in the hospital. To pass the time, he recreated the great texts in his mind. During my last visit with him, he seemed at moments to be confused. Before I left, however, he demanded to know whether **Barack Obama** or Mitt Romney carried Wisconsin.

Perhaps the most famous classes he taught were Modern European and American Literature-Philosophy II ("Super Lit-Hum"), Artistic Theory and the Renaissance, Novella-Boccaccio to Cervantes, and *Don Quixote*, pronounced with an "x." His philological proof for this was the pronunciation of the word "quixotic." KLS is regarded as one of the foremost experts in the world on *Don Quixote*. He loved to tell students that every major novel depends on Cervantes' paradigmatic and primogenitor text, a variegated tapestry that works backward and forward. KLS spoke with a unique vocabulary that often is imitated by former students. With a stentorian voice replete with inflection and passion, he remarked, "*Don Quixote* has a certain universality, richness and density which creates a literary virtuosity." In fact, Professor Selig and *Don Quixote* had a lot in common. Both were art-minded philologists. They had no trouble creating a world of art though the manipulation of words. *Don Quixote* was part of the picaresque tradition, a literary genre that fascinated KLS.

The American epic and literary tour de force *Huckleberry Finn* also was a Selig favorite. He brilliantly examined the topos of trickery in relation to the protagonist, Huck Finn. As I was an Ivy League student who performed juggling tricks for money while people waited on Manhattan movie lines, Professor Selig used to call me Columbia's own picaroon.

Professor Selig was a great teacher to a generation of College students. Befittingly, he was honored with the Mark Van Doren Award for great teaching. Every former student of his now confronts a text with greater acuity and intellectual rigor. Incredibly, he gave a thesaurus to his medical aides and worked

with them daily on improving their vocabulary. He could be a taskmaster regarding proper pronunciation and would correct all until they correctly pronounced his name, "Sailig." He maintained a close relationship with hundreds of his former students, many of whom are now world-renowned in their fields. When Michael Oren '77, '78 SIPA, Israel ambassador to the United States, was honored with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, a ticket and personal invitation was extended to KLS. Tom Glöcer '81, former CEO of Reuters, regularly invited KLS for Thanksgiving dinner. Mike Schmidtberger '82, '85L, a managing partner at Sidley Austin, was an executor of KLS' estate and regular visitor (along with Ted Allegraert '87). Dr. Paul Maddon '81, '88 P&S, '88 GSAS, a University trustee, spoke movingly about KLS during his John Jay Award acceptance speech in 2009. Professor Selig encouraged Paul to write his term paper on his favorite Wagner composition, even though its relevance to the course was tangential at best. I was honored to have KLS join my family to celebrate major holidays and he spoke at the last several '83 reunion dinners. Dozens of former students attended his 86th birthday celebration on August 14.

The last year of his life, Professor Selig shared with me that he was hallucinating and dreaming about a river. His former students know the symbolism of the river in Huck Finn. It represents adventure and the unknown. He requested that his body be cremated and his ashes dispersed in the Hudson River by the Columbia crew boathouse. A service will be held for him at the boathouse.

**Jack Abuhoff:** "I've decided to re-read *Quixote* (with careful attention to the text) in a personal tribute to the Great Professor."

**Frank Antonelli:** "I do not think there is a kid who went to Columbia in our generation who does not include Professor Selig on his list of favorite professors."

## What's Your Story?

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# Jon Ross '83 Proves a Little Help Can Go A Long Way

BY JUSTIN DEFREITAS

At 51, **Jon Ross '83** has found a way to channel his boundless energy for the greater good. After successful careers on Wall Street and in Hollywood, he founded MicroAid International, a nonprofit for which he travels the globe building homes, replacing tools of livelihood and restoring self-sufficiency for disaster victims in far-flung locales.

The mission is simple: to keep the focus on the victims long after the world's attention has moved on. "No other organization takes this long-term, hands-on approach to helping people," Ross says.

Once the initial rush of aid and press coverage has faded, MicroAid ([microaidinternational.org](http://microaidinternational.org)) looks for small projects with the potential for big impact in hard-hit towns and villages. The nonprofit has constructed homes in Sri Lanka and built canoes and replaced fishing kits for villages in Samoa. "MicroAid

steps in two to three years later as the NGOs depart for the next international crisis but without fully resolving the situation left behind," says D. Leslie Winter, a longtime friend of Ross and a member of MicroAid's board of directors.

Ross' eclectic journey began at the College, where he studied an array of subjects en route to a degree in urban studies. He credits his curiosity and appreciation for different cultures to his study of anthropology. "It combined so many elements of my diverse interests and education: architecture, human interaction, art, science, religion," Ross says. "I bring a lot of that to the work I do now, and it has informed my life along the way."

One of the most enduring lessons of Ross' academic career came outside the classroom, at a cocktail party meet-and-greet with alumni. "An older alum, maybe 70 years old, spoke about his varied career, which included stints in business and philanthro-

py — 10 years here, 15 there," Ross says. "It made me realize that you didn't have to be locked into any one thing forever. That really had an impact on me."

Upon graduation, Ross accepted a position at the Wall Street brokerage firm Paine Webber, then headed west after a few years and landed a job as a creative executive at 20th Century Fox. Dissatisfied with endless dealmaking that resulted in few completed projects, he left in 1989 for New World Pictures, the small, prolific studio established by maverick director Roger Corman. With no hands-on filmmaking experience, the one-time major studio exec began his new career with that age-old initiation assignment: a coffee run. He spent the next year learning every job in the studio, including electrical work, camera work, set building and design. It proved to be a life-altering experience.

"Growing up in New York and going to Columbia, you're

told that you're going to rule the world," Ross says. "I wish someone had told me it's really helpful to start at the bottom and learn everything."

From there, Ross forged a 15-year career as a freelance producer of television commercials. Though he was no television fan, nor had he any love for advertising, the money and the freedom to set his own hours enabled him to pursue interests such as world travel and volunteerism. The latter included his work with the Southern California chapter of the Achilles Track Club (now Achilles International), an organization for people with disabilities that he'd established in 1987. Ross ran the club for 20 years, guiding blind runners in races and marathons, training other guides and handling fundraising, administration, press and outreach. He also volunteered for three years with Habitat for Humanity, earning certification as a construction crew leader while building houses for low-income families in the Los Angeles area.

In 2009, Ross gave up his television career and combined his various skills and interests by founding MicroAid. The idea stemmed from his travel experiences as well as from a 2008 project for which he was commissioned by a Wall Street firm to help distribute relief funds in Sri Lanka, which was still suffering in the wake of the 2004 tsunami. When the project's funders backed out, Ross made sure his time and research would not go to waste, going solo and raising money to build houses on the island. Thus MicroAid was born.

Though Ross has since added a board of directors, MicroAid remains largely a one-man operation. After conferring with village elders and religious leaders, as well as local nonprofits and the departing NGOs, Ross — along with his board — starts raising funds. Then, acting as project manager, he makes a first visit to the area to coordinate with local



Two villagers paddle new MicroAid canoes across Lefaga Bay.

PHOTO: JON ROSS '83

organizations and international NGOs. Once funding is in place, Ross returns to the site, buying local materials and hiring locally to complete the project at minimal expense.

Most recently Ross helped the roughly 260 people of Matafa'a, a remote village on Lefaga Bay on the southern coast of Samoa, to replace canoes destroyed in the 2009 tsunami. The loss had been crippling, as canoes are necessary for families to cross the bay to attend school, to shop and to catch the bus for the 90-minute commute to jobs in the capital of Apia. In ordinary times, villagers would need to build only a single canoe every few years and, because of the rarity of the occasion, the skills were not necessarily passed down to the next generation. But after Ross arrived and secured the materials, he and the villagers set up a makeshift factory, building 16 canoes in six weeks. The elders also used the opportunity to teach the craft to the younger generation, several of whom used their newfound knowledge to get jobs building canoes in other villages.

MicroAid, which is based in Ross' adopted hometown of Venice Beach, Calif., currently raises \$30,000–\$50,000 per project. The next venture, scheduled for this spring, is in Peru, with projects planned for Burma, Haiti and Nicaragua.

"The five-year plan is to train three other project managers so that we can have multiple

programs operating at the same time, and to raise at least \$250,000 annually. And, I hope, to inspire people to help those in need," Ross says.

Every dollar donated to MicroAid goes to programs; the overhead is funded by the board and by Ross, who doesn't take a salary. He funds his own part with savings from his careers and from the proceeds of a small business he founded in 2003: Soothe Your Soles ([sootheyoursoles.net](http://sootheyoursoles.net)), cleansing towels for feet that Ross created and markets to yoga studios, spas and resort hotels. "It pays for my nonprofit habit," he says.

"Jon is an enthusiastic, thoughtful person with a methodical approach to problem-solving," Winter says. "He has never sought personal financial gain; he seeks to assist others. He has foregone lucrative opportunities to do the work that gives him greater satisfaction."

MicroAid's name derives not only from the size of the projects it focuses on but also from the fact that it takes relatively little money to complete them. For example, Ross says, it only costs about \$7,000 to build a house in Sri Lanka.

"A small amount of money and a small amount of help can do a lot of good," he says. "Just because I can't build a hundred houses doesn't mean I shouldn't build one."

*Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer and graphic artist.*

Jim Weinstein '84: "Karl-Ludwig Selig was a unique man. He was not just a scholar but also a teacher and an adviser. In the days before coeducation, the Dean of Students Office on the 200 level of Hamilton was smaller, and it was adjacent to his office. The line to see the professor was often longer than the line to see the dean or any of his assistants! He took a tremendous interest in his students and, in his retirement, always would talk about which ones became doctors, professors, lawyers and other professionals. He had an amazing memory for names, places, dates, articles and scholarly research."

"His story from his years before Columbia is even deeper than his academic career: as a boy and a teenager, he was raised in a middle class family in Germany, but with the rise of Hitler, his family wisely decided to leave. He and his family were some of the last Jews to escape, [traveling] to the United Kingdom and then on one of the last boats from there to the United States. His family settled in Erie, Pa., and he excelled in high school and got an undergraduate degree from Ohio State. [Professor Selig] had tremendous energy and worked 80-hour weeks, or so it seemed. He also had great empathy for student-athletes, perhaps because he was on the swim team at Ohio State and understood the academic and athletic burdens of student-athletes. I also recall that he did graduate work at Texas and could reminisce about what Texas was like in the 1960s as well as being on trains from St. Louis to Austin, including every stop in between."

[Editor's note: See obituary in Around the Quads.]

**Andy Gershon** and his wife, Gail, hosted a well-attended '83 reception at their home on December 1. Their son, Alex, is a talented left-handed pitcher who spent much of the evening showing my son, David, different baseball pitching grips. Andy runs the Safe Haven JV league for which Alex is a tournament-winning pitcher. Alex's sister, Sophie, plays basketball and her team is ranked 10th in the country. I spoke with **Kevin Chapman** and his son, Ross; **Eric Wertzer**; **David Einhorn '86L**; **Eric Epstein**; **Ed Joyce**; **Steven Greenfield**; and **David Hershey-Webb** at the event. David regularly performs his guitar songs at the Living Room in Manhattan. Many of us attended the Columbia-Bucknell basketball game after the event.

I really enjoyed hearing from CC baseball great **Frank Antonelli**. Frank is president of Empire Sports Management. He has been involved with directing major golf events including the Ryder Cup, Memorial Tournament, U.S. Open, and Hootie

and the Blowfish Monday After the Masters Celebrity Pro-Am. Frank's company also represents international golf clients including Tommy "Two Gloves" Gainey and the Golf Channel's Charlie Rymur. He earned a master's in sports administration from Ohio and worked for years with Jack Nicklaus. Frank lives in a beachfront community in Charleston with his wife, Debbie (a former NC State basketball star), who announces college and WNBA games for ESPN, CBS and FOX Sports Net. He has three children, Joey (17), who competes in AAU basketball; Frankie (15), who competes in the Special Olympics; and Patrick (11). Frank has set up a charity on Frankie's behalf, Frankie and Friends, to raise awareness about special needs children. Anti-bullying is another of the charity's themes. Frankie is scheduled to speak at St. John's University on April 22 to promote the charity. He regularly speaks in front of thousands of people. Patrick is involved with travel soccer and basketball.

Frank keeps in touch with **Kurt Lundgren** (former CC baseball pitcher and New York Mets prospect), a lawyer living in Nanuet, N.Y., and with **John McGivney**, who works for the IRS on Long Island. Other CC friends include **Frank Lofaso '83E**, Beemie Bajraktari '92, **Bob Flock**, Glenn Meyers '84 and Mike Dichiaro '84, all of whom regularly attend Glenn's annual charity golf tournament in New City.

**Gary McCready** writes, "Our 1983 Facebook reunion page can be found at [facebook.com/Columbia1983](http://facebook.com/Columbia1983). It is very basic, so please forward recommendations to me to spice it up (or to correct typos). Additional admins are welcome; just email me. Please 'like' it and pass it on to all you know in '83 in the College, Barnard and Engineering."

While we're on the subject of reunion, make a note that the dates are Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. Look for information at [reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu). And to be sure that you receive all the updates from the Alumni Office, update your contact information at [reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate).

I attended the 2012 Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner, honoring Jonathan D. Schiller '69, '73L, managing partner of Boies, Schiller & Flexner, in November. David Boies was seated at the table next to me. I now know how my son feels when he spots David Wright at a NYC restaurant.

**Jon Ross**, founder of MicroAid International (see Alumni Profile in this issue) writes, "With so much tragedy in the news [as 2012 came to a close], you may not have seen that a category 3 cyclone (sustained



Jon Ross '83 and a felled tree, soon to become one of 16 canoes.

PHOTO: TUILAGI ASA



hurricane winds of 120 mph and extreme destruction) devastated Samoa, including our little canoe village of Matafa'a.

"I finally was able to contact them. Nobody was hurt and the canoes survived, but most of the houses and gardens were destroyed and the villagers lost most of their possessions and clothing. Ten families are living in the church. The entire island will be without electricity for months. [As of this writing] I will be going to help in mid-January — bringing a generator, water purification system, building tools and donated clothing. Already, a wonderful company, LifeSaver USA, has donated one of its revolutionary water filtration systems. ... If anyone can spare a financial donation, I will make sure it goes toward helping the village in the most efficient and appropriate manner. Thank you."

Dr. **Larry Herman's** twins, Jonathan '16E and Daniella '16 Barnard, began at Columbia this past fall. His oldest, Amanda, is at Maryland.

**Don Steinberg** reports, "I've become a staff writer at *The Wall Street Journal*, covering a range of entertainment — movies, music, comedy, books and so on — in the paper's new 'Arena' section on Fridays. It's a step up from publishing the *Art Garfunkel Lived Here* newsletter in Carman Hall. I also have a new book, *The Kickstarter Handbook: Real-Life Success Stories of Artists, Inventors and Entrepreneurs*, which explains how to take advantage of the online crowd funding phenomenon."

*The Washington Post* announced that **Marcus Brauchli** is stepping down as executive editor but he is staying on as v.p.

My baby products company, Regent Baby Products, signed a license recently with Nickelodeon for the right to use the Dora the Explorer, SpongeBob SquarePants and Blue's Clues characters on our items. My pet company, Petking, recently signed a license with America's Vetdogs. A percentage of the proceeds is donated to this outstanding charity, which trains dogs to help disabled veterans.

Though belated, my best goes out to the Class of '83 for a happy and healthy 2013. May your dreams be fulfilled and your families be safe. Peace to all.

**84** **Dennis Klainberg**  
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With a heavy heart, I am saddened to advise you of the passing of Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig on December 1, 2012.

Despite having suffered a stroke and being confined to his bed due to various illnesses these past few years, he was resolved to fight as only a devotee of *Don Quixote* could: by staying optimistic, fighting to live another day and keeping in close touch with all his friends, colleagues and, especially, his beloved students.

Having been one of many to share time with the professor these last few years — including at his birthday in August, where 10 of us from various '70s and '80s classes were on hand to honor him at his nursing home — I will miss the Great Professor. But I am heartened to have made many new friends who believe, as I do, that he was a true original and a tour de force in his own right. We are blessed to have known him.

For those who would like to share memories, there is a "Fans of Karl-Ludwig Selig" group on Facebook.

The professor was thrilled to know of the group and, because of his failing eyesight, I read his "fan mail" to him over the years (and was honored to do so). Perhaps some of these memories can be shared as well at a celebration of his life, to be scheduled.

As he would surely want us to shout in his honor, "Love live the text!"

Above all, it must be noted that Roy Pomerantz '83 was as great a friend and spiritual son as the professor could have had. Roy invited him to many a family occasion (or brought the party to him!), visited often with his children and gave the professor much solace and support. He was called first whenever the professor was in need or simply had a question. And if Roy was unavailable, yours truly got the call: "Where is Roy?" — the answer usually was "in China" — "I need him!" Blessings to the Pomerantz family for their acts of kindness and love.

Ted Allegaert '87 and Mike Schmidtberger '82, '85L were most instrumental in ensuring the professor's business and personal affairs were kept in order. On all matters legal and financial, these men showed the greatest degree of passion, attention, affection and patience that could be imagined.

Below are some thoughts from fellow alumni.

Mike Schmidtberger '82, '85L: "He was ready. Profound thanks to all of you for helping to look after him when he needed it and for the good times you shared during his better and later days."

Alex Navab '87: "God bless the professor and rest his soul. What a unique and wonderful man! We are all lucky to have had Professor Selig in our lives. Our lives are all

the richer for our time as his students and friends. Gaul and parties at Saint A's. He was a fixture at Columbia."

**Louis Tsiros:** "I was acquainted with Professor Selig during the last year or two of my studentship at the College, albeit fleetingly. I remember him well, though, and I do so with a smile. May he rest in peace."

**Adam Belanoff:** "I'll remember Professor Selig fondly although, despite many positive interactions with him through the years, I never was able to take his *Don Quixote* course. I am aware of how much I missed."

**Michael Ackerman:** "I met Karl-Ludwig Selig in an elevator in Hamilton Hall when I was a freshman. Though we'd never met and I had never seen him, I recognized him immediately from the descriptions I'd heard from others. We wound up chatting for a few minutes and forever after the Great Professor remembered my name, where I'd lived at the time and whom I knew who knew him. Through him I discovered Gogol's 'The Nose' (one of my favorite short stories) and he told me countless other great tales. A unique man and a great part of the Columbia community."

Dr. **P. Langham Gleason:** "I never had a class with Professor Selig, yet he always treated me and my brother, Douglas '83, like celebrities when he ran into us walking across the campus. He was a gifted people-person and a legendary part of Columbiana. The likes of him shall not quickly pass our way again. Thanks for reminding us to take a moment to remember this beautiful man."

[Editor's note: See obituary in Around the Quads.]

**85** **Jon White**  
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**Joseph Novak** is posted with the U.S. State Department in Montréal. He writes, "I serve as the deputy chief of mission and alternate U.S. representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization. ICAO works to ensure the security, safety and sustainability of international aviation, a field where the United States is an important player. After several postings in South and Southeast Asia, my wife, Tahmina, and I are enjoying Montréal and eastern Canada, including side visits to New England."

**Mischa Zabotin** reports, "Our oldest son, Sacha, is enjoying his first year at Bates, where he's on the rugby team and taking classes

that make me jealous. Our youngest, Lucas, was accepted early decision to the Class of 2017. He's very excited (as are we!). My wife, Nicole '88 Barnard, is pursuing a college counseling certificate through the UCLA Extension program. Last but not least, I am at Crédit Agricole by day and the board chair of the French-American School of New York by night. We are working hard to obtain approval to transform a defunct, 130-acre golf course in White Plains into the new home for the FASNY campus as well as for an 84-acre nature conservancy — an exciting and unique project we've dubbed 'Greens to Green.'"

Congratulations to Mischa and all other '85ers who now get to add the "P" (for Parent) designation to their Columbia credentials.

Regarding another class member with a "P," **David Zapolsky's** son, Ian '15, will major in computer science (my son, Isaac '14, made the same choice and has been knee-deep in problem sets). Ian also may minor in jazz music; in his high school days, he made several cross-country journeys to New York to play in jazz festivals/competitions.

Congratulations to **John Phelan's** daughter, Unity, who has been accepted as an apprentice for the New York City Ballet.

**Tony Pagan** left his position at the Mailman School of Public Health and has accepted a position at the Morris Heights Health Center, a federally qualified health center in the Central Bronx, as its senior director of planning and development. Tony and his team of planners and fundraisers are responsible for fund development, strategic partnerships and implementing the organization's strategic plan.

**Eric Lanzieri** wrote, "After years of working in law and related industries, I have been the director of the paralegal program at Lincoln College of New England since 2010. I love teaching. This past November I gave a presentation at the law school of the University of Salerno in Italy. This was a special experience for me, as my paternal grandparents emigrated to Connecticut from the city of Scafati, only 15 miles from the university, more than 100 years ago. The student government of the law school posted two videos of my presentation on YouTube. Everyone involved is motivated to continue some type of cultural or educational exchange, and I am looking forward to it."

"My involvement with southern Italy began nearly 20 years ago, when I succeeded in finding relatives after a generation without contact. I also work with companies in Southern Italy to commercialize

a patented device, developed at the University of Connecticut, for the conversion of waste cooking oil to biodiesel fuel. My trip to Italy in late fall was productive with respect to teaching law and to the commercialization of the biodiesel reactor. I would love to hear from former residents of 7 Jay whom I knew during our freshman year."

Major league congratulations go out to **Tom Cornacchia**, who was presented a 2013 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement on March 6. Tom is a managing director and head of sales for fixed income, currencies and commodities in the Americas at Goldman Sachs and a member of the Columbia College Board of Visitors. [Editor's note: See Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct for a photo gallery of the event.]

Finally, congratulations to many of our classmates celebrating their (first) half-century this year. Some of you already have hit this milestone. Happy birthday to all!

**86** **Everett Weinberger**  
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Careful readers of the Winter 2012–13 issue of CCT would have read the Alumni in the News section and seen a smiling photo of U.S. Air Force Brigadier General **Scott F. Smith** in uniform with a chest full of medals. That's right, brigadier general! Uh-huh! The Class of '86 now has a general in its ranks. Scott was promoted in a ceremony on September 21 at U.S. Southern Command headquarters in Doral, Fla. SOUTHCOM is responsible for all partner-nation building and U.S. military activity in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

From General Smith himself, we hear the following about the ceremony: "I was blown away by the energy, dedication and generosity of my Columbia colleagues, Phi Gamma Delta brothers and dear friends from as far back as grade school ... simply incredible. Aside from '86ers, there was representation from Classes of '84, '85 and '87. It was a momentous occasion for me and my family, made all the more intense with the presence of so many friends. Not for College days alone, my CU pennant flies proudly in my office!"

Scott adds, "I'm married to Amber and our twins, Mazie and Marisha, are 7; we also have Melody (2½). Fortunately, they all take after their mother and are beautiful and bright. Theoretically, having young kids when you're in your 40s is supposed to 'keep you young.' Well,



**Michael Skrebutenas '86**, COO of New York State Homes and Community Renewal, was honored in October as the Tim O'Hanlon Unsung Hero of the Year by the Supportive Housing Network of New York. Alumni at the ceremony included, left to right: **Christopher Browne '88**; **Ira Gilbert '84**; **Richard Froehlich '85**, '88L; **Christopher Betts '84**; **Skrebutenas**; **Ralph Fasano '85 TC**, '86 TC; and **Ted Houghton '87**.

the jury is still out on that one — but unquestionably it keeps Amber and I moving! I sure hope in some lab at CU there are some smart folks discovering how to tap the insane energy that three little girls can produce. It is enormous.

"Of course, all have Columbia gear in their closets and I believe Melody shows signs of being a star soccer player for the Class of '31. Yes, that is 2031. Read that year again. I believe I will be 106 with a kid in college! At least there will be air cars and affordable space travel by then.

"We've lived in Miami for the last two years while I worked at U.S. Southern Command as the executive officer for the four-star general in command, Gen. Doug Fraser, USAF. It's been a fascinating year, including extensive travel throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, which offered a phenomenal education on working with heads of state, NGOs, private and public endeavors, and foreign militaries along with close interaction with the State Department and the intelligence community.

"Some other Columbians have trod the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility during the last couple of years, including Ambassador Hector Morales '85 and Dan Foote '86 (deputy chief of mission in the Dominican Republic following a tour in Haiti). I also understand that Col. Chris Riga '87, Army Special Forces, will take command of a unit next summer that works extensively throughout Latin America.

"In January I moved on to be deputy commander, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) in Djibouti. CJTF-HOA's mission is similar to SOUTHCOM's

for the African continent (developing partner nation capabilities for security and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief). Additionally, CJTF-HOA goes after the bad guys in that area, so I'm eager to join the mission. That's about the size of things from here. Best to all college mates wherever they may be."

Share your news with the class by getting in touch with me using my direct email, at the top of the column, or via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**87** **Sarah A. Kass**  
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To start this short but in many ways poignant column, I take you to our roving reporter in Oklahoma City, **Cathy Webster** Ph.D.

She writes, "While we have been living our own little lives, our fearless class correspondent, the one and only **Sarah Kass**, has earned her Ph.D.! Sarah's degree in clinical psychology has been awarded by Saybrook University in San Francisco. She also did coursework in London, which allowed us to enjoy a wonderful weekend together one damp Halloween. Now, back to your regularly scheduled programming ..."

Thank you so much, Cathy! I could not have said it better!

For those who don't know, and I'm sure this encompasses the majority of you, my specialization is in existential psychology, a way of practicing psychology that focuses much less on diagnosis and the medical model and more on how

each unique individual human creates meaning in his or her world. Rooted in existential philosophy — part of that 20th-century stuff we never seemed to cover in CC — we try to help our clients see their choices and possibilities, often where they previously thought they had few to none. And this link both to philosophy and to how one creates meaning in everyday life is easy to see once we start looking. I edit a daily website, The New Existentialists (newexistentialists.com), where we publish the work of existential psychologists from all over the world relating the practice of existential psychology to such topics as baseball, yoga and coffee.

I could go on about this for hours, but I'd rather let **Alissa Burstein** share this story with you. Alissa, who is earning a Ph.D. in education at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, has been facing the realities of daily existence, with tensions as they have been in the Middle East. She told me of this experience while studying:

"I was sitting in the music library at Bar-Ilan University when an air raid siren was heard in the center of the country during the recent Operation Pillar of Defense (when Israel acted to stop the missile attacks on civilians coming from the Gaza Strip). This took us by surprise, and we ran to the 'safe room' shelter. I couldn't imagine being under attack with a better group of people — music professors who proceeded to compare the timbre and rhythm of the siren to some musical composition they were just studying! The whole scenario remains surreal."

All I could think of was how amazing it was that such creativity and learning could take place under



such conditions. Because humans possess these awesome capabilities is just one of the reasons I chose existential psychology — an approach that really appreciates each person's humanness — for my life path.

And then, like a gift from the heavens, I got a message from the incomparable **Judy Kim**, whom I saw for a flash at reunion. She wrote, "I live in Stamford, Conn., and work at RBS. **Sarah Kass** plans to help me find a place to buy groceries in Stamford other than Target!"

So, I must extend much gratitude to my brother, my sister-in-law and my nephew, of course, who live near Stamford, as do my sister-in-law's parents, for enabling me to have enough familiarity with the area to help Judy get her grocery shopping done. Phew! Thank goodness the dissertation defense is done.

#### REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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Congratulations to **Stephen Sagner**, who has been named co-president and chief strategy officer of College Summit, a nonprofit that works with students to encourage their success in high school and college. "College Summit is the gold standard in student-led college and career readiness, so I cannot think of a better place for me to have a positive impact on the economic future of our kids, their families and communities than with this extraordinary organization," Stephen said in a press release. "College Summit's strength is developing curriculum and in-school programming. That expertise combined with innovative initiatives like its College Knowledge Challenge, which recently launched with Facebook and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to create college-going apps for students, makes College Summit incredibly attractive to corporations, foundations and others looking to invest in solutions that work today and into the future."

Plaudits (and a mazal tov) also go out to **Jonathan Lavine**, recipient of the Anti-Defamation League New England region's highest honor, the Distinguished Com-

munity Service Award. The ADL, according to its statement, "is recognizing Lavine's immense civic leadership and influence to effect positive change in our community. Lavine believes strongly in giving back to his community. Together with his wife, Jeannie, Lavine has helped create, grow and sustain numerous organizations focused on improving the lives of children and families around the world."

Jonathan, a Columbia trustee, is managing partner and CIO of Sankaty Advisors, which he founded in 1997. Sankaty, the fixed income and credit affiliate of Bain Capital, is one of the leading global credit and distressed debt managers, with approximately \$19 billion of assets under management. Through the Crimson Lion Foundation, which they launched in 2007, Jonathan and Jeannie provide financial support to many community-based organizations.

**Steve Silverstein** sent a note: "Still two kids, now 7 & 4, boy and girl, and one wife. I am changing jobs but as I am on gardening leave, I am unable to disclose my future employer. I will continue to provide debt financing to commodities trading companies."

**Mark Timoney**, who lives in Westchester County, N.Y., and works for HSBC Bank, also sent greetings. "All is well with my wife, Maria, and our kids: Ines Maria (Sarah Lawrence '14), John Lucas ('15E, and Ana Gracia and Ricardo David (both still in high school)."

Don't forget that 2013 is our 25th reunion year — a big one — so start planning your trip. The dates are Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. The Reunion Committee has been working for months to plan a terrific weekend. On Thursday evening, we'll join the members of the 50th reunion class for a special reception at President Lee C. Bollinger's house; afterward, our class will continue the festivities at the Skyline Room and Terrace in Faculty House. Among the other events are Friday's walking tour of the High Line and reception at The Standard, and Saturday's class-specific dinner followed by dancing under the stars at the Starlight Reception.

Look for more information at [reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu). Also, to ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about the event, please update your contact information at [reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

Thanks for your updates and please keep sending them to me at the email address at the top of the column or through CCT's easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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Our long publication lead time for CCT makes it difficult for this column to run important information quickly. Though this message from **Brian O'Connell** came in late last fall, it's no less critical now. I've written about Brian before. He is the founding principal of the Scholars' Academy, a gifted grade 6–12 school of just less than 1,200 students, in Rockaway Park, Queens. In the fall his school was ravaged by Hurricane Sandy and then looted. Brian writes, "We need help. I ask that you help us get the word out to Columbia alumni. Our school lost a tremendous number of books, musical instruments, sports equipment, office furniture and technology. In the aftermath, more than 80 iPads and several iMacs were stolen. Our stage, brand new curtains and gymnasium floor are destroyed. Our fitness room is in shambles. The school was flooded with seawater and sewage from the water treatment plant across the street from our building."

According to Brian, more than half of the students and staff were left homeless by the storm. Some students' homes burned to the ground; some staff members' homes were filled floor to roof with seawater. Yet, one week later, 60 percent of students and more than 95 percent of staff were present in two relocation schools in East New York, Brooklyn.

Brian has worked tirelessly to build the Scholars' Academy since 2004. The school started as a program while he was principal of P.S. 114Q, a K–6 school. In 2005, the gifted program was expanded to be a stand-alone school and then added one grade each year. In June 2011, the Scholars' Academy graduated its first class of high school students. When Brian wrote to me, he was still living in a hotel as he waited for his house to be habitable.

Contact Brian at [principal@aol.com](mailto:principal@aol.com) or via LinkedIn.

Last November, my husband Dave Terry '90 and I attended the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner in Low Rotunda. Jonathan Schiller '69, '73L was the recipient of the 2012 Alexander Hamilton Medal. The medal, the highest honor paid to a member of the College community, is awarded by the Columbia College Alumni Association. Jonathan, a University trustee and a member of the Dean's Council of the Law School, received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2006. Among many professional and personal accomplishments, he was a member

of the 1967–68 Ivy League Championship basketball team.

I hadn't been inside Low Rotunda since Dave worked there sorting books and things for his work-study job in the '80s. The Alumni Office dressed up the room magnificently for the evening.

While there, it was nice to catch up with John Vaske '88 and **Lisa Landau Camoy**. Also in attendance was **Raymond Yu**, who has been working in his family's real estate development and management company since graduation. Raymond sent an update: "We have developed and manage office/retail and market rate apartment buildings throughout NYC but a significant number of our projects are in the affordable housing space. We completed our 16th affordable housing project/building in Harlem last year. I also recently became chairman of the board of directors of a community bank based in New York City."

Also at the Hamilton Dinner was Raymond's wife, Ya-Ning. The Yu family has three children (13, 11 and 10) and lives in New York.

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It's 2013. Only two more years until our 25th reunion, so save the date (Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2013)!

In more immediate developments, kudos to **Rukesh Korde**, who has been promoted to partner within the Washington, D.C., office of Covington & Burling.

In random encounters, **Eleni Passalaris** bumped into **Colin Campbell** when they were picking up their children from a mutual friend's birthday party. Both live in New Jersey, albeit 40 minutes away from one another. In Jersey talk, 40 minutes could as well be 40 states away, right?

Two or four states away, depending on how you drive, comes news from **Jill Mazza Olson**. "My husband, Tod, and I enjoy raising our kids (Zoe, 15, and Finn, 11) in Middlesex, Vt. We're definitely transitioning into a new phase of parenting as the kids move into adolescence.

"My work life remains interesting and challenging. A few years ago I got a new title and role — v.p. of policy and legislative affairs — at the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, where I've been for 10 years. I spend much of the year on policy development and the legislative session at the state house. Given Vermont's ambitious health care reform agenda and the devastation

of our mental health infrastructure last year when Tropical Storm Irene closed our only state psychiatric hospital, it's never dull. Still, we try to find time to recreate in our beautiful state on our mountain bikes, skis and kayaks, and we were all hoping for a snowy winter."

Oh, snow. I could do without snow. One thing I always appreciated about working at a university was that when it snowed, that snow got shoveled faster than you could say "snow day." **Catherine Prendergast** might know what I'm talking about. She reports, "I'm a professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. My husband, John Tubbs, and I are cracked up daily by our 8-year-old son, Siggie, who likes to do his homework 'with the college students' at Starbucks. Having recently finished a term as director of my university's first-year composition program, I've started a blog of advice, [firstyearcomp.com](http://firstyearcomp.com), as a form of public outreach. Buried, therein, is a memory of 'Logic and Rhetoric.'"

I have a report from **Udita (Malhoutra) Nabha**, who probably does not see much snow these days. After several decades of living all over the world, Udita is delighted to be based in Mumbai with her daughter, Naia (9). She's involved with a variety of nonprofits, including some in academia and healthcare. She hopes anyone traveling her way will get in touch.

**Anita Bose** is a woman after my own heart. Before starting a new job last fall as chief strategist at Cooney/Waters Group, a New York-based healthcare communications group of companies, she did what I dream of doing again someday: take a long hiatus from the working world to travel through Southeast Asia for a few months, then spend a summer as a beach bum. While in Krabi, Thailand, she got together with **Nancy (Pak) Marshall**; Nancy's husband, Jim Marshall; and their children, Cecelia and Ryan. In July, Colgate-Palmolive relocated Nancy and clan from Bangkok to Warsaw, where she is marketing director for central Europe.

**Dan Sackrowitz** has left the Bare Necessities underwear world for Loehmann's "outerwear" world, where he is v.p. for e-commerce.

Mariana and **Peter Neisuler** and their sons left Moscow in summer 2011 for their obligatory domestic posting within the Foreign Service and will be in Washington, D.C., through 2015. Pete is in the State Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs covering the Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg) and Mariana is in the Office of the Chief Economist (a newly created office

under President Barack Obama '83 and the Secretary of State). Starting this summer, Pete will work for the director general of the State Department on human resource policy coordination for the department as a whole (a change of pace from his usual stuff, he says, but interesting nonetheless, as it relates to the question of what the United States wants from its diplomats); Mariana is working on energy policy in the India/Pakistan region.

On a different and more somber note, it was gut-wrenching for me to read and hear about tales from Hurricane Sandy in October and November. My family was lucky to not have had any damage or inconvenience in Maryland but I know many of you were not as fortunate.

**Isaac-Daniel Astrachan** was one such person, and wrote about his experience in Battery Park City. "We were in the evacuation zone but we decided to stay and ride out the storm. As the storm looked to be calming down, the water started to rise, and from our 28th-floor apartment we watched as the Hudson expanded into our streets and we saw the West Side Highway become a river. As the water was heading north on the West Side Highway, and as basements were filling with water, we could see buildings losing power and going dark. Looking west we saw bright flashes of light in New Jersey, as electrical transformers were blowing up. We also saw a large flash when the 13th Street Con Ed transformer blew, which led to most buildings in Manhattan below 23rd Street going dark.

"Ironically, out of the six buildings in our complex, which sits on the edge of the Hudson, our building was the only one to lose power (slightly frustrating to see your neighbors in the next tower with power, cable, etc.). Compared to others who lost everything, though, we were only inconvenienced. School was closed and the office did not have power, so we spent the week at home, walking down the 28 floors once a day to go see friends, and walking back up in the evening to go to bed. Building codes will change. The current flood zone map is obsolete."

Let us hope that the only storm any of us should experience in the future is a storm of good luck.

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Greetings, all!

I think this is a CC '91 first:

The child of two classmates, **Alan**



In December, **Herbert Block '87** (left) and **CCT Class Correspondent Eric Fusfield '88** (right) participated in an international conference on Holocaust-era property restitution in Prague, Czech Republic. They are shown here with **Norman L. Eisen**, U.S. ambassador of the United States to the Czech Republic. Block is assistant e.v.p. of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Fusfield is director of legislative affairs at B'nai B'rith International and deputy director of the B'nai B'rith International Center for Human Rights and Public Policy.

**Goldman and Sara Goldman** (née Silver) has been accepted to Columbia! Congrats to Shmuel '15 and the whole Goldman family.

**Jacqueline Harounian** was named one of the "Top 50 Women Lawyers" in New York by Super Lawyers. Her practice focuses on matrimonial and family law in the New York metro area.

**Jennifer Ashton** writes, "I recently was named senior medical contributor for ABC News and appear regularly on *Good Morning America* and *World News* with Diane Sawyer. I maintain my private practice in ob-gyn and I love the world of news, as it gives me the opportunity to explore current medical and health issues in all fields and convey key information to millions of viewers every day. Whether it involves interviewing experts or delivering the expert commentary myself, it keeps me up to date and learning every day. Also, my new book, *Your Body Beautiful: Clockstopping Secrets to Staying Healthy, Strong, and Sexy in Your 30s, 40s, and Beyond*, was published in paperback. It is a head-to-toe guide to health and wellness for women 30 and older."

**Greg Ostling** writes, "I am a corporate partner at the law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, where I focus primarily on mergers and acquisitions. My wife, Angela, and I live on the Upper West Side. Angela is a physician on staff at NYU, and we have three wonderful sons, William (8), Daniel (6) and Peter (1). The boys love visiting the Columbia campus and The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Whenever we are up there, we like to grab pizza at V&T and cookies at the Hungarian Pastry Shop.

"One of the great things about being a Columbia alumnus in NYC is that it makes the city feel like a small town; I always am amazed at how frequently I run into fellow '91ers and get a chance to reconnect. As a further reminder that middle age is upon us, these run-ins typically involve our children. Most recently, I had the fortune to run into **Noah Greenhill** at a birthday party. Also, my oldest son is classmates with **Edward Ryeom '91E**'s son and my middle son is classmates with **Stefan Reyniak**'s son!"

Hope everyone is having a great 2013. Until next time, cheers!

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**Jeremy Feinberg**

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What this column lacks in number of updates it more than makes up for in the quality of the news.

**John Vagelatos** and his wife, Karen, welcomed a new addition in the days before Hurricane Sandy. Kate weighed in at 6 lbs., 10 oz. The proud dad is already teaching her the words to *Roar, Lion, Roar!* Having met Kate shortly after her birth, I'm more than willing to endorse her as a member of the Class of 2033.

I also learned that **Jason Griffith** has joined Sanford C. Bernstein as global head of trading.

Congratulations, Jason!

I hope that next time we'll have a column filled both with lots of updates and lots of good news. Please don't be shy about writing in; I'd love to hear from you. Use



my email address, at the top of the column, or CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.  
'Til next time.

#### REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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Our 20th Alumni Reunion Weekend is only a few months away and we hope to have a great turnout. If you haven't marked your calendars, please do so and try to come see your classmates; the dates are Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. Saturday, June 1, also is Dean's Day.

We have a great Reunion Committee that has been meeting since October and is well on its way to planning a dynamic weekend for all of us. Our class-specific dinner will take place on Saturday, followed by drinks and dancing under the stars at the Starlight Reception. Please also consider contributing to our Class Gift in honor of this milestone: college.columbia.edu/giveonline.

For more information on reunion, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu and, while you're there, make a pledge to attend and also update your contact information so you don't miss any news about the big event. Consider, too, joining the "Columbia College Class of 1993 – 20th Reunion" Facebook group!

**Kenneth Ehrenberg** '05 GSAS is an assistant professor of philosophy and research associate professor of law at Buffalo. He earned a law degree at Yale before earning a Ph.D. at Columbia. Ken recently married Hanako Sakanushi of Yokohama, Japan, and "had a wedding reception in Faculty House on November 20 (although the wedding itself took place July 31 in Buffalo). In attendance were many Columbians, including **Addison Golladay**; **Peter Hovde**; David Mantell '92; **Prudence Soobratte**; Jennifer (Weiner) Rosenthal '93 Barnard; **Milind Shah**; Patti Ybarra '94; **Jay Michaelson**; Thomas Vinciguerra '85, '86J, '90 GSAS; Guy Tower '12 GS; Anne Wei, who did a post-bac at the Architecture School in 2012; Adam Fields '96; Anne Sutherland '96; Andrew Shiner '96; Ashley Normand '97 Barnard; James Wetterau '05 GS; Ruth Mason '97; Ihsan Dogramaci '02 GSAS, '05L; Alex

Cohen '99L; Perry Metzger '87E; Calista Brill '02; and Aaron Seeskin '95 GSAS."

Congratulations, Ken.

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**Alison Gang** sent a lovely update on all she's been doing since graduation, saying she was motivated to write after looking through the *Spectator* archives: spectatorarchive.library.columbia.edu. She started by working as a photographer in New York for a few years, then moved back to California, where she grew up. She put her film studies major to use in Los Angeles as a page at the Studios at Paramount in Hol-

liverly. From there, Alison worked in script development for a TV production company, then moved to the TV channel AMC, where, as a publicist, she worked with legendary stars such as Eva Marie Saint and Roddy McDowall. After that, Alison shifted into a more academic setting at the UCLA Film & Television Archive, where she was in charge of research and licensing of UCLA's Hearst Metrotone News Collection to TV and film productions. In 2000 she moved to San Diego to pursue a master's in mass communication/media studies at San Diego State.

For the past decade Alison has been the communications director for University of California Television, the UC San Diego-based TV channel for the 10-campus UC system. She writes, "While UCTV can still be seen on TV in major California markets, our primary focus is now online and we've had great success with sharing our vast collection of lectures, documentaries, concerts and more with millions of viewers on our website (uctv.tv), YouTube channels and iTunes. While I thought I had put my film studies major to rest, that turned out not to be the case when, in 2010, I was brought on as the film critic for San Diego's only daily newspaper, now called *U-T San Diego*. Balancing a full-time job and a heavy freelance writing load isn't always easy, but it's hard to complain when you're lucky enough to have two jobs you love."

### Jennifer Goldstone '95 is COO of the Birthright Israel Foundation, a nonprofit that funds educational trips to Israel for young Jewish adults.

**Janet Balis Allen** lives in New York City with her family, including three kids, who are doing well and enjoying school, friends and many activities. Janet rejoined AOL a little more than a year ago to lead sales strategy for the company, but last May she took on a new role as publisher of *The Huffington Post*. "I'm very much enjoying the new challenge, as we've launched new experiences around the world, built new partnerships with incredible brands like TED and Oprah, and moved into original video with HuffPost Live," Janet writes. "It's a very different scale newsroom than the one I remember at WKCR!"

Also taking on a new challenge is **Paul Bollyky**, who has accepted a position as an assistant professor at Stanford with a joint appointment in immunology and infectious diseases. He and his family have moved to Palo Alto, Calif.

Also on the move is **Ayanna (Parish) Thompson**, who plans to move with her family from Scottsdale, Ariz., to Washington, D.C., this summer to join the faculty at The George Washington University.

Thanks to everyone for the great updates! Until next time.

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I hope this finds everyone doing well as we begin to celebrate our 40th birthdays.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Goldstone**, who is joining Birthright Israel Foundation as COO. The nonprofit funds educational trips to Israel for young Jewish adults. Her responsibilities include fundraising, communications and marketing.

**Michael Kingsley** also is in a new job. After seven years as a television producer — and a decade of media experience before that — he began as a media specialist at PR firm Emanate in October. He counsels on media strategy and helps place stories and guests on TV, radio, in print and online. His clients include Bank of America and The Hartford, and he also does work with KFC, *National Geographic* and more. Michael's wife, Harra, started this fall as an assistant principal at P.S. 83 in the Bronx, and their son, Aaron, is 2.

I am happy to be back in touch with **Laura Margolis**, a fellow Chicago native. She and her husband, **Brian Frank**, live in Los Angeles with their rescued dog and two cats. Laura, an actress, a few years ago appeared in the ABC series *Dirty Sexy Money* with Donald Sutherland, Lucy Liu and Blair Underwood. It was very cool to see her in ads for the show on the NYC subways! She also starred in the horror film *The Strangers*, and a sequel to the flick is rumored.

Brian, whom I often sat next to in history classes, is e.v.p. and global head of content at Beats Electronics. In his spare time, he manages rock legends Fu Manchu and up-and-coming punkers FIDLAR.

Thanks for the news and please keep the updates coming.

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Classmates, we're light on mail — a state of affairs that must be remedied. Write me with your news, whether about yourself or your family, career, travels or plans. You can use the above email address or CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. This column is a terrific way to stay connected; let's use it!

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**Ruth Mason** and her husband, James Wetterau '05 GS, welcomed their second son, Wiley Wetterau Mason, in October. Wiley joins brother Felix (2).

**Matthew Morningstar** is vice

chair of the Gay Men's Health Crisis Board of Directors.

**Maggie Lewis** was married in July 2011 in Tanzania (fantastic elopement)! She and her husband, John Kikoski '93 Business, had a son, Armas Said, in September. Maggie is an associate professor at Seton Hall Law in Newark, N.J., and lives in NYC.

**Joshua Ross** finished his first semester of the M.A. program in East Asian languages and cultures at GSAS.

**Edward Wladis** recently won the annual ASOPRS Research Award from the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for his research into the molecular biology of ocular rosacea. At the same meeting, he also won the Bartley Frueh Award for the best presentation. A few days later, his work on possible new therapies for thyroid eye disease was chosen as one of the best presentations at the American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting. Ted is in private practice in Albany, N.Y., and recently was promoted to associate professor at Albany Medical College. His wife, Lianne '00L, also works in Albany. They have two daughters, Molly (5) and Becca (2).

**Travis Ketner** opened a law office in his hometown of San Antonio. The Law Office of Travis Ketner (1423 W. Martin St., San Antonio, TX 78207) will focus on criminal defense as well as the pro bono representation of autistic children vis-à-vis the public school system.

It is with great sadness that I report that **Laura Tatum** died on October 13, 2012, of ovarian cancer. Laura grew up in Portland, Ore., and, after graduating from Tigard H.S. in 1993 headed east to Columbia and NYC, where she discovered her personal and professional callings: the professional via work at Columbia's Avery Architectural Fine Arts Library, and the personal through her delight in the vibrancy of life in the city. Upon graduation, Laura took a position in the library of the Museum of Modern Art before returning to school to earn an M.S.I. in library and information services from Michigan in 2002. Laura spent much of her career in Manuscripts and Archives at Yale University, starting as a 2002 Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship.

Laura shared her erudite passion and inquisitive zest with her longtime partner and husband, Andrew Benner. Married on January 16, 2009, they made a home in a mid-century, modern, wood-and-glass cabin on a pond in Guilford, Conn., with their two beloved cats, Blini and Nutkin.

Deepest condolences to Laura's family and friends. Contributions



John Kim '00 and Sarah Farkas were married in Pittsburgh on September 22. Left to right (all CC '00 unless noted): Michael Marks, Reza Vahid, Jesse Leff, Robert Hoffman, Sami Mesrou, Charles Saliba, Nathan Shafroth, the bride, Evan Hutchison, the groom, Ejike Uzoigwe '01 and Stephen Miller.

may be directed to The Center for Land Use Interpretation (clui.org) or Connecticut Food Bank (ctfoodbank.org).

#### REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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I hope all of you will consider returning to Morningside Heights for our 15th Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. It's a great way to reconnect with classmates and/or to show your kids where you went to college. For those who reside in the area, just hop in a cab or on the subway for a ride back to 116th Street. There's still time to register. Go to reunion.college.columbia.edu for more information and also to update your contact information, if needed, so the Alumni Office can be in touch about the weekend.

You also can join our class Facebook page, "Columbia College Class of '98."

One highlight of our class' reunion events is the Friday night reception, which this year will

be held at the STK Rooftop at 26 Little West 12th St. from 6–8 p.m. It looks like a gorgeous venue. Then, of course, there's our main class dinner on Saturday, followed by drinks and dancing at the Starlight Reception.

As of December 17, our class had raised \$40,705 for our Class Gift from 44 donors, up from \$39,000 from 32 donors at that time last year. I'm sure by the time you receive this CCT, our numbers will be closer to \$50,000, thanks to the hard work of our Gift Committee.

Hope to see you all in June! **Aviva Sufian** has moved to Washington, D.C., where she now is director of regional operations for the Administration for Community Living. ACL is a new agency within the Department of Health & Human Services that focuses on increasing access to community-based supports for older adults and people with disabilities.

Best wishes to **Lori Meeks**, who married Jason Webb on December 8 in a beachside wedding in St. Petersburg, Fla. Lori and Jason are professors of East Asian studies; she is an associate professor of religion and East Asian languages at Southern Cal. Lori's 2010 book, *Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan*, won the 2012 John Whitney Hall Prize from the Association for Asian Studies.

Congratulations on all of the wonderful personal and professional news, Lori!

If you can't make it to New York this June, be sure to send an update in honor of our 15th reunion. We want to know how you are doing!

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Greetings, Class of '99. By the time, you receive this update, we will be a bit more than a year shy of our 15-year Alumni Reunion Weekend (save the date: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014). That's correct. Fifteen years. ... I hope you'll come out for it!

In the meantime, a few of us met in October over drinks and dinner at Rosa Mexicano (Union Square) to catch up informally. **Andrew Park**, **Dominique Sasson**, **David Evans '99E**, **Wendy Liu**, **Ben Freeman**, **Sameer Shamsi** and myself were in attendance; unfortunately, **Charlie Leykum** was stuck at the airport. We are hoping to have a few more informal gatherings during the next year running up to reunion, so please reach out to us if you want to meet.

I also heard from **Jason Scherer**, a software engineer at Google in New York. He is happily married and has a child.

**Josh Shaevitz** is a professor of physics and genomics at Princeton. (Yes, he confessed that he moved to rural central Jersey.) This little





**Andrea Dennigan '01 (née Cherkerzian, center) married Peter Dennigan on June 17 at the Castle Hill Inn in Newport, R.I. In attendance, among other CC alumni, were the bride's sisters Sara Cherkerzian '94 (left) and Lisa Cherkerzian Hill '95 (right).**

PHOTO: WHITE LOFT STUDIO

sacrifice allows him to work on physical measurements of biological systems in his laboratory. He teaches an intro science course geared toward producing math- and physics-savvy biologists. In 2010, Josh received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from President Barack Obama '83, which was very exciting; the ceremony took place at the White House.

Josh and his wife have a daughter, Maina (7), and a son, Rishi (5). Josh and his father, Michael, who teaches in the physics department at Columbia, attend the Columbia-Princeton football game every year; it falls around the same time as his father's birthday.

On the author front, **Dina Cheney's** third cookbook, *Year-Round Slow Cooker: 100 Favorite Recipes for Every Season*, was published in January. The book aims to debunk myths about the slow cooker and show how the economical appliance excels at year-round cooking. Among the recipes are brisket with pomegranate, red wine and caramelized onions (winter chapter); lamb stew with fava beans, roasted garlic and chickpeas (spring chapter); strawberry rhubarb cobbler (summer chapter); and beef bourguignon with mushrooms, turnips, rutabagas and carrots (fall chapter).

Dina is working on a vegetarian

cookbook slated for publication in January 2014 and has also been writing the Taste Test column for the magazine *Every Day with Rachael Ray* for more than three years. Her husband, **Jacob "Koby" Rosenschein**, works at Goldman Sachs, where he is a v.p. in the strats group with responsibility for policies, documentation and communications. Dina and Jacob have two sons, Max (5) and Abe (3½), and live in Connecticut.

**Sameer Shamsi** reports that **Tom Leggett** married Ingrid Chen on November 3 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Columbia people in attendance were Sameer, **Chris Loncar '99E**, **Crissey Rosenberg** and Jayne Tan '97E. **Austin Gelbard '99E** and **Marysol Sanchez** unfortunately could not attend. Tom and his wife reside in New York and Tom is an executive director at UBS.

That's all the news for this go-around. Please email me if you want to include any updates as we approach our reunion year!

00

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**Daniel Kokhba** is happy to announce that he became a part-

ner at Kantor, Davidoff, Wolfe, Mandelker, Twomey & Gallanty. He represents individuals and businesses in the areas of commercial litigation and employment law. The firm also handles estates law, real estate, corporate work and matrimonial matters. Feel free to reach out to Daniel at kokhba@kantorlawonline.com and/or visit kantordavidoff.com.

I'm also happy to report that **John Kim** is hitched! John and Sara Farkas were married in Pittsburgh on September 22, with many Columbians in attendance: **Mike Marks, Reza Vahid, Jesse Leff, Rob Hoffman, Sami Mesrou, Charles Saliba-Revuelto, Nate Shafroth, Evan Hutchison, Ejike Uzoigwe '01** and **Stephen Miller**. (See nearby photo.)

Congrats to the couple!

Please send in news about yourself, your family, your job, your travels or anything you wish to share with classmates! You can use the above email address or CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

01

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By the time you read this, we'll be three months into 2013. I hope everyone's years are off to a great start!

**Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg** and his wife, Paola, welcomed their daughter, Maia, on September 28. Maia joins brother Camilo. Simon is a legal aid lawyer in Northern Virginia, "enjoying the ample paternity leave that legal aid gives its staff in lieu of a living wage."

**Russell Strom** and his wife, Meghan, welcomed Cora Belle Casillan-Strom on September 19 — after 40 hours of labor.

**Tamer Makary's** wife, Efstathia, gave birth to son Sebastian on December 6. Mom and brother Alec are doing well.

Liz Salamy '02 and her husband, Philippe Chahine, welcomed their second daughter, Ava Simone, on December 6. Ava joins sister Leila.

**David Shapiro** and Amy Gansell Barnard '98 were married July 29 at Matise in Washington, D.C. They reside in Brooklyn, N.Y. Attendees included **Michael Bilsborough**, Susie Helft '99 Barnard, Sacha Mobarak '08 Arch., Chandra Pradhuman '98 Barnard, Althea Viafora-Kress '00 GS, Nikki Zeichner '01 Barnard, **Peter Zuspan** and David's sister, Becca Shapiro, managing editor of *Columbia* magazine.

**Matthew Rascoff** was married in Durham, N.C., on September 23 to a "beautiful, brilliant woman

named Emily J. Levine. Many Columbians celebrated with us: Noam Elcott '00; Penny Sinanoglou '00; Chanchal Dadlani '99; **Elaine Shen; Elissa Curtis; Yaacob Dweck '02; Richard Mammama '02** and his wife, Mary Mammama '04; Noah Strote '02; Lara Fogel '02 Barnard; and Anand Venkatesan '03.

"A few weeks after we got married, we moved to Berlin for the academic year. Emily has a sabbatical from UNC-Greensboro, where she is a European history professor. And in Berlin I am launching the first international office for JSTOR, the scholarly research platform, and also have fellowships from the German Marshall Fund and the Bertelsmann Foundation (for whom I am consulting on education tech in Germany)."

**Reema Kapadia's** daughter, Rhea Samira Parekh, was born on September 17, Reena's husband's, and Rhea's father's, birthday. She weighed 6 lbs., 9 oz. and was 19 inches long. Reema is in New York and works in investor relations at Credit Suisse.

**Mark Jackson** is now assistant general counsel with the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp., working on sustainable development and historical restoration projects.

**Israel Gordan** wrote with exciting news: "As of August 1, I am the cantor and the director of religious school innovation and synagogue programming at the Huntington (N.Y.) Jewish Center, which involves family programming and other responsibilities. On September 8, my wife, Abby, gave birth to our second child, a son we named Eli Jonah at the brit milah ceremony we held on September 16, right before Rosh Hashanah. We then closed on our new house on September 20, and moved in on September 23, right before Yom Kippur. Things have been busy but it was great to start the new Jewish year with a new child and a new home!"

**Caroline B. Giordano** joined the firm of Miller Canfield in Ann Arbor as an associate in the Litigation + Trial Group. Previously, she was a judicial intern for The Honorable Helene N. White, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

**Aaron Cohen** was married to Liana Yoo '08 Business on September 29. He writes, "I met Liana through **Alastair Wood** and his wife, **Alisa Wood '08 Business** (née Amarosa). Alisa is Liana's Business School classmate, and we met when Alastair and I visited Alisa on her Business School trip in China in spring 2008.

"Our wedding was September 29 and the ceremony was at St. Paul's Chapel, officiated by University chaplain Jewelnel Davis.

## Rachel Nichols '03: From Math Whiz to Model and Movie Star

BY YELENA SHUSTER '09

**L**ike she did on most days during her junior year, **Rachel Nichols '03** walked past the ads outside the Broadway gates on her way to class. This time, however, she stopped at an image of a sun-kissed, blue-eyed blonde staring from behind a 26"x50" GUESS poster. "You should buy this one," a street vendor said. "This girl goes here."

Little did he know that "this girl" was staring right at him.

Since being spotted by modeling agents as a sophomore, the Maine native has starred in high-profile ad campaigns, television series and feature films. You may recognize her from her role as Rachel Gibson on ABC's *Alias* or her appearances in the films *Alex Cross* (which also featured Matthew Fox '89), *Star Trek, G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra* and *Conan The Barbarian*. Today, Nichols has reached a place where fan sites document her every stilettoed step. Yet unlike most starlets, the economics major does her own taxes, tweets with proper punctuation (@RachelNichols1) and speaks in SAT-worthy sound bites.

Despite studying algorithms instead of acting, Nichols credits alma mater with fueling her meteoric rise. "Coming to New York and going to Columbia really helped make me the person who was able to get into the career that I have now," she says. "It's funny, but I was really shy in high school and I know you hear a lot of actresses say," — here, she does a spot-on nerd impression — "'Oh, I was dorky,' but it's true. My high school yearbook prediction would've been most likely to live in a small shell under a rock. But at Columbia, for the first time in my life, I was on a campus with like-minded people and I felt as though I belonged."

Nichols met her best friend, Albert Lee '02E, '07 Business, at

orientation her first day on campus (she entered with the Class of '02). "It was such a nice first impression," Lee, an investment banker at Barclays, recalls. "Objectively, she's stunning, but when you speak to her, you see she's just a down-home Maine girl who didn't seem to be tainted by the apathy New York is known for."

In fact, if the math-whiz-cum-model hadn't been discovered, she likely would have been a suit-sporting banker. "When I was a freshman, all the seniors were reading *Liar's Poker*. Everyone wanted to get into banking after that," Nichols says, noting her original motivation for modeling was to pay for an M.B.A. (at Columbia, naturally).

But fate had another plan. While meeting a friend for lunch, Nichols had a chance encounter with a Next modeling agent, who snapped Polaroids of her on the spot. From there, she began modeling in New York during her sophomore year, then went on leave to pursue her career in Paris full-time. She catwalked in runway shows and posed in major campaigns for the likes of Abercrombie & Fitch.

Despite her success, dropping out of school never was an option. Nichols returned to Columbia eight months later and finished her degree by scheduling classes for two days a week, often from 9 a.m.–9 p.m., modeling the rest of the time and doing homework during photo shoot breaks. "Much to the dismay of my bookers, I was very strict about not working when I had school," she says. "I loved being here. At the first sight of spring, when everyone was on the Steps, I didn't want to be anywhere else."

"She was just another class-



**Rachel Nichols '03 met her best friend, Albert Lee '02E, '07 Business, during orientation.**

PHOTO: COURTESY ALBERT LEE '02E, '07 BUSINESS

mate sitting at Tom's having black and white milkshakes, talking about our upcoming psych midterm," says Lee. "She was a total dork who took meticulous notes. She always made sure she understood concepts and would be the one person who went to the TA's office hours. She was who you copied class notes from."

The transition from still camera to live action was only a matter of time — and talent. Nichols had acted only once, by accident, in an eighth-grade play where she was a last-minute substitute for a football player with stage fright. Despite her inexperience, she nailed her first audition — for *Sex and the City*, no less — and the rest is IMDb history.

Nichols has developed a cult following as a sci-fi siren who can beat up bad guys and look good doing it. Her oft-admired silhouette can be attributed to celebrity trainer Valerie Waters, who was recruited to turn her model body into a muscled one on *Alias*. Nichols gained 15 pounds of muscle for *G.I. Joe*, for which she also underwent six weeks of weapons training along with co-star Sienna Miller. For *Conan*, the quick study mastered swordplay and horse riding.

The belle of the battle gets her close-up in her current lead role. She's starring in the second season of the sci-fi crime series *Continuum*, where she plays a detective from 2077 who's stranded in present-day Vancouver, trying to stop criminals from the future. The show was an immediate hit; with almost one million viewers, *Continuum's* first episode was the most-watched premiere for Canadian channel Showcase. Other networks caught on and state-side fans can now watch both seasons on the Syfy channel.

Despite her success, Nichols is happy to be one star in a constellation of many. "I like to be a working actor," she says, "because I can go outside and take out my trash without makeup, with dirty hair and wearing sweatpants, and nobody is taking my picture."

*To watch an interview with Nichols discussing Continuum, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.*

**Yelena Shuster '09** writes for *Cosmopolitan*, *New York* and *Manhattan* magazines. Follow her on Twitter @YelenaShuster.



Lots of Columbia bridesmaids and groomsmen were in attendance. Among the groomsmen were Paul Roland '99; **Alastair Wood '01**; **Alok Verma '01E**; Laurance Guido Pascal '00, '01 SIPA; Alan Rappeport '02J; Adam Reese '05 P&S; and James Tierney. Bridesmaids included Erika Yoo '05 P&S, Elisabeth (Cohen) Roland '98 Barnard, **Alisa Wood '08 Business** (née Amarosa), Kristin Barbato '08 Business and Kristin Reilly '08 Business."

Congratulations to everyone on their marriages and babies!

**02** **Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
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**Lachlan McG. Smith** writes, "I live in Providence, R.I., and am in my third year of radiology residency at Brown with plans to pursue a cardiovascular imaging fellowship at Yale in 2014. But most importantly, on October 30, my wife, Meghan, and I welcomed into the world a daughter, Emmelyn May Smith! We couldn't be happier."

**Beth Stein Lipschitz** and her husband, Nat, welcomed their second daughter, Hannah Reed, on October 29, just as Hurricane Sandy began. Beth, Nat and sister Evie look forward to an upcoming NYC visit with Hannah, including a stop to show her the Columbia campus.

**Miriam Sheinbein** is headed to New York next month for **Alison Hirsh's** wedding; **Karen Austrian** is flying in from Kenya to attend.

Miriam is on the clinical faculty for the UCS-SFGH Family Medicine Residency Program but recently

also started working for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte as associate medical director for primary care. She lives in the Mission district of San Francisco with her husband and two kids.

**Anna (Nelson) Fleming** welcomed her first baby into the world on November 12, a son, Jasper Thomas Fleming.

**Viviana Rodriguez**, along with her husband, Stuart Luth '01 Colby, has successfully produced her first film, *White Alligator* (whitealligatorthemovie.com), which she wrote and starred in. It's a comedy about the racism she encountered in the entertainment industry as a white-skinned Puerto Rican actor. It is now making the festival circuit. Viviana still lives on the Upper West Side.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**  
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As much as we try to avoid the use of clichés, sometimes there's simply no better way to communicate our feelings: Time flies! It's hard to believe that 2013 is upon us and that our 10-year Alumni Reunion Weekend is just a few months away. I'll be coming in from Beijing especially for the weekend, and I hope to see you there as well. The dates are Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. To find out more, to make a pledge to attend or to update your contact information with Columbia, please visit [reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu). Feel free to email me with any questions about the weekend. Also "like" our Facebook page, "Columbia College Class of 2003 - 10 Year Reunion."

So that you'll know a bit more about some of our classmates when you catch up with them in a few months, here are a few updates.

**Andy Shin** is the co-founder and CTO for a fashion start-up, Vaunte. He recently moved back to New York City after living in the Bay Area, where he started Togetherville, a company acquired by Disney.

**Rachel Lynn Kalin** (née Reichard) writes, "My husband, Matthew Kalin, and I welcomed our first

child, Sophie Lynn, on December 8."

**Adam Kushner** is executive editor of *National Journal*, a weekly political magazine based in Washington, D.C.

**Afia Owusu-Sekyere** writes, "I live in Indianapolis and am a brand manager within the men's health business unit of Eli Lilly."

**Kristin Connors** and **Brian Kaderli** are engaged to be married in June.

**Raquel Gardner** writes, "I recently finished my residency in neurology at UCSF and have started a fellowship in behavioral neurology at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center. My husband, Jonathan, recently graduated from the M.D.-Ph.D. program here and started his residency in lab medicine. My son, Azaria (16 months) already is quite a character!"

**Steven Ling** writes, "I had an extremely busy but fun-filled summer 2012 in NYC pursuing my passions while being on hiatus from the actuarial profession. I recently played in an amazing concert with the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra with **Elaine Tai '03E**, where we played the works of Mozart, Mendelssohn and Beethoven. I also enrolled in a six-week acting program at the Ted Bardsy Acting Studio, which has been 20 hours a week of intense and fulfilling classes. I have been continuing my improv comedy training at the Upright Citizens Brigade Improvisational and Sketch Comedy Training Center and the Magnet Theater, and have been performing on stage every chance I can get."

**Jason Colombo**, v.p. for asset management at Goldman Sachs, married Jessica Levin at the Ritz-Carlton in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Jessica is an associate at Morrison Cohen, a Manhattan law firm.

**Sam Arora** writes, "I married my sweetheart, Jaime Bugaski, in Washington, D.C. On hand for the celebration were **Jonathan Manes**, **Dana Peritz** (née Hopp), **Karen Sagall '03E** and groomsmen and Columbia roommate **Vincent Schoefer '03E**."

Lastly, **Will Hu** had a mini Columbia reunion at his wedding to Jessica Meksavan '05 Barnard. The reception was held at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco. Classmates in attendance included **Gaurav Shah**, **Daniel Dykema**, **Michelle Hodara**, **Shelly Mittal** and **Daniel Lee**.

**04** **Angela Georgopoulos**  
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Hello fellow CC '04ers! I hope you are all well and looking forward to spring. As usual, just a friendly

reminder to send in your news and updates — don't be shy! This column needs your input. Feel free to contact me at [aeg90@columbia.edu](mailto:aeg90@columbia.edu) or via *Columbia College Today's* web submission form: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

On to the news.

**Lauren Ende** and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their first child, Arielle, on September 17. Lauren is a surgical pathology fellow at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, having finished her residency in pathology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Lauren also shares that **Shirley Cho Fulmer '04E** and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their first child, Hannah, in November.

Congratulations to both sets of parents!

**Brian Cabezas** married Grace Ouma in July and began an M.B.A. at IE Business School in Madrid, Spain, in November.

**Joseph LoGiudice** is in a Ph.D. program in social welfare at The Graduate Center, CUNY, and is studying policies and practices that affect the LGBTQ and disability populations.

Congratulations to **Robyn Mar** and **Ria Tabacco**, who were married in October. They met in law school at NYU. Robyn is a lawyer in the criminal defense practice of The Bronx Defenders.

**05** **Claire McDonnell**  
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Hello from San Francisco, Class of 2005! I'm excited to join you as the new **Peter Kang**. Let's start the updates with a few weddings.

**Cedrick Mendoza-Tolentino** wrote in about a Columbia wedding weekend extravaganza: "On June 23, **Lauren Parmington** married Dan Long at the Lake Placid Lodge in Lake Placid, N.Y. The ceremony was a beautiful bookend to a courtship that, for those who have had the pleasure of spending time with Lauren and Dan through the years, began years ago at a Halloween party at the Nancy Whiskey Pub just south of Canal Street. How were we all supposed to know that Dan, who was shocked that he was being put into a cab given that Lauren's apartment was only two blocks away, would be the one to win over Lauren's heart? Dan endured much to be the one lucky enough to stand at the shore of Lake Placid as Lauren's father guided her down the long set of stairs and over the gravel-covered path — endless hockey games, sailing events and hikes up, through and around the Adirondacks.

Speaking for those who know them both, we wish them nothing but happiness.

"Many alums were in attendance, including Michael Bazylewicz '04E; **Becker Chase**; **Pepin Gelardi '05E**; Stefanie Goodsell '09; **Teresa Herrmann**; **Stephanie Huffman**; Kent Parmington '08; **Cassidy Potash**; Annelise Schantz '04 Barnard; **Grace Souter** (née Coyle); Julia Werb '06, '13 Business; **Lily Wohl**; and Weston Friedman '08. The evening included many highlights, not least of which was a lovely speech by Lily that brought much of the audience to tears. A fun time was had by all, and everyone left Lake Placid wishing the weekend could have lasted just a bit longer.

"Congratulations, Lauren and Dan!"

**Becca Brown** married Devin McKnight in September in her home state of Vermont. Columbians in attendance included Daryl Weber '02, **Jenn Weber** (née Legum), **Anya Chernerff**, **Bennett Cohen**, **Rujeko Hockley** and Anna Sternoff '05 Barnard. After graduating from Georgetown's McDonough School of Business last spring, Becca became a communications specialist at Applegate.

**Alexandra Hartman** and **Andrew Tolve** celebrated their first anniversary in October. The couple, who began dating senior year after taking Music Hum together, was married on October 1, 2011, in Highlands, N.C. A number of College and Engineering graduates made the trip, including Regina Bennis-Hartman '09, **Sarah Rae Murphy '05E**, **Christina Baumel**, **Amanda Ramsdell '12 P&S** and **Carolyn McCormick**. After quite a few years abroad and away, Andrew and Alexandra moved back to New York following their wedding. They live in Brooklyn, where he is a writer and she works on sustainability and labor issues.

In addition to tying the knot, our classmates continue their adventures as playwrights, home owners, doctors and more.

**Michael Yates Crowley** is a Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program fellow at Juilliard and frequently performs with his theater company Wolf 359 (wolf359.org).

**Brendon Jobs** loved his second summer in Washington, D.C., but has decided to stay out in Philly, as Germantown is taking off and he's settling into home ownership with his partner.

**Vanessa Carr** is an independent filmmaker in San Francisco. Since graduating from the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, she's worked on projects with *The New York Times* and PBS. She's making a documentary about



**Shannon Munoz '07** and **Sean Kelly '05E** were married on August 25 in Napa, Calif. Columbians in attendance included, left to right: **Carter Reum '03**, **Courtney Reum '01**, **Michael Brown Jr. '06**, **Aubrey Medall '07**, **Cassandra Hamar '07**, the bride and the groom.

PHOTO: PATRICIA MARK PHOTOGRAPHY

restorative justice programs in Alameda County, Calif. (And hangs out with me a lot.)

**Ariel Daube** is finishing a pediatric residency at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and recently matched at a fellowship at Columbia in pediatric critical care.

After completing a degree in urban planning and urban design jointly at Harvard and MIT, **Ben Harwood** moved to New Orleans to work on Katrina recovery efforts. Since 2009 he has worked in affordable, sustainable recovery housing. He was responsible for writing recovery and redevelopment plans for several important neighborhoods, authoring and passing significant sections of the city's post-Katrina master plan and securing more than \$35 million of state and federal housing funds to fund work on 2,000 lots and homes.

Ben now is a project manager at C&G Construction of Louisiana, where he coordinates projects with the City of New Orleans and many nonprofit organizations. These include the Riggio Foundation's Project Home Again, which is building 200 homes in the heavily flooded Gentilly neighborhood, and Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation, which is building 150 houses in the devastated Lower Ninth Ward. Ben also is on the board of the Historic Faubourg Tremé Association and chairs its Economic Development Committee.

In December, Ben purchased and began restorations on a 200-year-old historic "Creole cottage" house of his own in the Tremé neighborhood. That's also where he founded a

community-based nonprofit, People United for Armstrong Park, that helped rebuild and re-open Louis Armstrong Park, home of Congo Square, the historic birthplace of jazz. In 2012, his organization produced 15 weeks of free, all-ages musical and cultural programming. Recordings and more information can be found at [armstrongpark.org](http://armstrongpark.org). Don't hesitate to email Ben at [ben@armstrongpark.org](mailto:ben@armstrongpark.org) if you'll be in New Orleans any time soon.

What's going on with you these days? We all want to know, so send an update!

**06** **Michelle Oh Sing**  
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**Seth Wainer** recently started a position with the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy and ran into **Wayne Ting**, who works on the National Economic Council.

**Talibah Newman** '13 Arts was awarded a 2012 Director's Guild of America Student Film Award in the African-American category for her short film, *Busted On Brigham Lane*. She is in post-production on her thesis film, *Sweet Honey Chile*, which will premiere in the Columbia University Film Festival later this year.

On December 5, **Jennifer Medbery** (née Schnidman) was featured on CNN.com for her work with Kickboard, a software company that provides a centralized location for teachers to record their students'

progress. The article was headlined, "In Katrina's shadow, New Orleans' startups take flight." (See Around the Quads in this issue and the Alumni Profile in the Summer 2012 issue.)

**Teddy Diefenbach** finished his master's in interactive media at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, where he wrote a thesis on narrative systems design in video games. He then founded Rad Dragon, a game development studio based in Los Angeles. The studio's game, The Moonlighters, was selected and shown by the IndieCade festival at the Electronic Entertainment Expo last summer, and Rad Dragon released its first game for iOS devices, Shove Pro, in November.

And now for a series of wonderful wedding announcements.

This past November, **Emily Lo** married fellow MIT graduate student Marcus Gibson in her native Philadelphia area. She took a break from her architecture thesis-writing to celebrate with guests from around the world, including several Columbians and Carman 13-ers:

**Anissa Bazzari**; Allan Fong '05E; **Emily Kleinman**; Jean Lee '05; **Randy Li '06E** and his wife, **Norah Li** (née Garry); Peter Liou '08; **Krishna Rao**; Jonathan Talamini '07 and his wife, Christine Talamini '07 (née Lin); Becca Tam '05 (née Anderson); **Anne Thomas**; **Michael Vary** and his wife, **Jackie Vary** (née Matayoshi); **Vidya Vasu-Devan**; **Dave Wei**; Susan Wei '08E (née Liu); **Jerry Wu**; and **Sevinc Yuksel '06E**.

**Kinara Flagg** '11L and **Paul Fileri** were married on August 11 at The Ram's Head Inn on Shelter Island,

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an island between the forks at the eastern end of Long Island, near where Kinara grew up. Many dear friends from the Class of 2006 were in attendance, and some played key roles in the ceremony, including best man (and best twin) **Philip Fileri**, **Nattha Chutinthanond**, **Umrao Sethi** and **Laura Stedman**. Friend and Kinara’s fellow Law School classmate, Andrew Case ’11L, officiated.

Other CC alums enlivening the celebration included Patrick Ciccone ’03, **Max DiLallo**, Jeffrey Stedman ’05, **Laurel Combs**, **Ed Combs** and **Julia Werb**. The newlyweds are doing well: Kinara clerks for U.S. District Judge Janet Bond Arterton in New Haven, Conn., where they live with *leurs chats*, Anouk and Guillaume. Kinara was admitted to the New York bar in January and will begin a clerkship on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in September. Paul is completing a dissertation in cinema studies at NYU.

**Marc Pimentel** ’10 P&S married Camilla Benedicto ’08 PH in Boston on August 25. April Lee ’10 SIPA was maid of honor. Groomsman included **Tahmid Chowdhury**, George Eng ’13E, 14 P&S; James Ji ’10 P&S; **Ani Ravi**; and Eugene Tsai ’10 P&S. Bridesmaids included Cindy Cheung ’09 GS.

Also in attendance were Michael Bouton ’10 P&S, Mai-King Chan ’10 P&S, **Eunji Choi** ’06E, Maggie Chou ’10 P&S, **Evan Davidson** ’06E, Brandon Hays ’10 P&S, **Helen He**, John Kaczmar ’10 P&S, **Sasha Katsnelson** ’06E, Emily Niu ’10 P&S, Kristen Pastor ’10 P&S, **Melissa Sum** ’10 P&S, Damani Taylor ’10 P&S, Nicole Taylor ’12 P&S, Peggy Tseng ’13 P&S, William Tseng ’08 PH, Zachary Wright ’10 P&S, Schonmei Wu ’10 P&S and Vijay Yerubandi ’10 P&S.

**Robert McNamee** writes, “I am happy to report that on September 15 I married the beautiful Erin Aycock in a nondenominational ceremony at the Hempstead House at Sands Point Preserve in Sands Point, N.Y. In attendance were many old Columbia friends, including my best man, **Will Thomas**, and his wife, Megan Thomas ’01 Barnard; **CJ Zopf** ’06E and his wife, **Stephanie Zopf** ’06E (née Flores), **Jalal Ahmed** ’06E, **Emily Doherty**, **Yasmine El Gabbani**, Brit Cowan ’07 Barnard, Yasmine Cathell ’07 Barnard, Anna Tkacheva ’07, Brian French ’08 and **Peter Petraro**.”

**Jason Colombo**, v.p. for asset management at Goldman Sachs, married Jessica Levin at the Ritz-Carlton in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Jessica is an associate at Morrison Cohen, a Manhattan law firm.

**Sam Arora** writes, “I married my sweetheart, Jaime Bugaski, in Washington, D.C. On hand for the

celebration were **Jonathan Manes**, **Dana Peritz** (née Hopp), **Karen Sagall** ’03E and groomsman and Columbia roommate **Vincent Schoefer** ’03E.”

Congratulations to all!

**07 David D. Chait**  
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The Class of 2007 has been up to some amazing things!

**Sarah Smick** directed, co-wrote, produced and is starring in her first feature film, “a bro-mantic dark comedy called *Friended to Death*, about a guy who fakes his death on social media to see which of his so-called ‘friends’ care enough to show up at his fake funeral. I’m thrilled to be nearing completion on it and look forward to premiering it in early 2013.” The film has been profiled in *Indiewire* and *The Examiner*.

**Kasia Nikhamina** shares, “My husband, Ilya Nikhamin, has launched his own bicycle shop, Redbeard Bikes, in DUMBO in Brooklyn. (And as we know, behind every great man is a great woman ... I’ve been helping him out behind the scenes.) The big draw is that he offers professional bike fittings — highly recommended for anyone who’s experiencing pain or discomfort while riding. Swing by the shop when you’re in town! The address is 165 Front St., and our website is redbeardbikes.com.”

**Christine Kwak** has finished her third semester as a visiting lecturer in the music department at Cornell, although, she notes, “I left Ithaca and moved back to NYC a while ago. My husband, Eddie Kim ’08, ’14L, transferred over the summer to Columbia Law School. [As I write,] my chamber group, Solisti Ensemble (solistiensemble.org), is awaiting its Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium debut on January 18, 2013. Should be an exciting night. Winter plans include spending lots of quality time with my sister, Michelle Kwak ’12, who works at Ralph Lauren in Seoul, Korea, and visiting for the holidays.”

Love is in the air for CC ’07. Rachel Rosenberg ’06, a second-year resident in family medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center, married **Khalil Savary**, a second-year pediatric resident at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. The two were featured in *The New York Times* wedding section in October.

Thomas Weldon ’08 and **Marissa Doyle** were married on September 1. The wedding ceremony took place at the Second Presbyterian Church in Pittston, Pa.

**Michael Accordino** and Lauren Accordino ’09 (née Shearer) also were married this summer.

**April Nizlek** (now **April Jelinek**) married Michal Jelinek on August 18 in St. Paul’s Chapel. **Max Foxman**, **Larissa Silva** and diving coach Gordon Spencer were in attendance. April and Michal met in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake and now live in Michal’s hometown of Bratislava, Slovakia.

**Joanna Loewenstein** is engaged to Leon Skornicki ’06 Princeton of Caracas, Venezuela.

**Lenora Babb** writes, “**Kori Gatta** and **John Estrada** ’07E are engaged and will be married in the fall. John proposed to Kori where they met, on Amsterdam Avenue near their old dorm, Wien.” Also, “I recently visited **Suzanne Hopcroft** and Jonny Rose ’04 at their beautiful apartment in Long Beach, Calif., where they recently moved. By all accounts they are enjoying the sunshine and the beach.”

In October, Christina Myers ’08 produced and performed in an ambitious theatre project, *Those Whom the Gods Love*, in the Downtown Los Angeles Arts District through her budding theatre company, Kids Terribles. She also has launched a “found space” theatre experience, where the audience arrives at a restaurant with a prix fixe dinner; a conspicuous character then acts as guide, escorting guests to an undisclosed loft location for the show. The experience aims to keep the audience on its toes and sets a tone of excitement and surprise from the beginning. The story unfolds as a satire about Hollywood itself told through the eyes of a smart young woman trying to find her place in the real world. Check it out at kidsterribles.com.

I’m excited to announce that I (**David Chait**) am engaged to Amanda Mullens ’13 Arch. I proposed to Amanda in September on a trip to Washington, D.C., where we met.

**REUNION WEEKEND  
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**  
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It’s been nearly five years since we graduated and (for most of us) entered the real world. Incredible! An amazing team of our classmates are hard at work on the Reunion

Committee planning the Alumni Reunion Weekend festivities, so please save the date: Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. Events will take place on campus and throughout NYC. Go to [reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu) to get more information and to make a pledge to attend. Also, please take a minute to update your contact information on the site so Columbia can send you the latest news related to reunion. You also can contact either of the staff members noted at the top of the column.

Also, join our CC/EN Facebook group, “Columbia University Class of 2008.” Now, onto a few updates from classmates.

**Joshua Robinson** has some pretty big news to share. “First, I proposed to Daniella Zalzman ’09 on the steps of the Met. It had been a long time coming, but I still managed to surprise her with an elaborate ruse. For the record, she said yes. Making things even more interesting for us, we moved to London (my hometown) in November, where I started as *The Wall Street Journal*’s European sports correspondent and sports editor of *WSJ Europe*. After three months of covering nothing but the New York Giants, I’ll be glad to trade in one football for another.”

**Tarin O’Donnell** moved to Miami last summer and recently started working with Google, doing marketing for Google+. “I’m enjoying living in the tropics with a Penn graduate and soaking in the ‘Meeyami’ flavor. My apartment is always open to visiting Lions, unless **Anna C. Lindow** is occupying the guest room, which she does frequently.”

**Karl Moats** ’11 Business now travels the world as a v.p. of marketing with Adobe. His work was featured in a *New York Times*/*Wall Street Journal* international ad campaign. Karl met Newt Gingrich and his wife, Callista, in a gym in Singapore (Newt was only touring), saw the prime minister of Japan in Tokyo and swam with beluga whales at SeaWorld Orlando.

Ladies, Karl also enjoys candlelit dinners, long walks on the beach and Justin Bieber songs. His number is 801-228-8387.

**09 Alidad Damooei**  
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This fall, **Lindsey Frost Cleary** married Jonathon Cleary in Chattanooga, Tenn. **Eva Fortes**, **Holly Chung**, **Cyrus Ebnesajjad** and **Soo Han** joined Lindsey in the celebration (see nearby photo). Lindsey lives in Tennessee, where she is a research associate in STEM Educa-



**Vedia Biton** ’08 and **Vladimir Eidelman** ’08E were married on August 12 in a seaside Jewish ceremony and reception in Istanbul, Turkey. Among the Columbians in attendance were, left to right: **Blake Rego** ’08E, **Michelle Mayer** ’08, **Oleg Otlivanchik** ’08E, the bride, the groom, **Kseniya Shelkovskaya** ’08 Barnard, **Yoni BenTov** ’08E and **Journee Isip** ’08.

PHOTO: TIM RYAN SMITH

tion at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

**Daniella Zalzman** and Joshua Robinson ’08 also will be walking down the aisle soon. The engaged couple recently moved to London, where Joshua is a sports editor for the European edition of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Hurricane Sandy dealt a devastating blow to many New Yorkers. **Marissa “Isang” Smith** did her part in the weeks following the tragedy to help. Isang had planned to run in the ING New York City Marathon. After it was canceled, she decided to be a campaign manager for Run Anyways, which was formed in the aftermath of the hurricane. The group raised \$16,000 by facilitating a marathon-distance run in Central Park and also collected enough supplies to fill five trucks. Now, Isang is helping turn Run Anyways into an official charity that will continue as a force in the athletic community.

Isang’s commitment to running is a full-time profession. She is a coach for City Coach and JackRabbit Sports in New York City.

Don’t forget to send me an update in 2013! Use my email address at the top of the column or submit through CCT’s easy-to-use webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

**10 Julia Feldberg**  
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Hello, Class of 2010! Thank you for sharing your wonderful updates. If you are reading this column but have not received an email from me asking for your submissions, please make sure your email address is updated with the College. You can do so at the following link: [college.columbia.edu/cct/update\\_contact\\_info](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info).

Congratulations are in order for a few of our recently engaged or married classmates.

As of this writing, **Jacob Tadros** ’10E and **LeAnn Chavez** were to be married on February 10. They met their freshman year in Carman. The bridal party included Rebecca (Fuller) Kingman ’11, **Sara Yee** ’10E, Toukam Ngoufanke ’09E and Kyle Jurado ’09.

**Abby Oberman** writes, “My now-fiancé, Bryan Finkel, proposed last August during the final stop of our cruise through Europe (on the top of Mount Solaro, Capri, to be exact!). I have been overwhelmed by the well wishes of so many Columbians, and I hope many of them will be there to celebrate when Bryan and I get married this September.”

**Lauren “Casey” Hayes** graduated from a conservatory program at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting last June and now is the development director of True False Theatre and an associate company member of Theatre East. She also is recently engaged to Caleb Deats ’11L and is planning her wedding, which will be held on a farm in her home state of West Virginia in August. She is glad her Columbia friends will finally have a reason to visit after years of listening to her wax poetic about the Mountain State.

**Michael Cloney** is a student at P&S. As an undergrad, he met his now-wife, Tania Harsono ’11, in Ferris Booth. The couple was married on July 28, 2011.

**Emelie Kogut** writes, “I have gone back to school after working at various legal jobs in New York and Switzerland. I’m in my first year at Boston University School of Law and I’m very happy to have Chloe Brighton ’08 and Suhaydee Tejeda ’12 in my first-year class section.”

**Rachel Vishnepolsky** has been awarded the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, to be used toward her mathematical research on smooth dynamical systems.

**Alexandra Stein** writes, “I’ve moved to Morocco, where I am the program manager for the High

Atlas Foundation, an NGO that develops and implements development projects throughout rural Morocco. Living in Marrakech is an adventure, between learning the languages, hitching rides on the backs of motos and exploring the mountains just outside of the city. It seems, though, that I’m never far from home, as my neighbors happen to be Columbia folk, too!”

And finally, our quarterly installment from **Chris Yim**, who has some incredibly exciting news to report:

“If you’re reading this, it means that you’ve survived the 12-21-12 apocalypse, and I just want to say ‘Congratulations, you’re a trooper.’ In the post-apocalyptic world, my hope is that you will turn to me as your fearless leader. My campaign starts here.

“On a lighter note, I am still alive and kicking. The 2012 holiday season left me with a few extra pounds that I am hoping to shed now that it’s 2013. But hey, what are New Year’s resolutions for if not to fantasize about washboard abs that are hiding under there somewhere? This past year, I have been incredibly grateful for learning the values of discipline, hard work and grit. Thanks to those who heard me complain and for everything that has humbled me in



the process. In addition, New York would not be the place I call home without the friends who make this city seem a little bit more normal and a little bit less anonymous, and who fill it with a lot more love. Gracias por todos.

“So, without further ado ... the big news is that I am now a father. In the many ways I am untraditional, I have once again decided to forgo the system and do it my own way. The week before Thanksgiving, God brought into this world Jackson Carman Yim, weighing in at 8 lbs., 3 oz. (And yes, he is named after the dorm.) He’s a beautiful lad with my hazel eyes and his mother’s mocha skin tone. I couldn’t be happier and do truly feel like a different man. I don’t suggest this for all, but sometimes a baby does solve all problems.”

**11** **Colin Sullivan**  
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I hope this note finds everyone well and enjoying these early months of 2013.

As many of you may know, we lost a member of our class and the Columbia community a few months ago. On November 6, **Gelseigh Karl-Cannon** passed away in Denver, after she was hit by a truck

while cycling. From Hartford, Conn., Gelseigh majored in environmental sciences at Columbia and co-founded the sustainable cooking group 4local. After graduation, Gelseigh moved to Denver to be a nanny for a family with a disabled father. At this difficult time, our thoughts are with her friends and family.

Other members of our class sent updates on their recent activities. **Nirav Chheda** has been “flyin’ high Bombay-style,” living the good life since he moved to India several months ago. He works for MicroEnergy Credits as the program manager on Bank of India’s nationwide clean energy project, which involves providing rural Indians with loans to purchase clean energy products (solar lanterns, efficient cook stoves, water purification systems) for the generation of carbon credits through pollution offsets.

**Simone Foxman** enjoys her new job as a financial journalist at Quartz (qz.com), a new global, digital business publication from *The Atlantic*. She and **Benjamin Clark**, who’s a 2L at NYU law, decided to finally ditch Manhattan and move to Williamsburg, which they love.

**Nicole Catá** is in her second year at The George Washington University Law School, where she is a member of *The George Washington International Law Review* and a research assistant for professor Thomas Buergerthal. Although she will be in school for a few more semesters, she hopes to devote her career to advancing the rights of women and girls throughout the world. This summer, she will marry her high school sweetheart, Ben Theodore, in their home state of New York.

Congratulations to Nicole! Also in Washington, D.C., is **Josefina Aguila**, who is a 1L at Georgetown Law.

Keeping the theme going is **Zila Acosta**, who left Goldman Sachs to attend the Law School. At the time of writing these notes, he was in the midst of first semester finals.

**Luanda Garcia** is a second-year corps member in Teach For America, teaching kindergarten in Atlanta.

**Lety ElNaggar** writes, “I’ve been in Egypt since late October on a Fulbright Scholarship to study the nay and kawala, reed flutes that have been performed in traditional Egyptian/ Arab music since the age of the pharaohs (they have actually found these instruments in ancient Egyptian tombs, and they are played from Morocco to Iraq). I’m studying these flutes as they’re performed and taught in folkloric and classical music contexts and have been keeping a blog about

my experiences: letymakesmusic.tumblr.com.”

**12** **Sarah Chai**  
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Class of 2012, our amazing classmates are making big moves both abroad and in the United States.

In late November, **Rebecca Chan** attended the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Doha, Qatar, as a delegate with Sustain-US, an organization focused on youth and sustainable development. There, she was proud to be a part of modern Qatar’s first public protest and the first climate rally in a gulf state. She also co-wrote a speech delivered on behalf of international youth before the full plenary of ministers from around the world. Rebecca worked with her team to use the international stage to highlight the issue of climate change here at home, recognizing that building a domestic climate movement is the most promising way to shift the United States’ currently obstructionist stance in the negotiations.

**David Zhu** is working in Hong Kong for Goldman Sachs IBD. He attended President Lee C. Bollinger’s Hong Kong reception in October. He is involved with the Columbia University Alumni Association Hong Kong, already having organized a recent graduates gathering with CUAHK V.P. Danny Lee ’95 as well as the annual Christmas Party. David invites anyone in the Class of 2012 in Hong Kong to reach out to him.

**Jesus Madrid** reports from Puerto Rico: “Since leaving our beloved alma mater, I’ve been working with the Cayo Santiago colony of free-ranging rhesus macaques in Puerto Rico, where I’m a field manager for a project from the University of Chicago investigating variations of maternal behavior. One of the advantages of living on a Caribbean island is that I get to host friends such as **Chithra Venkatesan** ’12E, **Shoshana Spellman** ’12E and Anna Brown ’12 Barnard in my beachfront apartment. With that, I urge friends to please visit me before September!”

**Nora Dooley** is spending a year in South Africa as an intern for Grassroot Soccer (GRS), an NGO that uses the power of soccer to stop the spread of HIV, both by working in communities all over sub-Saharan Africa and with partners across the globe. She encourages classmates to explore ways to

become involved by checking out her blog (dooley-noted-southafrica.blogspot.com), which she runs for GRS (grassroot-soccer-kimberley.blogspot.com) and her Twitter feed, @GRSKimberley.

**Gillian Rhodes**’ plan to stay in Cambodia for eight months is becoming a much longer adventure, as she now has a job choreographing for the Cambodian Television Network, the No. 1 television company in the country.

Detroit has become an unlikely home away from home for the Class of 2012. **Derek Turner** and **Todd Nelson** are “living it up downtown as Venture for America Fellows and hosting such luminaries as **Jason Han** (interviewing for medical school as of this writing) and **Mark Hay** (before he hopped across the pond to start his studies at Oxford). Our doors remain open for those 2012ers curious about the Motor City!”

In the months leading up to the presidential election, **Dominique Mann** was hired to work on President Barack Obama ’83’s re-election campaign in communications at the national headquarters in Chicago. She was in charge of the national Hispanic media operation. She shares, “I landed that job because Columbia’s Alumni & Parent Internship Fund supported my stay in Washington, D.C., so I could intern at the White House during summer 2011. I want to show my gratitude by including this in Class Notes.”

**Brenda P. Salinas** was accepted as one of three Kroc Fellows at National Public Radio. She is proud to be among the WKCR alumni to pursue a career in public radio and encourages us to listen for her.

**Pat Blute** is excited to be the Harwich H.S. (Cape Cod, Mass.) graduation speaker this summer. He currently is in Seattle doing freelance movie editing.

**Veronica Hylton**, who has returned to Columbia as a coordinator in the American Studies department and lives with Columbia roommates, attended her department’s staff and faculty holiday party in December. She also ran in President Lee C. Bollinger’s Fun Run for the first time, writing, “Glad I finally had a chance, as I was too lazy as a student!”

**Paul Hsiao** lives with **Eric Tang** ’12E and **Eric Chung** ’12E on the Upper East Side. They live near **Haenna Lee**, **Anupriya Kohli** and **Sarah Gordon** ’12E. Paul invites the class to let him know if anyone is in the neighborhood.

Some of our classmates have returned to school.

**Willie Avendano** ’12E has enrolled at Florida International University in Miami for a second bachelor’s (this time in elemen-



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**Deadline for Summer 2013 issue:  
Thursday, April 25, 2013**

tary education). He’s working part-time with La Camaronera food truck so he invites the class to “stop by if you’re in town!” Willie is looking forward to a trip to Orlando next summer.

**Celine Pascheles** started her first year at Stony Brook University School of Medicine. She loves it and is living her dream of becoming a doctor.

**Kelicia Hollis** sent an update from Ann Arbor, Mich.: “Transitioning from the bustling vibrancy of being an undergraduate in New York City to my suburban college-town graduate student life in Ann Arbor has been smooth. I’m definitely caught in the maize-and-blue fever that other UMich fans have, and I love my department in the School of Education.

“Yet, even as I’m adding another layer to my identity, Columbia still leaves its mark through the friends that I (try to!) catch up with from time to time, the Columbia backpack that I’ve finally started

using after four years of sitting in dorm room closets (I was a shoulder-bag kind of girl) and the Columbia crown pendant that I got as a freebie at a senior 2012 event and which is hanging on a chain around my neck as I type.

“My Columbia experience was a mix of the good, the great, the bad and sometimes the I-don’t-even-have-the-words-to-deal-with-this. But it was an experience that certainly contributed to my personal development, furthered my sense of independence and added a complexity of thought and experience both inside and outside of the classroom. I pray that all is well with my classmates, and that our lives are not only full of good intentions but filled with love, respect and compassion for ourselves and others. I look forward to witnessing the greatness of our impact in the coming years!”



## ADVENTURES

**RUNNING TRIPS NORTHWEST** leads all-inclusive trips in WA state. Check us out at runningtripsnorthwest.com!

## RENTALS

**Historic Jekyll Island, Georgia.** 4BR cottage near beach. Weekly. Bingham ’65 CC. 732-571-0552, jekyllrental.com.

**Naples, Fla: Luxury condominium** overlooking Gulf, two-month minimum, 802-524-2108, James Levy ’65CC, ’68L.

**ACADIA NATIONAL PARK:** 8 bedroom 7.5 bathroom waterfront estate in Northeast Harbor with pier and deep water moorings. Monthly, May through October. neh2012@hmail.com, 650-450-8413.

## FOR SALE

**RARE** set of 14 Lenox Columbia plates, mint condition, \$950. ’52CC grad, 845-534-9317.

## SERVICES

**MUSIC THEORY/COMPOSITION** ASCAP Award recipient (Columbia/Mannes) available to teach/tutor in NYC. All ages welcome. References on request. Please email [teddypoll@gmail.com](mailto:teddypoll@gmail.com).

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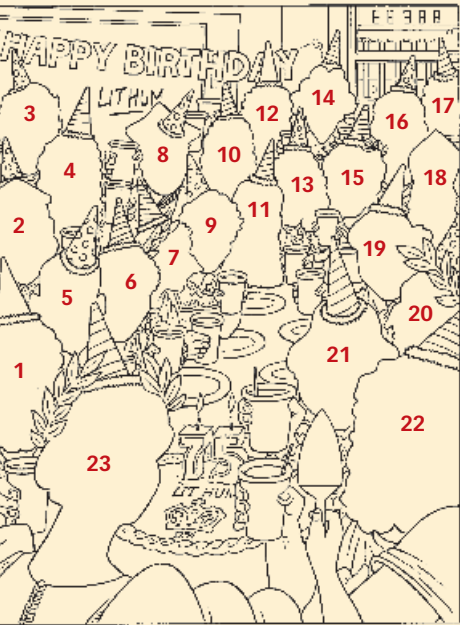


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### Answers to Lit Hum Quiz on Inside Back Cover

1. Humanities A.
2. *The Iliad*, Homer; *Inferno*, Dante; *Oedipus the King*, Sophocles; and *Oresteia*, Aeschylus.
3. *Confessions*, St. Augustine (off syllabus in 1942–43); *Essays*, Michel de Montaigne (1960–61); *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides (1937–38); and *Aeneid*, Virgil (1952–53).
4. Jane Austen, whose *Pride and Prejudice* has been taught since 1985–86.
5. *Lysistrata*, Aristophanes.
6. *The Medea*, Euripides.
7. Plato and Shakespeare.
8. Bible, *Job* was added in 1940–41.
9. *Metamorphoses*, Ovid.
10. Shakespeare: *Hamlet*, *Henry IV Part I*, *Henry IV Part II*, *King Lear* and *Twelfth Night*.

**Key to Alumni Corner on Page 96**



1. Plato
2. Swift
3. Goethe
4. Sophocles
5. Montaigne
6. Sappho
7. Ovid
8. Rabelais
9. Austen
10. Euripides
11. Dostoevsky
12. Thucydides
13. Voltaire
14. Cervantes
15. Virgil
16. Aeschylus
17. Herodotus
18. St. Augustine
19. Woolf
20. Dante
21. Shakespeare
22. Homer
23. Alma Mater





ILLUSTRATION: R.J. MATSON '85



## How Well Do You Know Lit Hum?

Test yourself (sorry, no blue books) with the following quiz. Answers on page 94.

1.

What was the original name for Literature Humanities?

2.

Four books have been required texts throughout the 75 years Lit Hum has been taught. Name them.

3.

Four books have been required texts in all but one year that Lit Hum has been taught. Name them.

4.

Which female author's book was the first added to the list of required texts?

5.

From what Lit Hum text is the following quotation taken:  
"No man is ever going to get satisfaction if the woman doesn't choose that he should"?

6.

An original Lit Hum text in 1937–38, this work by a Greek tragedian was dropped from the curriculum seven times before its most recent reinstatement in 2003–04. Name it.

7.

Two authors have had 12 of their works taught as required texts, more than any other authors. Name them.

8.

What was the first book of the Bible to be added to the Lit Hum curriculum, and when?

9.

From what Lit Hum text is the following quotation taken:  
"The hero's mortal body dissolved on his upward path, as a leaden pellet / shot from a broad sling melts away in the midst of the sky"?

10.

When Lit Hum was created in 1937, this author had five works among the required readings. Name the author and, to be considered a true Lit Hum expert, the five works.



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## Classes

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2008



## Come celebrate Alumni Reunion Weekend 2013 — 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, May 31, at the “Back on Campus” sessions, including Mini-Core Courses, engineering lectures, tours of the Morningside campus and its libraries and more. There will also be unique opportunities to engage with the city’s arts community through theatre, ballet, music and art gallery tours.

Columbians will be dispersed throughout the Heights and greater Gotham all weekend, but Saturday, June 1, is everyone’s day on campus. This year’s Saturday programming encourages all alumni to come back to celebrate some of the best aspects of Columbia at Affinity Receptions and to return to the classroom to hear some of Columbia’s best-known faculty and alumni at Dean’s Day in a series of Public Intellectual Lectures and Mini-Core Courses. 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 at the Starlight Reception.

## Dates and Registration Information

**Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013**

For more information or to register, please visit  
[reunion.college.columbia.edu](http://reunion.college.columbia.edu).

**If you register before Wednesday, May 1, you’ll receive a 10 percent discount on all events, excluding Broadway shows, New York City Ballet and New York Philharmonic tickets.**

