

Columbia College

Spring 2012

TODAY



Coeducation: Then and Now



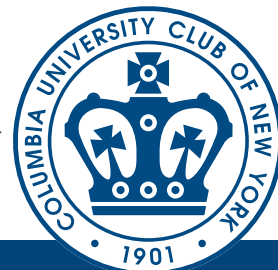
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BY SHIRA BOSS '93, '97J,
'98 SIPA



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



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BY KAREN IORIO



COVER: Alma Mater and Alexander Hamilton (Class of 1778) take a break on the Van Am Quad.

ILLUSTRATION: CHRISTOPHER BURRELL. Burrell is a journalist and illustrator in East Boston, Mass., whose work has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Boston Globe.

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PHOTO: CHUCK ZOVKO

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Marguerite Tassi '87
PHOTO: SHAUN PADGETT

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college.columbia.edu/cct



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Alumnae Enhance the College Through Leadership, Philanthropy

Dear Columbians,

This issue celebrates the 25th anniversary of the graduation of Columbia College's first fully coeducational class. I wasn't at Columbia in 1987, but by the time I arrived on campus four years later, it would have been impossible to imagine Columbia College without women. Female students have made up 45–50 percent of every incoming class since 1983, and as a professor of chemistry, I have taught more than a thousand women. My female students have gone on to graduate school and successful careers in a wide range of industries. And, like the members of the first coeducational graduating class, they have unquestionably left their mark on the College.

Since becoming dean, I am even more aware of the talents and accomplishments of Columbia College alumnae and their dedication to the College through their work with the Dean's Alumnae Leadership Task Force and Columbia College Women (CCW).

In 2010, the College founded the Dean's Alumnae Leadership Task Force, a group of 23 women who aim to shape the future of alumnae leadership, engage more alumnae in the life of the College and broaden philanthropy at the school. The group already has raised a significant amount of money for the College. Alumnae giving to the Columbia College Fund rose 53 percent from Fiscal Year 2009–10 to Fiscal Year 2010–11, and several task force members made large commitments for scholarships. I met with this group in the fall and was excited to

hear about its many accomplishments and goals. With task force members' help, we hope to involve more alumnae as fundraising volunteers and alumnae leaders and increase awareness of the opportunities for alumnae to become more involved in Columbia College and make a difference in students' lives.

CCW was founded by College alumnae in 1989 to create networks within the alumnae and student communities and build the legacy of women at the College. Today, the group provides resources and programming for alumnae and female students through student scholarships and a successful mentoring program. This year, as I wrote in the Winter 2011–12 issue (college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/message_from_the_dean), the CCW mentoring program attracted more than 300 female students, who are matched with an alumna individually or in groups. And a survey conducted last year by the Dean's Alumnae Leadership Task Force found that more than 600 alumnae were interested in volunteering with the CCW mentoring program. We encourage more alumnae to get involved. (You can find out more about the group at college.columbia.edu/alumni/getinvolved or by contacting Sarah Seredych Trimmer, assistant director, alumni affairs: ss2132@columbia.edu or 212-851-7977.)



James J. Valentini, Dean of Columbia College and Vice President for Undergraduate Education (Interim)

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Share Your Memories of the Move to Coeducation

Were you on campus during the mid-1980s, when Columbia College made the transition to coeducation from the all-male school that it had been for more than two centuries? As the 25th anniversary of the graduation of the first coed class approaches (see special section in this issue), we invite you to share your recollections of that turning point in the College's history and let us know about the impact that Columbia has had on your life. Please submit your memories at college.columbia.edu/coeducation.

As graduation approaches, we also are looking for ways to keep seniors involved. In January, at the Columbia College Class of 2012 Senior Fund Kickoff, I introduced my "3-2-1 Challenge." I asked seniors to give at least \$20.12 to the College for three years, to ask two of their friends to do the same and to have their dollars matched 1:1 by an alumni donor. We've had a great response so far — 122 seniors donated and 41 signed on to the challenge as of mid-February. I hope some of that response is due to my offer to match any donations made on the night of the kickoff. An alumnus also pledged to give \$5,000 when the Class of 2012 reaches 250 donors. Our goal is to reach 750 donors by the end of the semester.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. All alumni are invited to Saturday's Dean's Day, one of the many events during reunion, and I hope that you will all be able to attend. In the meantime, please continue to write to me at columbiacollege@columbia.edu.

Roar, Lions, Roar,

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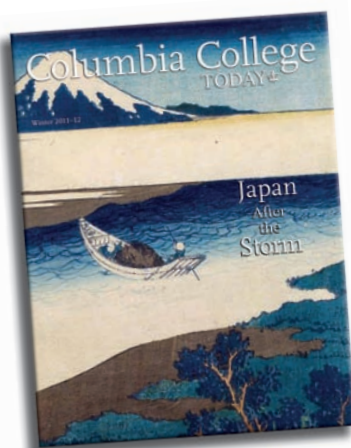
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Letters to the Editor



Japan After the Storm

Congratulations on a brilliant and beautiful Japan issue (Winter 2011–12). Terrific work. I like your breadth and depth of editorial coverage; [it] makes CCT far more interesting, informative, intelligent and readable than just a straightforward alumni magazine. I admire the powers that be at Columbia for providing the resources to produce such an outstanding quarterly publication.

Larry Grossman '52
WESTPORT, CONN.

Congratulations on a fine Winter edition of CCT. The article on Donald [Keene '42, '50 GSAS] was great. And it was nice to catch up with Gerald Curtis.

Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, '53 GSAS
TAPPAN, N.Y.

[Editor's note: De Bary, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus, provost emeritus and Special Service Professor in East Asian Language and Culture, also forwarded the following letter, which was addressed to him.]

I was a minor and fleeting student of yours at Columbia College in 1968 in the Oriental (Asian) Humanities course that you and Professor Keene taught that year. The course and your and his conduct of it opened my eyes and mind to ideas and perspectives that have continued to nourish my personal and intellectual growth ever since.

I never became an expert in the field and I did not pursue any advanced degrees in any fields related to your expertise or the content of that course. I will not appear on the list of students who have

become superb scholars in their own right and successors to your groundbreaking work in the field of Asian studies. It is for that very reason that I am sending you one of the unexpected fruits and perhaps unintended consequences of your encounter with one anonymous student. The enclosed book, *What the One Reveals to All People — Some Possibilities for Conversation and Action*, would probably never have been produced except for the widening of perspective my contact with you and Professor Keene provided.

Paul Luther '68
BERNARDSTON, MASS.

Professor Gerald Curtis' article "Tohoku Diary" in the latest CCT was both fascinating and inspiring. However, I find it utterly amazing that nowhere in its six pages does it mention the Fukushima nuclear meltdown.

Next to the great Kanto plain, the Sendai coastal plain is one of Japan's most important agricultural areas. The fact that this area is fast becoming a nuclear dead zone similar to Chernobyl [and] that radiation from this disaster is already having health effects on the U.S. West Coast would seem to merit some mention. The Tohoku region is only 100 miles to the north. It is not immune to wind-borne radiation from Fukushima.

Kenneth Eardley '70
UNDERHILL, VT.

Keene-sensei

[Editor's note: Albon Man '40 forwarded the Winter 2011–12 issue of CCT to a longtime friend, retired Bucknell history professor David Lu '54 SIPA, '60 GSAS, and received the following letter in response.]

When I finished Columbia, the community of Japanese scholars was still rather small, and I was invited to join its faculty seminar where Keene-sensei was one of its regulars.

In summer 1964, I invited him to come to Bucknell to speak about Chikamatsu Monzaemon at a summer seminar I held for high school teachers. I knew about his expertise on the Japanese Kabuki theatre, so nothing surprised me. But when his discussion veered to Shakespeare for comparison, I was impressed by his ability to cite verse after verse from different plays

without any notes. He is a superb translator of Japan's literary works, because he is so well grounded in the English literature. We had quite a few Japanese students on campus that summer studying English. Keene met many of them and remembered their names well enough to call them by name the following day. As for those high school teachers in my seminar, he seemed to have had a harder time remembering their names. In a way he was more of a Japanese than an American even at that time.

His passion for things Japanese is unmistakable. *Columbia College Today's* article captures the spirit of this rare individual quite well.

David Lu '54 SIPA, '60 GSAS
BELL AIR, MD.

Hoard, Lion, Hoard

Your publication of the "Alumni Corner" article, "Hoard, Lion, Hoard" (Winter 2011-12), about my lion collection, made my holiday season a joyous one indeed. I have heard from dozens of old friends and acquaintances, two fellow lion collectors, five collectors of other things who thanked me for validating their aberrant behavior and one fellow who just wanted to assure me that I was nuts.

Michael Garrett '66, '69L, '70 Business
BROOKLYN, N.Y.



I enjoyed the article about Michael Garrett '66, '69L, '70 Business' lion collection. Above is my lion, which I acquired in NYC on Third Avenue near East 60th Street. It is solid silver, 8 inches long, 4 inches tall and by an Israeli artist. I bought it in 1992 on the occasion of my 65th birthday. It's the best looking lion I've seen anywhere.

James J. Griffith '48
SARASOTA, FLA.

Walter C. Langsam

Walter C. Langsam '30 GSAS may be the "Walter" whom Armen Matigan '35 is trying to recall ('25-'40 "Class Notes," Winter 2011-12). Langsam left Columbia in the late 1930s.

I wouldn't be surprised if by the time you give Mr. Matigan a choice of "Wal-

ters" he will have recalled the one he had in mind. As one gets older (I'm 94) the mind is a funny thing; whatever you can't recall at the moment pops up later. Vermont's capital stumped me; four months later at 3 a.m. Montpelier came to mind.

I congratulate you on *CCT*. It's a fine publication. I look forward to receiving it.

John McCormack '39, '40 Business, '48L
DALLAS

[Editor's note: According to an obituary published in *The New York Times* in 1985, Langsam taught at Columbia from 1927-38 and later was president of Wagner College, Gettysburg College and the University of Cincinnati.]

Return of ROTC

The response of Professor Emeritus Allan Silver (one of my favorite teachers when I was an undergraduate) to my letter objecting to the return of ROTC to Columbia [Fall 2011] is in effect a roll-out of the newest model, an "improved" ROTC, call it ROTC-Lite: no uniforms, no guns, no drills; the trainees are in fact "indistinguishable" from other students. Although just how other students get "firsthand experience" of those who serve from trainees who are indistinguishable from everyone else is a bit obscure.

Silver points to Iraq war planners who "escaped" Vietnam service as a cautionary tale about "militarized" civilians making war policy, but fails to note that almost all Vietnam war planners were veterans of WWII and/or Korea, including the deviser of the infamous "strategic hamlets" program, Columbia's own Roger Hilsman. This military experience did not prevent them from expending 58,000 American lives in pursuit of objectives that accomplished absolutely nothing in the national, or other, interest.

The larger issue, entirely missed by Silver, is the enormous and increasing dominance of the Pentagon in American and international affairs, as documented by Professor Chalmers Johnson in his recent three-volume treatise on the subject, and as quantifiable in its astronomical annual budget. Inviting a "stealth" ROTC back into the Columbia community validates and re-institutionalizes the military-academic complex and sends the wrong message to the wider public as to Columbia's independence from the warfare state.

David N. Stern '66, '72 GSAS
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Professor Selig

You published a letter last fall that called attention to retired Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig, who resides in a nursing and rehabilitation facility at the corner of West 87th Street and Riverside Drive. I vacationed in Manhattan with my family this past winter holiday, and I took the opportunity to visit the professor, who devoted the better part of his life to teaching. While facing the challenges of medical problems, he remains alert and engaging. I am glad that my teenage daughter had the opportunity to meet a Columbia legend.

Professor Selig was quite insistent that I alert all Columbia alumni to the fact that he continues to welcome both letters and visitors. For those who would like to bring good cheer to his life, his address is Karl-Ludwig Selig, The Kateri Residence, 150 Riverside Dr., Ninth Floor, Room 5B, New York, NY 10024; facility phone: 212-769-0744.

Dr. Charles Markowitz '82
OCEAN TOWNSHIP, N.J.

Correction

The publisher of *Jacques Barzun: Portrait of a Mind* was listed incorrectly in Bookshelf in the Fall 2011 issue. The publisher is Fred-eric C. Beil. *CCT* regrets the error. Read an excerpt in this issue's "Columbia Forum."

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AROUND THE QUADS

A Look Behind the Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum stands out as one of the founding — and enduring — experiments in liberal arts higher education in the United States. With its curriculum and teaching methods continually evolving, it remains as vibrant today as when it was instituted in 1919.

Now, those interested in going deeper have an exciting new resource: two online exhibitions about the Core, produced by the Columbia University Libraries' Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Created by Karla Nielsen last summer as part of her work as Association of Research Libraries CEP Fellow based in the RBML, "Core Curriculum: Contemporary Civilization" and "Core Curriculum: Literature Humanities" were launched in December.

To access the exhibits, go to <https://ldpd.lamp.columbia.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/cc> and https://ldpd.lamp.columbia.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/lit_hum.

The texts and manuscripts in the exhibit, some of which date from before the

advent of printing, come from a variety of RBML collections, including those of Stephen Whitney Phoenix, George Arthur Plimpton, Gonzalez Lodge, David Eugene Smith and the Libraries' first special collection. Early materials include a papyrus fragment of Homer's *The Iliad* dating from the first century BCE; a manuscript portion of the Quran, written and illuminated in 1259; a 14th-century fragment from the Hebrew *Book of Numbers*; and a 14th-century manuscript of Aristotle's *Ethics, Politics, and Economics*.

Other highlights include a copy of Herodotus' *Historia* (Venice, 1502), owned by Erasmus; a copy of Homer's *Works* (1517) owned by Melancthon and Martin Luther; the first printed polyglot Bible (1514–22); Galileo's *Starry Messenger* (1610); Shakespeare's first folio *Works* (1623); Rousseau's *The Social Contract* (1762); John Jay's manuscript of Number 5 of *The Federalist Papers* (1788); Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792); Jane Austen's *Pride and*

Prejudice (1813); and Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* (1926).

The Core Curriculum began in 1919 with Contemporary Civilization, a course on war and peace issues that attempted to deal with "the insistent problems of the present" in light of the "persistent voices of the past." In 1937, 75 years ago, what is now known as Literature Humanities joined the Core. Other Core courses are University Writing, Art Humanities, Music Humanities and Frontiers of Science. CC and Lit Hum are two-semester courses, the others each one semester.

The RBML, located on the sixth floor of Butler Library, preserves and provides access to important editions of, and in some cases autographed manuscripts by, the majority of authors taught in CC and Lit Hum. Additionally, the collections include subsequent editions, translations and adaptations, which demonstrate the transmission and reception of these works across centuries and attest to their

continuing importance. The RBML also holds the papers of many of the important figures in the founding and development of the Core, in particular those of John J. Coss (Class of 1908 GSAS) and John Erskine (Class of 1900, 1903 GSAS). RBML is also home to the papers of Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS; Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882, 1884 GSAS); Harry J. Carman '19 GSAS; Irwin Edman (Class of 1916, '20 GSAS); Moses Hadas '30 GSAS; Douglas Moore; Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS; Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS; Jack Beeson; and many others involved in the development of the various branches of the Core.

The current CC and Lit Hum reading lists are available on the Core Curriculum website: college.columbia.edu/core.



Pages from Dante's *Divine Comedy* (left) and Hobbes' translation of Thucydides' *The History of the Peloponnesian War* (right). At center, the dust jacket for first British edition of Woolf's novel, published by Hogarth Press in 1926.

PHOTOS: COURTESY RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Delbanco Receives National Humanities Medal



President Barack Obama '83 awards the 2011 National Humanities Medal to The Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities Andrew Delbanco in the East Room of the White House on February 13.

PHOTO: OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY CHUCK KENNEDY

received the 2011 National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama '83 in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on February 13.

Delbanco was honored, according to the citation read at the ceremony, "for his insight into the American character, past and present. He has been called 'America's best social critic' for his essays on current issues and higher education. As a professor in American studies, he reveals how classics by Melville and Emerson have shaped our history and contemporary life."

Delbanco was one of nine recipients of the National Humanities Medal; eight National Medal of Arts winners were honored at the same ceremony.

Delbanco is a recipient of Columbia's Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates and the Lionel Trilling Award from Columbia students for

his book, *Melville, His World and Work*. His essays appear regularly in *The New York Review of Books* and other journals and he is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Trustee of the Library of America, the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Teagle Foundation.

His new book, *College: What It Was, Is and Should Be*, will be published in March. He is working on a book about abolitionism and American culture that will be published by Harvard University Press.

Hire Columbians

Who better to hire Columbia students than Columbia alumni? That's the idea behind "Hire Columbians," a new campaign by the Center for Career Education to get Columbia alumni to hire students for internships or full-time positions. For more information, go to careereducation.columbia.edu/hirecolumbians.

Andrew Delbanco, the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities and director of the Center for American Studies,



COLUMBIA COLLEGE ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND



Classes

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1947
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Come celebrate Alumni Reunion Weekend 2012. The weekend will feature:

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

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

Register today! For more information or to register, please visit <http://reunion.college.columbia.edu/>.

If you register before Wednesday, May 2, 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 Fatima Yudeh, fy2165@columbia.edu or 212-851-7834.



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

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ **Judd Gregg '69**, former U.S. senator, congressman and two-term governor of New Hampshire, has been named an international adviser to Goldman Sachs. Joining a group of 17 international advisers, he will provide strategic advice to the firm and its clients and assist in business development initiatives globally. During his three terms in the Senate, Gregg served as the ranking Republican member on committees including Appropriations; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; and as chairman of the Budget Committee. He also played the roles of Al Gore and John Kerry in George W. Bush's preparations for the 2000 and 2004 presidential debates. Read CCT's profile of Gregg at college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/jul05/cover.php.



Judd Gregg '69
PHOTO: COURTESY THE
OFFICE OF SEN. JUDD GREGG

for the past three decades. Having been on the winning side in 1986, 1990, 2008 and now 2012, and the losing side in 2000, Warren says, "The Super Bowl is one of those games where the high of winning is so high, but the low of losing is so low." On the losing end of Super Bowl XLVI was **Robert K. Kraft '63**, owner of the Patriots and a Columbia trustee emeritus. Kraft, who purchased the

NFL franchise in 1994, is the first owner in NFL history to have his team play in six Super Bowls.

■ **Jodi Kantor '96's** new book, *The Obamas*, has been making headlines across the country for its inside look at the first couple's lives. The book, which covers topics from faith and family to the unseen influence of Michelle Obama on her husband's presidency, was featured in *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, among other publications. Kantor started her journalism career at Slate in 1998 and was the youngest Arts & Leisure editor of *The New York Times*; she has covered the Obamas since 2007. She was honored with the Columbia Young Alumni Achievement Award in 2003 and was named one of *Crain's* "40 Under Forty" in 2004.



Jodi Kantor '96
PHOTO: ANDREW PARSONS/I-
IMAGES/ZUMA PRESS/CORBIS

■ **Julian R. Geiger '67, '70** Business was named president and CEO of Crumbs Bake Shop in November. Prior to his appointment, he was a director of Crumbs, a cupcake bakery with more than 40 locations, including one in Morning-side Heights at Broadway and West 109th Street. Geiger also is chairman of the board of Aeropostale and previously was president of merchandising for Macy's East.



Dr. Russell Warren '62
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

■ **Dr. Russell Warren '62** never made it to the Super Bowl as a player, but on February 5 in Indianapolis he participated in his fifth title game as the team physician for the New York Giants, 21–17 winners over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI. Warren, who played on Columbia's Ivy League championship 1961 team, tried out for the Giants but didn't make it and went to medical school at Syracuse, becoming one of the leading orthopedic surgeons in the country. He has been surgeon-in-chief at New York's Hospital for Special Surgery since 1993 and the Giants' team doctor

■ **Jennifer Schnidman Medbery '06** was honored in August by President Barack Obama '83 as one of the White House's Champions of Change Young Entrepreneurs for her education software company, Drop the Chalk (kickboardforteachers.com). She also was named one of *Inc.* magazine's

"Top 30 Under 30" young entrepreneurs in the July / August issue. Schnidman Medbery launched her company in 2009, after wrestling with the challenges of tracking students' progress during her time as a Teach for America teacher in New Orleans. As part of her venture, the computer science major developed Kickboard, a software program that allows teachers to make detailed notes and see patterns in students' work and behavior. Kickboard is in use in 15 New Orleans charter schools, and Schnidman Medbery hopes to expand soon.

■ Brothers **Courtney Reum '01** and **Carter Reum '03** in September landed on *Inc.* magazine's 2011 list of the country's 500 fastest growing private companies for their liquor business, VeeV Acai Spirit. The mention (the business earned spot No. 242) was among the latest in a run of media coverage that also included an August feature on CNBC's *How I Made My Millions* and an October article on the CNN Money website (money.cnn.com, search for "VeeV"). VeeV is the first liquor to be made from the Brazilian acai berry, a "superfruit" known for being rich in antioxidants. Read more about the Reums and their business in the January / February 2011 issue: college.columbia.edu/cct/jan_feb11/features4.

■ **Sharon Block '87** has been named by President Barack Obama '83 to serve on the National Labor Relations Board. Previously, Block served as deputy assistant secretary for congressional affairs at the U.S. Department of Labor. From 2006–09, she was senior labor and employment counsel for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, where she worked for the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). Block earned a J.D. from Georgetown, where she received the John F. Kennedy Labor Law Award. Speaking of Block and her two fellow appointees, Richard Griffin and Terence Flynn, Obama said: "We can't wait to act to strengthen the economy and restore security for our middle class and those trying to get in it, and that's why I am proud to appoint these fine individuals to get to work for the American people." The recess appointment came in January.

Karen Iorio

Futterman Offers Students Career Advice

What better way for students to learn about a field than from people already working in it? That's the idea behind a series of dinner discussions being hosted by the Center for Career Education and the Columbia College Alumni Association Career Education Committee.

The first event took place on November 28 at the Columbia Alumni Center, where a group of College students interested in careers in the entertainment industry gathered to meet with actor and screenwriter Dan Futterman '89; his wife and co-writer, Anya Epstein; and playwriting graduate student Jason Kim '08.

"This sort of support wasn't that easy to find when I was at the College, but it's something I would have loved to have had made available to me," Futterman said. "It's a pleasure to help today's undergraduates."

Futterman has appeared on Broadway in *Angels in America* and in films including *A Mighty Heart* alongside Angelina Jolie. He was nominated in 2006 for an Academy Award for his screenplay for

the film *Capote*.

Epstein started out as an assistant and writer on NBC's *Homicide: Life on the Street*. She and Futterman were writers and executive producers for the third season of HBO's *In Treatment* and are currently developing a new series, *T*, for HBO.

The couple hired Kim as their assistant for *In Treatment*. He now is in his second year working toward an M.F.A. in playwriting at The New School. Kim previously was a researcher at *The New Yorker*.

Futterman told students to be wary of the maxim, "Write what you know," and instead suggested, "Write what you can imagine and expand the horizons of what you know." He noted that his and his wife's new series, *T*, features a transgender character, and that they did extensive research in preparation. They hope to draw on common experiences, such as alienation and the search for identity, in telling the story.

"Be willing to be surprised by what path you take and the opportunities that come to you," said Epstein, who added that she never thought her job at *Homicide* would teach her so many lessons she



Dan Futterman '89 and his wife, Anya Epstein, pause on the red carpet prior to the 78th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on March 5, 2006.

PHOTO: AP PHOTO/CHRIS PIZZELLO

could apply to her work.

Kim came to playwriting after a period of indecision and an unhappy two-week stint as a paralegal. He advised students to be open to new possibilities and to "embrace the uncertainty."

The series continues this spring with discussions on public relations, health care and international development.

Karen Iorio

DEAN'S DAY • SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012 • NEW YORK CITY



Columbia College and the Columbia College Alumni Association are proud to sponsor Dean's Day 2012. Scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 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.

Dean's Day 2012 is particularly noteworthy, as the Public Intellectual Lectures will explore the theme of "Science and Innovation." Faculty and alumni will host conversations that explore questions in the field of science and the groundbreaking methods of research and solutions that are being discovered. These stimulating discussions promise a morning 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
9:30 a.m.	Camp Columbia for Kids
10:30–11:45 a.m.	Public Intellectual Lectures
Noon–1:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00–3:30 p.m.	Core Curriculum Lectures
3:30–5:00 p.m.	Affinity Receptions, including Varsity Athletics, Reid Hall Reunion and Columbia University Marching Band



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jacqueline Bryk '13 Eyes Career in Broadcasting

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

Local television reporters seemingly have little in common with the authors of the Western canon, but budding broadcast journalist **Jacqueline Bryk '13**, an English and comparative literature major, argues otherwise.

On a fall afternoon in Morningside Heights, after a trip to midtown to purchase film equipment for *Super U*, the health show on Columbia University Television (CTV; cutelevision.org) that she created, hosts and produces, Bryk described the connection between her career goals and the classic texts she has studied in the Core Curriculum and her major courses.

"Where can I learn to tell stories? From how the greats tell their stories," says Bryk, who is currently studying abroad at University College London. "That's what reporters do; they tell stories."

Last summer, Bryk interned for E! Entertainment News, the weekend edition of NBC's *The Today Show* and Fox's *The Five*. The last of these, a political talk show, offered the most valuable experience, she says, because it was just launching. "It was an incredible experience for an intern who doesn't usually get to see that," says Bryk, who edited scripts, cut graphics and video clips, conducted research and interacted with the anchors.

In May 2010, Bryk launched *Super U*, which promotes positive health and fitness choices. Episodes usually feature a health expert, and guests have included TV personality Daphne Oz, author of *The Dorm Room Diet: The 10-Step Program for Creating a Healthy Lifestyle Plan That Really Works*, and actor Reed Alexander, creator of KewlBites, a website that encourages kids to eat well.

"Health has always fascinated me; my dad is a doctor," says Bryk, the daughter of Eli Bryk '78, '82 P&S, chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at New York Downtown Hospital and a member of the College's Board of Visitors. "I've always been interested in topics that can help people.



Jacqueline Bryk '13 is confident studying literature will prepare her for a career in broadcast journalism.

PHOTO: ALYSSA BRYK KAPITO '08, '10 GSAS

I think health is a topic that is not covered much in college, which is where students are really on their own."

Bryk likens *Super U*'s format to that of breakfast shows such as *Good Morning America*. She estimates that she devotes 20 hours a week to the show, which is filmed in Alfred Lerner Hall. At press-time, five episodes, each five to eight minutes long, have aired.

Bryk was a student at Ramaz H.S., on the Upper East Side, when she became interested in broadcast journalism through YouthBridge-NY, a leadership training program run by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. That experience helped her land her first industry internship, with Fox Business News in summer 2009. Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics, chair of the classics department and Bryk's Lit Hum preceptor, points out that Bryk's journalistic experience informs her approach to literature. "Given her interest in the media and especially the communicative power of television

news, she has an acute sense of the value of the spoken word," he says.

In 2011, Williams wrote a letter of recommendation for Bryk that helped her secure a scholarship from New York Women in Communications. As a member of the nonprofit's student committee, she has helped plan and run its annual student conference. In addition, since high school, Bryk has been a paid literary assistant to *Wall Street Journal* reporter Lucette Lagnado.

Bryk chose the College in part because she sought a comprehensive education. "The Core will help me in my professional career, because being a journalist, I need to be familiar with all sorts of industries and have some basic knowledge about them," says Bryk. "I may walk into a room to interview a musician; I have some history having taken Music Humanities."

Bryk, a self-described "thrill seeker" who enjoys skiing and has gone bungee jumping, moved to New York City from Long Island as a ninth-grader and loves the energy of the city. "It's a huge draw for me to be surrounded by so many news organizations," she says. "New York is where everything is happening."

At Columbia, Bryk is carrying on a family tradition. Her mother is attorney Laurie Wolf Bryk '78 Barnard, and her four older siblings — she is the second youngest of six — all attended either the College or Barnard.

"There's definitely that familial connection. Columbia was more like coming home than really going out in the world," says Bryk. "I like to say I was born into Columbia."

To view videos of Bryk hosting *Super U*, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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

Dean's Scholarship Reception Brings Together Donors and Students

Nearly 500 scholarship donors and student recipients filled Roone Arledge Auditorium on February 2 to meet and mingle at the annual Dean's Scholarship Reception. This annual event brings together donors and students in a casual setting so the students can thank their benefactors and discuss their experiences.

"This is a ledger sheet," said Interim Dean James J. Valentini, holding up a piece of paper for the room to see. "As of yesterday, we spent this year more than \$70 million on financial aid. But that's not financial aid. Those are entries in an account statement. Financial aid is about helping other people. ... I personally thank all the donors for sending us these students. Without them, life at Columbia would not be nearly as rich."

Francisco Lopez-Balboa '82, benefactor of the Frank and Victor Lopez-Balboa Scholarship Fund with his twin, Victor '82, spoke on behalf of donors, recalling how it took 10 years to pay off his College and graduate school loans. Now in a position to be financially generous, he wants to



Interim Dean James J. Valentini refers to the ledger sheet that notes that the College this year has spent more than \$70 million on financial aid; Donald Margolis '63, donor of the Donald Lee Margolis Scholarship Fund, chats with one of his student recipients, Kevin Brown '14.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO

make life easier for today's students. "As I reflected on my Columbia experience, before, during and after Columbia," he said, "it was apparent and really important to me to be in a position to help students af-

ford and attend a great school."

Komal Kothari '12, a double major in biology and economics who immigrated to the United States from India at 6 and grew up in Edison, N.J., spoke on behalf of scholarship recipients. The recipient of the Isabel and Irving N. Tolkin Memorial Scholarship Fund as well as the Charles Halstead Cottingham Scholarship Fund—Columbia College, Kothari eloquently expressed how much it meant to her to receive these scholarships.

"From the moment I entered those gates on 116th and Broadway I have felt engaged and stimulated," she said. "I have grown so much in these past four years. I have had access to myriad opportunities that I might not have encountered otherwise. The Core has taught me new ways of seeing the world and cultivated in me a habit of inquiry. ... The connections I have built here will last me a lifetime."

View a gallery of photos from the Dean's Scholarship Reception on the College's Facebook page: facebook.com/columbiacollege1754.

Lisa Palladino

Travel with Columbia



CHINA, TIBET, AND THE YANGTZE RIVER

October 20–November 7, 2012

Join alumni and friends on a unique small-group adventure exploring the history, art, and cultures of China and Tibet October 20–November 7, 2012. Limited to just 24 travelers, this intimate journey takes us to Beijing, Xian, Chengdu, Lhasa, Chongqing, Dazu, the Three River Gorge, and Shanghai. This air, land, and cruise inclusive travel program is the perfect opportunity to discover China and Tibet, from the hutongs of Beijing to Tibetan temples and the neon skyline of Shanghai.

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Mark Mazower, professor of history and the Ira D. Wallach Professor of World Order Studies, specializes in the history of modern Greece, Europe and the transformation of the international system. He has authored numerous books including *Hitler's Empire: Nazi Rule in Occupied Europe*, which won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for History, and *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire*. Born and raised in London, Mazower earned a B.A. from Oxford, an M.A. from Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. from Oxford. He has taught at Columbia since 2004.

How has spending time in many different parts of the world influenced your perspective?

I came to history without knowing a lot about British history or any of the history that most people in Europe turn to first — say, the French Revolution or the Third Reich. Then I became immersed in the history of modern Greece. So when I then returned to the history of these bigger countries, I was struck by how different they were, the impact of scale. That's not an insight that comes if you never leave your native shores.

Can you elaborate?

It's only in going to the smaller neighbor that you can see what being a Great Power means for others, whether that is the power of political influence, money, prestigious ideas or an invading army.

Living in Greece, you could never pretend that you were in a place that had ever enjoyed full control over its destiny. Whereas what Americans are now coming to terms with is a big country learning that lesson. Even big countries are small countries now.

What else can we take from what's happened in Greece?

It's a front line in some very big struggles, and they're going to play out elsewhere. We used to think modern democracy was fostered by the nation state but now it seems that power is leaching out of the nation state and is being determined elsewhere — either in Berlin and Paris or in

what is happening to those ideas and those institutions today. Is the world becoming an ungovernable place and is the fault, if it is, in our institutions or in our ideas? ... I was glad to give the lecture, because I've been muddling through a book on this subject and searching for the argument that I believed was in there, and while I gave the

Five Minutes with ... Mark Mazower

the Standard & Poor's rating agency; it's basically being determined by the market. So you have this huge battle between the politicians and the market over the nature of democracy.

An older generation of politicians remembered the Depression and the Second World War as two formative events that taught them that markets need powerful state institutions to prosper and to give them confidence. This generation no longer believes that, or they behave like they no longer believe that. So now the question becomes: Can we recover confidence in governmental institutions or are we simply going to say, they are not to be trusted, they are to be whittled down as far as possible, and we're now at the mercy of the markets?

In November you delivered the University Lecture on the rise and fall of international government. What was the premise?

Basically I was asking, where did this idea come from that the world is a governable place, and that you could create international institutions such as were created in the 20th century, and

lecture I had the illusion that I had an argument. [laughs] And I haven't yet changed my mind.

What's the most valuable thing a professor can do for his or her students?

Help them to think clearly. And write clearly, I suppose. It's one of the reasons I like teaching Contemporary Civilization. You end up having close relationships with the undergraduates, which is difficult to emulate in a large lecture class.

How many languages do you speak?

Greek, Italian, French and German ... and of course that's not nearly enough. I should really know Turkish and others to write properly on many of the subjects that interest me. But life is short.

Are you married? Do you have kids?

Yes and yes. We have twins, a boy and girl, who turned 3 in December.

What's your favorite place to be?

We spend time on an island called Tinos, in Greece.

What historical figure would you most like to meet?

I'd start with Venizelos. He was the most important statesman in modern Greek history, a fascinating, mercurial figure, magical with words, charismatic, beloved and loathed.

If you weren't a historian or a professor, what would you do?

I would be swimming every day, in a large river or the sea.

Are there any foods from home that you miss having?

It's always a struggle to find Marmite, of course — it's made from yeast extract. Don't ask. PG Tips are easier, on the tea front. But you can tell your readers I will happily receive consignments of Marmite.

Address them to the Department of History.

Interview:

Alexis Tonti '11 Arts

Photo:

Michael Dames

For more conversation with Mazower, and to watch footage from his University Lecture, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.



Frouman Named Marshall Scholar

Alex Frouman '12 has been named a Marshall Scholar. He plans to use the award, which provides full funding for up to 40 recent American college graduates to study at the institution of their choice in the United Kingdom for two to three years, to study economic policy at Oxford this fall.

The Marshall Scholarship commission announced in November that Frouman would study at Oxford, although as of February 16 he had not received his official acceptance. Frouman told CCT that he would have access to "amazing" scholars at Oxford and added, "My interests are definitely still open right now. I do know I want to do economic policy and I have had exposure to, and experience and an interest in, financial regulation, but there's lots of time to change things up."

Interim Dean James J. Valentini, who knows Frouman well, described him as a "great kid" and added, "He is richly deserving of a Marshall, and I'm very proud of him."

Frouman, who said he felt "humbled, lucky and grateful," originally doubted whether he should apply because of the competitiveness of the process.

"It was the support of my friends, who encouraged me, and the notion that you never know," Frouman said. He also attributes his success to the faculty who supported him through the process.

"I'm just glad my application resonated with the selection committee and that my interview went well," Frouman said. "At this point, I think it was absolutely worth it."

Frouman received a call from the scholarship's New York commission chair on November 21. "Hearing that

I won was one of the happiest moments of my life," he said. "First I cried a little and then I called my parents, told my girlfriend and emailed my professors to let them know and thank them. I could never have won without the inspiration and guidance from my professors and my advisers."

Benjamin W. Gittelson '15



PHOTO: BENJAMIN SPENER '14

Alston Wins Prize at Sundance

Director and screenwriter Mack Alston '87 won the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Prize for an Agent of Change at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival in January for his documentary *Love Free or Die*. Alston was one of seven College alumni presenting films at the annual celebration of independent filmmakers in Park City, Utah.

The Sundance Film Festival selects 200 films for exhibition from more than 9,000 submissions, and more than 50,000 people attend those screenings.

Other College alumni whose works were screened at the festival were Ben Cosgrove '90, executive producer, *Tim & Eric's Billion Dollar Movie*; Yana Gorskaya '96, editor, *Celeste and Jesse Forever*; Timothy Greenfield-Sanders '74, director, producer and photographer, *About Face*; Carley Hugo '06, co-producer, *Bachelorette*; Ronen Landa '01, composer of original score, *The Pact*; and Elisabeth Vas-tola '07, costume designer, *Keep the Lights On*.

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can do, and
should do . . ."

—KENNETH FORDE '59PS
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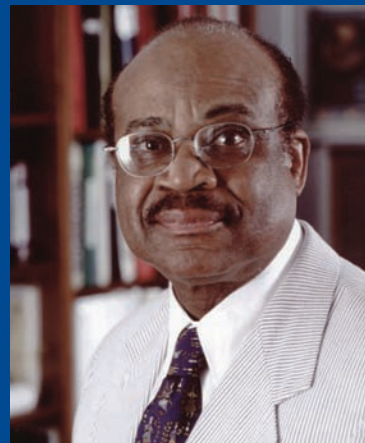
Kenneth Forde, M.D., a pioneer in the field of colon cancer, has educated and inspired generations of Columbia doctors.

Dr. Forde likes to say, "At Columbia, I've gone from applicant to student to intern to resident to professor and now to Trustee."

Now, he is leading by example once again—by including Columbia in his will.

Join Dr. Forde and others in the 1754 Society, a group of alumni and friends who have made bequests and other planned gifts to the University.

To learn more about Dr. Forde and planned giving, visit giving.columbia.edu/plannedgifts or call 800-338-3294.



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

FB Coach Mangurian Stresses “W Word”

Pete Mangurian brings more than 30 years of football coaching experience, including three seasons as the head coach at Cornell, to his latest challenge — building the Columbia football program.

“Excellence in football is measured in wins,” Mangurian declared upon being introduced to the Columbia community as the Patricia and Shepard Alexander Head Coach of Football at Faculty House on December 9. “We’re going to use ‘the W word’ around here. We need to expect to win. It has to become part of who we are. We will not be defined by our past. We will learn from it and move on.”

Mangurian, 56, has done his share of moving since beginning his career as offensive line coach at Southern Methodist in 1979–80. He worked at New Mexico State, Stanford and his alma mater, Louisiana State, before moving to the pro ranks in 1988. There, he was an assistant



Pete Mangurian spoke to fans about his plans for Columbia's football program at half-time of the Lions' 61–56 basketball win over Cornell at Levien Gym on January 21.

PHOTO: MIKE McLAUGHLIN

to Dan Reeves with the Denver Broncos and moved with Reeves to the New York Giants and Atlanta Falcons.

His only head coaching experience came in three seasons at Cornell from 1998–2000. The Big Red finished last in the Ivy League at 1–6 in his first season

but improved to 5–2 in each of the next two years, the best two-year conference record in school history. Cornell finished third in the Ancient Eight in 1999 and second in 2000 before Mangurian returned to the NFL for 10 more seasons as an assistant coach. He has coached in two Super Bowls, in 1990 with Denver and in 2008 with New England. Most recently he was an assistant coach with Tampa Bay.

“Pete Mangurian is an outstanding football coach,” said Director of Athletics M. Dianne Murphy, whose ties to Mangurian go back to her days as associate athletics director at Cornell, where she was on the search committee that recommended hiring him in 1998. “He brings tremendous experience with a plethora of impressive mentors, including Bill Arnsparger, Dan Reeves and Bill Belichick. He has worked in great organizations under Pat Bowlen, owner of the Denver Broncos, and Robert K. Kraft ‘63, owner of the New England Patriots. Pete’s

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Summer Advising Sessions

One of the relatively recent traditions linking generations of Columbians takes place at the Summer Advising Sessions conducted by the Division of Student Affairs in conjunction with the Center for Career Education and the Alumni Office. These annual sessions provide information about Columbia for incoming students and their families so that they may “hit the ground running” when they come to New York, in the words of Dean of Advising Monique Rinere.

In one of the sessions’ highlights, alumni are invited to hand out copies of *The Iliad*, the first reading assignment in Literature Humanities, to the incoming students. Many alumni who have done so say it’s a great way to connect with today’s students and give back to the College.

Following is a list of 2012 Summer Advising Sessions that have been scheduled as of mid-February:

Saturday, June 2, Houston	Tuesday, June 19, NYC
Saturday, June 9, Atlanta	Tuesday, June 19, San Juan
Tuesday, June 12, Boston	Capistrano, Calif.
Thursday, June 14, Chicago	Thursday, June 21,
Saturday, June 16,	San Francisco
Washington, D.C.	Saturday, June 23, NYC
Sunday, June 17, NYC	Sunday, June 24, Seattle
Monday, June 18, Los Angeles	Sunday, July 1, NYC

Alumni who would like to participate in handing out *The Iliad* at any of these sessions should contact Patricia Carchi, coordinator, student-alumni programs: 212-851-7807 or pc2389@columbia.edu.

experience speaks for itself."

Columbia, whose last winning season came in 1996, compiled a 17-43 record in six seasons under Norries Wilson. The Lions avoided a winless season in 2011 by beating Brown in the season finale, after which it was announced that Wilson would not return as coach.

Mangurian is undaunted by the recent, and not-so-recent, past. "The first step in this process," he said, "is going to be an honest evaluation of where we are, how we got here and what we're going to do to move on to the next step. We have to change the culture."

■ **REBOUNDING:** Mark Cisco '13 set a Leaven Gym rebounding record when he hauled down 20 boards to go with 18 points in a 61-56 win over Cornell on January 21. Cisco broke an arena record set by two Brown players in the 1970s, Phil Brown in 1975 and Rob Crichton in 1977.

■ **WOMEN'S TENNIS:** Bianca Sanon '14 got the spring women's tennis season started on the right foot as she won the Flight A singles bracket at the 2012 Cornell Winter Invitational January 27-29. The Plantation, Fla., native did not drop a single set on her way to the title, beating athletes from Army, Cornell and Columbia. Sanon teamed with Tiana Takenaga '14 to take a second title, in the A doubles bracket. The Lions also notched two team wins to start the dual match season, beating Hofstra 7-0 and Massachusetts 5-2.

■ **SAVE THE DATES:** Saturday, April 21, Baseball Alumni Day; Tuesday, May 1, Varsity 'C' Celebration.

For the latest news on Columbia athletics, visit gocolumbialions.com.

Alex Sachare '71

Women's Soccer Celebrates 25th Anniversary



Members of the 1986 women's soccer team celebrated a 25th reunion along with other alumnae and members of the current team.

PHOTO: DARLENE CAMACHO/COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

More than 80 alumnae, student-athletes and family marked the 25th anniversary of Columbia's first varsity women's soccer team with a dinner at Faculty House on January 27, hosted by women's soccer coach Kevin McCarthy '85 and Columbia Athletics.

Members of that inaugural 1986 team in attendance were Lesli Allison '88, Kyrá Tirana Barry '87, Amy Bevacqua '88 Barnard, Mary Egan '89 Barnard, Kristin Friedholm Bissinger '90, Lynn Murphy '90, Kimberly Neuhaus '89, Lauren Nisonson Heller '88, Donna Pacicca '87 and former assistant coach Shawn Ladda.

"We are thrilled to welcome back so many of our outstanding alumnae," Director of Athletics M. Dianne Murphy said. "We hope you continue to visit Columbia, attend our athletics contests and stay engaged with the program."

Recalling her experience in the early days of Columbia women's soccer, Pacicca said, "Building up to that first varsity year, we played anyone and everyone. We looked for pickup games whenever we could. If there was a patch of space and a ball, we were playing soccer."

Joan Campion '92, formerly president of the Varsity 'C' Club, said, "I was asked to speak on what Columbia women's soc-

cer meant to me and my first thought was, *everything!* I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be here with my teammates and so many friends. They mean so much to me. I hope this becomes a regular event."

Kelly Hostetler '11 spoke of the impact being a soccer player at Columbia had on her college experience. "Columbia women's soccer meant more than just games, wins and losses," she said. "Columbia women's soccer has meant friendship, support and family. We are grateful to those who came before us for giving us the opportunity to be part of this amazing program."

When asked about the 25 years of women's soccer, McCarthy spoke about the women who began the program and the direction in which it is headed.

"When I took the head coaching position, I learned of the history of the Ivy League, that many of the programs were pioneers in the history of women's soccer. Our program was no different," McCarthy said. "Initially, we set a goal of being a model program in our department in terms of consistency and competitiveness. Now we have moved beyond just being competitive in the Ivy League. We have won an Ivy League championship [in 2006], but we know that is not enough. We all want more. We are ready."

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Coeducation: Then and Now

A look at the continuing influence of the College's landmark decision

In the context of Columbia College's 258-year history, the era of coeducation is relatively short. Plotted on a timeline that begins with the founding of King's College in 1754, women's arrival in autumn 1983 carves a notch nearly nine-

tenths of the way down. And yet, for those who are first walking the campus today, those earlier all-male years are difficult to imagine. People see a student body that is split nearly 50-50 between men and women, watch women play on 15 varsity teams, follow their accomplishments in the arts and academics — and wonder, could the shift to coeducation really have happened so recently?

In a way, the seamless transition is an important reason to mark the 25th anniversary of the graduation of the Class of 1987. Women's influence on the life of the College was immediate and wide-ranging, and without an understanding of what came before, it is difficult to fully appreciate what happened afterward.

As this special section shows, coeducation's ripple effects are still being felt — by women students and the alumnae who mentor them, by female faculty and the administration that encourages their presence, by the mothers and children who are forming bonds over a shared undergraduate experience.

It also is worth remembering that the decision to admit women was motivated less by feminist principles than by the dual goals of increasing application numbers and improving the quality of life for all students, which it did. Looking at the bigger picture, coeducation, together with guaranteed student housing and the revitalization of New York City, has led to a sustained renaissance for Columbia College.

For this, we celebrate.

Alexis Tonti '11 Arts

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER BURRELL



Class of 1987 Heralds New Era at Columbia

Marking the end of the four-year transition from the all-male school it had been since 1754, Columbia College graduated its first fully coeducational class 25 years ago this spring. Nearly half the students who donned sunglasses and mortarboards on that bright May afternoon were women, and while the fanfare that had accompanied their freshman year focused largely on their presence, the celebration by the end of senior year had shifted to their accomplishments: Most of the Class Day awards went to women, and the valedictorian, salutatorian and class president were all women. Collectively, their leadership and academic success made a powerful statement about how women had enhanced the life of the College.

And their impact was only just beginning.

Coeducation in part inspired, and in many ways contributed to, a renaissance at the College that continues to this day. *U.S. News & World Report* now ranks Columbia fourth in the nation among national universities (it was 15th in 1983). In a marked turnaround from the turmoil of the 1960s and malaise of the 1970s, today's students are infused with school spirit, and satisfaction with alma mater runs deep. In a survey last year of graduates of all coed classes, nine out of 10 described their undergraduate experience and current feeling toward the College as "good" or "excellent." A record 95 percent of seniors last year contributed to the Senior Fund.

The era of the all-male College lies firmly in the past, with reminders only in the realm of alumni, where any woman past her mid-40s is sure to be a wife or other relative (unless she is Anna Kornbrot '74E, '75 or Ann (Candy) Stein '78E, '78, exceptions who were accepted into joint programs with Engineering).

"We broke through that glass ceiling at Columbia, and women continue to break through glass ceilings in many areas, nationwide," says Julie Menin '89, chairperson of NYC's Community Board 1 and a candidate for Manhattan Borough President. "I remember all those times sitting in Lit Hum and other Core classes, and especially my political science classes. Those courses and my experience at Columbia were vital in laying the foundation of what I'm doing today, and my interest in politics and government. It's why I became a regulatory attorney and why I'm running for office."

The first coed class, 1987, made a grand entrance, starting with admissions and following through to graduation. "The women who arrived were extremely motivated to be intellectually, athletically and affectively engaged in the life of the college," says Hannah Jones '87, president of the senior class and now a seventh-grade humanities teacher in Cambridge, Mass. "We had the backing of administrators and peers. What a crop of progressive, and basically nice, men with whom we went to college. We also had our path-breaking sisters at Barnard, who were already taking Columbia College classes and living in Columbia College dorms."



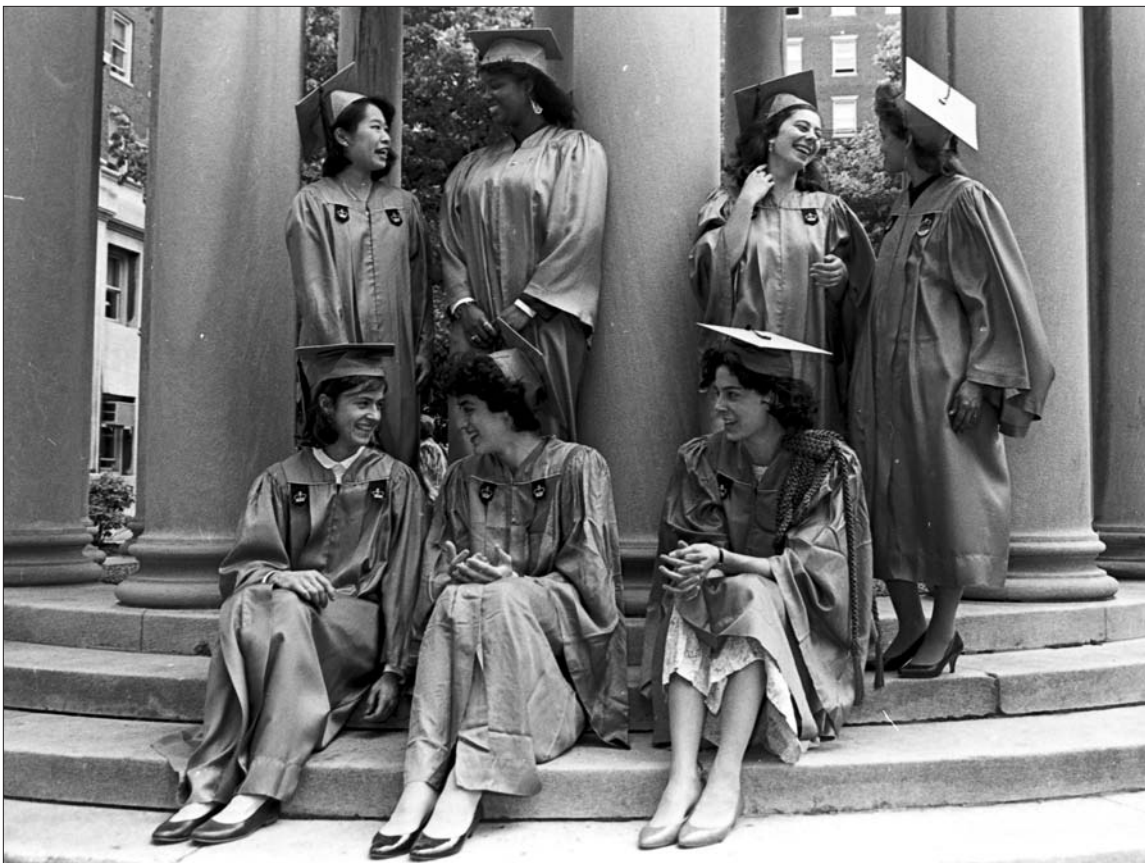
By
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On break during orientation, August 1983.

PHOTO: JOE PINEIRO,
COURTESY COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Donning their beanies, two first-years mark the start of a new era on August 29, 1983.



Members of the Class of 1987 gathered at the Van Amringe Memorial: (standing, left to right) Kokoro Kawashima, Vania Leveille, Marya Pollack and Shelley Coleman; (seated, left to right) Salutatorian Ilaria Rebay, Valedictorian Linda Mischel and Class President Hannah Jones.

PHOTOS: JOE PINEIRO, COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Women accounted for about 45 percent of the incoming freshmen in 1983.

PHOTO: JOE PINEIRO, COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



"I felt proud for what women in our class had achieved by graduation in all realms of Columbia College."

Opposite: Stand, Columbia women! The first fully coeducational class graduated on May 13, 1987.

PHOTO: JOE PINEIRO, COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Columbia received 55 percent more applications for the Class of 1987 than for the all-male Class of 1986, and selectivity improved from 40 percent accepted the previous year to 31 percent accepted. (The trend has continued, with 6 percent of applicants accepted to the Class of 2015.) In 1983, the final tally for the incoming class included 357 women, 45 percent of the total of 800. The students also were more geographically and ethnically diverse than in previous years and collectively had a much-improved student profile in terms of test scores and high school class rankings. "The College got better, more diverse and rejuvenated in the teaching as well," Robert Pollack '61, professor of biological sciences and dean of the College from 1982–89, told CCT in 2009. "It became a safer, happier, more interesting place."

"Many of the women Columbia attracted in its first coed class were truly intrepid," says Linda Mischel Eisner '87, the class valedictorian. "The neighborhood around Columbia today bears only a hint of resemblance to the neighborhood in 1983. New York City's then-gritty Upper West Side near Morningside Heights was its own frontier as much as coeducation was."

The first women who attended Columbia were independent and assertive. They immediately stepped into leadership roles on campus, holding about 75 percent of those positions at the end of their four years. "There was a 'beat the boys' mentality among the women, that perhaps our male counterparts were unaware of — perhaps we had set up a competition that they did not perceive or felt was irrelevant," Jones says. "I felt proud for what women in our class had achieved by graduation in all realms of Columbia College." Among the prominent organizations with women at the helm were the Columbia Volunteer Service Center (president, Vania Leveille '87) and the United Minorities Board (chair, Annie Fils-Aime '87), precursors to Community Impact and the Intercultural Resource Center, respectively.

Former University President Michael Sovern '53, '55L has joked that on Class Day 1987, "The only

men on the program were from the administration!" In addition to the achievements of the valedictorian and salutatorian, women won a great number of the awards. "That added to the excitement and to the feeling that women in the class had excelled in uncommon ways," says Mischel Eisner.

Women have shone both on campus and as alumnae ever since. Mischel Eisner, for example, a computer science major, worked after graduation as a quantitative analyst developing financial software, then earned a J.D. from Yale, was a tax attorney and now is in the public sector as a federal judicial law clerk. "With my Columbia College education to ground me, I am always ready to take on the next challenge," she says.

"Is there any aspect of my life that would be the same if I'd gone to another school? No," says Kendra Crook '95, an M.B.A. prep coach for the nonprofit Management Leadership for Tomorrow. "My intense love for New York City, how I approach things, why I'm good at my job, my appreciation for diversity ... How did I go from being a white girl in Maine, with not a single black face in my high school, to working now to help minorities get into business school? My first-year roommate was black, my suitemate was Asian, a lot of my basketball teammates and classmates were African-American and Hispanic. When you live like that on campus, you start to think, 'This is the way life should be.'"

Years ago, before coeducation at Columbia, that sentiment was reversed: It was the College campus that needed to reflect the reality of the outside world. As a College student in 1980 noted in a campus survey: "Life is coed, school should be also." By the early '80s, secular, all-male colleges were nearly extinct; the other Ivies and even the five U.S. military academies were enrolling women. How could Columbia, as part of a large university in the middle of a cosmopolitan city, make the transition so late?

In a word, Barnard. The undergraduate school for women had been established in 1889, in part through the rallying efforts of Annie Nathan Meyer, a student in Columbia's Collegiate Course for Women. (CCW allowed women to enroll in a home-study program and sit for exams alongside male students for the same credit, but Meyer and others wanted a more substantive education for their female peers.)

Starting in 1973, the College and Barnard allowed cross-registration of most courses, the Core excepted, and by the mid-'70s a portion of undergraduate housing had become coed through a Barnard exchange program. But the coed experience remained quite limited for College first-years, who took Core classes not open to women and most of whom lived in all-male Carman Hall. A faculty resolution in 1975 and student surveys in the early '80s offered some of the first concrete proof that the status quo had be-



come unacceptable to most faculty and unappealing to most students. As Roger Lehecka '67, '74 GSAS, dean of students from 1979–98, previously told CCT: "A vanishingly small number of students came to Columbia College because it was an all-male college, and many came because they had been led to believe that Columbia and Barnard students' lives were more together than they actually were."

Carl Hovde '50, dean of the College from 1968–72, and Peter Pouncey '69 GSAS, dean from 1972–76, promoted the idea of coeducation, perhaps by merging or partnering with Barnard. But Barnard was uninterested in such a path, as it had a firmly established identity and functioning structure as a women's college and already offered its students the benefits of being part of Columbia University. "In the end, what many of us failed to understand is that Barnard wanted to be what it was, a women's college, and Columbia didn't want to be what it was, a men's college," Lehecka said.

The turning point came in 1980, when Dean Arnold Coltery, a strong supporter of coeducation, appointed a committee of faculty and active alumni to examine the coed question. Ronald Breslow, professor of chemistry and University Professor, chaired the committee. "Everyone had a feeling the only choice was to fuse with Barnard, and Barnard would be swallowed. It was sort of a stalemate," Breslow told CCT in 2009. "From Barnard's point of view, there was no advantage to going coed, but we [the College] couldn't afford not to, from a competitive standpoint. Coltery deserves a lot of credit for deciding something had to be done."

Breslow and his committee replaced assumptions with research. They looked at about a dozen other places where a formerly all-male college in proximity to a women's college had gone coed. In each case, the women's college survived. A prime example was Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, located as Columbia and Barnard are, across the street from each other.

The committee also analyzed where College applicants would come from, and reported that Columbia College would not compete with applicants to Barnard as much as with applicants to schools such as Penn and Princeton. The Breslow committee concluded that a coed Columbia and a healthy Barnard could coexist. The report was presented to Coltery, who "was wildly enthusiastic about it," Breslow said, and subsequently to Sovern. Sovern took the findings to the University Trustees, who in December 1981 approved making the College coeducational.

The arrival of the first female students in fall 1983 brought much excitement to campus and coverage in the media, and in the following years, many women from the Class of '87 and other early coed classes felt proud to be trailblazers. "It was a spectacular place, and I couldn't have felt more welcome," says Lisa Carnoy '89, co-head global capital markets, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, and a University trustee. "Every opportunity was available to me: every course, activity and leadership role. And the Dean of Students Office, under Roger Lehecka, made a huge difference."

Others were less attuned to their pioneering status. Dr. Laura Brumberg '87, who always had wanted to go to Columbia, recalls her high school guidance counselor telling her, "You're in luck, they're accepting women this year." Brumberg hadn't known the College had been all-male.

In many ways, the first-years in 1983 arrived to an already changed campus. Carman Hall, where most of the incoming female students would be housed, had undergone a nearly \$1 million rehabilitation during the summer: new paint, furniture and carpeting; repairs to

radiators, bathroom appliances and locks; and a redesigned main entrance and lounge. (Pollack, then in his new position as dean, saw coeducation as an opportunity to improve life for all students, and he pushed for renovations to residence halls along with guaranteed housing for students for all four years.) A new Women's Health Center was set to open in John Jay. The College's Counseling Service was expanded, and educational programs addressing issues such as sexual harassment and staying safe were instituted.

On the athletics front, women began competing on varsity teams as part of the newly established Columbia-Barnard Athletic Consortium. Its creation was negotiated by Pollack as a novel solution to Title IX, the federal law that requires equal educational programs and activities at all schools that receive federal funding. The consortium included women from the College, Engineering and Barnard, and moved existing Barnard teams from Division III Seven Sisters to Division I Ivy League competition. There were women's teams in fencing, tennis, basketball, track and field, cross country, swimming and diving, volleyball and archery.

Women's presence in the classroom also focused attention on imbalances in the curriculum and the overwhelmingly male faculty (see "Women at the Podium"). Both needed updating to reflect the reality, not only in the College but also in society, that women

University President Michael Sovern '53, '55L (left) told *Spectator* in 1983 that coeducation "ends a tradition that all of us are delighted to bring to a close."

PHOTO: JOE PINEIRO, COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



"Barnard wanted to be what it was, a women's college, and Columbia didn't want to be what it was, a men's college."

were taking their places as equals. Pollack and Michael Rosenthal, associate dean of the College from 1972–89 and the Roberta and William Campbell Professor in the Teaching of Literature Humanities, met with humanities and social sciences departments to discuss the implications of coeducation, sensitivity in the classroom, the need for eventual course changes and the hiring and tenure process. Though change in these areas was slower to take hold, a major was added in women's and gender studies, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender was established in 1987 and Core content was tweaked: Jane Austen was added to the Literature Humanities syllabus in 1985, Sappho in 1986 (and removed in 1992) and Virginia Woolf in 1990.

The transition to coeducation went smoothly in part because the College is, by population, a small part of the larger university. Women undergraduates had been attending Barnard, Engineering and GS, and student activities and most courses had been mixed-gender for years. "When we were at the College, we weren't thinking about how recently the college went coed, except for the number of women's bathrooms in Hamilton, which everyone made a joke about," says Claire Shanley '92. "Our experience was blended; we had friends at Barnard and Engineering and Columbia College. It wasn't always palpable that this had so recently been an all-male institution."

The College's single-sex history became quite evident, however, after graduation, when the relatively few women entered a nearly all-male alumni pool. "I reached out to men, who gave me advice," Carnoy says. "Jerry Sherwin ['55] was my first mock interviewer."

As Jill Niemczyk Murphy '87 found, some alumni didn't even realize women were being admitted. After graduating she called a senior partner at a law firm to try to network. "He said, 'Well, you couldn't have gone to the College,'" Niemczyk Murphy recalls. "In the early years, you'd tell people you went to Columbia and they'd say you must have gone to Barnard. It took a while for people to internalize that."

"The energy of the coed classes is very different," says Kyra Tirana Barry '87, president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) and the first alumna to hold that position. "Since we graduated, there have been women who've been engaged and members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Board of Visitors but it takes time and it takes numbers to change the culture and see a shift in the cultural tradition. As we hit this mark of being 25 years since graduation, the time is right and the energy is right for women to have a larger role."

Recognizing that alumnae are a distinct group with different perspectives and preferences than their male counterparts, the Alumni Office in 1989 helped form Columbia College Women. CCW has grown from a handful of women who met in one another's apart-

SPEAKING OF COEDUCATION...

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF
NOTABLE COLUMBIA WOMEN
(answers on page 30)

- Which pioneering anthropologist and colleague of Franz Boas was the first woman to be appointed to a full-time faculty position at Columbia?
- Who broke ground in 1941 as the first woman to be named a full professor at Columbia and throughout the Ivy League?
- Which current chemistry professor was the first College alumna to join the Columbia faculty?
- Which alumna is a contributor to ABC News' *Good Morning America* and a former White House correspondent for NBC News?
- Match the movie or TV show with the alumna who appeared in it:

1 <i>Secretary</i>	A MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL '99
2 <i>The Whole Nine Yards</i>	B JEAN LOUISA KELLY '94
3 <i>10 Things I Hate About You</i>	C AMANDA PEET '94
4 <i>Yes, Dear</i>	D JULIA STILES '05
- Cristina Teuscher '00, who won Olympic medals in swimming in 1996 and 2000, set an impressive number of Columbia swimming records during her time as a Lion. How many?

A 6	B 12	C 17	D 21
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- In which sport did Caitlin Bilodeaux '87 distinguish herself as a two-time NCAA champion and four-time NCAA All-American?
- Who is the only College alumna to serve on the University's Board of Trustees?
- Which female-authored Lit Hum staple begins with the opening line, "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife"?
- What British member of the so-called "Radical Enlightenment" wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, one of CC's two female-authored requirements?
- What book rests on *Alma Mater's* lap?
- Which alumna inspired the Plain White T's' 2007 hit song "Hey There Delilah"?

Women's athletics has grown from eight teams in 1983 to 15 today, including field hockey.



ments to a more visible group that has an executive board, runs a sizeable mentoring program for students (see "Women's Wisdom") and funds a current-use scholarship each year.

"I didn't make a lot of friends on campus. Once I left Columbia, I felt I should start meeting people, and wanted to build an alumni network," says Siheun Song '07, whose gateway to building that network was attending a CCW event at Dylan's Candy Bar in Manhattan. She became involved with the group and now chairs the CCW executive board. "I'm very comfortable in a group of women, and having a group to address women's issues is really important."

Active participation in CCW, however, still is small compared to the number of alumnae. "Barnard has such great programs. I'd love to sit with them and learn from them," Song says. "Barnard is more established, has a greater number of alumnae

and is more experienced at communicating." Aside from several joint reunion events, alumnae activities of the two schools remain largely separated.

In April 2010, another women's group was formed, the Dean's Alumnae Leadership Task Force, with a mission to engage more women in the life of the College. The 23 members have participated in outreach and fact-finding efforts including an alumni survey of members of the Classes of 1987–2010. "I think we'd all felt neglected in a way. There weren't any women who'd been looking out for us," says Sherri Pancer Wolf '90, a member of the task force's regional outreach subcommittee. Wolf hosted a luncheon for Boston-area alumnae, which was attended by the dean. "It was refreshing to find out there were so many successful, interesting women and that they wanted to be involved and engaged," Wolf says.

Barry, a member of the task force in addition to being CCAA president, says, "We want alumnae to be connected because we want them to have a voice at the table and a leadership role in terms of determining how the College moves forward. Women in leadership positions in their careers and in the alumni network is aspirational for the women coming behind us."

Wolf sent her daughters to all-girls high schools. "I'd only want to see them go to a coed college if it has a network in place to support them and guide their success," she says. "I think Columbia has finally reached that point and it will only get better from here."



Shira Boss '93, '97J, '98 SIPA is a contributing writer to CCT.

Some moments transcend any era.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO



Women at the Podium

Coeducation spurred recruitment of female faculty, though parity remains a work in progress

After Columbia admitted its first women students in 1983, the balance of the incoming classes shifted from all-male to a nearly equal mix, with the Class of '87 being 45 percent women. The other side of the lectern, however, remained overwhelmingly male: The Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which includes the College, counted merely 21 tenured women faculty members at the time, representing 7 percent of tenured professors. The decision to go coed inspired the administration to look into hiring and promoting more women faculty but it took a number of years for the movement to take hold, and the issue remains a work in progress at Columbia, as it is on campuses nationwide.

By
Shira
Boss
'93, '97J,
'98 SIPA

"When the [New York] *Daily News* asked me why it was necessary that we admit women to the College, I replied, 'Because half of the smart people in America are women,'" recalls Robert Pollack '61, professor of biological sciences and dean of the College at the time of coeducation. "That remains the case. My colleagues here in the Arts and Sciences and on the Commission on the Status of Women agree we have a lot of work ahead of us if the faculty who teach our students are to be chosen from the very largest pool of the smartest young aspiring professors. When that is so, I am confident that half the faculty will be women as well."

"Reaching parity requires sustained commitment and concerted effort," agrees Andrew Davidson, vice

provost for academic planning, who noted a steady increase over the past 20 years in the proportion of tenure-track and tenured female faculty members in the Arts and Sciences. "A central mission of my office is partnering with the schools across Columbia to enhance faculty and pipeline diversity."

Progress certainly has been made. Women now make up 42 percent of the tenure-track faculty of Arts and Sciences and 27 percent of tenured professors. That's a long way from the 1970s and 1980s, when women professors were so few that they networked over lunch (and didn't need a particularly big table). "Men would come over and ask, 'Are you hatching a conspiracy?'" says Joan Ferrante, professor emerita of English and comparative literature.

In a sense, eventually they did. A group of concerned faculty members from across the University formed a committee in 2004 — cochaired by Alice Kessler-Harris of the Department of History and Susan Sturm of the Law School — to advise the new president, Lee C. Bollinger, on the issue of faculty diversity. Two committee members had been involved in the University Senate's Commission on the Status of Women, which in 2001 produced what became known as "the pipeline report." It showed that except for pockets in the humanities, departments were not hiring women in numbers commensurate with their availability.

Out of the advisory committee's recommendations came a new administrative position, vice provost for diversity initiatives, in



Kathryn Johnston, associate professor of astronomy, teaches Frontiers of Science.

"Hiring female faculty is wonderful, but if you're not getting the women through to the faculty level to be hired, it's a huge problem."

The Miriam Champion Professor of History Martha Howell '79 GSAS has been involved with hiring faculty for decades.



2004, followed by a \$15 million fund with which to recruit women and minority faculty in 2005 and the Office of Work/Life in 2007. "The initiatives led to dramatic improvements in diversity," says Darcy Kelley '70 Barnard, the Harold Weintraub Professor of Biological Sciences, who in 1982 was recruited from Princeton to become the first tenured female professor in the biology department. "It changed the face of the place, particularly noticeable in the sciences. All of our diversity appointments have been extraordinary."

A published account of the committee's efforts explained the importance of revamping the University's hiring practices at the departmental level: "Nothing is more important for the intellectual vitality of a university than the rigor and creativity with which searches are undertaken. To produce better diversity outcomes, every aspect of the process — from where ads are placed to how recruiting visits are structured — had to be examined," wrote Jean Howard, the George Delacorte Professor in the Humanities and former vice provost for diversity initiatives, who co-authored the account in 2007 with Sturm and two law students. To further raise awareness, a series of dinner presentations were made to departmental search committee chairs; the presentations showed how many women and minority candidates had been hired by that department in the past 15 years, compared the statistics to departments at peer institutions and discussed tools to improve outreach and recruitment among those same groups.

Among those hired in 2006 was Kathryn Johnston, associate professor of astronomy, who was recruited from Wesleyan. "I came here thinking I wanted to be somewhere that cares about encouraging diversity in

academia," Johnston says. "There's always the question of whether you should take a job if it's offered under a special program. Will you be stigmatized? I came here wanting to work on these issues but not wanting to be seen as a woman who was hired for being a woman. And I have never felt that."

Johnston is among the four women professors who are teaching the Core Curriculum's "Frontiers of Science" course to first-years this academic year. The others are Kelley, Terry Plank '93 GSAS, a professor of earth science at the College and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and Virginia Cornish '91, the Helena Rubinstein Professor of Chemistry. (Eight professors total teach the course annually.) "It doesn't hurt for the entire incoming class, about 1,200 students, to be taught Frontiers of Science by [a group that's] half women — and spectacular scientists," Kelley says, pointing to her colleagues' achievements in their respective fields.

The humanities and social sciences departments are closer to parity than the natural sciences, mirroring the situation nationwide. The Miriam Champion Professor of History Martha Howell '79 GSAS, who previously chaired the history department, described a time during the 1990s when all new hires were inadvertently male, even though close to half of all the new history Ph.D.s in the country were women. "I chaired some of the committees, I was actively involved, I was watching what was happening, and we hired all men," she recalls. "One day we said, 'My goodness, our junior faculty is all male!' For me that could be interpreted as a sign that we had become gender-blind. In fact, it was a statistical bump: For a few years, the strongest candidates all happened to be male. ... A few years later, the strongest applicants included women and in some cases were mostly women. And so we hired women."

Not all fields enjoy a 50-50 gender mix of graduate students, and the pipeline is a hot topic in diversity: Are enough qualified women and minority candidates available to hire, tenure and form faculties that reflect the population as a whole? "You're not going to get to 50-50 for a long time, because women weren't in the Ph.D. pools 20 or more years ago," Howard says. "You're going to approach parity very slowly. The status you want is: 'Are we hiring women now commensurate with the women available in the pool?'"

Universities develop the very pipeline that they rely on to hire faculty members, so schools like Columbia must pay attention to and promote the diversity of undergraduates and Ph.D. candidates going into underrepresented fields. "Our Admissions Office vigorously recruits qualified female applicants in sciences in an effort to continue to fill the pipeline but we also need to strengthen such collaborations as those with the Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science & Engineering in order to prepare girls for careers in science — especially academic careers," says Kathryn



Yatrakis, dean of academic affairs and senior associate v.p. for arts and sciences.

More difficult to solve is the issue of retention. "In the sciences, especially the biological sciences, women drop out between the post-doc and the first academic position to do things not so draconian in their time demands," Kelley says. "That coincides with the push to start a family."

Johnston says she herself has wondered if she would have waited to have children until she was tenured, had she been at Columbia when she was starting out in academia and not at a smaller school. "That's a very tricky level," she says of women in graduate and post-doc positions. "Hiring [female] faculty is wonderful, but if you're not getting the women through to the faculty level to be hired, it's a huge problem. I'd like to see Columbia do more at the pipeline level."

Policies that help support women have been bolstered by the Office of Work/Life. "It was our parents' generation and the generation before who really had to get in the door, and now there's a substantial presence of women in all faculty. What's harder now is making life work in academia for men and women in a way that fits with everything else you want to do," Johnston says.

Columbia has improved its parental leave policies and helps faculty navigate childcare and public and

independent schools for their children. It also provides some emergency backup care and guidance regarding eldercare. Several lactation rooms around campus are equipped with hospital-grade pumps and are in high demand, mostly by faculty, staff and students who do not have private offices, notes Carol Hoffman, associate provost and director of the Office of Work/Life.

A continuing challenge is availability of affordable, high-quality childcare. As an initial step, Columbia has instituted a new annual benefit of a \$1,000 grant per family for eligible faculty and staff to help cover childcare costs for children under 5. "[Affordable childcare] is a common problem across academia, and particularly in New York because New York is so expensive," Johnston says. "Paying for childcare takes an entire graduate student salary for one child, so you basically can't afford to have children."

Although work-life issues affect both men and women, they traditionally exert a greater influence on women's careers, and benefits are used more heavily by women, Hoffman notes.

"If we really want to integrate women fully into the life of the institution, we need to pay attention to these needs," Howard says. Many women faculty members, she adds, "bring enormous distinction and leadership ability to the University, the departments they belong to and the wider intellectual community."

Darcy Kelley '70 Barnard, the Harold Weintraub Professor of Biological Sciences, works in the lab with Ursula Kwong-Brown '10 (middle) and Irene Ballagh '08 GSAS.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL DAMES



Women's Wisdom

Columbia College Women matches students with alumnae in successful mentorship program

After Sherri Pancer Wolf '90 graduated as a member of the College's fourth coed class, she went to work on Wall Street and encountered a Barnard grad with an advantage: "She had a mentor at the firm via her Barnard network, and I didn't," Wolf says. "I realized what I was missing. It adds great value to have women out there who can support you and counsel you in your career."

For the earliest coed classes, however, there were no College alumnae to call upon for advice and networking. All alumni past their mid-20s were male. Within a few years of the College becoming coed, a handful of alumnae started meeting — at the urging of the Alumni Office — as part of a new group, Columbia College Women (college.columbia.edu/alumni/committees/ccw). From the start, the group focused on staying involved with the Columbia community by developing mentor relationships with female students. "We were all early in our careers, so a lot of it was what you'd call peer mentoring," says Jill Niemczyk Murphy '87, among the first members of CCW.

After 25 years of graduating classes that have been roughly half women, the landscape has changed remarkably. The pool of alumnae has increased, many have reached leadership positions in their careers and all have life experience and wisdom to share. The CCW mentoring program, meanwhile, has grown from 35 one-on-one matches in 1993, its first year, to 180 such matches today; an additional 150 juniors participate in group events. (Before this academic year both juniors and seniors were matched one-on-one with mentors, but when the student application numbers climbed upward of 360, program leaders decided to limit the direct matches to seniors.)

"We've seen tremendous growth this academic year. Women are realizing the importance of networking and putting yourself out there," says Siheun Song '07, chair of the CCW executive board. "It's great to see the network of women support one another and make friends. It is a network that helps women find solutions when navigating a complex, modern world with many demands."

"CCW has been an amazing way for me to get to know not only alumnae but also my peers," says Negin Navab '12, an economics major. "It's created a great sense of community among women in the College and really just a great sense of pride for being part of that community."

While male alumni certainly have been helpful to graduates of both genders, many women express the desire for a network composed of other women. "The workplace is not gender-segregated, and we're not advocating that in this program, but there's a value to women's communities," says Claire Shanley '92, past chair of CCW. "Men are socialized to be networkers in their careers, and women are less comfortable looking out for themselves, celebrating their accomplishments and being more tactical in planning where they want to be in their careers. We emphasize goals, making a career plan and being pragmatic but also strategic about career goals."

Nidhi Hebbar '12, an economics-operations research major, says, "In only a few months, my mentor, Leora Kelman '09, has helped me figure out how to establish a work-life balance to fit my interests, my goals and my priorities, both as a woman and as a student. It's been incredibly helpful to speak with someone who's not only experienced in the professional world but who's also shared many of my own experiences as a woman at Columbia College."

The CCW mentoring program is open to all female seniors and New York-area alumnae. Applications from both sides are matched by CCW volunteers as they have been since the beginning — one by one, by hand — a careful process that ensures the most compatible fits are identified. Last year, it took six people two months to complete the job.

"I have been increasingly and pleasantly surprised by how well the matching process succeeded in pairing similar personalities," says Adria Schulman-Eyink '12, a political science major.

Often a student's career interest is aligned with a mentor's professional experience, but not always. Mary Rutledge '07, for example, works in finance for Citigroup and was matched her first year with a student interested in publishing. "We connected on so many other levels: We both grew up in the South, both love to run and have a lot of other interests in common,"

"The workplace is not gender-segregated, and we're not advocating that in this program, but there's a value to women's communities."

By
Shira
Boss
'93, '97J,
'98 SIPA



Nadia Majid '02 (left) and Victoria Fox '12 take a walk around Morningside Heights.



Elizabeth Chu '12 (left) and Dr. Laura Brumberg '87 meet for coffee and conversation at Le Monde.

PHOTOS: DANIELLA ZALCMAN '09

"Mentoring reminds you why you went into your field and reminds you how much you've learned and how much you have to share."

says Rutledge, who is also chair of the mentoring committee. "It's not just professional mentoring."

Nadia Majid '02 works in digital business development for the NBA and has mentored for the past three years. One mentee was interested in film, another aspired to broadcast journalism and the third, children's programming. "All very different and not necessarily areas I've had experience with directly," Majid says. "The mentoring program is not centered on getting a job, but it's about developing the skills and having the support network that help you to get a job."

That the mentoring program does not function as a job placement service is something the CCW executive board has worked hard to clarify both to students, who can be panicky for employment, and to potential mentors, who often suppose that if they're not in a position to hire a graduate, they are not useful to the program. "We help with networking in general," Majid says. "Students don't have a grasp of how to navigate those opportunities." She adds that mentors guide students in how to build and maintain a professional relationship.

Majid didn't participate in the mentoring program while she was on campus because she hadn't known about it, an issue for many students through the years. Program participation, driven by student demand, has more than doubled in the past three years in part because CCW has enhanced its on-campus presence. Two student CCW board members help get the word out to the student body, and CCW alumnae board members, along with mentor-mentee pairs, hold information sessions on campus. CCW also uses Facebook and LinkedIn to connect with students and alumnae.

Members of the Dean's Alumnae Leadership Task Force — a 23-member alumnae group that aims to engage more women in fundraising and leadership roles — also have made it part of their mission to recruit mentors and to be mentors themselves. Through a 2011 alumni survey and other fact-finding efforts, the task force "found there were many women who hadn't returned to Columbia or hadn't stayed connected but that there are a number of ways women are interested in being involved with the school," says Julie Menin '89, chair of the task force's survey and communications committee, "and the No. 1 way is by mentoring."

Mentors and mentees meet in the fall of the student's senior year at a launch event. In the past, contact

between mentors and mentees tended to fall off after that point due to busy schedules. The program was reorganized in 2009, however, to ensure more contact between students and their mentors as well as among mentors themselves. A contract lays out the responsibilities of each side — for example, that a student must respond to a phone call or email from her mentor within 24 hours. "Part of what we're teaching is responsibility and professional behavior," says Dr. Laura Brumberg '87, who has mentored for the past decade.

"Mentoring reminds you why you went into your field and reminds you how much you've learned and how much you have to share," Brumberg says. "It's interesting to come to an end point and say, 'If I'd known this at the beginning, it would have changed my life, so I'm going to tell you at the beginning.'"

One of her nuggets of wisdom: The most important thing is to attend to one's own happiness and let the rest of life flow from that, rather than the other way around. "It took me a long time to realize that," Brumberg says. "We're taught to defer happiness. But it's not peripheral, it's essential. The response I get from my mentees is, 'You're teaching me a new way of looking at things.'"

In addition to individual mentoring, mentor-mentee pairs are grouped by career interest into teams of five or six pairs. Team leaders organize group get-togethers once per semester, creating an opportunity for both students and mentors to make additional contacts.

Group events have included trips to the Tribeca Film Festival and *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, a brunch and a chef Bobby Flay-style bake-off at alumnae's apartments, an author reading, office tour and more. The legal group last year spoke with a female federal judge, and among the attendees was Nida Vidutis '12, who plans to attend law school. "Her life story, which included a plethora of jobs, made me realize just how much could await me if I used my law degree correctly," she says. "Seeing such a concrete example of success and happiness helped make my own intangible future seem a little more real, and realistic."

In the winter and spring, everyone in the mentoring program gathers again for main events. February 2011 featured "Stand Out Style" at Saks Fifth Avenue. Alumnae who are hiring managers reviewed students' resumes and conducted mock interviews, and a fashion presentation demonstrated how to dress appropriately and affordably for a variety of workplaces.

Many recent graduates are returning to the program as mentors, and many mentors and mentees stay in touch beyond the bounds of the one-year contract.

"I don't shake them. They're not my mentee for one year," says Lisa Carnoy '89, a University trustee and longtime mentor. "I've seen one, Pooja Agarwal '02, through internships, law school, working at a law firm, a move to Philadelphia, and now she's engaged. We're joking that I'm the grandmother."

Answers to "Speaking of Coeducation ..." quiz on page 23

1. Ruth Benedict; she was appointed an assistant professor of anthropology in 1931, and in 1937 became the first woman tenured faculty member when she was promoted to associate professor.
2. Marjorie Hope Nicolson of the Department of English and Comparative Literature.
3. Virginia Cornish '91, who was named an assistant professor of chemistry in 1999. She was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2004 and professor in 2007.
4. Claire Shipman '86, '94 SIPA.
5. 1- A, 2- C, 3- D, 4- B.
6. C- 17.
7. Fencing; Bilodeaux also was selected by the NCAA as the woman fencer of the decade in celebration of the first 10 years of women's athletics in the NCAA.
8. Lisa Carnoy '89, who became a trustee in 2010.
9. *Pride and Prejudice*.
10. Mary Wollstonecraft.
11. The Bible.
12. Delilah DiCrescenzo '05, '11 CE.

Den Mothers

Columbia College alumnae join ranks of legacy parents

In the years since the Class of 1987 graduated, Columbia alumnae have excelled in fields from business and law to philanthropy and the arts. Amid their journeys, many have had children, a handful of whom now attend the College themselves. We spoke to four students, some of the first to have the College legacy gene passed down from mom, and their mothers to learn how this bond shapes their lives. While their academic and extracurricular interests may be different, the pairs share experiences from reading the same lines of *The Iliad* to living in the same residence hall more than a quarter-century apart.

**VIVIAN JONOKUCHI '90
AND ALEX JONOKUCHI '14**

After moving from Queens to suburban New Jersey as a teenager, Vivian Jonokuchi '90 missed the excitement of city life. When she applied to college, she says, "I knew I wanted to be in a diverse environment. And there was no better school in the city [than Columbia]."

She also couldn't believe how long it had taken for the College to accept women, a fact that was un-

derscored when she witnessed the graduation of the first coed class during her freshman year.

Vivian took advantage of all that the College and New York had to offer, especially in the arts. "I remember singing in groups, going out to comedy clubs and seeing Broadway shows in the student nosebleed seats," she says. "Not only are you learning about the arts in class but you're also actually living and enjoying them. It was very exciting."

Now a fitness and dance instructor, Vivian never pressured her son, Alex '14, to apply to Columbia, though she saw similarities in their decision processes. Like his mother, Alex grew up outside the city — in his case, Greenwich, Conn. "His high school was homogenous in terms of cultural diversity," Vivian says, and Alex was ready for a change.

"[Diversity] is not something you know you're missing until you have it," he says of his transition to college. "You appreciate that you aren't limited to one mode of thinking anymore."

Alex also expanded his horizons by joining a fraternity, thus participating in a different social world than his mother did.

"I had no idea I was going to pledge a frat," says Alex, a member of Beta Theta Pi. "A fraternity isn't everything it's made out to be in the movies — and that's a good thing. I've formed some really important relationships that are probably the deepest bonds I have with anyone at school."

Alex works in a neuroscience lab studying neurotransmitters and social behaviors in mice and plans to become a neuroscience major. While he didn't dive into the humanities aspect of the Core like his arts-minded mother, he enjoys knowing they shared that experience. "I'm grateful to have taken those classes," he says. "I see the value in the Core. It keeps me balanced."

By
Karen
Iorio



Vivian Jonokuchi '90 (center) visits campus with her daughter, Olivia, and son Alex '14.

PHOTO: EVAN
JONOKUCHI



Batia Wiesenfeld '88, '96 Business (right) returns to alma mater alongside her daughter, Yael '14.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF Yael WIESENFIELD '14

BATIA WIESENFIELD '88, '96 BUSINESS AND Yael WIESENFIELD '14

Batia Wiesenfeld '88, '96 Business remembers feeling pride and affection for Columbia from a young age, ever since she started hearing about the experiences of her father, Raphael Mishan '61E. Born in Syria, Mishan graduated from college in Israel before coming to the United States to earn a master's in industrial engineering at Columbia. Batia says the University was her father's "first introduction to America and the first step of the rest of his life in America."

An economics and sociology major, Batia says her experience at Columbia opened her to the possibility of becoming a professor herself. "[The Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Social Sciences] Seymour Spilerman told me I should be an academic," she says. "He was very influential."

Batia earned an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from the Business School and went on to teach at NYU's Stern School of Business, where she has been a professor of management specializing in organizational change for 19 years. In addition, she is the Margolis Family Fellow.

Batia also met her husband, Howard Wiesenfeld '87L, on the Columbia campus. They have four children, and Yael, the oldest, never thought she would follow in her parents' footsteps: "I sorta had a desire *not* to go," she says.

But when she was 14, the Wiesenfelds moved from New York City to Westchester; Yael realized how much she missed living in the city and wanted to go back for college. "I had more in common with my parents than I thought," she says, adding that she always thought her mother had "the most boring job in the world." But now, Yael says, "I have to admit, I did love my macroeconomics class."

While her mother uses economic principles to solve business problems, Yael plans to use them in her own way.

"I want to be a fashion designer," she says. "I will probably pursue a double concentration in visual arts and business management, since fashion combines art and business."

The mother-daughter bond extends beyond the classroom. "We both lived on Carman 11," Batia says. "It was hugely senti-

mental moving her in. I knocked on the door of my old room just to see it. It's incredibly affirming that we lived in the same place."

DR. DIANE HILAL CAMPO '87, '91 P&S AND CYNTHIA CAMPO '15

For Dr. Diane Hilal Campo '87, '91 P&S, being part of a Columbia family is nothing new. Growing up, Diane knew of the College's prestige from her late father, Dr. Sadek Hilal, who was director of neuroradiology at Columbia University Medical Center from 1975-95. "He was a big reason I went to Columbia," she says.

She matriculated with her twin, Peter Hilal '87, '91 P&S. The College quickly proved even better than she had imagined. "The administration bent over backward to make women feel comfortable," she says.

Diane took advantage of the opportunities newly

open to women. As a first-year she was president of Carman Hall, and in later years was an organic chemistry TA and chair of the Student Council's Academic Affairs Committee. "Everybody was very welcoming to anything we wanted to study or get involved in," she says of her professors and advisers. And the boys? "Are you kidding? They were thrilled to have more girls on campus."

After medical school, Diane did a year-long internship in internal medicine at Columbia University Medical Center followed by her residency in ophthalmology at Mount Sinai Medical Center. She opened her own ophthalmology practice in Bergen County, N.J., in 1996. "Columbia gave me the confidence to accomplish anything I wanted to do," she says. "I never felt like there was something I couldn't do."

When it came time for her oldest daughter, Cynthia '15, to go to college, Diane didn't want to push her toward her alma mater (and that of Cynthia's father, Diane's former husband, Richard Campo '84, '86 PH). But after touring schools around the country, Cynthia chose to apply early decision to Columbia.

"Both my parents had a really good education," she says. "I was inspired by them."

Cynthia recalls standing next to her mother in an art gallery in Paris: "My mom knew all about the painting we were looking at. I asked how she knew all of this, and she said she remembered it from Art Hum." Cynthia was surprised that her physician mother also had such a strong background in the arts. "I wanted that same well-rounded education," she says.

Cynthia is enjoying creating her own Columbia experience. "I'm interested in majoring in math or science," she says. "I play the flute and I want to try out for wind ensemble." She adds that she can't help but think about her parents as she walks the same paths they once did: "It's hard to think of them being silly teenagers," she says.

As for Diane, she's revisiting her time at the College with new eyes. "The surrounding area is much nicer and safer now," she says. "Move-in was unbelievable. They had people with dollies helping out. When I was moving myself in, there was no organization and no one to help you. I'm proud of the school, and it's only gotten better."

NICOLE GOLUBOFF '87, '90L AND JUSTIN GOLUBOFF '15

Nicole Goluboff '87, '90L grew up with dreams of attending Columbia. Her parents, Joel Belson '54, '64 GSAS and Abby Belson '56 Barnard, '59 GSAS met in school, and she attended Lions football games with them as a kid.

Nicole was elated when the College became coed in time for her to apply. "I felt privileged to be able to apply as a woman," she says. "It was my first choice."

Like her parents, Nicole also met her spouse, Dr. Erik Goluboff '86, on campus — "on my first day as a freshman in my first class."

As a philosophy major, Nicole was surprised her favorite class turned out to be a course on the history of science. "My professor had a lab with instruments he had recreated. They were functional replicas of ones the ancient Greeks used to study astronomy and physics," she says. "Reading the philosophy and then replicating the scientific experiments blew me away. I spent hours and hours in that laboratory."

Nicole earned a J.D. and then practiced commercial litigation. When her son, Justin '15, was born, she started litigating on a telecommuter basis and became a grassroots advocate for telecommuting. "I promote telework as a law practice management strategy and look at the implications of telework," she says.

For Justin, the decision to attend the College was easy. He had visited campus with his family from a young age. "I grew up knowing that I wanted to go [to Columbia] and now I'm here," he says.

Nicole enjoys seeing Justin carry on the Columbia lineage. "It was incredibly moving and powerful to see alumni deliver *The Iliad* to new students [at a summer advising session]," she says. "All people who go to Columbia feel connected by the Core classes, and that's magnified when there are people in your family who experienced that."

Though Justin differs from his mother with respect to his major — he plans to declare math and physics — he believes their experiences will be similar. "There's always the Core," he says. "The beauty of Columbia is that you can always talk about the Core." 📷

"All people who go to Columbia feel connected by the Core classes, and that's magnified when there are people in your family who experienced that."



For Justin Goluboff '15, his father, Erik '86, brother Isaac, and mother, Nicole '87, '90L, Columbia is a family affair.

PHOTO: HAL GOLUBOFF



C O L U M B I A C O L L E G E



ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Fourteen classes will gather this spring for the College's biggest event of the year, Alumni Reunion Weekend. The four-day celebration, Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3, offers the chance for alumni to continue conversations with old friends and begin others anew; to rediscover the campus and the city where they spent so much of their time; and to reconnect with the part of themselves that was found and fostered within the gates at Morningside.

Celebrating this year are alumni from classes ending in 2 and 7 from 1942–2007. Reunion and Dean's Day events (the latter are open to all alumni) will take place on campus and throughout New York City all four days.

For an idea of what to expect at Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day, check out the 2011 Highlights on the reunion website.

Highlights of the weekend will include:

- Campus and library tours;
- Class-specific panels, cocktail receptions and dinners;
- New York City cultural options including Broadway theatre, ballet and the New York Philharmonic;
- "Back on Campus" sessions featuring Public Intellectual Lectures, Mini-Core Curriculum Lectures, presentations, affinity receptions including ones for the Marching Band and varsity athletics, and more as part of Dean's Day on Saturday;
- All-class programs including the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception with dancing, champagne and sweets on Low Plaza; and
- Camp Columbia for little Columbians, ages 3–12.

Thursday, May 31 – Sunday, June 3

Register online (reunion.college.columbia.edu) or return the forms you will receive in the mail.

"Reunion is a terrific time for alumni — I mean former students — to reconnect with one another and the College. You will have the opportunity to hear lectures from many faculty members, some of whom were your professors when you were here, as well as from prominent alumni. I look forward to seeing lots of former students at the reunion, ideally all 45,000 of you."

*James J. Valentini, Dean of Columbia College and
Vice President for Undergraduate Education (Interim)*



General Information

REGISTRATION

Register for Alumni Reunion Weekend online (reunion.college.columbia.edu) or by returning the forms you will receive by mail. *It is recommended you register online if you are purchasing tickets for the ballet, theatre or the New York Philharmonic, or going on the Chelsea Art Gallery Crawl. Availability is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.*

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

Register by Wednesday, May 2, to receive 10 percent off, excluding ballet, theatre or New York Philharmonic tickets.

CONFIRMATION

Upon receiving your registration materials, the Alumni Office will email you a confirmation letter indicating the events you have selected as well as the addresses of off-campus venues. You should receive this within two weeks. *For those registering after Monday, May 14, confirmation materials will be emailed and also available at registration.*

CANCELLATION

A full refund will be granted only if you cancel by Monday, May 14. Between Tuesday, May 15 and Tuesday, May 29, a 50 percent refund will be granted. After Tuesday, May 29, no refund will be granted.

PARKING

Parking is available in two campus garages on a first-come, first-served basis each day. Parking passes will be mailed or emailed to all registrants with their confirmation letter. If you register after Monday, May 14, you will be sent the parking pass via email only, or you may obtain one at the registration desk in Alfred Lerner Hall.

ON-CAMPUS REGISTRATION DESK: ALFRED LERNER HALL

All participants should make Lerner their first stop. Registration, housing information, event tickets, general information and merchandise are located in Lerner. Late arrivals must make arrangements in advance. Registration hours: Thursday, May 31: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.; Friday, June 1: 8 a.m.–9 p.m.; and Saturday, June 2: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

ATTIRE

Casual dress is suggested for daytime activities. Business attire is recommended for dinners and receptions.

LODGING

Housing is available at Carman Hall (West 114th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam and adjacent to Alfred Lerner Hall) for \$123.03 per night for a room (two twin beds and a bathroom) or \$246.06 per night for a suite (two rooms, each with two twin beds, and a bathroom). To make arrangements for Carman Hall, please use the form you will receive in the mail or call Conference Housing: **212-854-0365**. *This is dormitory-style housing.*

There also are a number of hotels close to campus. Refer to the reunion website and the brochure you will receive in the mail for a detailed listing.

COLUMBIA ALUMNI CENTER

Visit the Columbia Alumni Center at 622 W. 113th St., between Broadway and Riverside Drive. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, get advice from an alumni-benefits concierge, relax or read in cozy library chairs, access the Internet and peruse Columbia lore. Special reunion hours: Thursday, May 31: 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.; Friday, June 1: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.; and Saturday, June 2: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Vegetarian meals always are available, and special arrangements are not necessary. Kosher meals cannot be guaranteed if arrangements are not made by Monday, May 14.

CHILDCARE

If you would like more personal childcare or childcare during times not covered by Camp Columbia (see page 37), arrangements may be made directly with the Barnard Babysitting Agency (212-854-2035), barnardbabysitting.com, or Sittercity (sittercity.com; use promo code COLUMBIA12 for 10 percent off the registration fee; parents and sitters negotiate rates directly).

COLUMBIA COLLEGE MERCHANDISE

Merchandise will be available for purchase at the Columbia Bookstore throughout the weekend.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

A listing of local religious services will be available at registration.

“By coming back to campus we renewed our feelings for Columbia as a place for learning, thanks to the Mini-Core Lectures, in addition to renewing many of the friendships we formed years ago.”

Stephen Easton '56

CHANGING ROOMS

On-campus changing rooms will be available on Saturday, June 2. Please visit the registration desk for more information.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Should you require assistance during your campus visit, we will be pleased to help with accommodations. However, to ensure that your needs are met, please contact us by Monday, May 14, to secure the necessary arrangements. Direct all requests to Fatima Yudeh, alumni affairs assistant: 212-851-7834 or ccreunion@columbia.edu.

DODGE PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER

The Dodge Physical Fitness Center will be open to alumni on Friday, June 1, and Saturday, June 2, from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Access to the track, basketball and squash courts, weight rooms, exercise machines and pool is granted with a ticket available at registration.

CLASS PHOTOS

Photos will be taken during class dinners on Saturday, June 2, unless indicated otherwise. If you wish to appear in the photo, please arrive by 6:30 p.m.

ALUMNI OFFICE STAFF CONTACT

Fatima Yudeh, alumni affairs assistant: 212-851-7834 or ccreunion@columbia.edu.



All-Class Events

For details on all events, refer to the Alumni Reunion Weekend materials you will receive in the mail, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu, contact the alumni affairs staff member handling your class, reunion.college.columbia.edu/contact, or refer to the box at the top of your Class Notes column in this issue.

Thursday,
May 31

7:30 P.M.

New York City Ballet

Jeu de Cartes, Stravinsky / Martins: A whimsical display of classical technique, *Jeu de Cartes* pairs fleet-footed choreography with Stravinsky's boisterous and wildly rhythmic score. *New Millepied*, Muhly / Millepied: Choreographer Benjamin Millepied will create a new ballet to a commissioned score by his frequent collaborator, American contemporary composer Nico Muhly '03. *Tchaikovsky Suite No. 3*, Tchaikovsky / Balanchine: Opening on a romantic note, each section of *Tchaikovsky Suite No. 3* swells with ardor, culminating in a radiant, majestic finale.

The New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center

Carmina Burana: Conducted by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, this program features Falla: Selections from *Atlántida* and Orff: *Carmina Burana*. Featured artists are Erin Morley, soprano; Nicholas Phan, tenor; Jacques Imbrailo, baritone; Orfeón Pamplonés, chorus; Igor Ijurra Fernández, director; Brooklyn Youth Chorus, chorus; and Dianne Berkun, director.

"The piece de resistance for me was dancing to a live band on Low Plaza at midnight."

Mark H. Hansen '81

8 P.M.

Broadway Theatre

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Best Man

A play about power, ambition, political secrets, ruthlessness and the race for the presidency, *Gore Vidal's The Best Man* makes its return to Broadway in its first major revival since its critically acclaimed run in 2000.

Porgy and Bess

Now renamed *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, this legendary musical comes to Broadway for the first time in more than 35 years in a new staging. The classic story by DuBose and Dorothy Heyward is set in Charleston's fabled Catfish Row.

War Horse

War Horse travels from the verdant English countryside to the fields of France and Germany at the outbreak of WWI. A boy's beloved horse has been sold to the cavalry and shipped to France. The boy, now a young man, cannot forget his horse, and embarks

on a treacherous mission to bring him home.

New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic and Broadway theatre presented in partnership with the Columbia Alumni Arts League (alumniarts.columbia.edu).

Friday, June 1

9 A.M.

Essentials of Estate Planning Breakfast: What you need to know without paying expensive legal fees to learn it

Michelle Cass, Columbia's executive director for gift planning, will address the group and answer questions.

10 A.M.

Chelsea Art Gallery Crawl

An interactive conversation with a collector and an artist. Tour includes lunch and will end at

approximately 3 p.m. Not recommended for children under 12; requires considerable walking.

11 A.M.

Back on Campus Sessions

Back on Campus sessions are free for reunion attendees but pre-registration is required.

Mini-Core Courses

Contemporary Civilization: Modeling the State on the Self: Plato and Rousseau, with Carol Rovane, professor, religion

Art Humanities: The Body as Masterpiece, from the Greeks to the Present, with Francesco de Angelis, associate professor, Roman art and archaeology

Alumni Book Forum: Toni Morrison's A Mercy, with Farah Jasmine Griffin, the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies

Global Core: Ancient and Medieval Global Seafaring and the Traveling Tale, with Patricia Grieve, the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Professor of Humanities, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures and chair, Subcommittee on Major Cultures

Engineering Lecture

From Sorcery to Science: How Hollywood Physics Impacts the Sciences, with Eitan Grinspun, associate professor, computer science

Butler Library Tour

Campus Tour

Northwest Science Building Tour

Taste of New York

Sample foods from all over the world.

University Archives Exhibit: Coeducation

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of the graduation of Columbia College's first fully coed class, the University Archives will be displaying photos, newspaper articles and other materials from its collection. This is a rare opportunity to see how the Columbia community handled this important time in the College's history. These documents will be on display in the University Archives, located in Butler Library's Rare Book & Manuscript Library, sixth floor, during Alumni Reunion Weekend.



All-Class Events

2 P.M.

Back on Campus Sessions

Back on campus sessions are free for reunion attendees but pre-registration is required.

Mini-Core Courses

Literature Humanities: *The Afterworld in Homer, Vergil, Dante and Boccaccio*, with Teodolinda Barolini '78 GSAS, chair, Department of Italian, and the Da Ponte Professor of Italian

Music Humanities: *Beethoven's Fifth Symphony: Transfiguration of the Classical Style*, with Walter Frisch, director of Graduate Studies of Music and the H. Harold Gumm/Harry and Albert von Tilzer Professor of Music

Frontiers of Science: *The Brain and Its Mysterious Ways*, with Ivana Hughes, lecturer in discipline, chemistry

Café Humanities: *Happiness in Hellenistic Philosophy*, with Katharina Volk, professor of classics and chair, Department of Classics

Engineering Lecture

How Our Future Computers Will Run on Light, with Keren Bergman, the Charles Batchelor Professor of Electrical Engineering and chair, Department of Electrical Engineering

Manhattanville Briefing

An overview of Columbia's plans for expansion into Manhattanville.

Special Collections Library Tours

Tour special collections in the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library and the C.V. Starr East Asian Library.

Facilities Tour

Go deep underground for a tour of what keeps the University running. *This tour involves going up and down several staircases.*

7 P.M.

Tri-College Shabbat Services and Dinner

Join alumni from the College, Barnard and Engineering for services to welcome Shabbat, followed by a traditional Shabbat Dinner and program.

Saturday,
June 2

8:30 A.M.

Dean's Continental Breakfast

This all-class convocation will feature Interim Dean James J. Valentini delivering a State of the College Address. The President's Cup also will be presented.

9:30 A.M.

Camp Columbia for Kids

Columbia has hired Corporate Kids Events, a leader in national and international corporate childcare, to provide children ages 3–12 with a day full of creative and enriching programs, ensuring fun and safety for all Columbians. *Program ends promptly at 10 p.m.*



10:30 A.M.

Admissions Presentation and Annual ARC Reception

Dean's Day 2012

Climate change, cancer research, brain mapping, the size and nature of the universe — from the incredibly tiny to the unimaginably vast, this year's Public Intellectual

Lectures spur dialogue on science and the public interest. Not lectures at all, these will be conversations among faculty, alumni and audience members that map the horizons in fields where Columbia is breaking new ground and will explore what such breakthroughs may mean for all of us.

2–3:30 P.M.

Mini-Core Courses

Frontiers of Science: *The Manhattan Project: Then and Now*, with Emlyn Hughes '87 GSAS, professor, physics

Literature Humanities: *How Literature Humanities Makes Us Wise*, with Christia Mercer, the Gustave M. Berne Professor and Chair of Literature Humanities

Contemporary Civilization: *Science and Human Nature in CC: Aristotle, Hobbes, Hume*, with Matthew Jones, the James R. Barker Associate Professor of Contemporary Civilization and Chair of Contemporary Civilization

Music Humanities: *Mozart's Don Giovanni and the Literary Imagination*, with Elaine Sisman, the Anne Parsons Bender Professor of Music and Chair of Music Humanities

The Magill Lecture in Science, Technology and the Arts

This lecture explores the synergy between art and science and is a celebration of the pioneers who bridge the gap between artistic and scientific endeavors.

Center for Career Education Presentation

3:30 P.M.

Campus Tour

Affinity Group Receptions

- Columbia University Marching Band
- Varsity Athletics
- Afternoon Tea and Music of Columbia Concert

5:15 P.M.

Wine Tasting: "A Passport to the World"

Our sommelier offers a sampling of wines from all parts of the world; all are affordable and readily available at local wine shops.

5:30 P.M.

Tri-College LGBTQ Tea

All are welcome to mix and mingle over tea on the Barnard campus.

10 P.M.

Starlight Reception

Low Plaza is transformed into a ballroom under the stars, complete with champagne and sweets.

Sunday, June 3

9:30 A.M.

Reunion Brunch: *The New York Times, Bagels and Lox*

Do what any self-respecting New Yorker does on a Sunday morning: Sip a cup of coffee, nosh on a bagel, cream cheese and lox, and read a section or two of *The New York Times*. It's a casual gathering to bid classmates and friends farewell.





Class-Specific Events

For details on all events, refer to the Alumni Reunion Weekend materials you will receive in the mail, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu, contact the alumni affairs staff member handling your class, reunion.college.columbia.edu/contact, or refer to the box at the top of your Class Notes column in this issue.

Wednesday, May 30 50th Reunion Only

6 P.M.

Class of 1962 Opening Reception

Classmates gather with members of the administration for a special reception at the President's House.

"Columbia will once again offer the best of the city and the College during reunion. See old friends, make new ones, take a class or enjoy a cultural event. I hope you can join us."

*Kyra Tirana Barry '87
President, CCAA*

Reunion 2012 on Your Smartphone

Need reunion information on the go? Find it on your smartphone. The free mobile application has a number of interactive features that put Alumni Reunion Weekend 2012 at your fingertips, including the complete schedule of events, directions and a "Who's Coming" list for each class. Those who use an iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad can search Apple's App Store for "Columbia Alumni Reunion Weekend" for the app. BlackBerry, Droid and other smartphone users can view mobile-friendly reunion information by clicking reunion.college.columbia.edu on their mobile browsers.

Thursday, May 31

11:45 A.M.

Class of 1962 Picnic

1:30 P.M. (select one)

Class of 1962 Tour of Baker Athletics Complex

Class of 1962 Tour of Campus

3:30 P.M.

Class of 1962 Panel Discussion

Join classmates and their guests for a riveting and timely conversation moderated by two classmates.

5:30 P.M.

Class of 1957 Reception

Jim Barker hosts classmates and friends at the New York Yacht Club. *Business attire required.*

Class of 1962 Reception

Join friends and classmates at

the midtown home of a fellow Columbian for an evening of fun and nostalgia.

Class of 1967 Reception

Robert and Pamela Rosenberg host classmates at their home for cocktails.

Class of 1972 Tour and Reception

Join classmates for a casual stroll along the High Line Public Park, followed by a private reception at the Yossi Milo Gallery in Chelsea.

6 P.M.

Class of 1977 Tour and Reception

Classmates gather for a tour of the Northwest Science Building, followed by a reception at Pisticci.

Class of 1982 Reception

Classmates gather at the Thomson Reuters building.

Class of 1992 Reception

Classmates gather at Locanda Verde.

6:30 P.M.

Class of 1987 Reception

Kyra and Dave Barry host class-

mates and friends at their waterfront Hoboken home.

7 P.M.

Class of 2002 Reception

Classmates gather at Slate.

Class of 2007 Reception

Classmates gather at Lerner Party Space.

Friday, June 1

9:30 A.M.

Class of 1962 Cruise and Luncheon

4 P.M.

Class of 1972 Museum Tour

Join classmates for a tour of the renovated American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Classmates meet in front of the main hall in the lobby of the Metropolitan Museum of Art promptly at 4 p.m.*

4:30 P.M.

Class of 1967 Reception

The Ivy Lounge at Faculty House

5:15 P.M.

Class of 1987 High Line Tour

6 P.M.

Class of 1952 Dinner

The Library at Casa Italiana

Class of 1957 Dinner

15th Floor Foyer (SIPA)



Class-Specific Events

Class of 1962 Dinner

Bill Campbell hosts classmates at Smith and Wollensky.

Class of 1972 Reception

Richard Kurnit hosts classmates at his midtown office.

6:30 P.M.

Class of 1977 Tour and Reception

Join classmates for a tour of the Museum of Modern Art, followed by a reception hosted by Bill Gray at his office.

Class of 1982 BBQ

University lawn



Class of 1987 Reception

Classmates gather for cocktails at The Standard Hotel.

Class of 1992 Reception

7 P.M.

Class of 1997 Reception

G2 Lounge at Gaslight

Class of 2002 Reception

Hudson Terrace; a private event before the Young Alumni Party.

Class of 2007 Reception

Lucky Strike Lanes; bowling before the Young Alumni Party.

10 P.M.

Young Alumni Party

The U.S.S. *Intrepid* is the young alumni port-of-call for College sailors and mates. Join Engineering, Barnard and GS friends and classmates for dancing, flight simulation, food and limited open bar. *Tickets will be available for \$25 in advance at college.columbia.edu/intrepid or for \$35 at the Intrepid on the night of the event.*

Saturday, June 2

12 P.M.

Alumni Luncheon

Held on the University's lawns. The Classes of '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02 and '07 may participate.



Class Luncheons

Class of 1942

Core Conference Room, Hamilton Hall – *The class photo will be taken after the luncheon.*

Class of 1947

Tauber Room, Butler Library – *The class photo will be taken after the luncheon.*

Class of 1952

Faculty House

Class of 1957

Library, Casa Italiana

Class of 1962

Il Teatro, Casa Italiana

Class of 1967

C.V. Starr, Butler Library

Class of 1972

15th Floor Foyer, SIPA

2–3 P.M.

Class of 1972 Discussion

Your Second Career: 40 Years After College, Time To Figure the Next 40 Years. Join classmates for an open mic session modified by Richard Kurnit.

5 P.M.

Class of 1982 Reception

Join classmates for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on the steps of Hamilton Hall.

6:30 P.M.

Class Cocktails and Dinners

Class of 1952

Tauber Room, Butler Library

Class of 1957

Faculty House

Class of 1962

Rotunda, Low Library

Class of 1967

Northwest Science Building

Class of 1972

Library, Casa Italiana

Class of 1977

Faculty Room, Low Library

Class of 1982

Wien Reference Room 311, Butler Library

Class of 1987

Il Teatro, Casa Italiana

Class of 1992

15th Floor Foyer, SIPA

Class of 1997

C.V. Starr East Asian Library, Kent Hall

Class of 2002

South Lawn West Tent

Class of 2007

South Lawn East Tent

All reunion dinners include the all-class Wine Tasting, class-only cocktails, class-only dinner and the all-class Starlight Reception.

Sunday, June 3

9:30 A.M.

Class of 1962 Brunch and Farewell

Faculty Room, Low Library

12 P.M.

Class of 1962 Tour of WTC Construction Site

Classmate Stan Lupkin, integrity monitor for the construction of 1 WTC, formerly known as the "Freedom Tower," has arranged for a VIP tour of the WTC construction site. *Space is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Transportation to and from campus will be provided. Tour will end by 2 p.m.*

Events, locations and times are subject to change. A final schedule will be provided to you at registration at Alfred Lerner Hall. For events with bus transportation, departure times will also be available at registration.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO AND MICHAEL DIVITO

When Columbia Football Ruled the Ivies

Yes, there was a time when Columbia football stood atop the Ivy League. The year was 1961, and the seniors on that team, members of the Class of 1962, are preparing to celebrate their 50th reunion. In December, the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, the student newspaper of Columbia University, published an extensive lookback at Columbia's only championship football team, written by Jim Pagels '13: "The Only 'Columbia': Remembering the Ivy League Champions from 1961." Read it at columbiaspectator.com/2011/12/09/football-championship-50th-anniversary.



Jason Epstein '49:

Publishing Icon, Perennial Student

His long editing career is an extension of his Columbia education

BY EUGENE L. MEYER '64



ason Epstein '49, '50 GSAS emerged from Columbia College a bright, young graduate in a postwar world without a clear lens into his future. Despite Columbia honors that would come to him years later, he seldom went back to campus. Still, the spirit of Columbia never left him.

As a distinguished book editor, publisher and entrepreneur, Epstein continued to learn and, although he might be reluctant to say so himself, to become a learned man. "It was as if Columbia never stopped," he says. "The authors I admired and benefited from are the ones I could learn something from. They did all the work, and I ended up learning all about it. It was like being back at Columbia. Columbia is really an ongoing experience."

Jason Epstein '49, '50 GSAS in his Centre Street living room with his 6-year-old Cocker Spaniel, Hamlet. Epstein's life's work as an editor and publisher can be seen in the thousands of books that fill his two homes.

PHOTO: CHUCK ZOVKO



“I immediately took to the College. It was totally absorbing, thrilling, changed my life.”

In what other field, he asks, could one continue to learn so much from so many? That is a modest self-assessment from an iconic figure in the world of books, the man who edited and published Norman Mailer, Gore Vidal, E.L. Doctorow, Alice Waters, Paul Goodman, Jane Jacobs and Philip Roth. “I was W.H. Auden’s editor — not that he needed one,” Epstein says. “I published an awful lot.”

He has done much more than that. He is the start-up king of the literary set. With Anchor Books, Epstein invented the trade paperback. He worked with critic Edmund Wilson to start the Library of America. He created *The Reader’s Catalog*, with 40,000 backlist titles. He co-founded *The New York Review of Books*. Most recently, he moved into print-on-demand with the Espresso Book Machine.

“I like to start things. I don’t like to run them,” Epstein confesses. “I’m not good at running a business. I’m very disorganized.”

But in the space of one singular career, Epstein, 83, has time-traveled from the centuries-old era of the Gutenberg printing press to the new age of e-publishing, while never losing his focus on content, whatever the format. “To Jason Epstein,” reads the simple dedication in Doctorow’s Depression gangster novel *Billy Bathgate*. And Saul D. Alinsky, who wrote the still-in-print book Epstein edited on community organizing, dedicated *Rules for Radicals* to him “for his prodding, patience and understanding, and for being a beautiful editor.”

Of Alinsky, Epstein says, “I liked him. He was charming, a solid character who was basically a conservative, as I am, who wants to protect what’s worth protecting. Those right-wingers think he was a raving Bolshevik. He was anything but.” Which reminds him, by the way, of Jacobs’ influential *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, which he also edited. “She was the same kind of conservative Saul was. I recently wrote an introduction to the 50th anniversary edition” of Jacobs’ book, originally published in 1961.

Epstein also cooks and bakes, and he wrote a 2009 memoir, *Eating*, that combines recipes and recollections. He’s even been known to send pastry-dough-covered manuscripts back to writers. He’s a great storyteller who spices his anecdotes with sentences that begin “my friend” Barney Rosset, referring to the iconoclastic publisher of the long-gone, once avant-garde Grove Press; “my friend” Robert Lowell, the American poet; and “my old friend” Gore Vidal, whom “I haven’t spoken to in years to preserve what’s left of our friendship.”

Norman Mailer, “on the other hand, takes all your advice and then ignores it completely. Oh, what the hell. I loved him. His loss is a terrible thing to me, because I loved publishing his books. Basically, he was a very decent guy, a family man, who liked to pretend he was nuts. Underneath it, he was a nice Jewish kid from Brooklyn.”

Many of the luminaries with whom Epstein associated are gone. “You’d have to be in heaven to find most of them, I think,” he says. But fortunately, not all. There is, for one, Edgar L. Doctorow, the acclaimed novelist, whom Epstein calls “sweet, a pleasure to work with.” Doctorow, reached at his Upper East Side residence, returns the compliment.

“Through several books he was quite an editor,” Doctorow says. “He would ask very mild questions about small things

where he felt there was a flaw. Then you’d look at this little flaw and it would grow in magnitude, and you’d realize he’d put his finger on a very important issue.”

Epstein was born August 25, 1928, an only child, and grew up in Milton, Mass., where his father was a partner in a textile factory. Milton, a southwestern Boston suburb, was then populated largely by upwardly mobile Irish-Americans. “I think I was the only Jew and there was one black fellow,” he recalls. “When my friends went to catechism, I traipsed along behind them.” Epstein, who graduated from high school at 15, had a cousin who was working for Columbia University Press, and he followed him to Morningside, arriving in 1945. Tuition was \$400 a term.

Epstein settled into a 10th-floor single, room 1005, in Livingston Hall. He was just a babe in arms, a young kid on a campus crawling with veterans five and 10 years older. “There was a kind of sophistication atypical of freshman classes,” he remembers. “This supplemented what I got from [faculty] staff.” Full professors taught humanities and the Core Curriculum. His teachers included Quentin Anderson ’37, ’53 GSAS; Joseph Krutch ’24 GSAS; Mark Van Doren ’21 GSAS; Eric Bentley; and Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS. Andrew Chiappe ’33, ’39 GSAS taught him Shakespeare.

“I was in awe, in retrospect,” Epstein says.

The College was, he recalls, “a very intimate place. The school seemed tiny, with maybe 400 in a class year. There was great spirit. Everyone wanted to learn something. I immediately took to it. It was totally absorbing, thrilling, changed my life. I never thought for a moment what I would be doing for a living. But the rest of my life reflects that first exposure to the humanities program.”

Epstein studied history and literature and was involved in the humor magazine *Jester*. He remembers “stumbling” into Philo-lexian, the literary debating society, which gave him its Award for Distinguished Literary Achievement in 2007. In 1988, Epstein received the College’s prestigious John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

Epstein’s bachelor’s came with special distinction in English. Another year in graduate school at Columbia earned him a master’s in English literature. His thesis was titled “Anatomy of Melancholy.” But melancholic he was not, just unsure of what to do with his life. One day, after browsing in the old Dauber & Pine used bookstore on lower Fifth Avenue, he drifted to the theater next door; it was showing a Ben Hecht movie, *The Scoundrel*, based on the life of Horace Liveright, publisher of Ernest Hemingway, Theodore Dreiser and Gertrude Stein. “I saw the movie and decided that was the business for me. I could make a living. I spent lot of time at the Columbia bookstore, so I knew what a bookstore looked like.”

Epstein is relating all of this at his kitchen table, where he is sipping a Diet Coke, his beverage of choice. He lives in a spacious and airy five-room apartment in the former NYC police headquarters — a Beaux Arts building converted in 1988 to 55 co-op units in the middle of Little Italy — with his wife of 18 years, former *New York Times* reporter Judith Miller, and their 6-year-old black Cocker Spaniel, Hamlet.

"He's an encyclopedia. He's unbelievable," Miller says. "There is nobody like him. I've met so many world leaders, great thinkers; he's a class unto himself."

They are in a sense the odd couple: They disagree over many political issues but are intensely loyal to one another. Her coverage of the lead-up to the Iraq war was controversial and regarded as pro-war. He wrote an early piece in *The New York Review of Books* in opposition.

"I wish she'd paid more attention to it. We might not have gone to war," he says. But Epstein is fiercely proud of Miller's decision to go to jail to protect a confidential source in the Valerie Plame affair. During her incarceration, he visited her regularly at a federal facility in Alexandria, Va. "It was harder on him in some ways than it was on me," she says. "He's a very sensitive individual, hates noise and bright lights. It was hard for him seeing me in jail."

Epstein says he paid about \$1 million for their apartment. A

of *Freedom*, was an attack on McCarthyism by Francis Biddle, a former attorney general and the primary judge at the Nuremberg Trials. It was published in 1951 and reviewed on the front page of *The New York Times Book Review*.

Editing, Epstein says, came naturally to him. "It's a complicated skill that involves more than helping the writer find a voice and organizing a paragraph," he says. "It requires tact. Some writers accept advice gratefully. Others don't. The trick is to avoid the latter. My task is to ask the right questions and their task is to answer them. In this way we both benefit."

Early in his editing career, Epstein had an epiphany. "My sophisticated friends at Columbia on the GI bill couldn't afford to buy the books they had to read," he recalls. "I said, 'Why not a paperback series? A good paperback edition, not pulp?'" He proposed the idea to Ken McCormick, editor-in-chief of Doubleday,



Epstein with Allen Ginsberg '48 at Epstein's Random House office in the early '60s. Epstein displays this photo in his home.

PHOTO: COURTESY JASON EPSTEIN '49, '50 GSAS

four-bedroom unit there was recently listed for \$14.5 million. The couple also has a home in Sag Harbor, on eastern Long Island, where they were married and where Epstein likes to garden, growing mostly herbs.

Epstein has wispy, snow white hair, and he is wearing a gray sweater and corduroy pants, looking like a professor emeritus. On the table are three paperbacks: *The Road: Stories, Journalism, and Essays*, a recently published collection by the late Soviet writer Vasily Grossman; *A Writer at War: A Soviet Journalist with the Red Army, 1941–1945*, also by Grossman; and Edward P. Jones' novel *The Known World*, which won a Pulitzer. "He has the gift," Epstein says of Jones, whose book about a black antebellum slave owner he was just finishing. "He's a genius."

To find his first job in publishing, Epstein thumbed through the phone book, alphabetically noting first Appleton, then Doubleday. He was the second trainee hired by Doubleday and Co., and soon after an editor there; the first book he edited, *The Fear*

as they were walking across Central Park. "McCormick said, 'Oh, go ahead and do that.' That was the beginning of Anchor Books, which, to my amazement, revolutionized the book business. Before other publishers piled on, we'd established ourselves as the main thing." It was 1953. Epstein was 25.

"Time went by," Epstein says, by way of transitioning into another story of literary luck. As it happened, Anchor Books had published in paperback Edmund Wilson's *To the Finland Station*, about the run-up to the Russian revolution, and the two had become friends. Epstein and his then-wife, Barbara, were visiting the author in Wellfleet, on Cape Cod, when Wilson took down from his study shelves two manuscripts. One was a racy novel by Vladimir Nabokov, who at that point wanted to remain anonymous. "It was *Lolita*, of course," Epstein says. "I read it and thought it was very funny. But in those days, you published a book like that at your risk." He showed it to McCormick. "We agreed it was a hot potato." So instead of publishing the book,

In his 1999 seminal library lectures, Epstein recalls, “I said the future would be digital and that would change everything.”

they published an excerpt in *The Anchor Review*, a quarterly periodical of stories and essays.

“I did it without checking with the president of the company,” he says. Disillusioned with Doubleday, “I said, ‘The hell with this.’ I quit. Of course, nobody went to jail because [part of *Lolita*] was in *Anchor Review*. *Lolita* was later published by Putnam to great acclaim.”

That year, 1958, fate came calling once more in the form of Bennett Cerf '20, the longtime head of Random House who was then busy being a television personality — primarily as a panelist on the game show *What's My Line?* — and giving talks. Cerf offered Epstein what was essentially the top job at Random House with the stipulation that he could start his own publishing house, so long as it wasn't competitive.

Epstein's Random House office, he recalls, was “a wonderful townhouse mansion on Madison Avenue.” In fact it was the 1884 building commissioned by railroad magnate Henry Villard, today a historical landmark. Random House occupied the northwest wing, where “authors would come and wander around. We had [James] Michener and [John] O'Hara and Robert Penn Warren. It was [like] being back at Columbia, but making a living, not much of a living, but enough. Those years were pure joy.”

On the side, Epstein started a small children's book business, Looking Glass Library, publishing in 1961 *The Phantom Tollbooth*, by Brooklyn architect Norton Juster. It was illustrated by Jules Feiffer and, Epstein notes, “became a classic, a big success. We sold that business to Random House” in 1960.

The New York newspaper strike of 1962–63 gave rise to *The New York Review of Books*, now a biweekly magazine on culture, literature and current events. The first issue was thrown together in a few weeks to fill the vacuum created by the strike. Robert Lowell and his wife, Elizabeth Hardwick, were by then Epstein's neighbors. “Lizzy had just written a piece in *Harper's* saying how terrible *The New York Times Book Review* was. All of us said together at once, ‘We have an obligation to do one.’”

Epstein and Lowell went to the latter's bank; Lowell withdrew \$4,000 from his trust fund. Epstein “put in a little.” They sold \$10,000 in ads and had “enough to pay the printer.” They solicited top writers to write — for free — and a dozen signed up. They put out the first issue in 10 days, 100,000 preprinted copies that “sold out immediately,” Epstein recalls. Key to the operation were the co-editors, Epstein's then-wife, Barbara, and Robert Silvers, who had edited *Harper's Magazine*. They continued together until Barbara died in 2006. Silvers is still at it. The *Review's* “very influential” circulation today is 130,000–140,000, Epstein says.

Silvers recalls how Epstein recruited him with a single phone call. “Jason said this is the only time that a new book review can be started,” because of the newspaper strike. Silvers agreed and recruited Barbara. (She and Epstein had a son, Jacob, an author and TV writer, and a daughter, Helen '86 GSAS, an author, teacher and molecular biologist.) “It was Jason's inspiration,” Silvers says, “to see this was one moment you could put out the maga-

zine” on a shoestring. Silvers credits Epstein also with setting up a company to publish the *Review* in such a way that business concerns did not trump editorial freedom.

“He did all this while still being a senior editor and wildly admired editor at Random House,” Silvers says. “He had the idea and the crucial plan for setting it up, and, by the way, he wrote in that first issue a very good article on W.H. Auden, a very finely done piece that showed Jason's appreciation of poetry and knowledge of Auden's work.” Epstein has written regularly for the *Review* in the years since. “He's a very serious student of the history of the city and also of its problems,” Silvers says. “He's also written about the history of books and about publishing.”

Epstein's *Book Business: Publishing Past Present and Future* appeared in 2002. It was based on a series of lectures he had given at the New York Public Library three years earlier on the future of the industry, in which he forecast the digitized future. “To my utter amazement,” he says, the book has been translated into 10 languages and remains in print — in paperback and, electronically, on Kindle, Amazon's e-reader.

In the seminal lectures, which drew a mostly younger audience, Epstein recalls, “I said the future would be digital and that would change everything.” The technology, he added, would radically decentralize the marketplace. The lectures, first published in *The New York Review of Books*, prompted a call from a man in St. Louis who had invented a device to print books on demand. Epstein made a deal to purchase the patent, and there are now some 60 Espresso Book Machines in bookstores here and abroad. The device is about as big as a full-sized office copier. A high-speed printer prints both sides of a sheet, at a speed of 100 pages or more a minute. A finishing device receives the pages, trims and binds them. The content is all transmitted electronically from publishers. All paperbacks, the books cost approximately \$10–\$25. Though Epstein is chairman of the company, print-on-demand books are hard to find in his own vast home library. “Most of my books pre-date the machine,” he explains, though he does keep an Espresso copy of Einstein's book on the theory of relativity.

Epstein also boosted the book business by helping to found the Library of America in 1979. It began when he met Edmund Wilson at the Princeton Club bar for drinks. Wilson asked why this country couldn't have — like France — a complete canon of great books. Epstein said, “Good idea, but we need a lot of subsidy to create the inventory.” Their initial fundraising efforts were unsuccessful. But Epstein knew McGeorge Bundy, who had served as national security adviser to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, and who was leaving the Ford Foundation, where he'd been president. Bundy offered to throw in \$50,000 in Ford funds if it were matched by the National Endowment for the Humanities. And it was.

“I got it going, gave it shape,” Epstein says of the library, which has published more than 200 books. “I'm not involved now, but I'm very proud. It's an indispensable part of our heritage.”

Epstein also initiated *The Reader's Catalog*, an annotated listing of 40,000 books. The idea was to have buyers call a toll-free

number to place their orders. But due to shipping and handling costs, "the more books we sold, the more money we lost. Projecting losses in the hundreds of millions, we gave it up." The catalog now is available on Amazon.

Even as he embraces new technology professionally, Epstein remains personally wary of it. His wife has an iPad; he doesn't. "I had a Kindle. It depresses me. I don't even know where it is now." He says that such devices are OK for ephemera. "But I think it's very important to keep physical books," of which he admits to having, perhaps, too many, in his apartment and in his home in Sag Harbor.

An iPad or Kindle is fine for books you "leave at the summer house or read on the train" but not for those "that speak to our civilization, without which we wouldn't be human, or we'd all be savages again. That would be the end of all I loved in Columbia."

Notwithstanding the notion that all knowledge can reside in the ether, Epstein warns that while "digital storage may be a wonder-

Epstein has an office in the apartment but, aside from a plaque in the bathroom honoring her commitment to the First Amendment, there is no sign of Miller. She works instead at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank, and has "my own area" at the Sag Harbor house, among his books and her extensive collection of old typewriters.

Officially, Epstein retired in 1999, but he's editing a work about the New Testament Book of Revelation by Princeton's Elaine Pagels, the Harrington Spear Paine Foundation Professor of Religion. (He also edited Pagels' previous book on the Gnostic Gospels.) Her latest, which he calls "the capstone of her career," is to be published by Penguin. "We've been working on it for a couple of years; it's very revealing about the history of Christianity," Epstein says. With Pagels, Epstein is once more on the learning track but, of course, it's a two-way street.

Pagels, who is used to writing academic papers, says she has learned a lot from Epstein. "First of all he's brilliant, quite remarkable; he actually taught me how to write in lot of ways. He's an



Epstein's latest venture is working with On Demand Books to get its Espresso Book Machine, for which he owns the patent, into more bookstores domestically and abroad. The above machine is at McNally Jackson Books on Prince Street in New York City.

PHOTO: CHUCK ZOVKO

ful innovation, it's very fragile." He asserts, "Books have to be scattered around to become permanent and survive dictators."

Epstein's books are indeed scattered around. In his apartment, they are shelved in floor-to-ceiling built-ins in a large open space. A large oak table he bought in a London antique shop is covered with low-lying stacks. Only one smaller mahogany table, tucked in an alcove, is free of them. "I've learned to throw out books," he says, alluding to presidential biographies ("They're all fakes, anyway"), but the words lack conviction. Still, he says, "I have to. There's no place to put anything. ... I put them in boxes and in storage in the basement of this building. Some I put in the trash." Some wind up in his son's barn in New England.

"Look at this," Epstein says, gesturing at his surroundings. "It's a total mess."

Of his voluminous book collection, his wife says, "You've only seen part of it. The real library is in Sag Harbor. I recently bought two more bookcases — one for Sag Harbor, one for New York."

extraordinary editor, with great detail, great precision and a tremendous eye for how writing moves. I feel everything I know about writing I know from Jason.

"He can look at [a manuscript] and immediately know what a reader is going to enjoy, appreciate and understand, and what is too wordy or technical. He really works for clarity. I have in my office at Princeton a picture of Jason sort of looking and smiling. I enjoy having that picture there as I write. I think I have to meet Jason's standards. I always think of that as I write: Jason looking down or looking at me with that ironic smile."

After completing the Pagels book, insists Epstein: "I'm not going to edit anymore. But if somebody comes along with something really, really interesting I could learn something from, it's like free tuition, right?"



Eugene L. Meyer '64 is a former Washington Post reporter and editor, an author and the editor of B'nai B'rith Magazine.

Robby Mook '02 Works To Turn the Country BLUE

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE '01

The map of the United States is a battlefield. But instead of combat zones, there are 435 Congressional districts. Instead of air strikes, there are TV ad buys. Instead of ammunition factories, there are fundraisers. And instead of enemies, there are Republicans.

Robby Mook '02 views the 50 states in those stark terms as the executive director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). Appointed in December 2010, he has a clear mission: wrest away at least 25 Republican-controlled seats this November so the Democrats can regain control of the House of Representatives.

At 32, Mook is remarkably young for such a high-profile, high-intensity job — but the man who introduced him to the national stage is convinced the fresh-faced political operative is up to the task.

Mook was appointed to the DCCC post 16 years after he caught the political bug. He grew up in Norwich, Vt., a town of just 3,500 that sits along the New Hampshire border. As a high school freshman, he joined a production of *Imaginary Invalid*, which was directed by Matt Dunne, whose day job was Vermont state legislator.

"That fall, as I ran for my first re-election, it became clear that while Robby was very talented in the theatre, he was much more interested in the political side of things," says Dunne, who remembers Mook as "one of the funniest people" he'd ever seen on stage. "When the production ended, he volunteered for my campaign. And, yes, he was 14."

Mook was hooked. Drawn to the College for its diversity, Mook became a classics major and while he never took a political science class ("Pretty funny, come to think of it," he says now), campaigning was in his blood.

After his freshman year in Morningside Heights, he returned

"The winds can blow quickly in a very different direction, and when you have support, lock it in. Sometimes you learn more from losing than from winning."

"He's pretty unflappable, and he's got a good personality for getting the work done. He puts the focus on the job, not himself," says Howard Dean, the former governor of Vermont — Mook's home state — who employed Mook in his 2004 presidential bid.

"I can't imagine someone doing that at his age," Dean says. "But at the same time, when it comes to Robby, I can see it. He's very, very bright and people will work hard for him."

The DCCC is the campaign arm of the House Democrats, charged with recruiting candidates, raising funds, researching the opposition and coordinating strategy in close, or politically significant, races.

"We're a booster rocket," Mook says. "We can't run a campaign from Washington. It has to be on the ground and it has to match the candidate. But we are there to help push people over the finish line."

to Vermont and Dunne hired him as the first staffer for the state legislature's Democratic caucus. Mook moved to Burlington, found a tiny apartment and dove in, going door to door and organizing the first fundraisers many of the legislators ever had. He sharpened his skills back on campus, too, working for the College Democrats and jumpstarting the organization's first electronic file of voters and volunteers.

"That was a level of sophisticated voter-contact that was unheard of on college campuses in 2000," says Sam Arora '03, who worked alongside Mook as an undergraduate.

"Robby was one of those students at Columbia you just knew was going to change the world, and you felt proud to know him," says Arora, now a Maryland state delegate. "With his powerful combination of heart and mind, I think all of Robby's friends knew he would rise quickly."

Mook returned home after graduation, working for the state Democratic Party and for Dean, the governor who made such a memorable splash in the 2004 presidential primaries. Mook ran Dean's New Hampshire campaign and helped coordinate the on-line efforts of a campaign that was among the first to fully use the Internet's ability to organize supporters.

"That was a national campaign very early on. We had to bottle lightning, as we knew there was a lot of energy and excitement in the campaign," Mook says. Even the campaign's quick implosion was a teaching moment.

"That campaign taught a very important lesson to me early on: The winds can blow quickly in a very different direction, and when you have support, lock it in," he says. "Sometimes you learn more from losing than from winning."

Mook then ran a get-out-the-vote effort in Wisconsin for nominee John Kerry and, four years later, took on far more responsibility for Hillary Clinton. He ran her primary campaigns in three states — Nevada, Ohio and Indiana — and attracted a legion of loyal followers who dubbed themselves the "Mook Mafia." The group, a loose collection of staffers who have worked for Mook across the country, frequently meet for drinks and celebrate a bond forged in the political trenches.

"Robby inspires a lot of loyalty," Dunne says. "His team is willing to work hard for him."

It's going to take much of that hard work for the Democrats to win back the House, a challenge that Mook now calls his own.

"The DCCC in many ways is a thankless job, because you're invisible unless you don't succeed," says Dunne, who launched an unsuccessful bid for governor of Vermont in 2010 and now works for Google. "Robby is working against a variety of exterior variables that are challenging, to say the least. But he understands how to look at resources and navigate these waters. If anyone can do it, it's him."

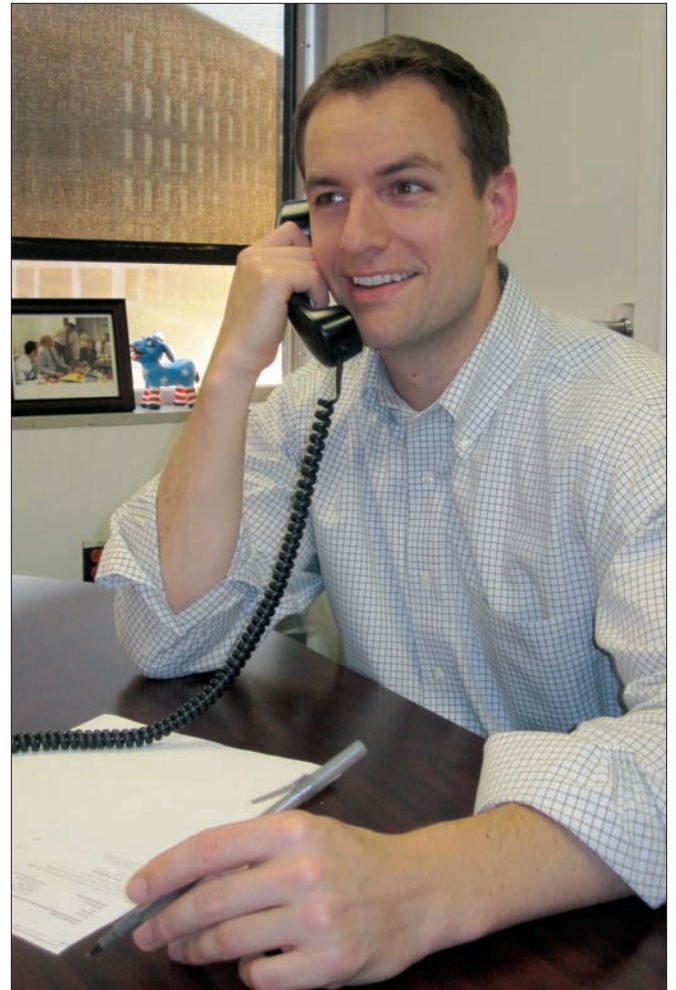
Mook too, is confident. He dismisses the Democrats' September defeat in New York's Ninth Congressional District — Anthony Weiner's former seat — as a unique race that was swayed by local issues.

As November approaches, Mook will coordinate a national strategy to raise money and direct it to the candidates who have a chance to unseat Republican incumbents, fighting them on issues such as Medicare and tax breaks for big corporations. He'll oversee it all from his war room in Washington, D.C., a far cry from a tiny town in eastern Vermont.

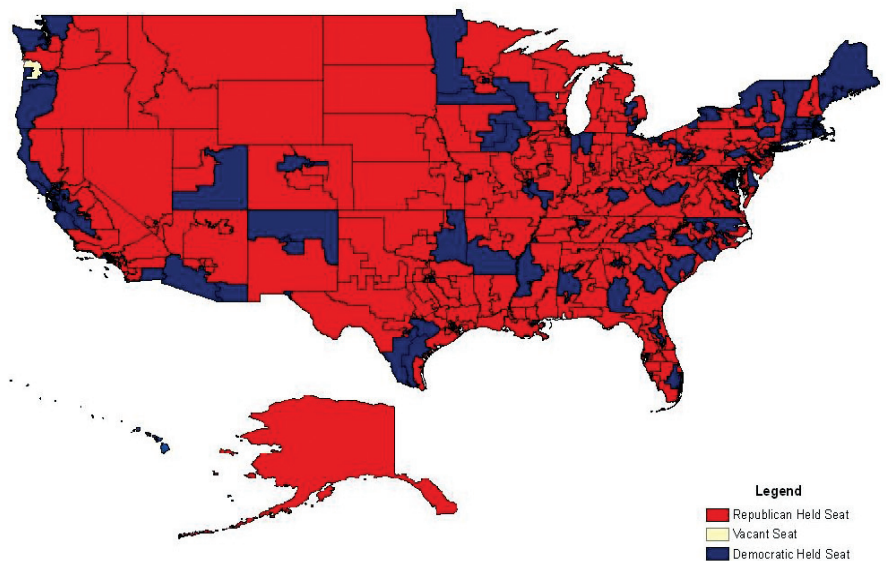
"Like any campaign, we move the majority of our resources late, so we'll be in constant communication with our races to track progress and help push them over the top," Mook says. "Election Day itself is always one big contradiction: Everything you've been pouring your heart into for two years comes to a finish, but if you've done your job right, there's absolutely nothing for you to do except sit and wait for results."

"So it's the most anxious," he says, "but least busy day of the entire two-year cycle."

Jonathan Lemire '01 covers politics for the New York Daily News.



National Map: Congressional Districts, by Political Party



(Top) Robby Mook '02 works the phones as executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. (Above) Mook's goal is to put more blue on the national map of Congressional districts.

PHOTO AND MAP: COURTESY OF DCCC

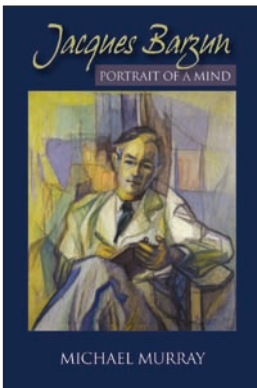
[COLUMBIA FORUM]

A Rare Mind, Rarer Now

Jacques Barzun: Portrait of a Mind



Michael Murray
PHOTO: SEAN FERGUSON



JACKET IMAGE OF JACQUES BARZUN BY CLEVE GREY; COLLECTION NEUBERGER MUSEUM OF ART, PURCHASE COLLEGE, GIFT OF JACQUES BARZUN '27, '32 GSAS

(Opposite) Of meeting Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS, Michael Murray says: "At seventy-one, he was distinguished in appearance — suit pressed, tie knotted carefully, gray hair neatly combed — and his manner was at once genial and courtly. His most striking feature was not his eyes, which showed the lively intelligence one would expect, but his voice" — a pleasant baritone.

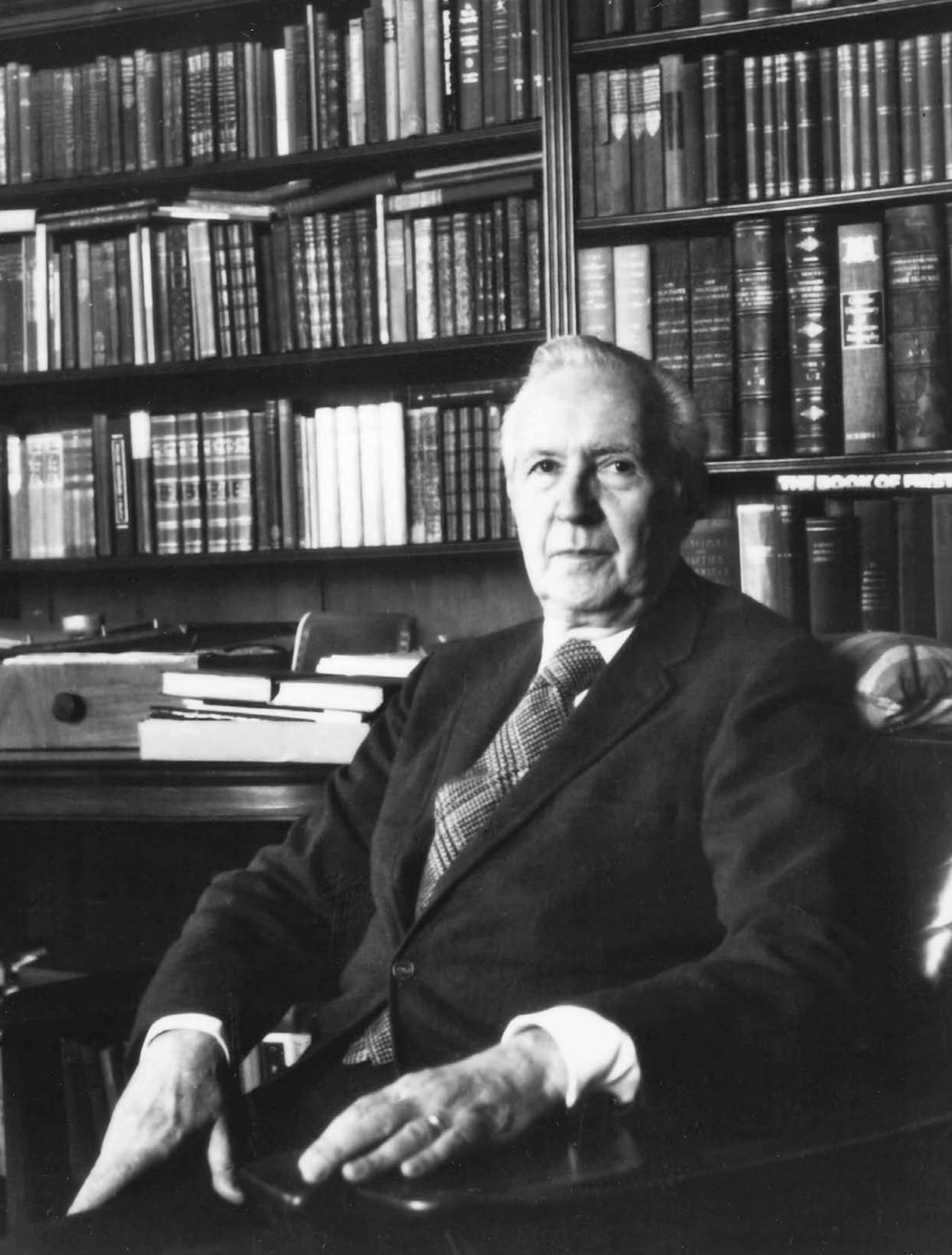
PHOTO: COURTESY JACQUES BARZUN '27, '32 GSAS

Jacques Barzun: Portrait of a Mind (Frederic C. Beil, 2011) is the result of a long collaboration between author Michael Murray and Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS, one of the most distinguished scholars in Columbia's history. Barzun, a cultural historian who also was provost, was named University Professor in 1967 and is the author of the 2000 bestseller *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life 1500 to the Present*, among other books. Murray, editor of the acclaimed collection *A Jacques Barzun Reader: Selections from His Works*, also is the author of *Marcel Dupre: The Work of a Master Organist* and *French Masters of the Organ*. He teaches a graduate course in library research and bibliography at Ohio State.

Murray and Barzun, not surprisingly, met over a book. Murray was writing a study of Dupre, and Barzun, whose father had known Dupre's teacher, Charles-Marie Widor, started to correspond with him in 1977. The first flurry of missives grew into a decades-long friendship. Right from the beginning, the librarian and the scholar were, as Murray puts it, "in sympathy." Their rapport was strong; there was much laughter as they spoke at least once a week for years. This strong and constant relationship led first to their collaboration on an anthology of Barzun's work, *A Jacques Barzun Reader* (HarperCollins, 2001), and then to Murray's meticulous intellectual biography, *Jacques Barzun: Portrait of a Mind*.

Barzun's mind, Murray points out, is of a type that is "rarer and rarer now." In these Internet-driven times, intellectual thinking is increasingly fragmented or specialized. The type of wide-ranging scholarship that Barzun achieved during the course of his career — moving easily from Berlioz to Byron, covering science and race, art and the philosophy of education — has all but vanished. Murray calls his friend "one of the last great comprehensive minds." In the following excerpt from *Jacques Barzun: Portrait of a Mind*, he describes his relationship with and impressions of this legendary figure.

Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard



Jacques Barzun rose from his desk and extended a hand, as I entered his seventh-floor office at Charles Scribner's Sons — a corner office in the old *beaux-arts* Scribner Building at 597 Fifth Avenue. Now retired from teaching history at Columbia, Barzun spent Tuesdays and Thursdays at Scribners as its literary adviser. We were already friends, having long corresponded, but were meeting for the first time. I found him to be taller than his dust-jacket photographs suggested, and a big man, though not corpulent. At seventy-one, he was distinguished in appearance — suit pressed, tie knotted carefully, gray hair neatly combed — and his manner was at once genial and courtly. His most striking feature was not his eyes, which showed the lively intelligence one would expect, but his voice. Its pleasant baritone carried an accent that mixed Mayfair with refined New York,

and when, in explaining some point, he needed a moment to call up the right word, he would lightly clear his throat or lightly cough — a tic observable in our scores of talks over the following thirty-two years.

That first talk, on a bright October afternoon in 1979, was jovial and serious by turns. It touched on music and painting, and on the difficulties of writing about the arts. For Barzun was a *cultural* historian, a practitioner of a discipline he had helped to create, in which the arts bulk large. Not that history with a cultural component was unknown before the 1930s, when Barzun began to publish. Voltaire, Burckhardt, and Macaulay, among others, prove the contrary. But their histories differ from cultural history in subject-matter and proportioning. In Barzun's practice, cultural history was an all-inclusive synthesis: not only kings, battles, laws, and statistics, but also habits, beliefs, influences, and tendencies, in art and literature, manners, morals, science, and religion, and the social setting in which these were found.

Barzun was not only a cultural historian, he was also a cultural critic. In such books as *Of Human Freedom* and *The Culture We Deserve*, his concern with the present matches his familiarity with the past and his understanding of their connections. His understanding was commensurate with his sensibility, to persons as well as to art and ideas, and commensurate with his tact. By tact I mean his fine discrimination among ideas, and also his good manners. These embodied what he thought to be the commonplace duties of civilized life — good temper, serenity, yielding to others and generally refraining from self-assertion — and together with his cheerful bearing, handsome features, and charm, led many people to find him affable. But others found him coldly aloof. He would have seen no paradox in this. Every personality is multifaceted, and it is merely a convenient evasion to call someone a bundle of contradictions.

But the workings of his mind interested me less — early in our friendship — than some of the conclusions they led to. To

the youth I then was, the times seemed ominous. Like many of my generation, I feared the future. Of recent memory were the riots and assassinations of the 1960s, the war in Vietnam and incursion into Cambodia, urban blackouts, gasoline shortages, and acute monetary inflation. Since Barzun had devoted a lifetime to the study of the modern West, who better to give reassurance or warning? Hence at our first talk I asked whether he thought a cataclysm — nuclear war, ecological catastrophe, terrorist-induced economic chaos — likely to end our civilization.

"A cataclysm is certainly possible," he replied, "in fact likely."

"You're pessimistic?"

"I've always been — I think any student of history almost inevitably is — a cheerful pessimist. That is, the evil of the day doesn't eat into you and make you go around with a hangdog look. ... Still, nowadays the powers of synthesis, of organization, of reasoned order, are outborne ... by the number of people to handle, the number of difficulties to cope with, the very size of everything. ... The interesting question in my mind is whether our greater knowledge and our ... extensive awareness of what's going on everywhere at once are going to be helpful or harmful."

"Doesn't knowledge always have a good result? Isn't truth under all circumstances more valuable than non-truth?"

"No. I think that's an assumption commonly made, but it isn't so. The possible harm of knowing too much is that it excludes possibilities that might work. You say: 'Oh, we can't do that! Look at the statistics!'"

By the time we met, Barzun had concluded that the West was in decline. In 1957, he had lectured at Princeton on the pathology of intellect. In 1973, he had lectured at the National Gallery on the fragmentation of art. In 1974, he had lectured at the University of California, Berkeley, on decay in politics and morals. Shortly after our talk, he would lecture at Northern Kentucky University on the "cracks in our civilization."

Eventually, in 2000, his conclusion reinforced by events and attitudes of the 1980s and 1990s, he would publish *From Dawn to Decadence* as background and summary of his views. Its surprising success — half a million copies bought in hard cover — suggested to some that a reversal might ensue if corrective ideas spread widely. But this was to miss Barzun's point.

Though cultural decline was nothing new, and thinkers long before Spengler or Nietzsche had deemed the phenomenon inevitable, Barzun's decline was distinctive. For one thing, Barzun meant not an end, but only a falling off. Once the ground was leveled, some new idea could spur construction. In the meantime, he posited a loss of originality, of new thought about art, literature, government, morals. Even if a new idea might occasionally appear, it would be lost in the disarray. The genuinely new could not stand out till the surrounding landscape was cleared.

Barzun also paid little attention to phenomena that other writers thought pertinent: the religious revivalism of the 1920s and after, the widespread interest in horoscopes, palmistry, and other necromancies and cults, the murderous violence of popular sport, the disillusionment with party politics and their corruption by vested interests, and to the parallels of such phenomena with previous civilizations in decline. Nor did he suggest that

In such books as *Of Human Freedom* and *The Culture We Deserve*, Barzun's concern with the present matches his familiarity with the past and his understanding of their connections.

the West would be overrun by the East, by force of arms or not, or that Western culture was metamorphosing into some wholly technological form. Nor did he see in the computer the cultural monolith others saw. Digital technologies pervaded daily life, but were mere adjuncts to the forces in play.

He could not decide whether the leveling required a cataclysm. "We can't judge probabilities by historic examples," he told me, "because we know too little about former civilizations, the Medes, Hittites, Egyptians. It has happened before that a declining civilization becomes soft in the way we have become soft. But we are still inventing, especially in the scientific, technological realm. There's no lack of progress there." Still, it was "perfectly possible that mankind will destroy itself, by stupidity or other cause." Certainly "the march of mind has no ultimate goal. There is no such ultimate goal." It was an old idea and false that the race was perpetually advancing. The race was advancing in some ways, declining in others. Similarly, Western culture might well be unraveling, but it was "an endless series of opposites — in religion, politics, art, morals, and manners" — and not "a solid block having but one meaning." The historian was rash who tried to be a prophet.

His views were hardly reassuring, early in our friendship or late. I came to believe, thanks to him, that Western culture is less likely to die by cataclysm than by our frittering away of its central ideas, and that civilization approaches a turning-point comparable to the fall of Rome.

Serious topics notwithstanding, we laughed often, at that first meeting, for Barzun was always quick to see the comic side of things and laughter with him came easily. This trait served him well in his years as Dean of Faculties and Provost at Columbia, which followed his decades in the history department. So did his knack for squaring his mind with the minds of colleagues or students. Like many an able teacher, he could grasp a student's meaning while it was struggling to take shape in words, and as quickly see deficiency and remedy. And yet, though by all accounts a superb teacher, he did not "love" to teach: he found teaching to be damnably hard work and less a pleasure than a compulsion. It was far easier to lecture, "and in symposia to point things out, and then as it were wash my hands of it, leaving the vaccination either to take, with the student, or not."

Students nevertheless found him memorable — Theodore Caplow [40], for instance, the distinguished sociologist. As a sophomore, Caplow took Barzun's course on the historical background of English literature. The class was asked to read "a long series of excerpts from notable authors, together with Trevelyan's *History of England*, but the class discussions took an unexpected turn. At the first meeting ... Barzun introduced Byron's irregular sonnet beginning 'She walks in beauty like the night' to illustrate the method of relating a literary work to the historical setting in which it was produced. The class ... found so much to consider in the piece that its eighteen lines and their historical background remained our topic for most of the term."

Another sophomore, Herman Wouk [34] — who in *The Caine*

Mutiny was to honor his teacher by naming a destroyer after him — never forgot Barzun's "humorous irony" inside the classroom and outside. Barzun was interviewing Wouk for entrance into an honors seminar in literature. He asked what Wouk was currently reading. The reply was *The World's Illusion*, by Jakob Wassermann. "Well, what is the world's illusion?" Barzun asked. Wouk's reply, about the futility of seeking happiness through love or power, elicited a glance that Wouk interpreted as humorous irony — the same quality he found in Barzun's quip years later that the nine hundred pages of *From Dawn to Decadence* were the accidental product of longevity and insomnia.

And Harry Boardman [45], who before joining the Council on Foreign Relations was to be Barzun's assistant provost, recalled Barzun's undergraduate instruction as notable for "the degree of animation it evoked from the students." Nearly always Barzun would begin Boardman's freshman class with "a substantive question that was provocative. You would answer, and your answer would cast you into difficulties — into taking a position which he would force you to defend, and which he would successfully assail. He would get you into a corner, and ... get you to think more deeply about your ideas and their implications."

Boardman adds that though Barzun was cordial in class, "warm, animated, interested and engaged," once the bell rang "he became an iceberg." Other students also recall him as hard to approach, as unwilling to relax and be friendly. In fact Barzun believed friendship to be possible only between equals: the teacher-student relation precluded it. Still, toward the end of a student's college days he might sometimes unbend, as he did with Fritz Stern [46, '53 GSAS]. The future eminent historian came from a long line of physicians and had enrolled in the pre-med curriculum despite a strong interest in history. It was Barzun's very detachment from students, coupled with his obvious interest in their wel-

fare, that led Stern to seek him out: "One could ask him such a deep question as 'What am I going to do with my life?' and know he would take the question seriously. And with him you needed not half an hour but five minutes. His five minutes were worth anybody else's hour."

What should Stern do? "Marry medicine," said Barzun, "and make history your lifelong mistress." A few months later, still undecided, still drawn to history and teaching, Stern again asked for advice. "All right, go ahead. I think you would make a good historian." A stint of teaching high school, Barzun added, might serve to test the vocation. "A friend of mine is head of the Lawrenceville School. Would you want to teach there?" — "Yes." But a month after Stern received his B.A., at age twenty, he began teaching Contemporary Civilization at Columbia, where he would take his advanced degrees and then teach for half a century.

Stern, Boardman, and others concur that Barzun was interested in his students, that in class he entered into true dialog with them, that he always seemed willing to learn from them. Memorable above all — we learn from another student who achieved renown, the historian Carl Schorske [36] — was Barzun's "riveting" ability to make "every person or element pre-

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sented sing its difference, its uniqueness, even as it was related to some larger whole."

With students, and with colleagues or friends, Barzun relished argument. The life of the mind, he said, could not exist without conversation — "the rarest pleasure and the finest achievement of human society." He defined conversation as Dr. Johnson did: a vehement scrimmage over ideas, new works, or philosophical positions. And his scrimmaging, like Johnson's, was gentlemanly as well as vehement; he deplored the modern tendency to argue not issues but motives — a symptom of the psychologizing characteristic of the times — and to mistake contention for animus. The tone of this letter, to a linguist, Donald J. Lloyd, with whom he had been disputing in the pages of *The American Scholar*, is typical:

Your chief points seem to be that I overlook the fluidity of language ... and that in some mysterious way I have no *locus standi* in discussions of language because I am not a professional philologist. That I think really reprehensible, destructive of all intellectual life. Do you suppose that I own History because I have taken a few degrees in it and written some essay exhibiting, we hope, the method and the conventional stigmata of the guild? Every subject-matter surely belongs to everyone who exhibits an interest in it. Each is greater than any one gang of professionals, and history shows that salvation has repeatedly come from the dauntless amateur who kept his eyes open while the initiates were sleepily chanting their old formulas ...

I am looking forward to ... belaboring you once again. ... I'll send you a carbon, and hope it will keep you awake nights. Meantime, warm good wishes for the New Year.

Not surprisingly, his geniality and his breadth of interests brought him friends of many kinds. With Lord Snow he enjoyed discussing the putative gulf between the humanities and the sciences. With Alfred North Whitehead he enjoyed hearing at first hand about the philosopher's esteem for William James. With Harold Nicolson he enjoyed looking at the differences between British manners and American. Manners were important to Barzun — his own were urbane — and surroundings too: he enjoyed Sir Harold's club. But his view was never superficial and he was rarely fooled by appearance. Witness his esteem for such unkempt geniuses as Allen Ginsberg ['48] and W. H. Auden.

His friendship with Ginsberg began while the poet was a student and continued till Ginsberg's death. One of the secretaries in Barzun's provost's office — in the days when secretaries wore hat and gloves to work — recalled her astonishment when Barzun first took the young beatnik to lunch at the Faculty Club. Auden, too, came more than once, and she always "wanted to scrub him

up." Auden and Barzun had met on some lecture platform, incidentally, and their bond was sealed when, in the question period, Barzun was asked when he would like to have lived. When he replied: "Around 1830," Auden spoke up: "You did! You did!" Barzun never forgot their "talk and laughter and lunching" and Auden's birthday parties on St. Mark's Place, "where the floor was so curved and flexible that everybody thought it would crack under the crowd."

Other friends too bespeak breadth of interests: George Russell Shaw, an arborist who wrote an excellent book on the pine and shared Barzun's love of sailing; Polykarp Kusch, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist whom Barzun induced to write poetry and whose course in nuclear physics he audited while dean; Marjorie Hope Nicolson, an expert on the English Renaissance; the philosopher Susan Haack, with whom Barzun enjoyed debating the pragmatisms of James and Peirce; Hiram Haydn ['42 GSAS], with whom for decades on the editorial board of *The American Scholar* he fought "like cat and dog but without heat"; Irita Van Doren, whose irresistible charm was surpassed only by her competence as chief editor of the *New York Herald Tribune* books section; Francis Steegmuller ['27, '28 GSAS], the biographer and translator, and his wife, the novelist Shirley Hazzard; Arthur Krystal ['70 GSAS], the essayist and critic; Peter Bloom, David Cairns, Joan Peyser ['56 GSAS], and Katherine Kolb, authorities on music; Mark LaFlaur, the writer and editor; Cleve Gray, the painter, and the author and critic Francine du Plessix Gray; Clifton Fadiman ['25], whose love of literature was as boundless as Barzun's and with whom Barzun shared a lifelong affection; and Lionel Trilling ['25, '38 GSAS], who for more than forty years was Barzun's close intellectual companion.

Not that Barzun was a paragon of amiable forbearance. His manner betrayed, in Trilling's words, an "intention of precision" that some took

to be *hauteur*. Others interpreted as disdain his habit of pursing his lips and looking down his nose when examining an idea. (He made the same gesture when amused, which suggests that he may have cultivated it as a young immigrant, as an alternative to the ubiquitous American grin that Europeans regarded as silly.) And witnesses recalled that he could be an ogre, that ninety-five percent was never good enough for him, that he always insisted on order, and that at faculty meetings he would not hesitate to tell you if you were playing the fool. If you were on the receiving end of his rifle, it was said, you remembered it to your dying day. He would not lose his temper or raise his voice. He would become more and more upright, more and more cold, more and more self-controlled, and the scalpel would go down to the bone.

His university career spans half a century. He entered Columbia in 1923 and was graduated in 1927. A month after receiving his B.A., he was teaching a course in Contemporary Civilization. A year later he received his M.A. and, in 1932, his Ph.D. Appointed lecturer in history in 1928, he was then made instructor (1931), assistant professor (1938), associate professor (1943), full

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Cultural historian, essayist and critic James Sloan Allen '75 GSAS has said that Barzun is "the most far-ranging, penetrating and possibly the most profound and enduring cultural critic of the second half of the 20th century."

PHOTO: ALAN R. EPSTEIN

professor (1945), Seth Low Professor of History (1960), and University Professor (1967). In 1955 he became Dean of the Graduate Faculties, in 1958 Dean of Faculties and Provost. He left administration in 1967 and retired in 1975, the year he began his eighteen-year stint at Scribners — where Charles Scribner called him the best editor he had ever seen. Barzun became an American citizen in 1933, and twenty years later published *God's Country and Mine* by way of a thank-you to his adopted land "for its welcome, generosity, everything that I had encountered from the very beginning of my career" — and by way of signaling to skeptical Europeans that the United States could boast cultural riches and refinement.

He was president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Extraordinary Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, member of the Advisory Council of the University of Buckingham, Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, member of the Académie Delphinale, director of the Council for Basic Education, director of the Macmillan publishing company, member of the Authors' Guild Council, member of the Boston Athenaeum, trustee of the New York Society Library, trustee of the Peabody Conservatory, trustee of Bennington College, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, president of the Berlioz Society, history consultant to *Life* magazine, chief literary critic for *Harper's Magazine*, and,

with Auden and Trilling, founder and director of a book club. At Columbia a chair in history is endowed in his honor. A Jacques Barzun Prize in Cultural History was created by the American Philosophical Society in 1993. The Jacques Barzun Award was established by the American Academy for Liberal Education in 1997. In 2003, President Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2011, President Obama ['83] awarded him the National Humanities Medal.

Eminence came with his scores of articles for such magazines as *The Nation*, *Encounter*, *Saturday Review*, *The New Republic*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Partisan Review*, *The American Scholar*, *Life*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*, and with such best-selling books as *Darwin, Marx, Wagner: Critique of a Heritage*, *The House of Intellect*, and *Teacher in America*, not to mention two books of which he was particularly proud: *Berlioz and the Romantic Century* and *A Stroll with William James*. Moreover, in such books as *Classic, Romantic and Modern*, *Science: The Glorious Entertainment*, and *Race: A Study in Superstition*, as James Sloan Allen ['75 GSAS] has remarked, Barzun shows himself to be "the most far-ranging, penetrating and possibly the most profound and enduring cultural critic of the second half of the twentieth century." Little wonder his books remained in print for decades and that his readership grew vast and diverse.

His readership grew large thanks also to his conviction that

history should remain a branch of literature and address the non-specialist reader, and that history could be transcendent. "History is formative. Its spectacle of continuity in chaos, of attainment in the heart of disorder, of purpose in the world is what nothing else provides: science denies it, art only invents it. ... Reading history remakes the mind by feeding primitive pleasure in story, exercising thought and feeling, satisfying curiosity, and promoting the serenity of contemplation. ... It is a spiritual transformation."

To read history is also to hone one's judgment of contemporary events — "a permanent good, not because history repeats ... but because the 'tendency of things' shows an amazing uniformity within any given civilization." This being so, "when the foundations of the republic shake under the strokes of misgovernment and world crises," history may strengthen the fainthearted. Cultural history, in any case, encompasses everything and has no method: its limits are fixed only by the practitioner's knowledge, eloquence, and tact.

That Barzun treats such a variety of topics may at first glance seem unaccountable: social and political theory in his earliest books, and then a defense of Romanticism, a life and times of a composer, several volumes of contemporary cultural criticism, including three books on teaching and learning, a critique of modern science, a critique of modern art, a defense of narrative history, and a re-interpretation of an American philosopher. In addition to his books, he penned essays by the hundred on architecture, painting, sculpture, music, biography, translation, and language — not to mention baseball, a sport he loved. But we find a guiding thread: "All I have ever done," he wrote on November 29, 1984, to Professor William H. Nolte,

relates to the history of European thought and culture since 1750. My various books and many of my articles and introductions use a figure or a movement as a core around which to organize facts or perceptions bearing upon those two centuries — their art, philosophy, social thought, manners, superstitions. From my dissertation in 1932 to my latest work ... a continuous account could be fashioned, delineating the main currents of creation and opinion between *L'Esprit des Lois* and the *Decline of the West*. I admit the piecing together might be laborious, but I am confident that a composed panorama would emerge. As for my articles and lectures on contemporary topics, they are obviously soundings in the same or in fresh cultural movements.

In truth, he did not write a line on any subject outside his purview.

Moreover, for all their scope and depth, his books were mere preliminaries. He had conceived as early as graduate school the *summa* that became *From Dawn to Decadence*. Looking back, he saw that the books preceding it were "contributory." They had served his ultimate purpose by directing his research and by honing his skill at narration. They built up the fund, he liked to say, on which his big book would draw.

It may seem odd that he never achieved a vogue. He was of course well known: he once appeared solo on the cover of *Time* and his books sold in the millions. But usually authors who achieve a vogue stand for some single startling view, whereas his views, though sometimes startling, take in not one subject but many. Even his theme of decadence comprises disparate motifs. Further, as he once observed, everybody calls for an independent thinker, yet more often than not "the most approved authors of the day form a pair of clusters opposing each other, which suggests rather little independence." He was in fact a modern thinker not captive to modern thought. In an age of specialism, he was a non-specialist. In an age often given to despair, he maintained a sense of humor and of proportion. And in an age of skepticism, he believed in the power of mind to set right. Besides, decades of reflection gave him a broad view of the effects on modern culture of "scientific" thinking, the fall of intellect as institution and social force, the loss of direction in the arts, the bias of materialism, the ease with which our politics are directed by ill-defined labels, and the tribulations of our schools.

Accordingly, his was almost always a "third" position. For example, he was an early believer in feminist principles and throughout his life deplored gender bias. But he kept to the traditional use of "man," convinced that gender-neutral usages damaged prose style and did little to eliminate prejudice. Again, he admired liberal institutions, but in his politics was at once liberal, socialist, and conservative. "My politics are Olympian," he once laughingly declared. In any case, "there is no worse fate for a writer and thinker than to elicit general agreement," as he remarked to his friend and biographer, John E. Adams. "It is worse than silence, because the neglected may be discovered and revived, whereas the approved are sunk in acquiescence that

is forgotten the morning after."

Then too, we expect our great to fit categories of accomplishment and Barzun is a maverick and impossible to peg. His fellow historians cannot wholly claim him, nor can musicologists, critics, or sociologists. He is not of the social "scientists," like C. Wright Mills, or the household-named literary critics, like Irving Howe, and his writings on music address music-lovers rather than the academic cognoscenti, just as his book reviews and social commentaries address the non-specialist reader. If one insists on a category, the most apt is the nineteenth-century English man of letters. That ideal man (or woman) was devoted to literature, history, poetry, or philosophy, and is distinct from the mid-twentieth-century intellectual because not linked to leftist politics, not necessarily an academic, and definitely not a pedant. Carlyle thought him a hero, and he remained a figure in English thought even while his standing declined. Though the term has fallen into disuse, the man of letters is by no means extinct, and Barzun fits that time-honored model well.



Excerpts from Michael Murray's *Jacques Barzun: Portrait of a Mind*/reprinted by permission of Frederic C. Beil, Publisher.

In an age of specialism, Barzun was a non-specialist. In an age often given to despair, he maintained a sense of humor and of proportion.

Alumni News

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PHOTO: COLIN SULLIVAN '11

MESSAGE FROM CCAA PRESIDENT KYRA TIRANA BARRY '87

CCAA Alumni Recognition Committee Seeks To Honor Alumni Achievements

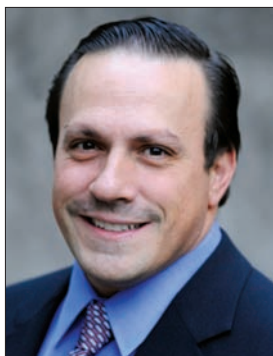
The Columbia community is rightfully proud of its College students and alumni and their accomplishments on campus and after graduation. Many Columbians have a significant, positive impact on their personal and professional communities. The Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors has the opportunity to learn about many of our peers' successes as well as to make recommendations for awards and programs.

Several years ago, in order to broaden and deepen our awareness of College alumni achievements, the board created the CCAA Alumni Recognition Committee. Its goal is to support the College in tracking alumni and bringing forward those who should receive recognition or who could, in turn, help alumni and students. Under the leadership of co-chairs Gerald Sherwin '55 and Doug Wolf '88, the committee has identified many alumni whose participation would be valued. Jerry and Doug exemplify Columbia College alumni who have a great impact on their community and, to our benefit, the College.

Jerry's long career in communications and marketing at agencies and companies such as Grey Advertising, Block Drug Co., Lehn & Fink, Bozell and WINS Radio was perfect training to become the most active alumnus at the College, and he comes in contact with a



Gerald Sherwin '55



Doug Wolf '88

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO

back to the College is natural for Doug. Upon his return to Boston in 1991, he interviewed prospective students as a member of the Alumni Representative Committee and participated in events at the Columbia University Club of New England. The natural progression was to the CCAA board, which provides a greater opportunity to interact with students, faculty and administration, work with College alumni and stay in closer touch with the College. Doug also provides a valuable perspective to the CCAA as an active contributor who is not based in the New York area — including events, communications and other ways to improve our outreach. He brings fresh vision and valuable experience to facilitate connections between alumni and the College.

The Alumni Recognition Committee meets regularly to discuss ways to identify alumni, review alumni profiles and make recommendations to selection committees for various awards. It also makes recommendations to the offices of Alumni Affairs and Development, Student Affairs and Career Education when they seek alumni participation.

With more than 45,000 living alumni, no small group can track the myriad accomplishments worth highlighting. Our committee is eager to identify more ways to learn about College alumni and what they are doing. It therefore has established a portal on the CCAA board website (college.columbia.edu/ccaa/nominations) to take nominations and updat-

ed information to add to the alumni database. We welcome input from all alumni and hope that you will use the nomination form to help Columbia acknowledge its alumni's outstanding achievements. We welcome your suggestions and recommendations.

Kyra W B

Alumni Recognition Committee Members

Gerald Sherwin '55, co-chair
Doug Wolf '88, co-chair
Rohit Aggarwala '93,
'00 Business, '02 GSAS
James Brandt '79
Craig Brod '77
Camille Warmbrodt DeLaite '01
Christopher V. Della Pietra '89
Daniel Tamkin '81
Burt Ehrlich '61, '62 Business
Michele Esposito '96
Frederick Kushner '70, '74 P&S
Andy Lebowitz '04, '07L
Stephanie Lung '04
Nat Nisonson '03
Roy Pomerantz '83
Scott Koonin '02
Genevieve Thornton '02,
'09 Business
David Walker '80
Mark Wojciechowski '76
Alan Freeman '93, *affiliate*

large portion of our alumni. He has been a president, chair or board member of about a dozen boards and committees at Columbia, including president emeritus, CCAA; chair emeritus, Board of Friends-Double Discovery Center; past president, Varsity 'C' Athletic Winners Club; and president and CCT class correspondent, Class of 1955. His enthusiasm for connecting students and alumni is boundless. Being an avid athletics fan is part of this mix. No one is better suited for this committee.

Doug is a shareholder at the IP firm of Wolf Greenfield in Boston and chair of its Trademark and Copyright Practice as well as the Small Business Practice. Always grateful for his time at Columbia, giving

Awards, Events and Boards

The Alumni Recognition Committee welcomes suggestions from all alumni for consideration for a variety of awards and boards as well as for speakers for Columbia occasions. Following is a partial list:

AWARDS

Alexander Hamilton Award
John Jay Award
Alumni Medal (University)
AACA (Asian alumni) Award
BAC (black alumni) Heritage Award
LAACU (Latino alumni) Award

BOARDS

Columbia College Alumni Assn.
Columbia College Young Alumni
Columbia Alumni Association
Columbia Univ. Club of NY

EVENT SPEAKERS

Columbia College Class Day
(with Student Affairs)
Baccalaureate Ceremony

Bookshelf

Surprise Was My Teacher: Memories and Confessions of a Television Producer/Director Who Came of Age During Television's Adolescence by Merrill Brockway '48. The host of the PBS series *Dance in America* reflects on his time working with artists from Ruby Dee to George Balanchine (Sunstone Press, \$19.95).

Fitting Form to Function: A Primer on the Organization of Academic Institutions by Rudolph Weingartner '50. Weingartner explores the complicated structures of institutions of higher education and offers 27 maxims for how they can be best organized (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, \$44.95).

The Modern World-System IV: Centrist Liberalism Triumphant, 1789–1914 by Immanuel Wallerstein '51. The author takes a fresh look at global history in this volume of his *Modern World-System* series, tracing the evolution of contemporary political ideologies from the 18th to the 20th centuries (University of California Press, \$26.95).

Lives and Letters by Robert Gottlieb '52. Gottlieb, a former editor of *The New Yorker* and at Simon & Schuster and Knopf, profiles leading minds—from Charles Dickens and John Steinbeck to Tallulah Bankhead and Mae West—from a broad array of creative disciplines (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$30).

Brooklyn-ese Proverbs & Cartoons by Lawrence Harte '53. Harte, who

dubs himself a “21st-century Ben Franklin,” doles out snippets of the borough’s trademark wisdom alongside comical illustrations (White Poppy Press, \$15.95).

Making Sense of People: Decoding the Mysteries of Personality by Dr. Samuel Barondes '54. A psychiatrist and neuroscientist, Barondes lays out a list of simple tools for forming functional, satisfying relationships (FT Press, \$25.99).

The Limits of Ferocity: Sexual Aggression and Modern Literary Rebellion by Daniel Fuchs '55. Fuchs examines issues of sexuality, violence and the rejection of societal norms in the works of D.H. Lawrence, Georges Bataille, Henry Miller and Norman Mailer (Duke University Press, \$26.95).

101 Ideas & Insights for Triathletes & Duathletes by Steven Jonas '58. The author, a preventive medicine professor and avid triathlete, offers advice on subjects from equipment to nutrition and training (Coaches Choice, \$19.95).

Cancer Dreams by Dr. Paul Winick '59. Winick, a pediatrician, tells the story of his wife’s and his patients’ battles with cancer to deliver the message that the disease is not an ending but a new beginning (AuthorHouse, \$24.59).

Urban Tomographies by Martin Krieger '64. Krieger takes a closer look at Los Angeles’ infrastructure and communities through tomo-

graphy, examining everyday sights and sounds to draw broader conclusions about the city (University of Pennsylvania Press, \$49.95).

Until the Blue Kingdom Comes by James Rosenberg '66. A recently retired rabbi, Rosenberg reflects on subjects from mangos to the Lone Ranger in this short collection of his poetry (Xlibris, \$19.99).

Cecil Andrus: Idaho’s Greatest Governor by Chris Carlson '68. Through a series of anecdotes, Carlson, Andrus’ longtime press secretary, outlines Andrus’ rise to governorship and lasting impact on politics in Idaho (Caxton Press, \$17.95).

Robert Ludlum’s The Bourne Dominion by Eric Van Lustbader '68. Rogue secret agent Jason Bourne needs the help of longtime friend General Boris Karpov as he tries to hunt down an elusive group of terrorists plotting to destroy America’s natural resources (Grand Central Publishing, \$27.99).

Seven Days in Rio by Francis Levy '69. In Levy’s absurdist novel, Kenny Cantor, a C.P.A. and “sex tourist” vacationing in Rio de Janeiro, searches for the “perfect” relationship: one where he pays a woman for sex (Two Dollar Radio, \$16).

A Vulcan’s Tale: How the Bush Administration Mismanaged the Reconstruction of Afghanistan by Dov S. Zakheim '70. A former Department of Defense coordinator for Afghan

civilian reconstruction, Zakheim takes the Bush administration to task for mismanaging Afghanistan’s post-war reconstruction (The Brookings Institution Press, \$32.95).

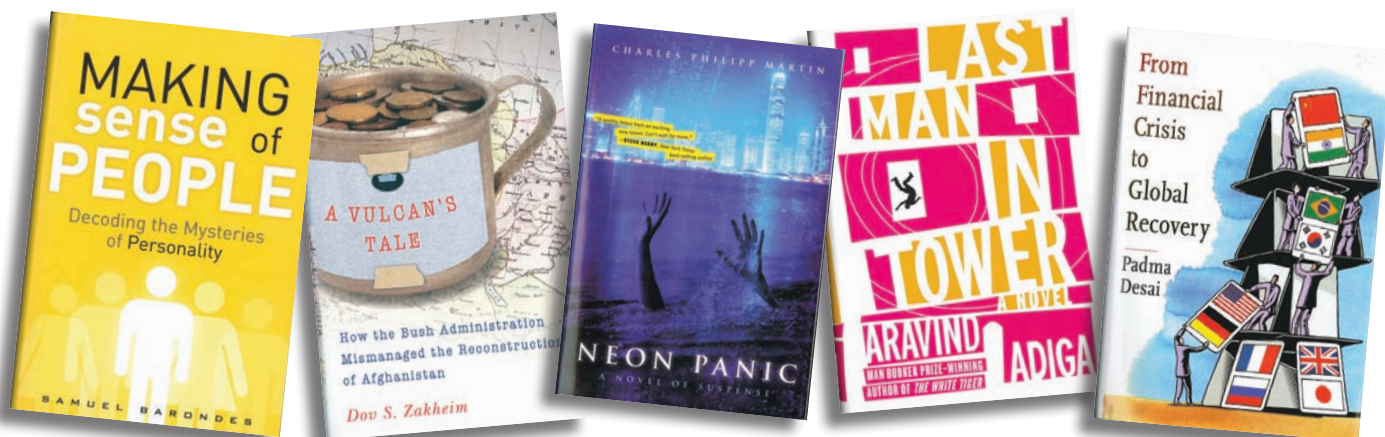
Hollywood Left and Right: How Movie Stars Shaped American Politics by Steven Ross '71. Ross dispels the notion that the movie industry has been exclusively a bastion of liberalism, describing how movie stars from both sides of the aisle have influenced American politics (Oxford University Press, \$29.95).

Leon Trotsky: A Revolutionary’s Life by Joshua Rubenstein '71. Rubenstein depicts Trotsky as an “all-too-human” political figure in this account of the Russian revolutionary’s fall from power, exile and assassination (Yale University Press, \$25).

Neon Panic: A Novel of Suspense by Charles Philipp Martin '76. When a woman’s body appears in Hong Kong Harbor, inspector Herman Lok thinks it is just a young fisherwoman. His investigation, though, turns up secrets that could put his life at risk (Vantage Point, \$14.95).

Stories for Peace by Mark Binder '84. In this book for children and adults, Binder offers solutions to conflict and bullying, with illustrative stories ranging from “The Bully and the Shrimp” to “The Two Monks and the Gross Slimy Monster” (Light Publications, \$14.95).

Backward Ran Sentences: The Best of Wolcott Gibbs from *The*



Alumnae Explore Race, Revenge

For Marguerite Tassi '87 and Ayanna Thompson '94, two alumnae with critical works on Shakespeare published last year, inspiration came from posing questions that nobody else was asking.

Tassi, the Martin Distinguished Professor of English at University of Nebraska-Kearney, was planning to teach a course on revenge in literature — including Shakespeare's plays — when she asked herself: "Does gender make a difference in revenge? Could there be virtue in vengeance? Could revenge be a substantial element in justice?"

Thompson, an English professor at Arizona State University (ASU), became curious about what she saw as the playwright's dichotomous role in contemporary society: He is "the standard bearer of all things classical" and often associated with the elite, yet his plays can be accessible, even transformative, for a far broader range of people. She wondered: "How can both exist as polar opposites?"

The pursuit of these questions led both scholars to the publication of their new books, the second for each. In *Women and Revenge in Shakespeare: Gender, Genre, and Ethics* (Susquehanna University Press, \$69.50), Tassi uncovers evidence of women seeking justice even when they seem most disenfranchised — consider Ophelia's songs of madness in *Hamlet*. Thompson's *Passing Strange: Shakespeare, Race, and Contemporary America* (Oxford University Press, \$55) probes the meaning behind the many intersections of Shakespeare and race in today's culture. She draws on examples from the stage — "colorblind casting" by regional theater companies — as well as less conventional arenas, for example, the significance of a dog named William Shakespeare in the 2003 movie *Bringing Down the House*.

Both women, who graduated as English majors seven years apart and came to their majors through different paths, credit their College education for their ability to ask engaging questions and conduct innovative research.

For Tassi, the decision to major in English was easy. She had always loved literature and was excited to pursue English at her dream school, which, she says, "fortuitously became coed the year I applied. It was an exciting time to be at the College. There was a sense of a big transition at work."

Her English classes and Core requirements reinforced her love of the classics, and she earned a master's from the University of Virginia in 1989 and a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School in 1993, both in English. "I continued returning to classical literature and honoring that tradition," she says.



Ayanna Thompson '94
PHOTO: TOM STORY

Thompson began Columbia with the intention of studying law or business. But during an internship at an investment firm the summer before her junior year, she found herself furtively reading classic novels under her desk. The need to change paths was clear.

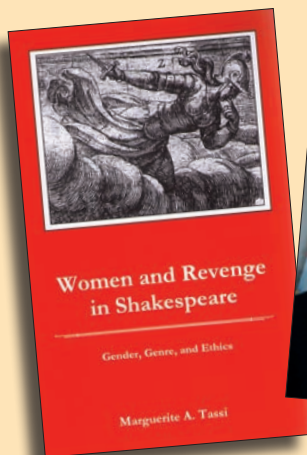
She enrolled in the two-term Shakespeare course taught by Ted Tayler, now the Lionel Trilling Professor Emeritus in the Humanities (college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/may04/cover.php). Tassi also took the class and fondly remembers Tayler's "lively mind." For Thompson, the experience was memorable for a different reason: After his infamous "killer midterm," Tayler asked five members of the class to stand. While the rest had struggled with the exacting test, these five — Thompson included — had excelled. "They are clearly nerds," Thompson recalls Tayler announcing to the class. "It was flattering and humiliating."

But the label of critical, attentive scholar was not one Thompson would escape. She was awarded a Marshall Scholarship to study in England at the University

of Sussex, earning an M.A. in 1995; a Ph.D. in English at Harvard followed in 2001. At ASU, she doubles as the associate dean of faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Thompson says her College education encouraged her to "be politically engaged without losing attention to historical nuances." It is with that eye for detail that she approaches Shakespeare in her book, balancing close reading of the plays with analysis of their role in contemporary culture.

Take the William Shakespeare of *Bringing Down the House* — a French bulldog. He is owned by a white, racist character and is first seen wearing a starched



Marguerite Tassi '87
PHOTO: SHAUN PADGETT

in Shakespeare

Elizabethan collar. Thompson writes, "The joke seems to be based on the idea that it is only natural for a racist to come up with the name 'Shakespeare,' and that an interest in the classics goes hand-in-hand with conservative social values." In other words, a Shakespeare that is reserved for a specific, stereotyped audience.

However, Thompson also studied the positive effects of so-called "Shakespeare reform programs," in which the Bard is brought into non-traditional spaces. Los Angeles fifth-grade teacher Rafe Esquith, for example, each year stages a full-length Shakespeare play with his students, many of whom come from low-income, immigrant families and do not speak English as their first language. The regular rehearsals serve as a language-learning tool for the students and, in general, suggest a far more inclusive Shakespeare.

Thompson was impressed by the cultural sensitivity of Esquith's and other programs, and how the practitioners found a way to make Shakespeare meaningful for such different groups. She concludes that the dichotomy of Shakespeare may not be as clear-cut as imagined, and that gray areas exist in society as individuals reimagine what Shakespeare means today.

Tassi similarly revises the scholarly conversation about Shakespeare by looking at the meaning of revenge. When she began her research she found there was little criticism on the subject.

"The book I wanted in the library wasn't there," she says. "I was surprised that I could make a contribution to Shakespeare studies. The field felt so full."

Tassi's work addresses the moral issues associated with revenge and analyzes how male and female characters seek revenge differently in the Bard's plays. Traditionally, Shakespearean revenge calls to mind the tragedies, where vengeance is viewed as a means for male characters to defend their glory or seek private justice — think of Othello's betrayal-fueled, though ultimately misguided, murder of Desdemona. But while Tassi speaks to these plays, in which women often are victimized and lack agency, she also explores the unique role of female vengeance in the comedies and romances. In those plays, she says, "Female characters commit revenge to protect their chastity, honor and integrity."

The Merry Wives of Windsor proved to be a perfect example of what revenge means for women. After the scheming Falstaff attempts to seduce three married women, Tassi says, "They need to protect their reputations as loyal and chaste wives. They seek revenge against the seducer who put their reputations in jeopardy." Among other indignities, he winds up being tricked into hiding in a dirty laundry basket (then dumped with its contents into a river) and dressing as a woman.

Tassi further shares her passion with her Nebraska students in her course, "Wild Justice: Women and Revenge in Western Literature." It covers subjects from the classics to Quentin Tarantino's 2003 movie, *Kill Bill*. "Revenge is a powerful phenomenon in human nature, with us since time immemorial and in current political conflicts," she says. "No one is indifferent to that subject."

Apparently, Thompson agrees. Her next project? "I'd like to write a book on revenge."

Karen Iorio

New Yorker, edited by Thomas Vinciguerra '85. The editor gathers a generous selection of the work of Gibbs, a member of the Algonquin Round Table and *The New Yorker's* notoriously sardonic theatre critic (Bloomsbury USA, \$22).

The Ghosts of Watt O'Hugh by Steven Drachman '87. Watt O'Hugh III returns to his home city of New York as the star of a Wild West show and ends up facing murder charges and Chinese mysteries in Drachman's fantasy adventure novel (Chickadee Prince Books, \$14).

The Politics of Equality: An Introduction by Jason Myers '89. Myers explores the socialist, communist, and social democratic ideals and values that shape modern-day political debates in this introduction to egalitarian political philosophy (Zed Books, \$26.95).

Patient Citizens, Immigrant Mothers: Mexican Women, Public Prenatal Care, and the Birth-Weight Paradox by Alyshia Gálvez '95. From an urban public hospital to the Mexican state of Oaxaca, Gálvez examines the "Latina health paradox" — that Mexican immigrant women in the United States have less complicated pregnancies and better birth outcomes than more privileged socioeconomic groups (Rutgers University Press, \$24.95).

The Obamas by Jodi Kantor '96. Kantor, a veteran *New York Times* journalist, paints an intimate portrait of the personal and political struggles of Michelle and Barack Obama '83 during his first three years in office (Little, Brown and Company, \$29.99).

Last Man in Tower: A Novel by Aravind Adiga '97. When real estate developer Dharmen Shah offers to pay off the residents of a crumbling Mumbai apartment complex, a retired schoolteacher refuses to leave even though his neighbors stop at nothing to get their paychecks in this, Adiga's second novel (Knopf, \$26.95).

Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community by Jill Jacobs '97. Jacobs' guide offers advice on how Jewish people can act on their ideas of social justice to protect society's poorest, weakest and most vulnerable (Jewish Lights Publishing, \$24.99).

Children of Paranoia by Trevor Shane '98. In this dystopian action novel, Joseph, a professional assassin in a secret war, is forced to run from the killers he's fought beside his entire life in order to protect the girl he loves (Dutton Adult, \$25.95).

The Imperial Messenger: Thomas Friedman at Work by Bélen Fernández '03. In the tradition of Puritan polemical writing, Fernández criticizes the oeuvre of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* columnist and author (Verso Books, \$16.95).

Savage Nobles in the Land of Enchantment by Everett Patterson '06. In this graphic novel, Tonya, Theo, Greg and Kafir — members of garage band The Savage Nobles — find themselves stranded in New Mexico after witnessing a government conspiracy (self-published, \$15).

After Tobacco: What Would Happen If Americans Stopped Smoking? edited by Peter Bearman, the Jonathan R. Cole Professor of Sociology; Kathryn Neckerman; and Leslie Wright. This collection of essays delves into the effects that reduced tobacco consumption in the United States would have on pressing social issues and on the tobacco industry (Columbia University Press, \$35).

From Financial Crisis to Global Recovery by Padma Desai, the Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Comparative Economic Systems and director of the Center for Transition Economies. Desai traces the roots of America's recent recession, assesses whether the economy is truly on the upswing and compares the current economic situation with the Great Depression (Columbia University Press, \$27.50).

Elective Affinities: Musical Essays on the History of Aesthetic Theory by Lydia Goehr, professor of philosophy. Drawing on Johann Goethe's novel of the same name, Goehr examines "elective affinities" — the strong relationships that form under changing conditions — in philosophy and music (Columbia University Press, \$24.50).

Benjamin W. Gittelson '15



Obituaries

1932



Dr. Julius Wolfram '32

Julius Wolfram, physician, Dallas, on March 16, 2011. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Wolfram entered Columbia at 16 from Townsend Harris H.S. After earning a degree in 1936 from P&S, he joined the Army and ultimately became chief of medicine at the 5th Ferrying Command at Love Field, Dallas. He was discharged from WWII service as a major. Wolfram remained in Dallas, where he practiced internal medicine and cardiology for more than 60 years and was clinical professor of medicine at Southwestern Medical School. After his family and medicine, his greatest loves were classical music, opera, nature and ornithology. Wolfram was an avid tennis player and enjoyed golf and hiking. After retiring from

Obituary Submission Guidelines

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

private practice he traveled with his wife, Rhea, to China, Japan, Israel, Egypt and Europe. He served on the boards of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Temple Emanu-el, the American Jewish Committee, Jewish Welfare Federation and Jewish Family Services, among others. Wolfram is survived by his wife of 68 years, Rhea; sons, Michael, Steven and Richard; and eight grandchildren, including Matthew '01E.

1937

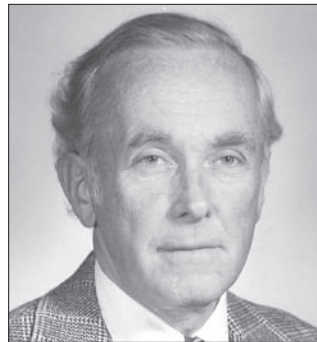
Bertram Fuchs, retired gastroenterologist, Marathon, Fla., on October 18, 2010. Born in Jersey City, N.J., Fuchs was a graduate of Hempstead H.S. in Hempstead, Long Island, and SUNY Downstate Medical Center (1949). Fuchs practiced in Mineola, N.Y., for 30 years, retiring in 1987, at which time he moved to Marathon. He was an Army veteran and served during WWII. Fuchs is survived by his wife, Sophie Schalet, whom he married in 1952; children, Marc and his wife, Betsy, and Ronnie Fuchs and her husband, Sandy; brother, Morton Fox; and four grandchildren.

1941

Douglas L. Gruber, retired talent agency owner, Sun City Center, Fla., on October 11, 2010. A 1942 alumnus of the Journalism School, Gruber was an officer in the Navy in WWII and served on both a destroyer in the Atlantic-European theater and on a cruiser in the Pacific war zone. He remained active in the Naval Reserve after the war, retiring in 1968 as a lieutenant commander. In his professional career, Gruber was associate editor of *The N.Y. Sales Executive* magazine and managing editor in McGraw Hill's international division before starting his own talent agency in 1955. His company serviced the advertising and entertainment fields through 1988, at which time he sold his business and retired. Gruber was a longtime resident of Purchase, N.Y., before moving to Florida in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla; daughters, Mary Elizabeth, and Cathryn Long; and two grandchildren. A brother, Harold, predeceased him in 1992.

1942

Alan E. Baum, retired radiologist, Fort Pierce, Fla., on October 10, 2010. Baum was born on July 26, 1921, in Fairfield, Conn. He earned a degree from P&S in 1945 and was a Navy veteran of both WWII and Korea. He had a long and distinguished career on Long Island, N.Y., having a private practice in Westbury, Hicksville and Huntington. Baum resided for more than 50 years in Oyster Bay, N.Y., and was a parishioner of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Palm City. He served as president of the New York Chapter of the American College of Radiology; as professor of clinical radiology at the State University Medical School in Stony Brook, N.Y.; and as chief of radiology at the Veterans Hospital of Northport, N.Y. Baum enjoyed golf, gardening and Civil War history. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Cecelia Jane (née Connolly); sons, Gregory, Douglas '81E and his wife, Sally, Alan Jr. and his wife, Cathy, and William and his wife, Susan; daughter, Reyne Brezinski; 10 grandchildren, including Stephany Cecelia (Baum) Reborn '07; and four great-grandchildren.



Dr. Robert E. Healy '42

Robert E. Healy, physician, Amesbury, Mass., on October 16, 2010. Born on June 23, 1922, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Healy attended Xavier H.S. At the College, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi. He graduated from Cornell Medical School in 1944 and was a veteran of both WWII and the Korean War, witnessing the Japanese surrender at Truk, and was a medical officer in the occupying force. The bulk of Healy's career

was spent as an internist with the Mt. Kisco (N.Y.) Medical Group. He also was s.v.p. of the Northern Westchester Hospital Center. Later he worked for General Foods and for the Joint Commission and is a past president of the Westchester County Medical Society, the Westchester Division of the American Heart Association and of the Waccabuc Country Club. Healy helped to establish the Greenburgh Health Center in White Plains, N.Y.; served on the vestry of St. Mark's Church; was a reading coach for Literacy Volunteers of the Low Country, in South Carolina; and was a trustee of the Stepping Stones Foundation. Healy's passions included golf, the New York Giants, Indian cooking and bread making. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Audrey; children, Audrey, Tracy and Jeff; five grandchildren; and sister, Helen McLaughlin.

1943

Albert W. Cayot, sales manager, Boxford, Mass., on November 22, 2010. Cayot was born in New York and earned an M.B.A. from the Business School. He was a veteran, serving as a captain in the Army during WWII and the Korean War. Cayot was a sales manager with Kimberly-Clark Co. An active member of the St. Rose of Lima Church community in Topsfield, he served on many committees, was a lector, Eucharistic minister and taught religious education for many years. In 2010, just a few weeks before his death, he was honored by St. Rose and the St. Vincent De Paul Society as its "Man of the Year." Cayot was instrumental in the Refugee Immigration Ministry and taught math and English courses in the prison system. He was predeceased by his wife, Marydell (née Zimmermann) and sister, Mary Mihapov, and is survived by his daughter, Claire M.; sons and daughters-in-law, Albert W. and Eva, and Paul P. and Debra; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters, Edie Ialeggio and Jane LaBella; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Refugee Immigration Ministry, 142 Pleasant St., Ste 203, Malden, MA 02148.

1947

Henry G. Burger, retired anthropologist, automated word-finding expert, Overland Park, Kan., on October 14, 2010. Burger was born on June 27, 1923, in New York. His time at the College was interrupted by WWII, and he served in three combat zones: Papua, Leyte and Luzon. He returned to the College, then earned an M.A. in 1965 and a Ph.D. in 1967, both from GSAS in anthropology. From 1967–69, Burger worked in New Mexico as the first anthropologist of the regional educational laboratories. He did fieldwork with Navajo Americans and was adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico. His resultant book, *Ethno-Pedagogy: A Manual in Cultural Sensitivity*, has appeared in eight versions. In 1969, Burger was asked to establish the anthropology department at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He remained there until retirement, when he was appointed Professor Emeritus of Education and Anthropology. Burger also was a leader in the field of automated word-finding, a branch of the emerging technology called informatics. He developed the WORDTREE, a two-way dictionary that points from a word to its meaning, as does a normal dictionary, but also from a mere meaning or part-meaning to the word best expressing it. Burger is survived by his wife, Barbara; brother, Chester; and several nieces and nephews.

Gerald S. Lesser, professor of child development, Lexington, Mass., on September 23, 2010. Lesser was a WWII Navy veteran and a 1949 alumnus of GSAS. He was a professor of child development at Harvard and one of the original developers of *Sesame Street* and other educational programs. He is survived by his wife, Stella (née Scharf); daughter, Nina Duprey, and her husband, Peter; son, Theodore; grandson; and niece. Memorial contributions may be made to National Head Start Association, 1651 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

1949

Perry E. Morrison, business executive, violinist, Pittsburgh, on August 24, 2010. Born on May 18, 1929, Morrison attended the Bronx H.S. of Science and earned an M.B.A. from the Business School in 1950. He was in the Army

Medical Supply Corps during the Korean War, serving a year in Korea and then a year in Japan. Morrison moved to Pittsburgh in 1958, where he eventually became president and CEO of May Stern & Co. An avid amateur violinist, he underwent rotator cuff surgery in his 70s to ensure he could continue playing. He was on many classical music boards including that of the Y Music Society, the Mendelssohn Choir and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Morrison and his wife, BeeJee, were patrons of classical music, establishing a Fine Instrument Loan Fund for PSO string musicians, underwriting Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts on WQED-FM and supporting local chamber music initiatives. An accomplished tenor-baritone, Morrison traveled for years to officiate as a cantor on the Jewish High Holidays. He was on the board of Montefiore Hospital for many years and served on the finance committee of the United Jewish Federation. In addition to his wife, Morrison is survived by his daughters, Lesa and Abby, and two nieces.

1951

Jerome K. "Jerry" Chase, car dealership owner, Wayland, Mass., on October 29, 2010. Lee Iacocca originally hired Chase to purchase land nationwide for Ford factories and dealerships. Chase transferred to Ford's Boston sales region in 1966 and quickly moved up the corporate ladder. Iacocca offered him several promotions to bring him back to Detroit, but Chase turned him down, eventually fulfilling his own dream of owning a dealership in 1971, when he founded Framingham Ford with a partner. As the business grew, Chase handled local and state police contracts, outfitting cruisers with racks, sirens and lights; he later sold that business. Chase's son, Jerry Jr., joined his father about 22 years ago and bought the business almost 10 years ago. In retirement, Chase spent time in his garden and serving at St. Ann's Church. He is survived by his wife of 56 years Anne (née Buckhout) Chase; children, Jerry Jr. and his wife, Laurence, Nan Alphen and her husband, Paul, Clay and his wife, Karen, John and his wife, Louise, Bill, and Wini; nine grandchildren; and brothers, George and Peter. Memorial contributions may be made to Parmenter Health Cen-



PORTRAIT: ROBERT SHETTERLY, AMERICANSWHOTELLTHETRUTH.ORG

Richard Grossman '65, Anti-Corporation Activist

Richard Grossman '65, a radical activist and ardent opponent of corporations' influence on American politics, died on November 22, 2011. He was 68 and lived in West Hurley, N.Y.

Born on August 10, 1943, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Grossman majored in English at the College and was editor-in-chief of *Jester*. After graduation, he volunteered with the Peace Corps in the Philippines.

Grossman began his long and varied career as a community organizer and activist in the 1970s, when he founded Environmentalists for Full Employment, a group that worked to reconcile the interests of environmental activists and union members. In the 1980s, he worked and taught at the Highlander Research and Education Center, a social justice leadership school that trained Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and other Civil Rights movement leaders during the 1950s. He also was executive director of Greenpeace.

By the late 1980s, Grossman shifted his focus to opposing corporate personhood. He founded the Program

on Corporations, Law, and Democracy in 1995, a group that "instigates democratic conversations" and challenges the authority of corporations to govern. He continued his advocacy work into his 60s, founding Frackbusters NY and the Sovereign People's Action Network to draw attention to and criminalize the process of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in New York state.

Grossman also was a prolific author of books and pamphlets on legal history and corporations, publishing *Defying Corporations*, *Defining Democracy: A Book of History & Strategy* and *Taking Care of Business: Citizenship and the Charter of Incorporation*, among others.

His brother Lawrence '52 says he saw Richard as a "passionate and uncompromising idealist who consistently took on huge world challenges that were too big to be dealt with by any one person."

Grossman is survived by his wife, Mary L. MacArthur; daughter, Alyssa; brothers, Lawrence '52 and Daniel; grandson; aunt, Shirley; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

Benjamin W. Gittelson '15

ter, 266 Cochituate Rd., Wayland, MA 01778 or St. Ann's Church.

Muir N. Weissinger Jr., author and poet, St. Augustine, Fla., on July 2, 2009. Weissinger was born in London, England, in 1928 and lived in many countries before settling in St. Augustine in 1998. He was the author of two editions of a well-received book, *The Failure of Faith*, exploring the ideas behind faith and ideology and was close to completing another book, commenting on totalitarianism, at the time of his death. He had a great appreciation of good food and wine, and never turned down the opportunity to try unusual foods. He spoke many languages, wrote poetry, was an expert in several periods of history (especially WWII), was a self-taught Egyptologist and played tennis. Weissinger is survived by his wife, Murrell; sister, Pam Crary; brothers-in-law, Richard and Hank; and a number of nieces, great-nieces and great-nephews.

1954

Thomas E. Sinton Jr., retired business executive, Mahwah, N.J., on November 11, 2010. Sinton was born in New York City on August 26, 1932. He attended Fordham Prep and earned a degree from the Business School in 1955. Sinton commenced a career with Arthur Young in New York that year and retired in 1992, as a partner, from its successor Ernst & Young. He then joined Bankers Trust as a managing director and board member of related funds management businesses until his retirement in 2005. Sinton was a longtime resident of Upper Saddle River, N.J., and a longstanding member of both Hackensack Golf Club and The New York Athletic Club. He is survived by his wife, Susan (née Creter); daughters, Jill Polansky and her husband, Ronald, Sally Sinton and her husband, Thomas Lorenzen; mother-in-law, Margaret Creter; four grandchildren; brother, Donald, and his wife, Patricia; brother-in-law, Joseph Daly; daughter-in-law, Trudy Sinton; and cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, Thomas E. III, and sister, Audrey Daly. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association-Greater New Jersey Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Ste 251, Denville, NJ 07834.

1955

Alan D. Pasternak, consultant and lobbyist, Lafayette, Calif., on September 24, 2010. Pasternak graduated from the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in New York City, then earned a B.A. from the College and a B.S. in 1956 from Engineering. While at Columbia he rowed on the varsity lightweight crew. After college Pasternak was an officer in the Navy from 1956–59. He earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from UC Berkeley. Pasternak was chosen by Gov. Jerry Brown to be one of the original appointees to the California Energy Commission, where he served from 1975–79. He previously was a member of the scientific staff of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, where he worked on the development of new energy technologies, including coal gasification and the use of methyl alcohol for fuel. After leaving the Energy Commission, Pasternak was a consultant and the lobbyist and technical director of the California Radioactive Materials Management Forum, where he worked for the remainder of his career. In 1990 he returned to Livermore part-time to resume his work on energy policy. Pasternak is survived by his wife, Meta L.; children, Jeremy, Benjamin and Emelia; and two grandchildren.

1956

Joseph A. Parker Jr., engineer, Toms River, N.J., on November 11, 2010. Parker earned a degree in 1957 from Engineering and was then commissioned second lieutenant in the Air Force. He flew C-124s, a B-57 and a C-141. Parker was deployed in 1967 to the Vietnam conflict and flew more than 200 combat missions as an electronic warfare officer on the EB-66, earning the Meritorious Air Medal. At the conclusion of his tour, he finished his graduate work at Michigan. Parker went on to fly C-5 Galaxies as a navigator, stationed at Dover AFB. He retired as a major in 1980 and continued to work for the Department of Defense at Fort Monmouth, N.J., finishing his civilian career at Ilex in 2008. Parker is survived by his wife of 53 years, Margaret "Rita"; children, Steven and his wife, Cassandra, Robert and his wife, Lynn, and Tana and her husband, Frank; sister, Ann Hogan; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 2200 Church Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753.

1958

Donald Festa, retired colonel, Oakland, N.J., on October 14, 2010. Festa was born in Paterson, N.J., on September 5, 1932. He enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed as a radar operator in the Korean War for four years. He graduated from the College with honors. Festa graduated first in his class with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant from the Marine Corps training center and received a Bronze Star for leadership during a conflict in the Dominican Republic. In 1966, Festa and his Ninth Marines landed in Vietnam. He commanded the Alpha Company, labeled "The Walking Dead" by Ho Chi Minh. Festa was commended for his leadership with the Gallantry Cross, the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. He went on to have a long and distinguished career in the military; among other assignments, he served at the Pentagon, in Denmark as an operations officer for NATO and in Okinawa as a senior planning officer for the U.S. Pacific Command Center. Festa was predeceased by his wife, Yoko, and a brother, Nicholas. Survivors include his brothers, James L., Charles C. Jr., Robert P. and Peter; sisters, Rose DeLisi and June Leonardi; and nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the ASPCA, 424 E. 92nd St., New York, NY 10128-6804.

John J. Rothschild, cardiologist, New York City, on November 4, 2010. Born in Cologne, Germany, Rothschild came to New York as an infant. A graduate of SUNY Downstate Medical School, he dedicated nearly five decades to providing patient care and medical education at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. Rothschild is survived by his wife, Barbara; children and their spouses, Andrew '92 (Barbra), Spencer (Julie) and Juliet (Matthew Weissman); mother and father-in-law, Fannie and Albert Kishter; and eight grandchildren.

1960

William V. Borden, playwright, novelist, poet and English professor, Rockwall, Texas, on October 23, 2010. Borden was born in 1938 in Indianapolis. He was a professor of English at the University of North Dakota for 27 years, the fiction editor of the *North Dakota Quarterly* from 1986–2002 and received the Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor award. Borden's

inventiveness is seen throughout his work, including his comic novel *Superstoe*, published in 1967, and his 2008 novel, *Dancing with Bears*. Borden produced many short stories, appearing in more than 30 literary magazines and winning the PEN Syndicated Fiction Prize and the Writers Voice Fiction Contest. His poems appeared in more than 80 literary magazines and 20 anthologies. Borden also was a successful playwright, writing more than 37 plays. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Lee-Borden; a brother; three children; and seven grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Authors Guild Foundation or the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

1961

Donald G. Roesch, retired attorney, Woodside, Calif., on September 19, 2010. Roesch was born in Kansas City, Mich., and grew up in the Midwest. His family settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, and Roesch graduated from Sequoia H.S., Redwood City. He developed a love for the outdoors as a member of the Boy Scouts of America. Roesch earned a law degree from Hastings University Berkeley in 1965 and became an attorney in 1966. He served with the county's Public Defender Program, was temporarily a judge and taught a law class at the College of San Mateo. Roesch was a longtime member of Kiwanis International, San Mateo County Trial Lawyers Association, the American Bar Association, Kings Mountain Art Fair Board of Directors and the Kings Mountain Association. He served as lieutenant governor of Kiwanis International from 1995–96 and was president and legal counsel for KMA. His favorite hobbies were reading and home projects. Roesch is survived by his wife, Kari; daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter, Anna, Alan and Emily Tubbs; and brother, sister-in-law and nephew, Warren, Peggy and Whit Roesch. He was predeceased by his daughter Lisa Marie. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kings Mountain Elementary School KMAP, 211 Swett Rd., Woodside CA 94062.

1962

Eugene V. "Vic" Wolfenstein, professor, psychoanalyst and writer, Beverly Hills, on December 15, 2010. Wolfenstein was born in Cleveland on July 9, 1940. He earned a Ph.D. in politics from

Princeton in 1965; his dissertation formed the basis of his first book, *The Revolutionary Personality: Lenin, Trotsky, Gandhi*. Wolfenstein went to UCLA in 1965 as an assistant professor of political science and became a full professor in 1979. He spent his entire academic career at UCLA, where he had a prolific writing career, including eight books and numerous articles. His final work was *Talking Books: Toni Morrison Among the Ancestors*. In 1991, Wolfenstein received the UCLA Mortar Board Faculty Excellence Award and in 1994 UCLA's Harriet and Charles Luckman Distinguished Teaching Award. Wolfenstein also was a practicing psychoanalyst. He earned a second Ph.D., in psychoanalysis, from the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute in 1984 and taught there from 1988–2002. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Judy; children, Laura (Karl Shallicker), Leonard (Lyla), Gabriel and Moses; four grandchildren; uncle, Lincoln (Wilma); and half-siblings, Marlene (Bruno) Borghi, Robert and Karoline (Cyril) Postel-Vinay. Memorial contributions may be made to UCLA's Department of Political Science for an award to be established in his name.

1 9 7 1

Paul C. Jamieson III, former attorney, amateur chef, Stamford, Conn., on October 8, 2010. At Columbia, Jamieson was a member of the ice hockey team, crew and Alpha Delta Phi. After graduating, he and his future wife, Pam, traveled around Europe for a year. Later Jamieson attended The New England School of Law, graduating in 1976. When his children were born, Jamieson left the practice of law to stay home. He took pains to invest with equal ardor in each and every meal, shopping daily. He also donated his cooking skills to the community; for The Long Ridge School, which he attended at 5 and with which he maintained a lifelong connection and was board secretary, he hosted a Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon annually. He also loved to sail. Jamieson is survived by his wife of 39 years, Pam; daughter, Katie; son, Andrew; and brother, Matthew. Memorial contributions may be made to The Long Ridge School, 478 Erskine Rd., Stamford, CT 06903-1599 or The Cancer Institute at St. Joseph's Medical Center, 7601 Osler Dr., Towson, MD 21204.

1 9 7 9

Jonathan M. Kayes, chief learning officer, Vienna, Va., on August 5, 2010. Kayes earned a degree in 1981 from SIPA and also studied at Middlebury and in Taiwan. His career included 27 years of service in the CIA. In the decade before his death, Kayes focused on his passion for learning, including serving as the CIA's first chief learning officer and later the chief learning officer of the Learning Consortium. A gifted linguist and manager, he spent a distinguished career with the Operations Directorate at the

CIA, for which he was honored with several medals. He enjoyed long weekend morning walks with the family dogs, music, reading, the Chinese language and Chinese food. Kayes is survived by his wife of 24 years, Karen; daughters, Lauren and Alison; mother, Barry; brothers, Matthew and Ethan; and nephews and nieces.

1 9 8 7

Edward S. Fettman, ESL teacher, Bridgeport, Conn., on June 21, 2010. Born in Bridgeport on May 31, 1965, Fettman graduated from

Central H.S. A scholar and educator, Fettman has been memorialized with a scholarship in his name at Rockland Community College in New York, where he taught ESL for 20 years. He is survived by his children, Victoria and Steven; brother, Eric; and cousins, Sally Colon, Gordon Winer and Jeffrey Winer. Memorial contributions may be made to RCC Foundation, Attn.: Lillian Piskun, ESL Department, Rockland Community College, 145 College Rd., Suffern, NY 10901.

Lisa Palladino



OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

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

- 1935** Norman F. Ramsey Jr., physicist and professor, Wayland, Mass., on November 4, 2011.
1941 Dante A. Bove, retired engineer, Toms River, N.J., on January 4, 2012.
 Arthur C. Kragen, retired ob/gyn, South Orange, N.J., on October 7, 2011.
 Albert Rosenblum, Yonkers, N.Y., on October 7, 2011.
1942 Elliott C. Levinthal, physicist, inventor and professor, Palo Alto, Calif., on January 14, 2012.
 William A. Mazzarella, retired IRS employee, Oceanside, Calif., on January 2, 2012.
1943 Edward M. Buyer, electrical engineer, Adamstown, Md., on February 4, 2012.
1944 Allen M. Fisher, dentist, Brookfield, Wis., on January 11, 2012.
 Peter G. Rozakis, retired insurance sales representative, financial planner and consultant, Greenville Junction, Maine, on October 9, 2011.
 John T. Williamson, geologist and travel agency executive, New Smyrna Beach, Fla., on November 3, 2011.
1945 Robert C. Hehn, retired purchasing manager, Yonkers, N.Y., on September 18, 2011.
 Eric Jenett, retired engineer, Houston, on October 20, 2011.
1946 Harry W. Fritts Jr., physician, professor and chair emeritus, Northport, N.Y., on April 22, 2011.
 George H. Pretat, engineer, Bowdoin, Maine, on July 26, 2011.
1947 George W. Haelelein, retired economist, Newark, N.J., on January 6, 2012.
1948 George W. Carey, professor, Old Chatham, N.Y., on January 10, 2012.
 Stanley L. Johnson, engineer, Uxbridge, Mass., on January 20, 2012.
 Mace Siegel, Beverly Hills, on October 26, 2011.
1949 James R. Condina, retired data processor, Carmel, N.Y., on December 21, 2011.
 Richard W. DeBruin, retired editor and financial executive, Quincy, Mass., on December 16, 2011.
 George Sayer, engineer, Hillsboro, Ore., on October 9, 2011.
1953 Richard "Dick" Gershon, retired advertising executive, Milan, N.Y., on November 15, 2011.
 Carl T. Witkovich, savings and loans executive, San Mateo, Calif., on May 3, 2011.
1955 Philip D. Bleser, Bonita Springs, Fla., on October 28, 2011.
1956 Donald R. Nunziato, civil engineer, developer and contractor, Amherst, Va., on December 22, 2011.
1957 Walter C. Rabe, Floral Park, N.Y., on January 10, 2012.
1958 Howard V. Dubin, dermatologist, Ann Arbor, Mich., on October 16, 2011.
1960 Louis G. Gladstone, social services worker, Menands, N.Y., on February 13, 2009.
 Donald S. Keller, sheet metal fabrications executive, Wayland, Mass., on November 6, 2011.
 Robert R. Morgan, retired teacher, New York City, on December 10, 2011.
 George E.B. Morren Jr., anthropologist and professor, Rocky Hill, N.J., on September 29, 2011.
1961 Joel J. Karp, international tax and estate planning expert, Washington, D.C., on January 16, 2011.
1962 John E. Zucker, allergist, Washington, D.C., on December 27, 2011.
1963 James F. Brogan Jr., Charlestown, Mass., on December 26, 2011.
1964 Alan B. Reis, attorney, New York City, on March 30, 2010.
1968 Nathaniel M. Semple, political staff member, Washington, D.C., on January 3, 2012.
1969 Dean P. Dark, consulting geophysicist, Tyler, Texas, on November 8, 2011.
1972 Richard B. Kaplan, dentist, Caldwell, N.J., on November 30, 2011.
1977 Damien C. Bona, Academy Award expert, writer, New York City, on January 29, 2012.
1980 Jordan Pfister, Brooklyn, N.Y., on February 26, 2011.
1981 Raymond E. Morrison, financial planner, Detroit Lakes, Minn., on November 26, 2011.

Class Notes

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Columbia College Today
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Columbia College recently realized gifts of more than \$5 million toward endowed financial aid from the estates of **Shepard Alexander '21** and his wife, Patricia.

Alexander, who died on September 21, 2001, at 100 (college. columbia.edu / cct_archive / nov01 / nov01_obituaries.html), was among the most active alumni in Columbia history, a familiar face on and off campus and at the Baker Athletics Complex, where he was one of Columbia football's most ardent supporters. He was a member of the College's Board of Visitors and a recipient of the Alumni Medal in 1961 and the John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1991. In 1998, he and his wife endowed the first coaching position at Columbia, the Patricia and Shepard Alexander Head Coach of Football.

Alexander was a generous benefactor, serving as his class' fund chair for 50 years and endowing numerous scholarships in addition to his support of annual giving and athletics. A trust was set up to support his wife, and when she died on September 16, 2011, Columbia received an additional \$1.25 million to support financial aid, in addition to the \$4.4 million Alexander had previously arranged to support the College.

Altogether, Alexander and his family have donated more than \$8 million to Columbia, a lasting legacy.

Howard Meyer '34, '36L, of Bolinas, Calif., recently gave an interview to Elia Haworth of *Original Minds*, a program on community radio station KWMR. They discussed Howard's career, focusing largely on the Fourteenth

Amendment and Howard's Pulitzer-Prize nominated book *The Amendment That Refused to Die: Equality and Justice Deferred* (1973). In his introduction, Haworth neatly summed up Howard's many accomplishments, saying: "Meyer is a towering scholar and thinker in a small, 96-year-old body. [When he moved] to West Marin, few knew that this articulate, charming man was a two-time Pulitzer Prize-nominated author, a legal authority, social and civil rights historian, retired attorney and arbitrator, former assistant to two U.S. attorneys general in the era of WWII, and a member of the American Society of International Law. Of his many books and some 70 articles published in prestigious publications, he has been well known as a social activist."

Sol Fisher '36 has written half a dozen plays, the basic script for an opera on the Holocaust and a number of one-act shows.

Arnold Saltzman '36, who is featured in a nearby photograph carrying the 1936 banner at last year's Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day, submitted a brief biography. He writes, "I'm married to Joan Saltzman and have lived with her in Nassau County since 1947. We have a daughter, Marian, and two sons, Eric '69 and Robert '67. Grandson Gabriel '11 also followed in the family footsteps."

"I was a naval officer in WWII and served five presidents in a range of policy-level diplomatic and economic assignments, and I received a Presidential Commendation for my efforts on the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. I carried out diplomatic assignments in Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, South America, Central America and Vienna. ... I also was appointed as the adviser to the New York State Congressional Delegation in Washington and chairman of the Speakers Committee of the Assembly in Albany. My function in both cases was to propose legislative agenda to benefit New York state. ...

"The first westerner invited by the USSR in early 1985 to explain the change coming in Soviet policy, I spent much of the next five years as an honest broker between the United States and the U.S.S.R.,

helping to move the U.S.S.R. to a friendly economic democracy.

"I am chairman of Windsor Production Corp., retired CEO of the N.Y.S.E.-listed companies Seagrave Corp. and Vista Resources, and a director of a number of charitable corporations. ... I was a Columbia University Alumni Medalist in 1964 and I hold honorary Ph.D. degrees from Hofstra and Adelphi."

Columbia's Institute of War and Peace Studies, founded in 1951 under the sponsorship of President Eisenhower, is named for Arnold, and in 2003 he was awarded the Order of Honor by President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, the country's highest honor to a foreigner.

Bob Saloschin '40 writes, "Within a month of hitting 92, my time and energy are divided between the usual household matters,

have been read in a theatre club, but not commercially produced. My main activity is reading — trying to catch up on all I could not do while in school or when I was a practicing lawyer. I devote an hour or two every day to that and to sending messages on my computer. I read the *San Francisco Chronicle* daily, as well as *The Nation* and several other publications.

"I have a house in a small residential city near San Francisco. I am in good health, walk for 30 minutes every morning and swim when the weather allows. For about five years, until I was 80, I led monthly hikes on trails for the Sierra Club and twice-yearly hikes for the Berkeley Hiking Club. As a member of a local volunteer musical society, I was chairman of its Composers Workshop and house manager (eliciting help from fellow elders to move the piano front and center for performances, then back to the wall afterward). I have reduced my theatre-going to one local symphony orchestra and one local opera company but, of course, I watch and listen to broadcasts; several years ago, I donated all of my records, discs and videotapes to the music department of the local community college.

"I also raise and harvest apples, pears, grapes, oranges, plums and lemons in my backyard orchard, and have made plum jam and dehydrated apples and pears. For Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, which I spend with family and friends, I also bake a dozen yams and freeze a tiramisu."

Also writing from San Francisco is **David Perlman '39, '40**, science editor for the *Chronicle* (college. columbia.edu / cct / nov_dec09 / features). He expanded on his update from last issue: "I write about all kinds of science — been covering Mars since the Mariner Missions, orbiters, rovers and all the other planets, too. Write about earthquakes, oceanography, space, climate, evolution, fossils and more. I try to annoy the intelligent designers and climate change deniers (does anyone notice how often they're the same folks?). Anyone wanting to see what I write can go to sfgate.com and use the search box. When the *Chronicle* was rich, I got to go all over — Antarctica, Alaska, China, Galapagos, Ethiopia and so on — but now the longest voyage is to far-off Silicon Valley or across the wide, wide waters to Berkeley. I'd be delighted to hear

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.

from anyone from my class, either College or the Journalism School."

Share *your* memories and news with friends and classmates by sending a Class Note to the postal or email address at the top of the column, or, even easier, by submitting it online through CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Robert Zucker
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Roslyn, NY 11576
rzucker@optonline.net

Dr. **Charles Plotz**, the youngest member of our class, celebrated his 90th birthday in December and is a consultant for the Social Security Administration. He is the second of four generations of Columbians. His father graduated from P&S in 1900. Charles commented that he hopes the Core Curriculum will remain for his descendants. I am sure his classmates would join in this wish.

Roy McArdle's daughter, Elizabeth Solomon, advises that Roy is enjoying life with Helen, his wife of 61 years, and some of his descendants, who live in beautiful Hawaii. He apparently can still remember the names of his six children, 19 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

On a sad note, **Dick Kuh** died in November. His obituary appeared in *The New York Times*: Dick was for many years a Manhattan prosecutor and briefly was the Manhattan district attorney; more recently he was a partner in a New York law firm. While at Columbia, Dick was on the Student Board and was the editor of our yearbook, the *Columbian*. He was a combat infantryman in Europe and graduated from Harvard Law.

By the time this appears I will have returned from a 10-day trip to Israel with my companion's family and a Club Med Ixtapa trip with my 26-member family. I will be raring to write news of class members' activities. Keep me posted.

REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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Melvin Hershkowitz
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We are just three months from our 70th reunion, which will be held

Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. As you all know, it's a great chance to see campus and catch up with old friends. Our class-specific lunch on Saturday is sure to be a highlight. Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events. Lots more is still in the works. For the most up-to-date information — and more importantly, to sign up! — go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You can also contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. And be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

Columbia's exciting 35–28 overtime football victory over Brown at Wien Stadium on November 19 meant the Lions finished with a 1–9 record and avoided a winless season — a fine farewell for the seniors on the team. It brought back memories from 29 years ago, when on November 20, 1982, I attended the final game at the old Baker Field. On that date, we also played Brown, but lost 35–21. With me in the wooden stands were my best pals, the late **Gerald Green** — famous novelist, NBC television producer and author of *The Last Angry Man* and *Holocaust* — and lifelong friend Ray Robinson '41. Robinson is a veteran magazine editor (*Seventeen*, *Good Housekeeping*), biographer of Lou Gehrig '23 (*Iron Horse: Lou Gehrig in His Time*) and author of *The Home Run Heard 'Round The World: The Dramatic Story of the 1951 Giants-Dodgers Pennant Race*, about the Bobby Thomson homer that gave the New York Giants the 1951 National League pennant over the Brooklyn Dodgers. Ray, a devoted fundraiser for research in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, celebrated his 91st birthday in New York City on December 4.

Like our 2011 football team, the 1982 team finished with a record of 1–9. Our only win that year came over Princeton, 35–14. The captains in 1982 were Jim Gavin '82, who became an executive with Procter & Gamble, and Mike Scavina '83, who earned a medical degree from Ohio State and became a cardiologist in Ohio.

Baker Field was replaced by Wien Stadium, thanks to generous donor Lawrence Wien '25, '27L, while the playing field was later named for generous donor Robert K. Kraft '63, owner of the New England Patriots. On September 22, 1984, in the first game at Wien, we lost to Harvard 35–21, an ominous start to our now famous 44-game losing streak. Our first victory at Wien Stadium, in fact, did not come until four years later, when on October 8, 1988, we managed a dramatic 16–13 victory over



Arnold Saltzman '36 and his son, Eric Saltzman '69, carried Arnold's class banner during the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day 2011.

PHOTO: ETHAN ROUEN '04J, '11 BUSINESS

Princeton.

I have more sad tidings than usual to report, beginning with **H. James Sondheim**, who passed away on August 6 in Trumbull, Conn. I had known Jim since 1935, when we met as students at Horace Mann School. Jim served in the Army Air Corps during WWII and then earned an M.B.A. from the Stern School of Business at NYU. Jim worked at CBS in New York, then at FM radio station WAAT and TV station WATV in Newark before returning to the city to help establish WQXR, one of the most prominent classical music stations in the nation. He then worked at NBC Television before returning to his radio career at Infinity Broadcasting, where he remained until retirement.

Jim was a member of Broadcast Pioneers and of the International Radio and Television Society. He and his wife, Dorothy, enjoyed international travel with Elderhostel, and he also was an active participant in AA for more than 30 years, supporting and encouraging many AA members. He was an accomplished amateur photographer, going back to his student years at Horace Mann, where he was photographic editor of the literary quarterly. At Columbia, Jim was a member of ZBT and worked at radio station CURC, then in its early years. He was coxswain on the freshman lightweight and junior varsity lightweight crews, participated in *The Varsity Show* and debate council, and wrote for the *Columbia Review*. He earned a well-deserved Silver Crown for his many contributions to undergraduate life. Jim also was a loyal alumnus; he went to many Homecomings at Baker Field and Wien Stadium, and he attended several class reunions with his wife.

Jim is survived by his wife; daughter, Susan Mohr; son, Wil-

liam; sister, Joan Vogel; and five grandchildren. We send condolences from our classmates to Jim's family, and to that I add my personal sense of sadness and loss, as well as gratitude for a friendship of 76 years. Farewell, old friend.

Dr. **Myron Steinberg** — for many years an ob/gyn on the staff of Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC — died on October 22 in Palm Beach, Fla. At Columbia, I knew Myron as a brilliant pre-medical student. He was admitted to P&S a year early on the "professional option" (no longer available) and earned an M.D. in 1944. He was predeceased by his wife, Helen, and is survived by his children, Michael, Alan and Leslie; a brother; two sisters; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Myron was a member of the John Jay Society. Our condolences to Myron's family and friends on their loss.

I received a note from Winston Gaffron '46 reporting the death of his brother, **John Milan Coleman Gaffron '42E**, on September 28 in Georgetown, Texas. Jack was 91. He graduated with a B.S. in mining-engineering, was a member of Phi Gamma Delta and rowed on our great crews in 1940 and 1941.

Jack began his career at Freeport Sulphur in 1942, then enlisted in the Navy and served for three years as an officer on board a small carrier (CV57); he engaged in several major battles in the Pacific Theater. In 1946, Jack returned to Columbia's Graduate School of Mines, where in 1947 he earned an engineer of mines degree, followed by a degree in petroleum engineering. He resumed his career at Freeport Sulphur, working on the Texas Gulf Coast in the oil and gas department. In 1964, he was named v.p. of the Freeport Oil Co., serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1980, after which he worked for 10 years

Dr. Herbert Hendin '46, '59 P&S, Is Pioneer in Suic

BY KAREN KELLER '05J

Don't try to tell Dr. Herbert Hendin '46, '59 P&S, one of the world's foremost suicide experts, that it's time to retire.

The fact that he's 85 just makes him want to work harder.

Plus, he's doing what may be his most important life work right now: helping to stem the tide of military suicides, which has spiked alarmingly in recent years. In 2009 more military members took their own lives than died in enemy combat, according to congress.org.

If the grim trend seems like an inscrutable puzzle to outsiders, to Hendin — who has studied severely depressed people from Harlem to China — veterans just represent another subculture with an explainable emotional geography. Among those with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), he says, the ones most likely to take their lives are those who feel disturbed by what they did or didn't do during combat — those who feel they did something morally wrong.

Yet despite decades of expertise with a subject some see as upsetting, suicide didn't always fascinate him.

As a pre-med student, Hendin's favorite teachers were Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS and Otto Klineberg '28 GSAS, a world-renowned social psychologist who taught Hendin's abnormal psychology class. "I was fascinated by the material, and had a response to it that led him to encourage me to go on into a career in psychiatry," Hendin recalls. (Those were the days, 1943–45, when College students studied year-round because the Navy program was on a schedule of three 16-week terms a year; Hendin started Columbia at 16 and graduated at 18.)

The topic of suicide only grabbed his curiosity when, during rotations in medical school

at NYU (he also earned a certificate in psychoanalytic medicine from P&S), he met a beautiful girl in her late 20s who was rich and smart, but who wanted to kill herself. He couldn't understand why a person with so many advantages in life would want to end it, he says.



Dr. Herbert Hendin '46, '59 P&S, an international suicide expert, at the Upper East Side headquarters of one of his foundations, Suicide Prevention Initiatives.

PHOTO: KAREN KELLER '05J

Eager to unlock the riddle, Hendin embarked on his first major research project into suicide. A Danish psychiatrist knew Hendin was interested in the cross-cultural contexts of suicide and invited him to do research on the "Scandinavian suicide phenomenon"; the suicide rate in Sweden and Denmark was triple the rate in Norway. Hendin wound up spending several summers interviewing patients in each of the three countries to discover what made them tick.

On his way home from his final stint in the Nordic countries, in 1964, Hendin flew to New York on a separate plane from his data, just in case either plane went down. (He chuckles today that he took himself so seriously.) Once back in Manhattan, the chief of psychiatry of a Harlem hospital challenged Hendin to

study a very different population: "You had a nice time with wealthy Scandinavians. Now come study African-American suicide," he recalls her saying.

Since then, Hendin has written 10 books and hundreds of research articles that have helped mental health profes-

ogy. Next, he switched to the psychiatry department at New York Medical College so that he could focus more on his own research. At NYMC he sowed the seeds of his current work, steering a research and treatment program for combat veterans of the Vietnam War with PTSD.

Now Hendin hopes to bring his expertise to help military members who fought in the nation's most recent wars.

In December, he received the first installment of a two-year, \$686,000 grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation to treat military combat veterans in Houston and study suicide in the military. A month later, he stepped down as CEO of SPI to focus on the work. He still sees patients before 9 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m., saving the best hours for his current research.

"I'm doing only work that I enjoy. I don't have to go to administrative meetings anymore," Hendin says.

Recently Hendin connected with U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University (known on campus as "Milvets"), vets who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and who now study at Columbia on scholarship aid. The group is working with SPI on a fundraising walk called "Walk for Life," scheduled for May 5 in Riverside Park.

Throughout his life, Hendin has carried a sense of purpose that energizes anything he does, whether career-related or not.

As a senior at Columbia, he was the best player on the varsity tennis team. "He was very hard to beat," says Bernard Sunshine '46, Hendin's long-time friend and a CCT class correspondent, who recalls Hendin's quick anticipation of the ball on the tennis court. Sunshine was team manager.

Starting in the 1960s, Hen-

ide Research

Hendin served as the volunteer chair of the Columbia Tennis Center Executive Committee — a post he held for 20 years. He coaxed close to a million dollars from donors, mostly alumni, to build more tennis courts, an air dome and a club house at Baker Field. No stone was left unturned in Hendin's efforts: He sent 200 handwritten letters, one to each member of the Columbia varsity tennis team going back to the 1930s.

"I don't know if we would have had a tennis center if Herb hadn't done that," Sunshine says.

Tennis ended up helping Hendin's game off the court as well. Strangers whom he found himself playing against, and then befriended, became instrumental to his foundation work, offering free legal help, for example.

Hendin, a father of two who is married to his longtime sweetheart, Josephine '68 GSAS, and lives in New York City, still plays matches with friends from his Columbia days, including John Nelson '45, '54 GSAS, the former chair of the Italian department. For years he also played regularly with Seymour Waldman '48, '50L, a labor lawyer who passed away in 2009.

Despite the difficult career he has dedicated himself to, Hendin always has been an energizing force, Sunshine says. "You can see it come on when the smile begins to form on his face. No matter the topic, he has something funny to say about it."

Karen Keller '05J is a freelance journalist based in the New York City area. Her work has appeared in *The Daily*, *AOL News*, *amNY*, *The Star-Ledger*, *Fortune*, *Travel & Leisure* and other publications. Keller is the author of *Portuguese For Dummies*.

as a consultant to Continental Oil in Houston, including visits to Dubai, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Jack was elected president of the Society of Petroleum Engineers in 1969, served as an elder of the Presbyterian Church and was an enthusiastic golfer, bridge player and gardener. He was predeceased by his first wife, Lucretia Gaffron, in 1995. In 1997 he married Doris Kent Ferguson, who survives him along with his brother, Winston '46; daughters, Anita Hughes and Marietta Eskridge; two grandsons; two granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

Jack was a kind and loving man, a wonderful father and a loyal friend. We send condolences to his family and to his friends and classmates.

The Thanksgiving holiday brought greetings from four loyal Lion classmates: **Art Wellington** in Elmira, N.Y.; **Bob Kaufman** in Scarsdale, N.Y.; **Don Mankiewicz** in Monrovia, Calif.; and **Dr. William Robbins** in Grand Island, Fla.

Art, who will be 92 in May, entertained 14 members of his extended family, the youngest being his 1-year-old great-grandchild. Bob, who turned 91 in January, visited with his two sons (both Yale alumni) in Westchester and New Jersey. Don, 90 in January, called to say he was doing well and had "a houseful of guests" in Monrovia. Bill, who turned 90 in October, reported that he was a charter member of "Tim Tebow Nation," having enjoyed Tim's career at the University of Florida and now with the Denver Broncos.

All four classmates served on active duty during and after WWII. Art was a Marine artillery officer in the Pacific campaigns, Bob was a shipboard officer in the Navy and Don was an enlisted NCO in an Intelligence unit in the Army in Europe. Bill, meanwhile, studied at Cornell Medical School from 1942–45, then did an internship for a year before serving as a naval medical officer from 1946–48; he worked at a hospital in Memphis and aboard the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt* in Norfolk, Va.

After the war, Art became an optometrist in Elmira, N.Y., a part owner of the Elmira Pioneers minor league baseball team and a harness racing enthusiast. Bob graduated from Yale Law and rose to v.p. and counsel at the ABC News and Sports Television Network. He also worked with Roone Arledge '52 to create several famous programs, helping to pioneer extensive reporting of world news, *Monday Night Football* and coverage of the Olympics. Don won the 1955 Harper Prize award for his novel, *Trial*; was nominated for an Acad-

emy Award in 1958 for his screenplay of *I Want To Live!*; and wrote several original television scripts, including some for *Marcus Welby, M.D.* in 1967 and *Ironside* in 1969. Bill became a research investigator at Rockefeller University and later was a distinguished rheumatologist at Cornell Medical School and New York Hospital.

Happy birthday to these distinguished classmates!

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G.J. D'Angio

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I'm pleased to say I heard from several classmates in time for the column, though I still think our group can do better. Please take a few minutes and write me with news about what is going on in your life these many years after graduation. In the meantime, here are some updates from your fellow Lions.

Benjamin Senitzky writes, "After teaching at Polytechnic University (now Polytechnic Institute of NYU)

more hiking, music and traveling."

The Rev. **A. Ensign Leininger** also got in touch. He recalls, "I finished Columbia College in October 1943. Only 40 of us were left from our class of 500. Most were away in uniform. At our graduation ceremony in Earl Hall, Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) presided and shook our hands (quite an honor).

"I was pastor/teacher/counselor with the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the Philippines and in Chicago. I retired in 1989 healthy as a horse, and have traveled to Jordan, Egypt and Mexico. I also spent a year as a volunteer in the Philippines. Now in Chicago, I am a counselor to churches in transition, sing in the *Messiah* and work with ministries to the hungry and homeless. For fun, I drove around Lake Michigan, a trip of 1,000 miles in this beautiful area. My wife and I have eight children, none of whom studied at Columbia College, sad to say."

My wife and I went to the Netherlands in October for a medical meeting in charming Amsterdam, thence to Sittard in the south of the country. There we visited her brother's grave in the British War Cemetery, probably for the last time. We also hired a car and driver to take us the few miles into Germany to the site where he was killed, along with all his tank crew,

Rev. A. Ensign Leininger '43 is a counselor to churches in transition, sings in the *Messiah* and works with ministries helping the hungry and homeless.

for 23 years, I semi-retired to Tucson, where I taught as adjunct professor from 1989–99. Since then I have fully retired to pursue my two main hobbies: hiking and chamber music. We are surrounded by four ranges: the Tucsons, Catalinas, Rincons and Santa Ritas. Each one has many trails, with hikes ranging from a few miles to 20 miles round-trip. I try to climb a 10-mile trail with a 4,000- or 5,000-foot elevation change on my birthday, although I must admit, the mountains are getting higher every year and my hiking buddies are becoming more reluctant to join me.

"I've been lucky to find fellow musicians here. We get together once a week to play string quartets (I play the violin). My wife of 60 years, Jeanne, had Alzheimer's for the last 10 years of her life. She passed away three years ago. I was able to care for her at our home so she never went to a nursing home. In the last couple of years I have traveled to Israel, where I have great-grandchildren, as well as to Ireland, Italy, Costa Rica and Mexico. I'm looking forward to

in November 1944. The countryside now is peaceful farmland. One cannot imagine the horrific scene 67 years ago, the same month that the Allies invaded Germany.

We then went to Auckland, New Zealand, for another medical meeting. New Zealand is our favorite country. It has so many nice things; even if I took the rest of this column, I could only begin to name them. Auckland Bay reminds one of Seattle's Puget Sound or Sydney, Australia: many small islands, hundreds of sailing vessels large and small, and ferries moving slowly across the waters. We ate a pleasant lunch at a winery on one of the islands. The meal was made even better by a great white wine and stupendous views.

That wound up our foreign travel for 2011. We were thrice across the Atlantic and once the Pacific. Enough already!

October and November were busy at home in other ways. We had 14 persons drop in for overnights or weekends; it seems we run a pretty good B&B, so come

see us here in Philadelphia.

We spent Thanksgiving Day with my son in Pittsford, N.Y. All nine members of our immediate family were there. It's a rare event that finds all of us in one place at the same time.

Finally, I have sad news to report. **Edward M. Marwell**, a business executive from Mount Kisco, N.Y., passed away on September 7. Our condolences to all who knew him.

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Henry Rolf Hecht

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Because of WWII dislocations, '44 always has been a relatively small class. And with the inevitable passage of time, as we hardy (and hearty) survivors move into our late 80s or even early 90s, we really are down to a select few. But before, as I once said, we all "become one with Hamilton and Jay," let us resolve to stay in touch as long as we can. So I ask each of you to let me know regularly what is happening in your life. Even things that seemed trivial a decade or so ago (including keeping in touch) are more precious now — so share them as you can.

For instance, prolific writer (and correspondent) **Joe Cowley** included in his Christmas greeting that he had sent his adaptation of Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* for ESL students to the publisher and is now tackling Tolstoy's *The Kreutzer Sonata*. Joe's comment: "Got to keep busy (old rocking chair is beckoning)."

And may I add, friends: A rocking chair is a perfectly fine place from which to contact me with class news.

Larry Ross, now affiliated with '46 but art editor of the 1944 *Columbian*, is eager to acquire a copy of the '44 yearbook. He did all but two of the marginal illustrations for that edition and would love to show them to his grandchildren. So anyone able and willing to help Larry by selling (or perhaps even lending) a copy, please contact him at lretrad@comcast.net; home phone, 561-736-3422; or cell, 561-676-5912.

My email is anxious to hear from you (and a phone call or snail mail also is welcome).

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I received a long letter from Cy Bloom '47, in which he reminisced about our days on the lightweight crew together. I wrote him back with a request for details about his

distinguished legal career, as I see that one of the benefits of Class Notes is the vicarious pleasure one gets from reading about the accomplishments of classmates. Alas, I haven't heard back, but he made me recall a time when the freshmen lightweights were rowing on the Harlem. A cruise boat came along, and the guide said through his bullhorn: "And there is the Columbia varsity crew practicing!" Whereupon all eight of us caught crabs. (For the non-rowers, that's what happens when an oarsman feathers inadequately, and it's not a good thing; depending on the speed of the boat and the angle when the blade strikes the water, the effect can lift a person right out of the boat!)

I had planned to call some classmates to fill out this column, but unfortunately I spent a week in the hospital with pneumonia (the old man's friend), septicemia, a-fib and so on. When I got home, the things I had left undone made me think of the Augean stables. So bear with me. I'll do better next time.

You can help, too, by sending me your news.

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Bernard Sunshine

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I asked **Leonard Moss** to brief us about his forthcoming book, *Managing Stress in Times of Uncertainty*. Len says the book is clearly a product of his Columbia education, and he has particular praise for the Core Curriculum; medical school, meanwhile, challenged him to make a diagnosis from medical history alone, and psychoanalytical training encouraged his empirical bent. He described the six years of writing and rewriting as difficult but said he was relieved to learn that Ernest Hemingway rewrote the ending to *A Farewell to Arms* 39 times.

Len writes: "I began my office practice in New York in 1955 and soon learned the art of engaging persons in crisis through 'constructive worrying.' I found it remarkable that I could form a relationship in one session that was strong enough to deter that person from committing suicide. Corporate clients began asking me to help employees deal with stress in situations ranging from the factory floor to the boardroom. In 1970 I made the critical career decision to leave office practice and become the in-house consulting psychiatrist for Mobil Oil. This developed into a unique relationship between a psychiatrist and a major corporation that continued for almost three decades. Later I found myself fully

occupied consulting with other major American corporations, sitting in on executive committee meetings and as a member of the management team of an international company.

"Through case histories from private practice and my work with major corporations, the book tells how I applied psychoanalytic expertise to help organizations and their employees manage stress and address issues stemming from corporate restructuring, merger-caused conflicting work cultures and factory closures' affecting communities. It includes material of public and professional interest that has never been published. While writing, I was inspired by the advances in neuroscience that define the neural substrates through which psychiatry produces adaptive changes. I could now describe the scientific principles underlying the process of engagement with patients and clients, and the psychodynamic techniques I used successfully for more than 50 years.

"A few chapter headings follow:

"Man Hanging At The Tombs' assesses the relationship between the overcrowded prison environment and the suicidal behavior of inmates. In four years as consultant to the NYC Board of Corrections, I conducted 44 post-mortems of inmate suicides. My reports contributed to improvements in methods of suicide prevention and led to the closing and remodeling of The Tombs (Manhattan House of Detention).

"The Art Of Constructive Worrying' includes my original formulation of the stages of suicide risk and explains how to stay in touch with the patient's level of suicidal motivation.

"Hotel On A Volcano' describes the hazards I experienced while consulting on-site on an 88-story oil production platform in the turbulent Norwegian North Sea — an extraordinary seven-year assignment for Mobil Exploration Norway. The findings and research that followed shaped the industry's labor practices as well as the health and living conditions on all oil production platforms.

"I conclude the book by questioning whether the universal use of social networks will negatively impact the experience of intimacy that is the driving force in the psychodynamic experience. It remains to be seen how the anonymous sharing and visual demonstration of one's intimate thoughts, behavior and sexual experiences will affect the capacity for intimacy. Will telling one's story on the Internet and getting responses from numbers of anonymous persons preclude that young person later

in life from feeling the important impact of telling one's story in the one-on-one intimate environment of psychotherapy?"

Len, a provocative thought for today's world.

Stuart Tears wrote from Fort Worth, and recalled hiking to and from Riverside Drive with the freezing wind blowing against him. He relates that his brother was working on the Manhattan Project in Pupin Hall, and "one day my mother — not one to be stopped when she made up her mind — almost got shot when she broke into the office to see him. The guards had their guns drawn, and I might have been without a mother."

Stuart was on the swim team and expressed particular fondness for coach Ed Kennedy.

His comment caused me to turn to our yearbook, which has a full-page article about team captain **Eugene Rogers**. As a Lion swimmer, Gene recorded 56 victories in his career. His only defeat was to Alan Ford of Yale, though the contest was so close they posted the same time, 2:11. Gene later swam for the U.S. team at the Olympics in London.

Our faithful correspondent in Post Falls, Idaho, **John McConnell**, offered up some regional flavor by sending in local newspapers with headlines such as "Wolf War Declared"; "Wolves Bring Huge Public Safety Challenge to Idaho"; and "800-2000 Wolves in Idaho Alone." Then there was an unrelated headline: "Boise Man Loses Hunting License for Life ... 3 Times."

John's comment: "Life in the Pacific Northwest, Bernie."

REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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Columbia College Today

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Mark your calendars: The Class of '47 will celebrate 65 years of Columbia pride at Alumni Reunion Week-end, Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. The schedule includes cocktail receptions, special tours, assorted entertainment and a class lunch on Saturday. Note that Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events.

For the most up-to-date information and to register, go to reunion.

college.columbia.edu. You also can contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Finally, be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

George Borts sent the following: "I am employed at Brown. I teach half-time, giving me more time to be with my wife, Dolly, our three children and three grandchildren.

"I am writing mainly in the hope you will publish a remembrance of **Edward Gold**, whose death was reported in the Winter 2011–12 issue (college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/obituaries). Ed was a fellow exile from the Bronx and an enjoyable companion. In 1946 we were juniors and Ed was writing for *Spectator*. We came upon an article in *The New York Times* that mentioned that Professor Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS had served as an expert witness in a pornography case. It involved prosecution of the publishers of *Memoirs of Hecate County*, authored by Edmund Wilson, a well-known author and critic of the time. The story was told years later by Louis Menand '80 GSAS, writing for *The New York Review of Books*:

"The book's legal troubles began only four months after it was published, when copies in New York City bookstores were seized by plainclothes policemen acting on a complaint by the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. A trial in the Court of Special Sessions followed, at which Lionel

to interpret pornography was too tempting a subject to ignore. We asked Professor Trilling for an interview and he graciously complied. We did get the story about Trilling's adventure published in *Spectator*. I don't know how many Columbia undergrads were attracted to study English in the hope of following in his footsteps."

Finally, if you are interested in becoming CCT's Class of '47 correspondent, please contact Alexis Tonti '11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@college.columbia.edu or 212-851-7485 for more information.

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Eric P. Schellin

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[Editor's note: Due to health concerns, **Eric P. Schellin** has decided this will be his last column for CCT. We thank him for his 11 months of service to his class, the magazine and the College. If you are interested in stepping into the class correspondent role, please contact Alexis Tonti '11 Arts, managing editor, at alt2129@college.columbia.edu or 212-851-7485 for information. You also can send updates for the next issue to that same email address or to Alexis c/o Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 1st Fl., New York, NY 10025, or via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

The Scientific Assembly on Pediatrics presented Robert Mellins '48 with its 2011 Founders Award for his significant contributions to the field.

Trilling testified to the literary merit of the description of women's "sexual parts," on grounds that if a story was about sexuality, a description of sex organs might be considered necessary for "accuracy" and "precision." The court was unpersuaded, and it pronounced the book obscene. The decision was upheld on appeal by the State Supreme Court, and in 1948, the Supreme Court of the United States sustained the decision, on a tie vote, four to four. ... The decision made it impossible for Doubleday, Wilson's publisher, to reprint the book, and so, despite the commercially advantageous publicity, it died. When Wilson reprinted it, in 1959, it was still banned in New York."

"What an effect all of this had on the imagination of a pair of teenage reporters! The thought that professors of English were called upon

David N. Brainin writes, "I have stopped representing clients (as a lawyer) and am limiting my practice to acting as a neutral arbitrator and mediator. Thanks mainly to one of my sons and his children, I have nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Two of the grandchildren are my oldest daughter's girls. I'm in the 49th year of my second marriage, and I look forward to time with my recently retired wife and to keeping up with the rest of the family."

Robert Mellins says, "At the risk of seeming immodest, two things stand out in the past year: First, the Scientific Assembly on Pediatrics — a subdivision of the American Thoracic Society — presented me with the 2011 Founders Award at a gala during the annual meeting in May. Second, P&S presented me with a Distinguished Service Award at graduation, also

in May. My major outside activity is chairing the board of the Louis August Jonas Foundation, founded by George Jonas '19, the 1977 Alexander Hamilton Award recipient; the mission of this full scholarship international program is to promote responsible leadership in outstanding teenage boys and girls for the benefit of society. The rest of my time is spent teaching and pursuing research at P&S."

News of honors also comes to us from **Frank Marcus**, who received two awards in the last year. The first was the Outstanding Achievement Award, which was presented by the European Cardiac Arrhythmia Society at a ceremony in Paris on April 11. The second was the Pioneer in Pacing and Electrophysiology Award, which was presented at the Heart Rhythm Society Scientific Sessions in San Francisco on May 6.

On a sad note, **Harry Ekblom** passed away on August 28 in Osterville, Mass. **Richard Calame**, **Sears Edwards**, **Fred Morrison** and **Jack Thomas** attended the funeral. See the class column in the Winter 2011–12 issue, page 57, or go online to college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/class_notes to read Harry's obituary.

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Here we go again, writing almost on the eve of winter for your spring reading. It hasn't snowed yet but there is certainly a chill in the air. However, that chill has not dampened **Gene Straube's** enthusiasm for Columbia College athletics. He posted an email to alert us all to the pending, and

rather exciting, announcement of the new football coach, whom we now know to be Pete Mangurian. Only a few days earlier, Gene had informed us all of the extraordinary success of our basketball team in winning the Centennial Classic in Los Angeles; they had an undefeated record.

With all the serious considerations that engage our attention, it is a refreshing break to recognize the athletics program for its meaningful contribution to the "glue" that keeps us, from undergraduates to old alumni, together in our love and continued loyalty to our school.

Yet again, on the serious side of the ledger, I received a long and detailed communication from **Art Nolan** in the furtherance of the Professor Franz Neumann conversation.

As you may recall, Art began this discussion in the November/December 2010 Class Notes (college.columbia.edu/cct/nov_dec10/class_notes) and, over time, others have joined the "fray." Professor Neumann has a genuine resume of accomplishment, from his service in the prosecution of the Nuremberg trials to his inspirational teaching at Columbia; the question of his possible relationship with the KGB, however, continues to hold interest.

As undergraduates we lived through the reality of the hot war. The cold war that followed lasted a great deal longer and remains a source of controversy. But controversy is not a bad thing. It elicits meaningful discussion and enhances our understanding with regard to the history that has taken us from then to now.

We have heard from another voice that had been quiet since a reunion or two ago, **Donald Mehus**. Don sent me a copy of a bio-

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graphical sketch that appeared in the *Scandinavian-American Bulletin*. It details his history from before his arrival on Morningside Heights through his long and illustrious career as an educator. Don is the son of Norwegian parents. Being aware that this correspondent is married to a young woman of Norwegian heritage, he wanted to share this personal history. In a time when education is a subject of the highest order of interest and concern for our nation, I think we must give homage to one of our own who devoted his life after graduation to the pursuit of knowledge and the commitment to teaching.

"It's spring again, and birds on the wing again" goes the lyric. With the rebirth of the season, may you all find new and interesting reasons to drop me a note. If you wait to share around the breakfast table on Dean's Day (Saturday, June 2; college.columbia.edu/deansday), it will be too late for my next deadline.

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Ray Annino continues to wield his watercolor brushes and has posted 10 new works on his website, rayannino.com. Ray invites all classmates to visit and sign his guestbook. In addition to the new paintings, you can review previous showings of his New York state landscapes, seascapes, harbor scenes, lighthouses and scenes of fishing and skiing activity.

Irving Kushner '50 has been inducted into the MetroHealth Medical Hall of Honor for his long and productive career in medical research.

Ashbel Green, although nominally retired, keeps his hand in by doing freelance editing assignments for Alfred A. Knopf. Ash spends some time each year in Key West, Fla., where he meets and occasionally lunches with **Kirby Congdon**.

Irving Kushner, emeritus professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University, has been recognized for his long and productive career in medical research by being chosen for induction into the MetroHealth Medical Hall of Honor, in Cleveland. MetroHealth Medical Center is the teaching hospital of Case; Irv has worked there for more than 50 years. His election to the Hall of Fame was based on "excellence in research, clinical and academic accomplishments and for shaping

Metro Health into a nationally renowned medical institution." Irv's area of specialization is rheumatology, a subject on which more than 165 of his articles have been published.

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Our 60th reunion last year provided an opportunity to keep in touch with many members of our class. Here are some of the biographical comments from those who attended or who passed along information for this column.

Joseph V. Ambrose Jr. wrote, "I received a law degree from Columbia, completed two years of Army life with a long tour in Japan and then worked seven years at an NYC law firm. Subsequently, I joined a privately owned paper manufacturing company as assistant general counsel for six years. In 1969 I joined Corroon & Black Corp., a publicly owned New York-based insurance brokerage firm, as v.p. and general counsel, became a director in 1984 and remained there until my retirement in 1994.

"In 1961 I married Dorothy Neimeyer of Forest Hills, N.Y. Since 1968 we have lived in Irvington, N.Y., where we raised three daughters. Since retirement I have kept active by teaching ESL and traveling the world, in most recent years to Antarctica, Finland, Russia, China and Alaska. Have given up on playing tennis!"

After completing a Business

School degree in 1954 and a subsequent career in advertising in New York, **Richard Houghton** attended Drew University and Princeton Theological Seminary and earned a master of divinity degree. His ministry provided a second career with pastoral assignments at Delaware and First Oxford Presbyterian Churches, proving the value of his Columbia activity with *The Varsity Show* and the University Chorus. Now retired and living with his wife, Ann, at Leisure World in Silver Spring, Md., Richard has time to spend with their three children and eight grandchildren.

Mervin Ross wrote, "I live in the same apartment in NYC that I've lived in for more than 40 years, never having had the temptation to

move to a retirement community in a warmer climate such as Florida or Arizona. Also, my wife, Marjorie, volunteers with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and I don't know what she would do without it. I have two married daughters, Nancy and Catherine, whose company I enjoy. Since my retirement from the practice of law 15 years ago, I've lived a quiet life, managing my personal affairs, reading and enjoying the company of friends."

A note from **Arnold H. Leibowitz**: "My professional education included Yale Law (1954) and the University of Heidelberg, School of Jurisprudence (1958–59). In the course of my professional career, I have been the v.p. for development, Overseas Private Investment Corp; director, Office of Technical Assistance, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; and general counsel, U.S.-Puerto Rico Commission on the Status of Puerto Rico. As part of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, I wrote the initial draft of what became the Immigration Reform Act of 1986. At one time or another I have represented all of the territories before the federal government and was adviser to the Guam and Virgin Islands Constitutional Conventions.

"My practice remains in Washington, D.C. I was a contributing editor to the Bureau of National Affairs newsletter *Immigration Policy and Law*. I edited the first casebook in immigration law, *Cases and Materials on Immigration and Refugee Policy*, in 1983, and wrote *Defining Status: a Comprehensive Analysis of U.S. Territorial Relations* in 1989. My wife, Sandra, and I are the proud parents of two sons and two daughters."

W. Fred Kinsey III completed two years of graduate study at Columbia in anthropology. Then his Uncle Sam said, "I need you!" So Fred spent two years proving to the Army that he was essential to our country's military efforts. Two years later the serious part of his career began with employment by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as state archaeologist and later as chief curator of the Pennsylvania State Museum. In 1963, Fred began a 27-year career at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., where he was director of the college's North Museum and a professor of anthropology. He found time to return to graduate school for a Ph.D. and complete a five-year term as chair of F&M's Department of Anthropology. He now holds professor emeritus status with both the college and the North Museum and finds time for activity in a variety of community organizations.

John A. Handley came to Columbia from a quiet Midwestern town seeking adventure. After graduation he found it with a six-year tour of duty in the Navy during the Korean War and a subsequent 13 years in the Naval Reserve. His experiences included flying F-8 Crusaders, with plenty of time on aircraft carriers. When a civilian career with Proctor & Gamble came along, John resigned his commanding officer's job and moved to Germany. A German firm, Farbwerke Hoechst, later hired him to return to New York City as a member of a start-up company, Hoechst Fibers. Another eight years on, he received a call from a California company and accepted the role as v.p. of applied magnetics. John finally retired in 1999, following an association in investments at Morgan Stanley. His marriage to Mary Rose Clemens, a girl from his hometown, produced a family of five children, all grown up, and includes a Navy admiral, a lawyer, a teacher, two medical doctors and a lot of grandchildren.

In case you missed it, there was an interesting article in the Winter 2011–12 issue about **Joe Sirola**. Written by Thomas Vinciguerra '85, '90 GSAS, a *New York Times* contributor, the photo and full-page profile documents the long career Joe has had in theatre, narration of radio and TV commercials, and "Red Rose"-sponsored social activities (college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/alumni_profiles0).

If you can bear with a little editorializing, I'd like to comment on some recent happenings at the College. The dismissal of Norries Wilson as coach of the Lions football team was not unexpected after an almost winless season in 2011 and previous undistinguished seasons. In all fairness to a coach at any scholastic institution, the comments of a recently retired coach at Middlebury College make sense. He said coaching can only do so much; if you don't have the talent to begin with, you can't produce a consistent winner. As for Columbia's so-called scramble band, the members deserve a 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct, and maybe even ejection from the playing field. Meanwhile, congratulations to Columbia's new football coach, Pete Mangurian, who inherits what could be an insurmountable task without having received a \$4 million per year contract, a country club membership and automobile stipend like Urban Meyer at Ohio State!

Here's wishing Alexis Tonti '11 Arts a long and successful career on the staff of *Columbia College Today*. Alexis, as the recently hired managing editor, will have to put

up with the likes of writers like me, who never seem to understand deadlines! To keep CCT financially healthy our class members should make haste to their checkbook and support this magazine with a contribution. Please send a check, made payable to Columbia College Today, to Karen Iorio, Editorial Assistant, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 1st Fl., New York NY 10025, or give online: college.columbia.edu/cct/giving.

REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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Just a reminder that our 60th College Alumni Reunion Weekend will be Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. In preparation, the first reunion planning meeting for our class was held on November 1, and in the months since we have continued our efforts to coordinate activities that are entertaining and intellectually stimulating—in many cases, both at once!

As always, reunion offers a great chance to visit campus, catch up with friends and take part in multigenerational and class-specific activities, including our '52 dinner on Saturday. Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and related events. For the most up-to-date information—and most importantly, to sign up!—go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You also can contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Be sure, too, to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

As it turned out, much of this issue's alumni news is devoted to classmates of one profession—namely, medicine—the reason being that they were willing and even eager to provide updated material. Medicine is a noble profession and it's clear these classmates have done much to maintain that nobility during their careers.

In general, the effect of Columbia College on the Class of 1952 has been remarkable and has helped produce many successful and prominent men in a variety of occupations. I recall one of the faculty speakers at a freshman orientation meeting saying, with great

emphasis, "Gentlemen you are the chosen of God."

Well, that may be debatable, but we sure can boast for the most part: "We done good."

Dr. **Arthur E. Lyons** writes: "I recently retired from the private practice of neurosurgery in San Francisco after 45 years. I still have my teaching appointment at UCSF as associate clinical professor and enjoy teaching medical students. As the saying goes: 'To teach is to create a space in which the obedience to truth is practiced.' I attribute this idea and a lot more to my experience on Morningside, which I look back on frequently."

"After Columbia—which I left for medical school after only my junior year—I spent four years at Vanderbilt. I always will regret missing my senior year but my adviser, Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS, recommended I enroll in medical school to avoid being drafted. (Remember the Korean War?) I have been in San Francisco ever since, although I spent two years as lieutenant commander doing neurosurgery in the Navy."

"I have been president of the San Francisco Medical Society and the San Francisco Neurological Society and have had time to indulge my hobby of collecting antiquarian medical books in my field of neurology and neurosurgery. I get to NYC occasionally to attend meetings of the Grolier Club, on East 60th Street, where I have exhibited some of my books and hobnob with fellow collectors. I recently returned from Poland where I and other members of the International Association of Bibliophiles spent a couple of weeks; we visited libraries and private collections of rare books that fortunately were spared the depredations of WWII."

"I don't think I could have had a better education than at Columbia, where my intellectual curiosity was encouraged and actively stimulated by our marvelously talented and skilled teachers. I will never forget Irwin Edman '17; Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS; and Van Doren, whose giant minds and ideas were and remain an inspiration. I am reminded of this virtually every day since I graduated. (And frequently I pity my colleagues for not having had such great minds to teach them.) Although I am vastly proud of my two sons, I was disappointed that neither consented to continue our family's Columbia tradition. My father, Alfred L. Lyons '24, served as a surgeon and lieutenant commander in the Navy and was killed in 1945 in the Battle of Okinawa when his ship, the *U.S.S. Pinckney*, was hit by a crashing kamikaze plane."

"With our 60th reunion approaching, I wonder whether anyone has

lost his Class of '52, 40th reunion commemorative wristwatch? I recently retrieved one in perfect condition from an antiques store here in San Francisco. As much as I could not bear to leave it, I am equally mystified how it got there."

Dr. **John Laszlo** sent the following: "I entered with the Class of '52 but left for Harvard Medical School in 1951 thanks to a summer session at UC Berkeley. I never experienced dorm life, unfortunately, because I commuted from home near East 96th Street and Madison Avenue. Nonetheless: I enjoyed my courses, especially the humanities, worked on *Spectator* and played varsity tennis. Gilbert Highet was my favorite teacher, and he helped me develop an appreciation for scholarship, great literature and Scottish humor. His war stories about Churchill at Yalta and Hitler's bunker were most interesting."

"My life largely has been blessed by good fortune. Regrettably my later family would not be shared by my beloved parents, since both died young of cancer. Perhaps this factored into my becoming a hematologist/oncologist and a specialist in cancer research."

"After medical school I trained at the University of Chicago Clinics and began my research career at the National Cancer Institute. The NCI was a great career launcher and also enabled me to meet my military obligation in the U.S. Public Health Service. I was the first to study human leukemic cell metabolism and the effect of the chemotherapeutic drugs thereon (1956–58). Those days were just the beginning of oncology as a spe-

cialty; in fact, the word was coined around that time. Before his death in 1958 my father was the first chief of neoplastic disease, as oncology was then called, at a general hospital (Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx).

"In 1959 I moved to Duke to complete training in internal medicine, and joined the faculty a year later. I remained at Duke University Medical Center for 27 years in a variety of positions, including professor of medicine and chief of medicine at the Durham VA Medical Center; later I became director of clinical programs of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, which I helped found. It was an exciting place to be and to be able to teach, conduct basic and clinical research, and also do extensive patient care. Those were very busy years and I would not trade them for any other professional experience. Marriage and three great children—Rebecca, Jennifer and Daniel—followed as I witnessed the transition through integration in North Carolina and elsewhere. I also participated, in a small way, in the emergence of the leading medical center in the South. My research laboratory made a number of basic scientific discoveries about growth regulators and the effects of chemotherapeutic drugs on cancer cells. We introduced a number of important new drugs to clinical practice thanks in part to collaboration with Burroughs Wellcome scientists, the company having moved nearby to the Research Triangle. Two of our colleagues (Drs. George H. Hitchings and Gertrude Eliot) were awarded the Nobel Prize for drug development

Columbia School Designations

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

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

in cancer and anti-virals.

"In 1986 I left Duke for New York and joined the American Cancer Society as head of its research program. Divorced, I remarried in 1988 to Patricia Holleran Laszlo; we then moved to Atlanta with her daughter, Kaitlyn, as the ACS relocated its national headquarters from New York to Atlanta. The ACS position was more administrative, and for a time I missed doing my own research and the patient-care teaching you do whenever you work in a large organization. The benefit was not having to work 12-plus hours a day for seven days, which took a toll on family life.

"During my Duke career I had written about 250 peer-reviewed publications and many book chapters. Later I wrote several books for lay audiences: *Understanding Cancer*; *The Cure of Childhood Leukemia: Into the Age of Miracles*; and *The Doctor's Doctor: A Biography of Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D.* These projects allowed me to pass on some of the knowledge I had accumulated and try to inspire young people to turn toward medicine and research as great career opportunities. There are so few serious books on medical subjects in bookstores and lots of

experience as a nursing professor to develop some novel products, but it was quite difficult to get our French colleagues to accept new ideas coming from an American doctor with no business experience. So we righted the company from its downward spiral and sold it to a French businessman. It was an unusual experience for us and challenging in many ways. We miss going to Paris four or five times a year but do not miss the frustrations associated with French business practices, as seen by an American scientist.

"Our four children have turned out to be great people; they are socially responsible, productive citizens; gainfully employed; and have health insurance! What more can you ask these days? I hope for some more healthy years so I can continue to enjoy retirement and family. My very best to all my classmates, who doubtless have similar goals!"

Dr. **Martin Liebowitz** shares that after Columbia, medical school at NYU and an internal medicine residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, he spent two years in the Army. Following his military service, he embarked on what became a nearly 50-year career in academic medicine.

Larry Scharer '54 completed the Chicago Marathon, has finished seven New York City Marathons and looks forward to more of the same.

nonsense about how to shed pounds and inches in days or how to cure arthritis miraculously through herbal diets.

"Since retirement I have enjoyed a quiet life in Atlanta with Pat. I play tennis and exercise frequently in the gym despite two 'store-bought' knees and a past torn Achilles tendon. We are involved with the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University and the Columbia Book Club, and we travel frequently to see our four children and four grandchildren, who are scattered around the country from East to West Coasts, North and South. We have a small apartment in Manhattan near the New York Public Library (East 42nd Street). I consult in biotechnology on DNA vaccines, which I have enjoyed; attend medical conferences for fun; and go to a senior university where Pat and I take all sorts of interesting courses. One never should stop learning.

"For a number of years Pat and I ran a small skin care company, based in Paris, which I inherited from my French aunt. I used my scientific expertise and Pat's

Martin explains: "That career began at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and then continued at Stony Brook University where, starting in 1971, I devoted myself to teaching, administration and patient care. I retired formally in 2008 as Professor of Medicine Emeritus but I continue to enjoy the privilege of meeting with second- and third-year medical students several times a month.

"I was fortunate enough to marry my high school sweetheart in 1953. Marion graduated from Barnard in 1954 and earned an M.S. from Sarah Lawrence. She had a fulfilling career as a genetic counselor while raising three very accomplished children. She, too, is now retired. That allows us to attempt to keep up with our nine grandchildren, who delight and amaze us at all times.

"Marion and I continue to live in our East Setauket home and benefit from the attractions of a college town. Our New York City apartment keeps us close to family, a large part of which lives in the city.

"My Columbia education and experiences were highly influential in molding the person I became.

Not a day goes by without my feeling the influence of the Core Curriculum in some way. I am looking forward to our 60th reunion."

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

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Wonderful news! **Larry Harte** and **Tony Robinson** published new works in 2011. Larry's third book, *Brooklyn-ese Proverbs & Cartoons*, was inspired by Benjamin Franklin's autobiography and is filled with sparkling, warm and witty proverbs, aphorisms and sayings. Just reading a few will make anyone who has any relationship with Brooklyn smile in recognition: "If you have lemons, make lemonade. ... Success comes from a positive mental attitude. In college, I told my dad I was majoring in philosophy. He said, 'Come home. I'll put you in a truck for 14 hours a day.' I changed my major. ... Tight clothes come from a hot dryer or too many donuts."

Larry practices orthodontics in New Jersey. In a recent letter, he recalled, "As chairman of the governor's Public Health Council, I was involved with a controversy that became known as the 'raw egg Caesar salad debacle.' Before it was over, the controversy ended up on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show* and the council rescinded the vote. The children of Johnny's band leader, Doc Severinsen, were my patients and, when it all ended, Doc said to me, 'Larry, you can't win 'em all!'"

As the other end of the creative spectrum, **Tony Robinson's** riveting seventh novel, *The Floodplain*, tells the story of a professor whose wife, a fledgling psychotherapist, becomes romantically involved with her mentor. When the darker side of the mentor's nature is revealed, she falls into a severe depression, ultimately shooting herself with her husband's shotgun. To make matters worse, shortly after his wife's death, the professor discovers that the same mentor is flirting with his 16-year-old daughter. Events near the end of the story result in a murder and a trial. My prediction is that classmates won't be able to stop turning pages as the murderous story unfolds!

Don Smith sent a copy of a heart-warming picture of the Smith family celebrating Don's 80th birthday with a Scottish birthday party at Graceland Mansion. Don is a drummer and the band chairman of the West Virginia Highlanders, and he also sent me a copy

of a newspaper article with the headline, "W.Va. Highlanders Perform for Patriot Flag Ceremony."

The article notes: "Wearing their traditional colorful kilts, the Highland pipes and drums played *Amazing Grace* at Fairmont State University after listening to a moving address by New York City fireman Joe Terrillo, who survived the collapse of the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001."

I'm sure the Class of 1953 joins me in encouraging Don to keep up his good work.

Sad to report, I received the following note from **Carl Witkovich's** wife, Joyce: "Carl died on May 3, 2011. He loved the Class of 1953, including his roommate, **Phil Wilson**, who is also deceased. Carl was president of three California savings and loans. He loved his work but was cut short because of the great savings and loan failures."

Joyce says she is managing OK but is terribly lonesome. At the time of Carl's death, they had lived in San Mateo, Calif., for 51 years.

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While "time marches on," some of our classmates still lead the pack as a result of running. **Larry Scharer**, who works full-time in the practice of medicine (pulmonary and general), recently completed the Chicago Marathon. He has finished seven New York City Marathons and looks forward to more of the same. Larry gets together with a number of classmates from time to time, though recently he unexpectedly found himself sitting next to **Bert Horwitz** and his wife, Dawn '55 Barnard, at the Metropolitan Opera. Our classmates get together in the best locations.

Herb Hagerty retired in 1990 from a career in the Foreign Service. This involved postings in a number of locations including London (as political adviser to the commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe), New Delhi, Oslo, Islamabad, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Following his retirement, Herb taught at the Foreign Service Institute in Virginia and continued thereafter writing and reviewing documents for declassification. I hope that Herb shares some of his experiences with us at our next reunion. One note of sadness is that Herb's wife, Ann, passed away last August.

Bruce King and his wife, Adele, live in Paris in an apartment overlooking Canal Saint-Martin. They both write literary criticism, and Bruce expects to soon finish his third book on Indian literature. They enjoy

travel and will continue their stays in New Orleans for JazzFest and Croatia (the island of Hvar) for the summer.

Larry Gartner retired from Chicago in 1998 after being there 18 years, with 13 years as chairman of the Department of Pediatrics. Larry and his wife, Carol, moved to a ranch in San Diego where they grow organic fruit and vegetables. Larry lectures on neonatology around the country and does medical-legal consulting. He writes that "retirement has been fun, about as much fun as when I did research in the lab, and much more fun than being chairman."

Dick Bernstein continues his medical work as a director emeritus of the Peripheral Vascular Disease Clinic of Jacobi Medical Center in New York. He also treats patients at his diabetes center in Mamaroneck, N.Y. By the time these notes appear, Dick's eighth book, *Diabetes Solution*, will be published. Dick keeps in touch with **Max Siegel**, who moved to Kennett Square, Pa. When my wife and I lived in Connecticut, Dick was both a friend and a medical adviser.

Sheldon Cherry and his wife, Carolyn, recently relocated to a new medical school, the FIU Herbert Wertheim School of Medicine in Miami, where he is professor of ob/gyn and Carolyn is associate dean for women in medicine. They have four daughters, who in turn have provided them with eight grandchildren. Shelly and Carolyn are prolific authors, and *Parents* magazine has consistently named him a "Top Doctor in America."

Steve Sobel retired from the practice of law and now teaches business law at the Montclair State University School of Business. I will always remember Steve as a star of our fencing team, and he continues to be involved with the Columbia program. He was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010. Steve also interviews applicants for Columbia as part of the Alumni Representative Committee (studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/volunteers.php). Steve wrote, "I have many fond memories of my years at Columbia. I remember Humanities classes with Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS, who was so inspiring that I also took his course in poetry. One afternoon I was daydreaming when he called on me. I hadn't heard the question, so I asked him to repeat it. In reply, he apologized for not making the class interesting enough for me to pay attention! What a great professor."

Neil Hansen recently celebrated his 80th birthday and is feeling well. He had a stroke eight years ago, and in some ways is still re-

covering. Neil and his wife, Nancy, have three children. They belong to a church in Lewes, Del., where Neil is a member of the men's chorus. He is pleased to note that another member of his church is from the Class of 1960 and played on our football team. This young man keeps Neil updated on the team's performance. Thank heavens this past season ended on a high note.

Ron Sugarman retired five years ago after 45 years with the Interpublic Group. Ron and his wife, Hisako, enjoy life and see **Herb Frommer** often in Westhampton, Long Island, where they have homes down the street from one another. Ron wrote, "I've been unbelievably lucky. Columbia was the perfect place for me. The Air Force took me to Japan for 2½ years. Work gave me the opportunity to be headquartered in London with European responsibilities for two years, to do two separate stints of a combined six years in Tokyo and to do a dozen years in Atlanta and a couple of years in NYC. Travel was always part of the job. I did business in more than 50 countries on five continents. I owned a home in Maui, where my 'made in Japan' son was born. So all in all, it's been a very good ride, which continues."

I hope, Ron, that all of us can feel the same way.

Paul Schulman has been retired for 15 years. He lives in Charleston, S.C., and would like to get together with those who are either residents or visitors. Paul travels quite a bit.

agent in FDR's White House. My Air Force career became especially meaningful in its last two years, when I served in a nuclear security squadron. At the time (pre-missile era), the Air Force was the main strategic force of the United States."

Perhaps we will have Walt at our next reunion. I'd love to hear more about his experiences.

A note of sad news: **Herb Wit-tow's** wife, Sandra, passed away in Denver last August. She was an extraordinary person and an artist of great renown in the United States as well as a great inspiration to Herb throughout their years together.

Well, that's all for now. If you haven't written lately, please keep in touch.

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Columbia has become the preeminent place of higher learning in the world. In November, the school's sixth Global Center opened in Istanbul, where President Lee C. Bollinger and other luminaries attended ceremonies dedicated to Columbia's intellectual expansion in the Middle East. (Be on the alert, there may be a Global Center coming to your neighborhood, **Abe Ashkenasi**.)

The Columbia Alumni Association's Travel Study Program is as strong as ever. In 2012 it will feature "Changing Tides of History — Cruising the Baltic Sea" with guest

Bill Kronick '55 published his fifth novel, *The Art of Self Deception* — and produced an epic YouTube film.

Last year it was Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Turkey, the last as part of an alumni trip. Paul collects antiques and, a new passion, 17th-century Dutch paintings (shades of the Frick Collection). He would like to take part in Columbia activities. Admissions Office, take notice.

Walt Bossert now makes his home in Lincoln, Mass. I remember him as an outstanding attorney. I gather from his note and his stationery that he is a historian as well. Walt noticed a number of Class Notes and recalled Air Force ROTC as well as the Navy in "our campus days." He writes, "About 20 of us were commissioned at Van Am Quadrangle in June 1954. The AFROTC was commanded by Lt. Col. McNamara, who had a second office in The West End, where he regaled us with stories of his early career as a young Secret Service

lecturers Mikhail Gorbachev and Lech Walesa; Cruising the "Danube River and the Habsburg Empire," with stops in Hungary, Slovakia, Germany, Poland and more; "Islands & Sanctuaries of the Gods: An Exploration of Greece & the Greek Islands"; and "Coastal Life Along the Adriatic," which travels to Venice, the Dalmatian Coast and Dubrovnik, with guest speaker Gen. Wesley Clark. There are many other events being planned for Columbia alums.

In November, Ken Jackson, the Jacques Barzun Professor in History and the Social Sciences, brightened up the Columbia University Club of New York by giving a stirring lecture to an overflow crowd. The professor will return at a future date to be determined.

Also in November, a highly attended Columbia Networking

Night was held in Midtown. Alumni (both young and a little older) talked about careers in education. Quite stimulating.

In December, a Café Science lecture, "The Quest for the Cure: The Science and Stories Behind the Next Generation of Medicine," was held. The Café series of lectures have gotten more and more popular; see the list of upcoming ones: college.columbia.edu/alumni/events.

More recently, the seventh annual CAA at Sundance reception took place in Park City, Utah, where the chair of the Film Program at the School of the Arts helped celebrate student and alumni achievements in film. The event was "better than ever."

Do members of our class remember Japan scholar Donald Keene '42, '49 GSAS? Well, the University Professor emeritus retired from Columbia at 88 and will spend the rest of his life in Japan (college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/features1).

How is our interim dean of the College, James J. Valentini, doing? According to students, faculty members and alumni, quite well, thank you, and fitting into the job very nicely.

Our classmates remain active, participating in a lot of different areas. **Herb Cohen** continues to teach, see a few patients and serve on various local and national advisory groups as an emeritus professor of pediatrics and rehabilitation medicine and an emeritus director of the Rose Kennedy University Center on Developmental Disabilities.

Attendees of October's Society of Columbia Graduates Great Teacher Awards Dinner included **Don Laufer**, **Berish Strauch** and, we believe (all the way from Pittsburgh), **Joe Vales**.

On the West Coast, **Bill Kronick** informs us that he has published his fifth novel, *The Art of Self Deception*. He has also produced an epic YouTube film that went on the Internet a short while ago.

The monthly dinners in and around New York City with our fellow '55ers continue with attendees such as **Anthony Viscusi**, **Dick Ascher**, **Stu Kaback**, **Roland Plot-tel** and **Ron Spitz**, among others.

Bob Pearlman, in addition to his professional activities as an attorney, has been an adjunct professor at Engineering for 40 years, teaching a course in law for engineers and scientists. This is the longest-running course in the school taught by the same professor. Bob is active with a northern New Jersey alumni group. He is not the only classmate to be seen in Levien Gym. **Jesse Roth** made a cameo appearance when the Lions played Swarthmore a short while ago. We hope to see Jesse at other

sporting events.

We heard from **Igou Allbray**, a semi-retired attorney in Brooklyn, who waxed nostalgic about CC, Humanities and Music Humanities and claims that these courses have guided his life.

From the great city of Rochester, N.Y., **Beryl Nusbaum**, who still travels a lot, made his periodic phone call to inquire about the state of Columbia's athletic teams. We're doing all right, for the most part.

Alan Sloate is still plying his legal trade in Westchester County and making plans for our 60th reunion.

The Columbia College Fund's most recent complete fiscal year, which ended last June 30, is reported on in the 59th *Columbia College Annual Fundraising Report* (fund.college.columbia.edu/annualreport). It shows how well our class performed. Tip of the old hat goes to the Class Agents who worked diligently to get our class participation to 40.63

Dr. Jesse Blumenthal '56 was reunited with a man whose life he saved in Vietnam more than 44 years ago.

percent — the third highest among all classes. A hearty "Great job!" goes to **Jim Berick**, **Larry Balfus**, **Dick Kuhn**, **Elliot Gross**, **Lew Mendelson**, **Bob Pearlman** and **Don Laufer**.

Everyone should know that **Al Momjian**'s son, **Mark Momjian** '83, '86L, recently was awarded the coveted Alumni Medal, which honors distinguished service of 10 years or more to the University. (What is the saying about the apple not falling far from the tree?)

Herb Cooper practices medicine as chief of medical service at Salem Hospital in Massachusetts.

Ron McPhee and **John Naley** were seen at the basketball alumni weekend on campus. They did not, however, try to relive their youth by playing in the "old-timers" game, tempting though it was.

Back on the West Coast, **Harry Scheiber** is a professor of law at UC Berkeley.

When can we expect you to pay us a visit on the East Coast, Harry?

Some sad news to report from Florida: **Neil Opdyke** informed us that **Denis Haggerty** passed away several months ago. Neil and **Dick Carr** attended the funeral, which was held in Titusville, Fla. Others who played on the football team with Denis were **Bob Mercier**, **Ben Hoffman** and **Bob Dillingham**. Our condolences go to Denis' family and friends.

Dear members of the Class of 1955:

Stay strong! Exercise!
Remember your diet.

You want to be in your best shape. We are getting closer to our 60th reunion, another big one. Love to all, everywhere.

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It may have been a long, hard winter, but have faith, spring is around the corner. To our classmates who are lucky enough to vacation in southern climes, or to spend the winter months in Florida, we welcome you back. This includes **Lou Hemmerdinger**, **Murray Eskenazi** and **Stan Manne**. Unfortunately, **Danny Link** was not planning to spend the usual amount of time in Florida, as his partner, **Elinor Baller**, was scheduled for knee surgery. I wish her a complete recovery.

Our October class lunch, held at Faculty House, was attended by

the usual suspects — to wit, **Peter Klein**, **Bob Sirotty**, **Al Franco** '56E, **Ron Kapon**, **Ralph Kaslick**, **Lou Hemmerdinger** and myself.

For the next two luncheons, held in November and December, we moved downtown to the Columbia University Club of New York (West 43rd Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues). They call it the Princeton Club, but we really know "who owns New York!" The club has been renovated, and we met in the Tiger Bar on the third floor (to be renamed the Lion Bar, at least for the days we are there).

All of these lunches have been well attended, with at least 10 class members as well as lively discussions. I invite any classmate who has a couple of hours to spare once a month to join us. The lunches are informative, interesting and convenient to anyone who lives or works in Midtown. Please contact me for more information. In addition to the above-named attendees, **Alan Broadwin**, **Jerry Fine**, **Danny Link**, **Mark Novick**, **Alan Press** and **Len Wolfe** have joined us. We will be missing **Buzz Paaswell**, one of our regulars, until the fall semester, when he returns from a year-long teaching sabbatical in London.

On October 22, three class members participated in Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend. **Bob Sirotty** represented the Northern New Jersey Alumni Representative Committee; he is responsible for interviewing College and Engineering applicants in the northern New Jersey area. Bob

reports that the conference explored ways to make the interview process more meaningful, including the possibility of giving more weight to alumni interview reports when considering an applicant's potential. Anyone interested in volunteering in this capacity, please contact Bob at margobob@optonline.net or go to studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/volunteers.php.

The other attendees were **Danny Link** and myself, representing the Class of '56 and the Class Agent Program. We heard an address by Dean James J. Valentini in which he emphasized what the College can do for us, the alumni, rather than what the College would like from us; he mentioned meeting more often with alumni, promoting a more open exchange of ideas and, most significantly, responding to issues that alumni are and should be concerned with in a timely way. I was impressed with Dean Valentini's presentation, sincerity and hands-on interest in getting things done.

Ron Kapon, our resident peripatetic oenophile, has two new projects that may be of interest. The first is a website he helped to create, oldernotdead.com, which covers a variety of topics for us pre-Baby Boomers. Ron also is the acting theatre reviewer for the site. His other project is an online wine course that he developed in conjunction with Fairleigh Dickinson and *The New York Times*. It will be available in the spring. For more information, contact Ron at vinorpn@yahoo.com.

In a real human interest story, **Jesse Blumenthal** was reunited last April with a man whose life he saved in Vietnam more than 44 years ago. The man, **Paul Devault**, lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and he searched Jesse out after all this time because he wanted to thank him in person. They met in New York, and the story made NBC News.

In another Jesse story, he was working at the now-closed St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village at the time of the first World Trade Center bombing. My son, **Loren**, was scheduled for surgery that same day. When all hell broke loose, Jesse attended the injured coming in from the World Trade Center while still guiding my son through his surgery. I, too, can say "Thank you, Jesse."

As always, I believe that we as College alums have a responsibility to give back if we feel that Columbia has been a positive force in our lives. I also think that, as we get older, giving is more important than getting. In that spirit, each class sets annual goals for giving, and ours is approximately \$100,000 for 2012. Anything you can contribute will be appreciated. I also suggest

designating your gift for the Class of '56 Scholarship Fund, so the money goes to support deserving students.

I am again asking all class members who want to keep in contact to update their email addresses with **Lou Hemmerdinger**, our class coordinator (lhemmer@aol.com). This seems the best way to stay in touch for many people, and it's important that our information is current.

If you have news to share, please email me and I will make sure it gets in the next Class Notes.

Wishing that we all age gracefully, in good health and in good spirits.

REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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Plans for our 55th reunion proceeded apace throughout the fall. For those of you who have not yet marked your calendars, the dates are Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. The schedule is almost final, and it will include class-specific panel discussions, special tours, assorted entertainment and, of course, our class dinner on Saturday. Note that Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events.

For the most up-to-date information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You also can contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Finally, be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

Yours truly participated in two teleconferences of the Reunion Committee, on October 12 and November 16. Other participants in the October meeting were **Marty Fisher**, **Alvin Kass**, **David Kinne**, **Neil McLellan**, **Art Meyerson**, **Carlos Muñoz** and **Paul Zola**. Other participants in the November meeting were **Neil McLellan**, **Art Meyerson**, **Carlos Muñoz** and **Paul Zola**. Nick Mider, the Alumni Office's events coordinator, chaired both meetings; Patricia Carchi, another member of the Alumni Office's alumni affairs team, also attended the November meeting while **Paul Staller**, at that time a member of the Columbia College Fund staff, participated in the

October meeting. The hard work is sure to pay off, and I encourage all of you to attend.

Now for the news: **Marty Fisher** writes, "November 9 was an almost perfect New York autumn day; it formed the backdrop for our final class luncheon of 2011 at the University Club. The following 16 classmates attended and enjoyed a couple of hours of good fellowship and exaggerated reminiscences in Midtown: **Jim Barker, Stan Barnett, Alan Brown, Ted Dwyer, Joe Feldschuh, Marty Fisher, Sal Franchino, Alvin Kass, Bob Klipstein, Neil McLellan, Art Meyerson, Carlos Muñoz, Steve Ronai, Mark Stanton, Ed Weinstein and Paul Zola.**

"Two additional notes about Alvin. He broke a collarbone in a fall on an icy Brooklyn sidewalk last winter, and now is fully recovered and back to swimming a daunting number of laps practically daily. He also was honored by the Jewish police chaplaincy of NYC at its centennial as the longest-serving Jewish chaplain in NYPD history."

Marty continues: "On November 16 I left for Florida for six months. My loneliness will be assuaged by visits from any '57 alumni who happen by Boynton Beach, including **Neil McLellan**, whose joy at the St. Louis Cardinals' improbable run to their 11th world baseball championship knows no bounds. (The Mets, by contrast, will go from merely 'bad to dreadful,' according to a recent *New York Times* column.) I look forward to the start of spring training, the real baseball season and our reunion."

Yours truly attended **Mac Gimse's** display of sculpture he created for Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and recitation of his poetry from memory at Luther Place Church in Washington, D.C., in October. Mac is professor emeritus of art at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. The event was for D.C.-area St. Olaf alumni, about 20 of whom attended, and was followed by a reception.

Mac passed around some of his sculptures, including a wax model of one that will be cast in bronze. His poetry presentation was quite dynamic; in one poem he had the audience chime in with the refrain. Several times he spoke ecstatically about his days at Columbia and the Core Curriculum. He recited the immortal words, "Long may Columbia stand, honored throughout the land." Those were his parting words to me. In my dozen or so years as class correspondent, I have not heard a classmate express his enthusiasm about his Columbia experience with so much sincerity and conviction.

In November, I met Peggy and **Steve Kornguth** for dinner in

Georgetown, Texas. Steve gives us the following update of his activities: "In 2011, my wife, Margaret Livens Kornguth '57 Wellesley and I were blessed with the opportunity to see our daughter, Ingrid Taylor, contribute to the field of education policy on a national level and our son, David Kornguth '87, contribute to the area of radiation oncology. It is also a joy to see our grandchildren maturing into creative thinkers and problem-solvers. My research efforts at the University of Texas-Austin focus on developing objective measures of the effects of sleep deprivation and other stresses on complex decision-making. New technologies in neural imaging and bioinformation promise new understandings in these areas."

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We begin with a correction: I don't remember where the misinformation came from, but **Morrie Amitay** is not retired; he is working as hard as ever on his law/lobbying practice and his pro-Israel activities. His son, Steve '87, has his own law practice, which operates out of Morrie's Capitol Hill offices. Breaking with an apparent family tradition, Morrie's daughter, Rae, will be graduating from Berklee College of Music in Boston and is aiming for a musical career.

Bob Levine has written his fourth book, *Resurrecting Democracy: A Citizen's Call for a Centrist Third Party*. The book is out in paperback and as an ebook, the link for which is on his website (robertlevinebooks.com) along with his blogs in support of a third party. Bob adds that the blogs have been picked up by two centrist sites, riseofthecenter.com and themoderatevoice.com.

Bob Tauber '62 Dental reports that Butler Library's Tauber Room is named for his father, Maurice Tauber Ph.D., who was the Melvil Dewey Professor of Library Service at Columbia. Bob is an assistant clinical professor in the Division of Restorative Dentistry at the Dental School.

An annual '58 tradition, the Homecoming party, took place at the apartment of Ruthie and **Ernie Brod** last October. The game? Fuhgeddaboutit. But the gathering was scintillating, as always. Although the party began decades ago as a *Spectator* reunion, it has expanded to include a broader spectrum of attendees, both from '58 and neighboring classes, as well

as a legacy or two. This year's participants included Phyllis and **Annie Abrams** '61, Nancy and **Mike Berlin** '59, Joan and **Peter Cohn**, Carol and **Barry Dickman**, Eileen and **Joe Dorinson**, Allan Gardner '59, Alice and **Richard Gochman** '63, **Charles Goldstein**, Karen and **Peter Gruenberger**, Linda Lynn, Kane and **Martin Nussbaum** '67, Nancy and **Bernie Nussbaum**, Anita and **Howard Orlin**, **Shelly Raab** (Judy was temporarily on the DL), Miriam Katowitz and **Art Radin**, and Joan and **Mark Weiss**. And thanks to the Brods from all of us for being such great hosts and for providing such a terrific view from their balcony!

Speaking of the Nussbaums, Bernie's daughter, Emily, has left *New York* magazine to become the television critic for *The New Yorker*; she joins film critic David Denby '65 on the magazine's staff.

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

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Norman Gelfand

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Eric Jakobsson reports that two important things have happened since he last wrote. First, he received a new grant from the National Institutes of Health, "Genetically Specific Therapy Against Microbial Pathogens." He explains, "The basic idea of the work is that we will design antisense RNA specific

spectrum antibiotics, namely the side effects due to killing commensal bacteria and the induction of new strains of resistant bacteria. This is both an intellectual challenge and a chance to do some good."

Second, Eric writes, "My wife, Naomi, and I welcomed a grandson, **Eric Etenraku Babakhanian-Jakobsson**, known to those of us who love him as 'Eten.' *Etenraku* is a Japanese word meaning 'music brought from heaven.' The reason for the name choice is that, at the time that he became more than a gleam in his parents' eyes, his mother was engaged in a composing project in the style of Etenraku. Eten is our second grandchild to have a name related to heaven. His cousin Rania's mother was a classics major, and *Rania* means 'heaven' in Greek. I love this type of naming of children, that is, naming them after virtues or beautiful concepts."

He continues: "I am slowed down a little by chronic sciatica (a cyst on one of my vertebra and a bulging disc, combined with a congenitally narrow space for my spinal cord) and advanced osteoarthritis in my right knee (heritage from a sports injury in my youth), but only a little. To paraphrase what one of our most famous Columbians said, 'I consider myself one of the luckiest people on the face of the earth.'"

"Of course I have some complaints. My greatest concern is for society at large. I am alarmed at what seems to be an anti-science movement in the United States, as manifest in the determined and organized denial of evolution and anthropogenic climate change. Depending on whether and how this movement grows, it seems to me to have the potential to undermine the foundations of our civilization. I am troubled by the thought that

Eric Jakobsson '59 received a grant from the NIH, "Genetically Specific Therapy Against Microbial Pathogens."

to knocking down critical genes in a microbial pathogen and deliver them in a synthetic virus-like particle — essentially a synthetic bacteriophage — but engineered to be in some ways more focused and powerful than naturally occurring bacteriophage. My collaborators are Jeff Brinker, a nanoscientist and materials scientist from Sandia National Lab, and Stanley Maloy, a microbiologist from San Diego State. The work is designed to be a proof of a concept for an alternative approach to antibacterial therapy that will eliminate the weaknesses of broad

Rania and Eten, and all their cousins, and the descendants of all of us of that generation, may inherit a significantly degraded world.

"I hope all is well with others. As I get older, my thoughts return to Columbia more than they did when I was middle-aged. As much as I try to focus on the present and the future, my mind has a mind of its own, and it turns despite me toward rerunning the tape of my life and putting it in some kind of perspective."

From **Ben Miller**: "I am pleased to report that my company's

Hawaiian plant, Big Island Carbon, was completed in August. It is the culmination of a nine-year dream, which I financed with the help of the ample trust fund of a sister Ivy, along with one of her most famous alumni. After a much too long and too costly construction period, we finally went into operation in August. Albeit still in the shakedown phase, the facility is impressive, both in terms of its technology and equipment, and its site on the Kona coast: it sits on a 100-foot bluff overlooking the straits between the Big Island of Hawaii and Maui. On almost any day, the massive silhouette of the volcano Haleakala is visible to the west on Maui, while behind us not more than 30 miles away is Mauna Kea's 14,000-foot summit, the site of one of the world's best astronomical observatories; to the south lies Mauna Loa, a close-to 14,000-footer, with its always-active Kilauea crater spewing lava into the Pacific. All this for a boy from Roselle, N.J., who at 17 thought the Hudson River was the boundary of the Western world! [It isn't? — NMG]

"The original idea of Big Island Carbon was to contract for all the waste macadamia nutshells discarded by the macadamia nut processing industry on the island; [we saw it] as a way to convert an environmental nuisance into a high grade of activated carbon for special pollution clean-up applications, which would pay the premium price that we would charge. That still remains a central element of the company's business plan, though, as we all know, new things happen when you do something new.

"About a year-plus ago, we began to appreciate that the key to electric car technology was something called an ultracapacitor, the 21st-century version of the mundane micro-farad capacitor that we grew up with in our physics days. Ultracapacitors now are available commercially in 10,000-farad units packaged in a cylinder a little bigger than a D-cell battery. Yes, farads! I did say that. A growth factor of 10 billion in a little over 10 years. And it is all because activated carbon, with its enormous active area, can store 10 billion times as much charge as the itty-bitty capacitors we grew up with. Now buses, trains and cars all over the world are using them as supplements to the battery, which gives the vehicle distance, while the ultracapacitor gives it start-stop oomph. So, we are looking hard at making macadamia nutshell-activated carbon for the electric vehicle market and other such applications, and we seem to be making good progress. It's too early to tell, but time is on

our side, I think.

"On the home front, my wife, Pat, is doing as well as can be expected. [As I write this,] we are on the last legs of a multi-month chemo regimen, the last part of which is six weeks long, five days a week. I am not a religious man, but I do believe in the power of prayer, so say one for us at this special time of year. In June we celebrated our 50th anniversary with a week's cruise to nowhere with the family. It was for the grandchildren, but we had to bring the children along, too. Kidding aside, we had a great time! We sailed from Fort Lauderdale on the *Freedom of the Seas*, the second-largest of the Royal Caribbean cruise ships. Let me tell you, it's an adventure just exploring the ship. There were three ports of call in the Caribbean, and neither Pat nor I left the ship.

"We have four wonderful grandchildren: Kayla (12), Bennett (11), Annie (10) and Megan (9). The three young ladies have a great variety of interests. My grandson says he wants to study history at Columbia. Not a scientist in the lot! Where did those genes go? And time is going even faster now that we can go faster than light!

"Classmate visitors to the Big Island who have some interest in what we are doing should let me know and I will try to set something up for a visit to the facility. The view itself is worth it."

From **Ray LaRaja**: "It was great to see so many classmates at our 50th Alumni Reunion Weekend. I am a retired general surgeon who graduated from NYU School of Medicine in 1963. I spent the next five years as a surgical resident at the NYU/Bellevue surgical residency program, where I was chief

three years ago along with everyone else at her trading desk. (Does anybody know how she can return to work?) Celeste is a triathlete and has completed at least three triathlons. She also has completed the Alcatraz to San Francisco swim twice. Our last child is Christopher '01, who is getting an M.A. in public policy at the University of Chicago.

"We live in Bronxville, N.Y., 30 minutes from midtown, and we take full advantage of the city — the Philharmonic, Broadway, the Metropolitan Opera and all the great restaurants. My wife is a staff developer in the New York City Public School system. She guides teachers, young and new, in the art of teaching elementary school children. All of this at the same public school where she started her teaching career in Chinatown 50 years ago.

"I am in fair health, except for some annoying arthritic problems that probably are to be expected at 74. I am an avid Mets, Jets, Giants and Knicks fan. I read avidly, as a Columbia College graduate should. I take frequent classes at the Bronxville Adult School and the Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia, another venue that provides marvelous educational opportunities for Columbia College graduates.

"Regards to all my classmates."

From **John (Jack) Kauderer**, "I welcomed my third grandchild, Sabeen, on September 30. I have another granddaughter, Eleni (3), and a grandson, Gabriel (5). For my wife Kathleen's 70th birthday a few months ago, our sons, Jim, Dave and John III, and all the grandkids were present. I retired from medicine in August 2005 after

in November, let me add a few words about my family. NYU opened a new campus in Abu Dhabi last fall, and my oldest son and his wife obtained positions there. His first year was very busy; it was the first year for the school, his first teaching job and, of course, it all took place in a city that was new for him and new in a real sense. Many of you have probably seen pictures of Abu Dhabi's impressive skyline; it rivals that of New York. Hard to imagine that, 40 years ago, there was little there but desert. I visited them in April and had a wonderful experience; it feels good to be able to learn about a new place. My daughter works in New York doing good things for a good cause. My youngest son is in Bismarck, N.D., working for the Dakota Wizards of the NBA Development League. He is interested in a career in basketball operations and he has to start somewhere.

For those who are reading this column for the first time in March, it probably means that I don't have your email address. If you send it to me at nmgc59@gmail.com, I'll add you to my email list. You will then get the Class Notes about three months before publication. I will not forward your address to Columbia without your permission.

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Kudos to **Tom Palmieri**. Fordham Preparatory School, Tom's alma mater, elected him to its Hall of Honor, a recognition for merit bestowed on its alumni. Since the hall's inception in 1841, only 100 or so graduates have received this distinction. At the induction at the New York Botanical Garden last November, the following statement acknowledged Tom's contributions to medicine:

"Dr. Palmieri has been a prominent hand and upper extremity surgeon for many years. He instituted the first Hand Surgery Clinic at Long Island Jewish Hospital, the first such clinic on Long Island making medical care available for the poor, especially for children born with deformities of the hands and upper extremities. Dr. Palmieri has been the emeritus physician-in-charge of hand surgery at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, where the first Long Island Hand Surgery Clinic was started. Dr. Palmieri is an adjunct associate professor of clinical surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. After graduating from Columbia College, Tom went to the State University of New York Downstate

Fordham Preparatory School, **Tom Palmieri '60's** alma mater, elected him to its Hall of Honor.

resident from July 1967–June 1968. Upon completion of the program I went immediately to Vietnam and was there for one year, July 1968–August 1969. It is difficult for me to express adequately my experiences during that war where I saw everything imaginable. It was rewarding but, at times, very, very sad.

"After returning from Vietnam I was assigned to Kimbrough Army Community Hospital at Fort Meade, Md. I have been married to the same great lady, Adriana (73), for 48 years. We have three children. Ray (45) is a professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts. Celeste (43) worked at Morgan Stanley for a decade before having her job terminated

35 years of practice. I keep busy attending continuing ed classes taught by and for seniors. I've also discovered the joys of the Kindle, and since its purchase last January have read more than 70 books."

Steve Trachtenberg keeps busy with presentations at various conferences and frequent appearances in the pages of *The New York Times*. The honors keep pouring in. He recently received notice of his election to Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa by the Student Senate of the Bucharest University of Economics. Unfortunately, he was unable to pick up the diploma last fall. Maybe soon.

Since I (**Norman Gelfand**) had only a few responses to my request

Medical Center where he received his medical degree."

Recognition for achievement has followed Tom over the years; regularly he is listed among "America's Top Doctors" and "Top Doctors in the New York Metro Area." Although Tom maintains a private, community-based practice that focuses on surgery and diseases of the hand and upper extremity, he now is semi-retired and enjoys boating on Long Island Sound. The proud father of two daughters, Tom advises that Tracy is a consultant at Deloitte and Maureen is a CFO of an investment firm.

Stickball & Egg Creams: Our Brooklyn Boyhood, Ivan Koota's second book of illustrations of his remembrances of Brooklyn, was released in October. Adding to Ivan's delightful and strikingly colorful illustrations are stories by his collaborator, Lenny Mintz. Ivan's work was on prominent display in Low Library during our last reunion. If you took the opportunity to view his work at that time, you will surely love the book. And if you missed that opportunity, you can see the first 25 pages of the book here: blurb.com/bookstore/detail/2600806. As anyone who has experienced an egg cream knows, the proper exclamation is: "Enjoy."

The peripatetic **Bill Tanenbaum** continued his adventures with a trip to Europe. Venice, Florence, Tuscany, Portofino and Cannes were on the itinerary. Bill experienced the flooding of San Marco Square caused by high tides, marveled at the elaborate costumes worn by hundreds in Lucca on All Saints Day, and, with a cousin who lives in Cannes, explored every town and village between Monte Carlo and St. Tropez.

Two sad notes:

Don Keller died on November 6. Don was a manufacturer of sheet metal fabrications. He is survived by his wife, Judith, and sons, David, Gregg and Todd.

Bob Morgan died on December 10. The cause of death was cancer of the Merkel cells, a disease that afflicted him and which he resisted for several years. The disease took his life but never his spirit. He continued to carry on with equanimity and sense of humor intact. He provided his friends with periodic updates on his condition, his treatment, his discussions with and evaluation of his doctors, and his research on the subject. He did so with an almost clinical detachment, a quiet scholarly precision and always the element of hope and optimism. The serenity, grace and sense of humor — oh, always the sense of humor — that were his measure never left him. A wonderful portraitist and photographer, he made photographs of his face to

note its changes and reflected that his hair had seemed to grow softer, like his mother's.

Bob was dedicated to the class and was one of the group that initiated the First Thursday of the Month Class Lunches. Even during his illness, he strove to attend as many of the lunches as his health would permit. **Art Delmhorst** notes, "He was one of those who put a great deal into planning our 50th reunion. He singlehandedly put together one of the events, a seminar in which some seniors spoke about looking forward from their Columbia experience and some of our classmates spoke about looking back on it. Sadly, the day of the event, Bob was not strong enough to lead it and he asked me to fill in at the last minute. It was well-attended, a great success, and I remember repeatedly giving Bob all the credit. His contribution was well understood by all who were there. Fortunately, he attended a luncheon a day or so later and was able to hear this directly from classmates."

In fact, Art touches on what for many of us was the most moving moment of the reunion. During our class lunch that Saturday (or was it Sunday?), as all were settling into their seats, Bob made his entry in a wheelchair. **Claudio Marzollo** had picked Bob up and accompanied him to campus to ensure that he would not miss the reunion entirely. In his own beautiful remembrance of Bob, Claudio writes of that afternoon: "Bob enjoyed the visit and treasured seeing old friends."

He continues: "Like it was for many of us, Bob's time at Morning-side was transformative in the best possible sense. I remember Bob walking around campus with a book of St. Paul in one pocket and a book of Nietzsche in the other, the result of classes with Professor Jacob Taubes. He and Professor James P. Shenton '49, '54 GSAS were the two who made the most lasting impression on Bob."

"Another teacher he enjoyed having — whose name unfortunately I have forgotten — was Rudy Bing's assistant at the Metropolitan Opera, who taught at GS. Bob and I took a couple of opera courses with him and eagerly followed the discussions for the construction of the new house at Lincoln Center, which was then in the planning stages. This instructor got us tickets to some dress rehearsals, and I remember going to *Walkure* with Bob in 1959. In those days my appreciation of Wagner was minimal since I was devoted to the Italian repertory, so after the incredibly long and boring second act, I left. Bob stuck



Jeff Riker '61 and Bob Rennick '61, '62E, '64E honored their Art Hum heritage at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif., in December.

PHOTO: LISA RENNICK

it out and loved reminding me that I had missed the best part. We did make up for it by attending together all of the Ring Cycles at the Met from the early '80s to the current one. Last spring, Bob and I saw *Walkure* together, for the last and umpteenth time.

"An avid traveler, Bob visited 48 states and six continents, missing only Australia. He especially loved his winter sojourns in Puerto Rico. An engaging person with wide-ranging interests, he was blessed with many circles of friends."

Josh Pruzansky captures Bob's essence best in this remembrance: "How tragic that we have lost this quiet, funny, courageous, talented classmate. Although he appeared at our 50th reunion wheelchair-bound, it did not diminish his infectious wit, laughter and optimism. I shall never forgive him for reneging on his promise to attend our 55th."

Bob, who came from Danvers, Mass., pursued two careers. He was a social studies teacher in the New York City public school system for more than 30 years, and he was a talented artist. His paintings and photographs were exhibited at the Ward-Nasse Gallery on

Prince Street in Manhattan. You can observe some of his work here: paintingsbybob.com.

The class extends its deepest condolences to the friends and family of **Bob Morgan**, and particularly to his beloved and devoted sister, Nancy, and to the friends and family of **Don Keller**.

To all, be well. And write.

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Philippe de La Chapelle and his wife, Doria, were honored by the enthusiastic attendance of several Class of '61 alums, including **Jim Ammeen** and **Richard Neel** (and their spouses, Marcia and Coco), at Doria's book signing for *Preppy: Cultivating Ivy Style*, which was held at T. Anthony in New York City on November 30. Despite the presence of President Barack Obama '83 in town and the lighting of the Rockefeller Center tree, our dauntless bibliophiles came through as the genuine preps that they are!

Art Humanities had a lifelong

influence on **Jeff Riker** and **Bob Rennick** (see nearby photo). The two alums soaked in culture at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif., in December. Bob and his wife, Lisa, were visiting with the Rikers for several days.

Doug McCorkindale was appointed as the lead director at Lockheed Martin, not a big deal according to Doug, but he indicated that it keeps him off the streets and doesn't interfere with his golf game.

Stuart Sloame and **Max Cohen** have started a friendly golf game and have played six times since our reunion last June.

Gerry Elkind has lived in New Zealand since the 1970s, when he accepted a position in the law department at the University of Auckland. He attended our 25th and 50th reunions, both times earning the distinction of being the classmate who traveled the farthest to attend. Gerry now has four degrees: a B.A. from Columbia, a J.D. from NYU, an L.L.M. from King's College, London, and an L.L.D. from Auckland (that's three law degrees!). His L.L.D. is based on four books and countless articles that he wrote, not a thesis. He is working on a fifth book.

Gerry taught at Auckland for 24 years before retiring in 1997. He now considers himself an author by profession. He and his wife, Jean, have two grandchildren and eight step-grandchildren. They plan to remain in New Zealand.

On a sad note, **Robert LaFandra** passed away on September 3. Robert was a physician and lived in Middlebury, Vt.

REUNION MAY 30–JUNE 3

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When we met 53 years ago, Dwight Eisenhower was president of the United States, "digital" was an adjective referring to fingers, panty raids were de rigueur, and the Pill remained an upperclassman's dream. So much changed during our years at Columbia and since — and now it's time to gather for our 50th reunion. The dates are Wednesday, May 30–Sunday, June 3. Plans are in the works for special class dinners, panel discussions, a boat trip through New York harbor, a VIP tour of the World Trade Cen-

ter construction site at Ground Zero and more. Saturday is also Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events. For the most up-to-date information and — most importantly — to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You can also contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. And be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

You will never have another opportunity to participate in a gathering like this one, and all of New York will be at your fingertips. Sign up now!

Carl Jakobsson '62 continues his work as chairman of the political action committee of his local NAACP branch.

What a grand surprise! Through the good old Post Office, this note arrived from **Les Moglen**: "Our 50th class reunion is coming up, so I thought it was time to crawl out from under my rock and check in. If I had the insight to know that my Columbia years would be the best years of my life, I would have savored them more intensely. When my tennis days at Columbia were up, I went to medical school at the University of Louisville, where I acquired a taste for Kentucky belles and Jim Beam. I survived bankruptcy, Vietnam and marital separation. I have five great kids (self-supporting most of the time) and three adorable grandkids, all here in California. I'm eagerly looking forward to the reunion and rekindling some of those wonderful memories and magical moments."

So wonderful to hear from you, Les; many have asked about you.

John Golembe (evjohn@t-online.de) notified me of a delightful news story about Artie Garfunkel '65.

John writes, "Our local paper in Heidelberg, Germany — the *Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung* — focused on Artie's Columbia mathematics degree in an article about his 70th birthday. Here is my wife's translation of the headline and part of the article: '*Hits Obtained with Mathematics: Art Garfunkel Turns 70 Today — He Never Wanted to be a Rock Star*.' "I was only a shy intellectual who loved rock and roll," Art Garfunkel once said. This was certainly a major understatement. His mathematics degree from the elite Columbia University was not responsible for his success with Simon and Garfunkel. ... Garfunkel's smooth and distinctive voice gave the duo an unparalleled sound. Whenever he begins singing

his solo in the ode to friendship, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, fans still get goose bumps. To be sure, Paul Simon wrote that hit. But Garfunkel's academic training sharpened his sense for the mathematical relationships in music. "In a recording studio in 1969 I calculated for Paul that the original version of *Bridge Over Troubled Water* simply would not work. Because he agreed with my logic, he added another verse," Garfunkel said."

Peter Krulewicz maintains a lively, eclectic blog, millbrooktimes.com, as well as a link to his oral history book. By going to oldnewyorkstories.com, you can find Peter's interviews with Professor

Emeritus of History Henry Graff '49 GSAS and University Professor Emeritus Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS as well as many others.

Bob Glassman (glassman@lakeforest.edu) teaches and does research at Lake Forest College, where he is a professor in the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience Program. His email included files that illustrated his recent teaching-research in neuroscience, a presentation in China and a poster presentation at a Society for Neuroscience meeting in Washington, D.C.

While in D.C., Bob and his wife, Harriet, visited their son, Mark, a lawyer with the FTC, his wife, and Bob and Harriet's three East Coast grandchildren. For Thanksgiving, they flew to California to see their two West Coast grandchildren; their daughter, Jill '02 SW, a biostatistician; and their son, Dan, a businessman and writer.

Bob writes: "It seems yesterday we had our 45th reunion. Jill was then completing her master's in social work at Columbia. During the reunion I introduced her to **Richard Toder** and his wife, Joan. Joan, Harriet, Richard and I met as counselors at a summer camp in the Catskills in 1959. During that 45th reunion I explained to Jill that it could have turned out that the marriages went the other way, in which case Richard would be her father. Richard didn't miss a beat; he exclaimed, 'But then you would be taller!'"

After 40 years practicing law, primarily representing banks in commercial loan activities, **John Joyce** (jjoyce@msn.com) retired in 2005. "Considering what has happened in banking since then,"

John says, "it was a good time for a change. My attention has since turned to travel, reading, golf and time with our children, Kevin and Holly, and six grandchildren. It's hard to believe nearly 50 years have passed since we left Morningside Heights and what was in retrospect a very benign but happy four years. Our vote to dissolve student government and Castro's visit to the campus created a small degree of excitement but not as much as winning the Ivy League football championship."

Bob Meyers (rmeyersaia@sbcglobal.net) reports, "As of Halloween, I retired from my San Francisco architectural-city planning practice. Now, as my wife notes, I'm ready to be 'rewired' for the next phase of life! Hoping to attend reunion — haven't been to campus in 40 years."

Jim Spingarn's note was a lesson in understatement: "Nothing much new. Just some traveling: Southern Africa on photo safari; Western United States to Moab, Utah, Durango, Colo., and Santa Fe, N.M., including zip-lining in Colorado, which was lots of fun; and a cruise to the western Caribbean with son Robert '89, '92 Business' family. The cruise gave him a little time off from being chief analyst of aerospace and defense at Credit Suisse New York. Then to France with daughter Liz '92 Business; her husband, Oliver Stanton; and their three children. I planned to go to Cambodia and Vietnam this winter on a Columbia trip and then I hope to China next fall. I work in the brokerage business (50 years now) with Stifel, Nicolaus in Florida and Garden City, N.Y., but on a part-time basis. I am looking forward to our reunion."

Mike Waters (dogashley3@verizon.net) sent this delightful note: "Writing every 50 years or so might not even rise to the level of infrequent. After many years practicing law in New Jersey, I resigned as a partner in my firm and became of counsel. My wife, Sara, and I plan to spend summers in Chatham on Cape Cod and winters in Manhattan, when we're not traveling or visiting our six daughters, four granddaughters and one grandson. Whenever I travel, pick up a good book or linger in a museum, I am reminded of how much I was shaped by Columbia. The legacy of the Core is a life of exploration and enrichment."

Amen!

"This is my first time writing to *Columbia College Today*," **Jeff Milstein** (Jeffrey_Milstein@msn.com) writes. "When I arrived at Columbia in 1958 from Denver, I had quite a culture shock. The diversity, pace and population den-

sity of New York was both exciting and bewildering. The College offered such a variety of interesting courses, taught by eminent scholars, it was hard to choose a major. I wound up in government, but took many courses in chemistry, physics and biology. I am ever-grateful for the Core Curriculum. And I learned much from the city as well. Four years at Columbia in New York really did change my outlook. To this day I read *The New York Times* daily, and have had several of my letters to the editor published there.

"I pursued graduate studies at Stanford and earned a Ph.D. in political science with a focus on international relations. I wrote a book on the topic that gripped us all back then, *Dynamics of the Vietnam War: A Quantitative Analysis and Preselective Computer Simulation*, and subsequently spent much of my career on the subject of war and peace.

"I taught international relations, first at Michigan State and then at Yale. I took a leave of absence from Yale in 1972 to work on the policy planning staff at the State Department and found I liked being a player on the field of government more than a spectator in the stands of academia. So I followed a career in government for 33 years — a long leave of absence! After a varied civil service career doing mostly policy and strategic analysis in seven governmental departments and agencies (the White House, State, Commerce, Treasury, Energy, CIA and Defense), I retired.

"I now enjoy taking courses at nearby George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., where I once taught. I enjoy spending time with my six children and six grandchildren, all but one of whom live within 15 miles. And I very much enjoy living with the love of my life, Ruta, whose career in anthropology, computers, science, art and writing in and out of the government exceeds my own in variety. We enjoy traveling, concerts, art, walking our dog and all sorts of conversation. Luckily, we both are in fairly good health. And we are well aware of how fast the sands of time are running out. Hence, *carpe diem!*

"Please email me if you'll be in Washington so we can get together. I give a pretty good tour of D.C. And I very much look forward to seeing and hearing all of you Columbia Lions of 1962 roar at our 50th reunion."

Carl Jakobsson, retired now, continues his dedicated work as chairman of the political action committee of the Bremerton, Wash., branch of the NAACP. He is working on two projects: abolition of the death penalty in the state of Wash-

ington and cessation of the practice of sending convicted criminals to contractor-operated prisons.

Carl writes: "The NAACP has opposed the death penalty for a long time, and has become more active in the effort to abolish it since the execution of Troy Davis in Georgia last year. You probably recall that some of the key witnesses against Davis in his original trial recanted their testimony while Davis was on death row. Nevertheless, the state of Georgia refused to reconsider his conviction. Consequently, if those witnesses told the truth when they recanted their original testimony, there remains reasonable doubt about the guilt of the defendant."

Carl is grandpa to 22 grandchildren, a husband, an after-school tutor and a Sunday school teacher. He hopes to "make it to the reunion, but is not sure, because our finances are tight, and it is expensive to travel across the country. But it's always good to hear from Columbia."

Lawrence I. Lubkin of Tucson, Ariz., passed away on September 27, 2010, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Brooklyn, graduated from Stuyvesant H.S., Columbia and North Carolina A&T State University, where he earned a master's in biology. Larry taught high school chemistry and biology at Jersey Academy in New Jersey until his retirement in 1996. In 2002, he and his wife, Alice, vacationed in Tucson and decided to stay. There, Larry enjoyed his favorite pastime, bicycling, year-round. At 65 he completed the 36-mile Tour of Tucson in two hours, averaging 17.8 mph! Larry was an astute observer of local and national government, and enjoyed talking about politics. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Alice; daughters, Jennifer Lubkin and her husband, James May, Margaret, and Andrea Maricich and her husband, Mitchell; and grandson, Gavin Maricich. Two of his students wrote: "He was one of the best teachers at Jersey Academy — brilliant. So glad he was part of my world!"; "Didn't know what science was until Mr. Lubkin. I dissected my one and only frog thanks to him. I enjoyed being a student of his!"

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Homecoming brought back the usual group of die-hard Columbia '63 football fans, all hoping (in vain) for a victory. At least it was a beautiful fall day. My wife, Ruth, and I joined **Steve Barcan**, **Henry**

Black, **Richard Gochman** and his wife, **Alice**; **Larry Neuman**; **Phil Satow**; and **Walter Stein** and his wife, **Helen**, under the Big Tent. We bumped into **Jerry Dwyer** and his wife, son and grandchildren on the way to the game.

It's hard to believe but by the time you get this, we will be only 15 months from our 50th reunion. I hope that you all have marked your calendar for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. We'd like to see you all for this milestone. Also, if you'd like to join our newly formed Reunion Committee, please send me an email — we'd welcome your ideas and company.

Howard Spodek writes, "My serious academic study of India began when I was an undergraduate and took the fabulous courses 'Oriental Humanities' and 'Oriental Civilizations,' which were both newly designed complements to Western Humanities and Contemporary Civilization. (By the time my son, Josh '93, took these courses they had been renamed 'Asian Humanities' and 'Asian Civilizations.'). Many great teachers taught in these programs. For me, Ainslee Embree was the professor who revealed their richness.

"My graduate studies continued at Chicago, and since 1972 I have been a faculty member in the history department at Temple in Philadelphia.

"The payoffs from these courses continue. I wrote a college-level textbook, *The World's History*,

Gujarat Vidyapith, a university founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920, provided a subvention to publish the entire bibliography in multi-volume book form through Manohar Publishers in New Delhi. These enterprises all began as seeds at Columbia.

"Last September, I flew to Ahmedabad to conduct additional research on the processes of city planning, funded by a fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies. I should be here for about a year. I welcome visits from fellow alumni, and I look forward to visiting Columbia's new Global Center in Mumbai."

Paul Lehrer writes, "I am a clinical psychologist and professor of psychiatry at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. After all these years I think I have finally figured out how to do it, so I'm not planning to retire anytime soon. For the past 40 years I have done research and clinical practice in what has become known as 'mind body medicine,' as well as cognitive behavior therapy. I recently received funding from the National Institutes of Health for a two-center randomized controlled trial of biofeedback therapy as a treatment for asthma. After teaching all this time at one institution, I am beginning to see my students receive support for similar research, and I have collaborated with several of them on their projects. Nothing could give an old professor more pleasure.

Paul Lehrer '63 is a clinical psychologist and professor of psychiatry at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

published with Prentice Hall and now in a fourth edition. Then, last year, I published *Ahmedabad: Shock City of Twentieth Century India*, with Indiana University Press — a somewhat more indirect result of the study that began at Columbia.

"I also published a translation, with co-translators Devavrat N. Pathak and John Wood, of the six-volume *Autobiography of Indulal Yagnik*, an important second-tier political leader in the Gujarat region of India through much of the 20th century. The translation, from the Gujarati, was actually more or less completed in 1985, thanks to a grant from the Smithsonian Institution that was made available to scholars in a few selected research libraries in the United States and India. (This was the era before computer word processing. The materials were in typescript and Xerox copies.) Finally, last year, the

"My wife, Phyllis, continues her concert and teaching career as a pianist and piano pedagogue through Westminster College of the Arts at Rider. We have five lovely grandchildren, two in nearby Princeton — where our son-in-law is an administrator and our daughter teaches the piano — and three in Tajikistan, where our son is a USAID officer and our daughter-in-law takes care of procurements for the U.S. embassy.

"In the past few years I have kept up with three good friends from Columbia: **Richard Weisman**, who teaches sociology at York University in Toronto; **Robert Martin**, who recently retired as professor of philosophy at Dalhousie University in Halifax; and **Peter Winokur '64**, a retired teacher who lives in New York. It is wonderful that such important ties continue to thrive."

Harley Frankel, who runs the

nonprofit College Match — a mentoring program for disadvantaged high school students in Los Angeles — sends his latest results: “We are pleased to report that our 2011 graduating seniors have done quite well in college acceptances despite this admissions cycle being one of the most competitive and difficult in our nation’s history. This has been our most successful year including the following: 51 percent of the 2011 College Match seniors were admitted into an Ivy League university or an Ivy-equivalent such as MIT, Stanford and Wellesley. Almost two-thirds of our seniors (65 percent) have been admitted to colleges ranked higher than any UC, including UC Berkeley. Virtually all of our 2011 seniors were admitted into one top tier college. During the past three years, our students (including our 2011 seniors) have raised their average SAT scores by approximately 350 points. Important note: The total amount of financial assistance that our seniors received represents a 2,000 percent return on our investment.”

Ezra Cohen writes, “Not much is new and, at this stage of life, having no news is good news. I’m practicing bankruptcy law in Atlanta. I have practiced at the same firm (Troutman Sanders) for my entire legal career, except for about four halcyon years as a bankruptcy judge in the 1970s. For me, the practice of law is a heady mixture of commerce and scholarship. I have always loved it and now, with less pressure, I am enjoying it.

“My wife and I are raising our granddaughter, now a teenager, and that has been a rejuvenating experience. Fortunately, my wonderful wife is doing the heavy lifting in that endeavor. I’ve been in touch recently with **Richard Gochman**, who left Manhattan to move to Rip Van Winkle country in upstate New York. He is still married to the lovely woman he met as a student at Columbia, and that’s awe-inspiring. I’ve also been in touch with Mike Baybak ‘66, now in Los Angeles and the father of five daughters. I sent him an autobiography of my post-Columbia years, and he sent me a hilarious recording of him and a friend playing a rowdy song from the ‘80s (‘Money for Nothing’ by Dire Straits).”

Jerry Kessler sends greetings from “the Left Coast,” where he has lived since 1963: “After graduating from UCLA Law, I was admitted to practice here in 1966. Since then, I have maintained a private practice, concentrating on estate planning, business and transactional real estate matters. At the same time, I have been active as a cellist in the record, motion picture and

television industries, and played solo concerts and chamber music. I worked extensively with Frank Zappa and performed under Pierre Boulez. I’ve been a member of *The Simpsons* orchestra for 21 years, and work on shows such as *Family Guy*. Since 1982, I have been music director and conductor of the Topanga Symphony. Our concerts feature nationally known soloists and often include world premieres of works by Los Angeles composers.

Rick Alexander ‘64 has lectured on Dianetics and Scientology in 28 cities worldwide.

“Daughter Jennifer is a French hornist, promoter of musical outreach and intellectual symposia, blogger and yoga teacher. She has performed with the Berlin Philharmonic and at the Newport Jazz Festival, and is an Abreu Fellow of El Sistema USA at New England Conservatory in Boston. Daughter Amy has worked with autistic children and is completing her doctorate in physical therapy in Los Angeles. She’s married and, when not immersed in her studies, plays beach volleyball.

“In 2007, I married Joyce Miller (mother of four, grandmother of 10). We live in the foothills above Los Angeles. Whenever time permits, we travel. Favorite U.S. destinations have included the California coast, the San Juan Islands, NYC, the Adirondacks and Florida. Abroad, we’ve visited England, Ireland, France, Italy, Israel, Mexico, Costa Rica and islands of the Caribbean. My travel photography (some award-winning) appears in exhibits and on collection walls in California.

“In recent years, I have stayed in touch with such Columbians as Richard Beeson ‘59, **Ed Collier**, **Frank Kalibat**, **Joel Krosnick**, **Peter Landecker** and Michael Shapiro ‘62, and I often see Melvyn Werbach ‘62.”

Robert Shaler writes from New Mexico, “In 1986 I became a professional daguerreotypist, and the adventures and challenges of modern daguerreotypy (rhymes with lobotomy) have proved unending. I made subterranean daguerreotypes in Carlsbad Caverns, daguerreotypes of the moon, of lightning, of solar eclipses, of nudes, even of the heads of state at the 1997 G-8 meeting in Denver (they all moved during the exposure — the result was so abstract that it won an award from the Friends of Contemporary Art at a show in the Museum of Fine Arts here in Santa Fe). With a process as given to failure as the daguerreotype, it is comforting to

know that the subject will still be there tomorrow for another try.

“The high point of my career was reconstructing the lost daguerreotypes from John Charles Frémont’s fifth expedition of 1853, which traveled through the Rocky Mountains. The result of six years of the most pleasurable work imaginable was a book, *Sights Once Seen*, which contains reproductions of 121 of my daguerreotypes, and a museum show that opened in Santa Fe and

traveled the country for five years.

“While working on the Frémont project, I came across an album containing some 100 sketches by the topographic artist Richard Kern, made in the field while he was employed on the Gunnison expedition of 1853. The album now is in the Newberry Library in Chicago, an unknown national treasure that constitutes the first extensive visual documentation of the Rocky Mountains. Since summer 2000, I have been searching out the views Kern depicted in the drawings and photographing them from his point of view. The field-work now is probably concluded, and I am almost finished with the writing; publication is planned for 2013. I seem to have returned to my college major, art history, although of a peculiar sort. When asked my occupation, I now call myself a ‘visual historian of Western exploration,’ and if pressed further I add: ‘specializing in the year 1853.’

“I used to miss good bagels, for no such thing is available here commercially and the published recipes are, frankly, inadequate. After a year of work that used up 150 lbs. of high-gluten flour in four or five test batches a week, I succeeded in baking my own; all who try my product proclaim it ‘the best bagel [they] have ever tasted,’ and my popularity has grown significantly. I don’t sell them because that would turn pleasure into labor and ruin the spirit; when I bake a batch I make a run into town to distribute them among friends *gratis*. I would be happy to send my 11-page method (it’s not difficult but some details are important) to any who desire excellence in bagels; just email me at bagelbob@comcast.net.”

Christian Rieger sent the following: “Years ago, when I was seeking **Bob Vargas**, I read the August 2006 Class Notes [on Paul’s class website] and wondered who reported me missing (cc63ers.com/

cc63newsletter081406.htm). I had no idea this was considered the case. There was no notice anywhere, not even on a milk carton. Then I thought of Tolkien’s line, ‘Not all those who wander are lost.’

“In 1973, my favorite ex-girlfriend threw me out of New York and I moved to a beach to get over it. Beaches, actually. They included Miami, Tampa, Key West, Fort Lauderdale, Montserrat (pre-volcano), St. John, St. Thomas, El Viejo San Juan and now Cabarete, on the north shore of the Dominican Republic. My adult life has gone through many distinct and adventurous stages, of which I will speak another time. Meanwhile, be it known, though I am not missing, I may be lost.”

Our regular second Thursday lunches are a great place to reconnect. If you’re in NYC, try to make one of the next few. They’re scheduled for March 8, April 12 and May 10 — always the second Thursday. Check our website, cc63ers.com, for details.

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

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I write this note as 2011 draws to a close and, by the time you read it, we will be well into 2012. Nevertheless, please allow me to say a belated Happy New Year, and to wish each of you and your families a healthy, happy, prosperous and peaceful 2012.

Retirement is in the air. **Michael Friedman** has retired after more than 40 years as a social worker and a social advocate. He’s staying busy, though: “I teach courses on health and mental health policy at Columbia’s Schools of Social Work and Public Health. I’ve been writing regularly for the Huffington Post and other publications, and doing much more with photography. And I now have time to play jazz again, with a regular gig at a restaurant in White Plains, N.Y., where I live. So retirement has been terrific.”

Mike would like to reconnect with classmates. He can be reached at mbfriedman@aol.com, and his photography can be seen at photography.michaelbfriedman.com.

After 39 years, **Alan Woods** has retired from the Department of Theatre at Ohio State. He writes from Columbus: “I worked Off-Off and Off-Broadway during my last year or so at Columbia and for a few years afterward, until I was drafted into the Army and served in Vietnam, where I earned a Bronze

Star for valor in combat. Then on to graduate school at the University of Southern California (M.A. and Ph.D.). I taught at Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Fullerton, Long Beach City College, then Ohio State, with visits to Indiana University. Worked professionally as a dramaturge nationally. And my short plays have been produced on every continent except Antarctica.

"I married Ann Null '63 Barnard in 1967. We have one daughter, Kathryn Woods Prentice, a chief petty officer in the Navy, and one grandchild, Summer Grace Prentice.

"I spent much of my 39 years at Ohio State as the director of the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute. I also was director of graduate studies for the Theatre Department for a decade, and in various other posts. I published a history of the Ohio Theatre (a 1920s movie palace in Columbus) and edited the selected plays of Lawrence and Lee (including *Inherit the Wind*, *First Monday in October* and *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*). I also published scholarly articles in all the major theater/performance journals.

"I was the first president of Audio Description International, an organization that makes performances and events accessible to blind and visually impaired folks, president of the Ohio Theatre Alliance, on the boards of the American Society for Theatre Research and the University and College Theatre Association. I also was a founder of Senior Theatre USA, on whose board I remain. I edited two scholarly journals, *Theatre Journal* and *Theatre Studies*, though not simultaneously.

"I remain enormously grateful to Columbia for the intellectual and artistic ferment that was there during my years. I was able to work on a Greek tragedy performed on the steps of Low Library as a freshman, direct *The Varsity Show* during my senior year and explore a wide range of academic, artistic and other diversions. It was a great time."

Alan can be reached at alan0198@yahoo.com.

Rick Alexander writes from Clearwater, Fla., that he enjoyed worldwide travel as a guest lecturer in Dianetics and Scientology in 28 cities; they included Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Vienna, Prague, Hamburg, Paris, London, Athens, Tokyo, Lausanne, Bratislava, Budapest, Bogota and Mexico City. He now is back in Clearwater, enjoying time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

Rick can be reached at rickfree.winds@gmail.com.

Steve Rodner continues to play the trombone but instead of playing with the Marching Band he

plays with the community swing and concert bands in his New Jersey town.

Dan Schechter went on his annual pheasant shoot in Devon, England, and returned home to upstate New York to learn of the birth of his third grandchild.

David Saxe '63, a distinguished New York appellate judge, reports the death of **Alan Reis** in 2010.

"Alan was a dear friend of mine. We met when Alan entered the College in fall 1960. We were fraternity brothers at ZBT, where he was for a time house steward. Alan became a successful real estate lawyer, and I can't remember a time when we didn't speak at least three times a week. We talked about thorny issues in real estate law, the Knicks, his interest in thoroughbreds and good books (he was an inveterate reader). He leaves behind a lovely wife, Dana. I miss him all the time."

Requiescat in pacem.

65

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After a summer hiatus, our class' New York-area lunch group met in a conference room in **Mike Cook's** offices on October 27 for a resumption of our periodic lunches. We had a larger turnout than usual, consisting of **Allen Brill, Dan Carlinsky, Mike Cook, Andy Fisher, Brian Fix, Ira Gomberg, Steve Hoffman, Paul Hyman, Jeff Krulwich, Barry Levine, Tony Leitner, Ed Malmstrom, Leonard Pack, David Sarlin, Mike Schlanger, Rick Shuart, Steve Steinig, Bernard Weinstein** and **Bob Yunich**.

We had such a large group in part because of curiosity and concern about the August resignation of Dean Michele Moody-Adams. In our discussion, there was general agreement that we as a group do not have enough information to know what really happened. We also discussed the reasons why we care. Most of us agreed our concern stems from our warm feelings about our experiences, including the Core Curriculum, at the College 46 years ago, and we want current students to enjoy a similarly rich experience.

Barry Levine reported that he had attended an address by the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities, Andrew Delbanco, on October 24. (You can see a report of the professor's speech online in the October 25 issue of *Spectator*.) Professor Delbanco stated that he believed there is a threat to the Core Curriculum from bloated class sizes. He also emphasized the difference between the roles of a

college and a university. According to the *Spectator* article, he noted: "A university trains for the professions but fundamentally, it's an array of research activities with the aim of creating new knowledge. A college, on the other hand, is about transmitting knowledge of and from the past so that [students] may draw upon it as a living resource in the future."

Our group agreed that we would like to know more about the tensions, if any, between the University and the College, including the University's commitment to the Core Curriculum. Speaking personally, the message from Dean James J. Valentini in the Winter 2011-12 issue (page 3 or college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/message_from_the_dean) seems to voice a ringing affirmation for the importance of the Core, and I invite concerned readers to lend their voices to Dean Valentini on this subject.

I got a note from **Harmon Fields** in response to the reported death of a student in that same Winter 2011-12 issue of CCT. He writes, "I would imagine that the counseling department has progressed since my time at the College. (You recall that in my writings to you I have stressed how Columbia's counseling services had been less than responsive to my issues, and while I wasn't suicidal per se, I was pretty depressed.) ... While it is fine to celebrate all that Columbia alumni have achieved in all areas, I believe that if even one person is lost, we need to examine the imbalance between the intellectual emphasis and the social-emotional support and sensitivity. How we do that is a big and challenging question, but one the University needs to address."

We have had a loss in our class. **Richard Grossman** died of cancer on November 22. [Editor's note: See Obituaries.] Richard founded and directed Environmentalists for Full Employment, was executive director of GreenPeace USA and co-founded and taught in the Stop the Poisoning program at the Highlander Center in Tennessee.

You can see much of Richard's written work by searching for him on the Internet. I did, and was struck by an interview he gave to journalist Ruth Conniff, of the magazine *The Progressive*, in 2002. The interview took place in the shadow of the Enron scandal, but the things Richard articulated were surprisingly prescient and foreshadowed many of the sentiments now being voiced by the Occupy Wall Street movement. He talked about corporate power, noting that when corporations are chartered, they are endowed with certain rights and privileges, but

that, unlike individuals, they have unlimited life.

He said, "Why is it that people in communities, municipalities and states believe they can't pass laws that ban corporations from spending any money on election campaigns, or that they can't pass laws that even ban particular products of corporations from their communities? If a community set out today to say 'within our jurisdiction, no genetically modified food is allowed to enter,' or if it passed a law that banned any corporate contribution to public discussion of ideas or to referenda, the corporations' lawyers would run right to federal court. The court would end up throwing the laws out, claiming constitutional rights and privileges of the corporation dating back to the Commerce Clause, the First Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment."

It seems Richard anticipated the *Citizens United* case by eight years.

Richard was asked whether the struggle against corporate power was akin to the Civil Rights Movement, where much of the struggle took place in the courts. He responded, "No, I think the big defining struggle is going to take place in the culture. And the courts will come last. In a sense, *Brown v. Board of Education* wasn't worth much until the civil rights struggle moved into the culture in a significant way, forced by this extraordinary grassroots-based, multigenerational civil rights movement. It took another 20 years of really serious grassroots mobilizing, agitation in the culture. And that's where this has to happen, and it is happening: in Seattle, or at the demonstrations outside both of the parties' conventions last year [2001], or recently in New York at the World Economic Forum. Those are the visible aspects of a growing ferment in community after community."

What's Your Story?

Letting classmates know what's going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes!

ONLINE by clicking college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

Class Notes received by **Monday, March 19**, are eligible for inclusion in the Summer 2012 issue.

Prescient, indeed.

An article in *The New York Times* on October 22 quoted **Elliot Dorff** '71 GSAS on the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange. Since earning a Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia in 1971, Elliot has directed the rabbinical and master's programs at the University of Judaism (now called the American Jewish University) and is the school's Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy. I asked Elliot if he would share some thoughts on the implications of freeing 1,000 prisoners, some of whom were convicted for serious crimes, in exchange for a single soldier. He said:

"Throughout the Middle Ages and into the modern period, Jews unfortunately often were kidnapped for ransom. In response, Jewish legal authorities declared that ransoming captives (*pidyon shevu'yim*) was the top priority for communal funds because captives were in danger of being sexually violated, tortured and killed. At the same time, rabbis and lay leaders justifiably worried that if it became known that Jews would go to great lengths to rescue members of their community, that would only encourage potential captors to take more Jews hostage, so the Shulhan Arukh, an important 16th-century code of Jewish law, rules that 'We do not redeem captives for more than their worth out of considerations of fixing the world, so that the enemies will not dedicate themselves to take Jews captive' (S.A. Yoreh De'ah 252:4).

"The Israelis unfortunately now have created a track record of redeeming their citizens — even the corpses of dead soldiers — at the cost of freeing extravagant numbers of Palestinian prisoners, many of whom were responsible for killing scores of Israelis in terrorist attacks. Although I understand the strong bond that Israelis feel to each of their citizens, and although this does make every Israeli soldier know that his or her country will go the distance to redeem him from captivity and thus encourages loyalty and courage, I worry that this precedent does exactly what the Shulhan Arukh predicted it would do — to say nothing of the increased danger to Israelis now that known murderers are free to resume their terrorist activities."

Elliot also brings us up to date on his personal life: "My wife, Marlynn '66 Barnard, and I have four children and seven grandchildren. We babysit a lot for the four grandchildren who live in Los Angeles. I took an active role in raising our children and loved the role of being a father, but the role of a grandfather is much, much sweeter. You get to see the world

through your grandchildren's eyes, and it is nothing short of amazing! They make me feel young again.

"I teach full-time at American Jewish University and am a visiting professor at UCLA School of Law every other year. Because I love teaching so much and thankfully am in reasonably good health, I have no plans to retire. I feel a little guilty about that, though, because I am occupying a position that would otherwise go to a younger scholar. I am chair of the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, a past president of Jewish Family Service of Greater Los Angeles and a past chair of four scholarly organizations. I do a lot of bioethics and interfaith work. In addition to having written more than 200 articles on Jewish thought, law and ethics, I have written 12 books and edited or co-edited 13 more on those subjects. I have four honorary doctorates in addition to a Columbia Ph.D.

American Jewish University professor **Elliot Dorff** '65 was quoted in *The New York Times* for his thoughts on the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange.

"My daughter, Tammy Dorff '89 [also is a College alum], and my other children went to Harvard, Brandeis and Brown, respectively. Through their experiences I have a renewed conviction that Columbia has thought about the goals of undergraduate education and how to achieve them much more thoroughly than even other very good universities, and I regularly call on, and am grateful for, the liberal arts grounding that I learned there. In my late teens and early 20s, if it had been up to me, I never would have had the sense to take the range of courses that Columbia required, and so Columbia's faculty taught me as much by what they required of all of us as they did through the specific content of individual courses."

Finally, some happy news from **Andy Fisher**: "It certainly is turning out to be one of the most extraordinary periods of my life. After 5 1/2 years as a widower, I am getting married again. My fiancée, Ann Mead, is a paralegal in the small-business loan department of a bank in Union County, N.J. I met her in that hotbed of singles action, a bereavement-support group. In addition to being Ann's husband, I shall be stepfather to her 32- and 20-year-old sons — fatherhood at last at 67! — and a companion to a 12-year-old retriever/husky mix and two cats. We plan a brief honeymoon in Paris."

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Kent Kretchmar sends news from Madison, Wis. "Our daughter, Kerry, completed her work for a Ph.D. in education, and in September started her teaching career at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wis. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Education. In addition to her work at Carroll, she has given presentations at several national and international conferences and has had articles published in professional journals. Recently she announced her engagement, and she and her fiancé bought a house in Madison.

"My wife, Mary Lynn, has had her running curtailed by knee problems but has been able to play tennis regularly in Wisconsin and Arizona. She is the treasurer of the

guarantee admission to the College for his extended family. **Rich Forzani** appeared as the 'dean of admissions,' reassuring the owner that all would be well.

"**Chuck Christensen** sang German Lieder to an astonished crowd. Attending and lying about accomplishments were **Rich Beggs** and his wife, Gerri; **Ron Brookshire** and Ashley; **Neill Brownstein** and his wife, Linda; **Chuck Christensen** and his wife, Carole; **Roger 'The Dodger' Dennis**; **Rich Forzani**; **Tommy Harrold** and **Tony Helfet** as a matched set; **Bob Klingensmith** and his wife, Nancy (the only '66 photos appearing in the CCT reunion issue); **Dean Mottard** (found sleeping on my couch); and **Larry Nelson** and his wife, Sue. Larry explained that owning a boat was a wise investment. **John Nossal** flew in solo from Florida and was hosted by **Rich Beggs**; **Pete Salzer** and his wife, Linda, ventured unafraid from northern New Jersey; and **Rich Staniewicz** and his wife, Janet, resurfaced from Connecticut. Rounding out the crew were **Earl Werner** and his wife, Ruth (winners of the table- and lap-dance second prize), and my former roommate, Steve Wolfson '59 and Carole (Engineering).

"Those who attended Alumni Reunion Weekend on campus had the best of times together. The lectures were outstanding, and anyone who missed **Bobby Gurland's** performance at Saturday's dinner, where he improvised with the jazz band combo, missed a rare and talented classmate at his finest.

"Really guys, don't sit home during the next reunion. Come and enjoy time with one another."

Tom may be reached at tachorba@gmail.com.

Also on the subject of reunion, **David Tilman** reported: "Our last reunion was terrific: wonderful sessions, lectures, meals, good fellowship and sincere joy. Several of us participated in the second Columbia Alumni Singers reunion, conducted ably by **Bruce Trinkley** and Gerry Weale '57, and organized by **Michael Garrett** and Nick Rudd '64. Singing those wonderful Columbia songs for the first time in 45 years was an inspiring and emotion-filled experience. I added my baritone to the solo of 'This Train Is Bound for Glory.'

"After 42 years as a pulpit cantor/hazzan and music director, I retired at the end of July. I spent six years as assistant cantor/hazzan sheni of the Park Avenue Synagogue in NYC, 1969-75, and 36 years as cantor/hazzan of Beth Shalom Congregation in Elkins Park, Pa., known as the 'Frank Lloyd Wright Synagogue.' I had a wonderful career of leading

local tennis association in Wisconsin and volunteers at a library in Arizona. I had a second surgery on my left hip in July. Fortunately this was only a partial revision of the replacement I had last year. I have not been able to run, though I have gotten in long walks."

When Kent wrote in December, Mary Lynn and he were looking forward to another winter in Arizona: "It will be nice to escape the snow and cold temperatures of the upper Midwest. As they say: 'You don't shovel sunshine.'"

If you're interested in contacting Kent, send a note to kerry1az@yahoo.com.

Tom Chorba wrote exhaustively about our 45th reunion: "**Mark Amsterdam**, **Mike Garrett** and **Dan Gardner** did a fabulous job on the reunion programming. It was a pleasure to connect with classmates I rarely get to see, including **Bob Meyerson**.

"Each reunion, I try to organize a dinner for Thursday. We started at my home (my wife, Celeste, as usual knocked herself out). We had copious amounts of wine from **Rich Beggs**, **Bob Klingensmith** and **Neill Brownstein** prior to heading out for a Chinese banquet at a local restaurant. There were approximately 15 courses for \$40 per person, with plenty left over because — as I had explained to the restaurant owner — a high quality/quantity meal at a low price would

services; officiating at weddings, B'nei Mitzvah and funerals; training 2,000 B'nei and B'not Mitzvah students; and teaching Jewish values through music to generations of children, young people and adults. I built a wonderful choral program consisting of five choirs (preschool students, elementary singers, high school singers, men's choir and adult community choir). My choirs toured in Israel three times. In July 2007, my men's choir toured Eastern Europe, presenting concerts in Prague, Budapest, Cracow and Warsaw. We gave impromptu mini-concerts in synagogues, museums and even in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

"Through the years, I presented programs with Leonard Nimoy, Theodore Bikel, Stephen Schwartz, Work o' the Weavers and many other wonderful artists. I feel fulfilled in my ultimate mission to teach Jewish values through the wonders of the Jewish musical experience. Last spring, I finished my Beth Sholom career with a gala concert featuring 17 other cantors, all my choirs and 36 members of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

"I have begun a new career as associate professor at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music of the Jewish Theological Seminary, right up Broadway from Columbia at West 122nd Street. I teach young men and women who are preparing for cantorial careers. I teach 'Methods and Materials of Jewish Music Education' and 'Advanced Conducting,' and I conduct a wonderful choir of 14 superb singers.

"I am ecstatically happy after 30 years of marriage to Ellen Rosenberg Tilman. We have three children: Avrum '04E, a computer supervisor at a hedge fund; Howard, a third-year student in the Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies of the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, though he is spending this year in Jerusalem; and Alana, who is completing her master's in Jewish education at the Davidson School of the Jewish Theological Seminary. As of this writing, we had a lot of traveling scheduled: Israel at the end of December and January; Chile in March, where I shall be cantor-in-residence in Santiago and Vina del Mar; Clayton, Ga., where I shall be cantor-in-residence at Camp Ramah Darrow for the Passover holiday; and Berlin in June, where I shall conduct a concert of the Cantors Assembly on its mission to Germany.

"My life is full of meaningful experiences, and I pray that I may continue to be creative for many years to come."

Write David at david.tilman@comcast.net.

Michael Harrison wrote, "I am a senior program officer at the Agency

for Healthcare Research and Quality. It is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. I find the work challenging and gratifying and do not have plans for retirement. The group with which I work develops research on improvements in the delivery of healthcare along with practical tools, which are available to the public (ahrq.gov/qual/systemdesign.htm). Recently we completed the *Guide to Remediating Unintended Consequences of Electronic Health Records* (ucguide.org), which we hope will help care providers sort through all of the stuff that happens when they go electronic. Other projects reexamine use of industrial process improvement methods in healthcare and ways to help safety net hospitals enhance their business and quality performance.

"My wife, Jo Ann, recently completed a couple of years as an ombudsman in an assisted living facility and is starting to teach a module on personal finance to sixth-graders. Our son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren live nearby, and we see a great deal of the grandkids, who are now both in school. We like Bethesda, Md., and enjoy the D.C. area, but miss friends in Israel, where we lived for nearly 30 years. We try to keep up with them electronically and through periodic visits."

Michael's e-mail is navigator1099@gmail.com.

Michael Garrett directs classmates to the last page of the Winter 2011-12 issue of CCT (also at college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/alumni_corner3), where they will find a first-person piece with photos about his extensive collection of lions.

Write Michael at michaelgarrett@earthlink.net.

John Harrington submitted a brief update: "I am retired from university teaching and enjoying life in North Carolina. There are 732 of us year-round residents in our beach town. Quite a change from Manhattan! A busy day is watching a pelican fly over."

Contact John at jeharrington38@yahoo.com.

From the Lone Star State, Calvin Johnson gives us this information: "From last May-December, I was a fellow at the Tax Policy Center, a joint program of the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. I work on the Shelf Project, a collaboration to develop proposals to raise revenue by defending the tax base. We have 63 proposals so far."

Calvin gives us this site for further information about the project: utexas.edu/law/faculty/calvinjohnson/shelfprojectinventory.pdf.

Gary Kopf writes, "My wife, Hedda (homecoming queen, AEPi, 1965), and I live on Long Island



A group of alumni from the late '60s traveled to Big Green country for the Columbia-Dartmouth football game in October (left to right): Proctor Schenk '69, '71 Business; Gerry Botha '67, '68E, '70E; Ken Thomae '67, '69 Business; Bruce Chattman '67; Robert Chapla '68; David Blanchard '67; Jack Probolus '70; Eric Dannemann '67, '72 Business; and Bob Malsberger '67E.

Sound, in Branford, Conn., an easy commute to New Haven. After training in Boston, I have spent my entire professional career at Yale. I am an adult and pediatric cardiac surgeon and professor of surgery at the Yale School of Medicine. My team recently implanted, for the first time in the United States, a tissue-engineered vascular graft as part of a heart reconstruction in a 3-year-old. This is the beginning of an exciting new field in medicine. Yale is a great place for integrating basic science and clinical medicine. The main campus and the medical school are well integrated, being only a few blocks apart. I've also become interested in biomedical ethics and serve on the pediatric ethics committee and the technology and ethics working group at the Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics.

"New Haven, a college town, is a cultural and academic powerhouse; we love it. All our kids and grandkids live in the Boston area, so I can root for all the great Boston teams without having to live there. We also love our convenient weekend jaunts into 'the city' to catch up on things. We were very excited by the win over Brown last fall, unquestionably the start of a new dynasty! Best to all."

Gary's e-mail is gary.kopf@yale.edu.

Your correspondent had a lovely three-week visit with old friends in Austria, Germany and Holland in the autumn. The weather was uncharacteristically beautiful for that time of the year, and my wife, Gilda, and I had a marvelous time.

Too bad it was over so quickly and we had to return to our home in the mountains outside Rio de Janeiro.

REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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Have you signed up yet? We are only a few months from our 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend, which will be held Thursday, May 31-Sunday, June 3. You don't want to miss out on the chance to see so many friends in one place, and campus is sure to look beautiful in spring. In addition, there are many fun multigenerational and class-specific activities being planned, including our class dinner on Saturday. Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events. For the most up-to-date information and — most important of all — to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You also can contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Be sure, too, to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

Now for the news. Ken Settler writes, "As I returned to campus

in August to drop off my youngest son, William '15, for the start of his freshman year, I was delightfully surprised at the buzz of cosmopolitan activity around the campus. It was eerie to move him into his room in Carman Hall, only two doors down from where I had lived when the dorm opened 49 years ago! I also realized that I was probably the oldest alumnus who also was the parent of an entering freshman. My oldest son is a recent Stanford graduate and Silicon Valley entrepreneur, and my middle son is a senior at Duke headed into the management world. My wife, Linda Kline, is an attorney who has developed a business placing attorneys in the New England area.

"I have been working as a physician-psychiatrist in the interface of leadership and management and psychoanalytic understanding. I advise CEOs and senior management teams in resolving organizational conflict using a psychodynamic perspective to enhance the effectiveness of leadership. I travel to clients and also have a psychoanalytic practice in Brookline, Mass. I also teach Harvard psychiatry residents about leadership and organizational consulting and work with the Harvard Risk Management Foundation, supporting physicians through adverse outcomes and malpractice litigation.

"I recently connected with classmates at the sad funeral of **Donald Krim**. Donald was a beloved friend. We shared a tight bond and fond memories of years at Columbia. Don also left his mark on the film industry as a connoisseur and distributor of fine international and classical films. He was a devoted husband and father. His untimely death is a deeply felt loss."

David Blanchard reports that the crew contingent made it to the football game at Dartmouth in October (see nearby photo). He writes, "**Gerry Botha**, **Bruce Chattman**, **Robert Chapla** '68 and I all live in Vermont and get together often. **Ken Thome**, **Bob Malsberger** '67E and **Jack Probolus** came up from the Boston area. **Eric Dannemann** came from New Canaan, Conn., and **Proctor Schenk** '69 from Brooklyn. We met for lunch at a Hanover watering hole, Murphy's, and endured the game before returning to Murphy's for the losers' libations. Most of us then made our way over hill and dale to Gerry's house in Barnard, Vt., where his wife, Susan, had prepared a sumptuous feast to soothe our battered souls. Many of us have our lightweight crew days in common (Jack rowed with the 'overweights' and Bruce wrestled), and it seems that I am the only one of the group not to have pledged

Fiji. I'm director of special education at our regional high school and spend as much time with my grandchildren as possible. I got back into triathlons this summer after sitting out for a few years, and my wife, Eve, and I cycle through the beauty of Vermont most weekends in good weather."

In November, **Julian Geiger** was named president and CEO of the New York-based cupcake specialty chain **Crumbs Bake Shop**. The first **Crumbs** opened in March 2003 on the Upper West Side, and there are now more than 40 locations, most of them in New York. Julian has been chairman of the board of directors of **Aeropostale** since August 1998 and was the company's chairman and CEO August 1998–February 2010. Julian also is a part-time adviser to **Aeropostale**.

I am sad to report that **David Koffler** passed away in July. David had lived in the Carmel Valley area of San Diego for the last 18 years, ever since retiring from the Navy with the rank of captain. David attended Navy Officer Candidate School and served as a Swift Boat commander in Vietnam. Following his tour of duty, for which he received the Bronze Star and numerous other medals for meritorious service, he attended dental school at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Ore. After earning a doctor of dental medicine degree, he returned to active duty in the

editing and living in rural Connecticut, I seem to have picked up a new career as an editor of wood-working books. Two years ago, no sooner had I been laid off at *Fine Woodworking* magazine than one of my writers there steered me to a small publisher in Pennsylvania. I've done a half-dozen books for them, including one on woodcarving by a Dane and two on ukuleles by a couple in Australia. Keeps me just busy enough, so I have time to spend in my own shop, puttering with various woodworking and woodturning projects, and helping my wife, Kate, keep ahead of the weeds in the yard.

"I have also added 'inventor' to my resume. Earlier this year, I figured out how to improve a gizmo used by people who make wood-bodied ballpoints and fountain pens on their lathes. I had a local machine shop make a batch, set up a website and have been selling the invention for a while now. You can see it at penmandrel.com. I wish I could say that sales are brisk, but they aren't. Maybe someday.

"I stay in touch with **Ernest Gilman** (still teaching at NYU, now grandfather of two girls) and **Dan Carlinsky** '65 (still doing whatever it is that Carlinskys do)."

Henry Welt says, "I knew that starting yet another career as chair of the Department of Entrepreneurship for the Fashion and Design Industries at FIT would be exciting,

Henry Welt '68 chairs the Department of Entrepreneurship for the Fashion and Design Industries at FIT.

Navy, where he practiced dentistry until his retirement in 1995. David was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend and mentor.

Finally, a lost-and-found item: On November 22, a Columbia University graduation ring with the year "67" on one side and "BS" on the other was recovered from an uptown Manhattan bus. The inscribed initials, written in calligraphy, appear to be "CPS." If this is your ring, or you know who it may belong to, please contact Nick Mider, events coordinator in the Alumni Office: nm2613@columbia.edu.

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Greetings! Just a few reports this time, beginning with **Dave Heim**. He writes, "Now that I'm officially retired from full-time magazine

taking me out of my comfort zone as a lawyer and consultant, but I never realized that it would connect me with a crop of recent Columbia College graduates. Somehow, no matter how much we think that we're in touch with reality, our memories play the trick of freezing us in our past and helping us believe that some things don't change — such as CC's liberal arts orientation and the foreignness of commerce to the CC community and campus. But then I met David Whittemore '06, head of the Columbia Venture Community, who was interested in what we're doing at FIT in the field of entrepreneurship. We had lunch, and that's when I discovered not only that David is the charming and obviously talented son of Reed Whittemore '69 but also that he is a Columbia College graduate.

"When I asked David about his connection to entrepreneurship, he answered that he was involved with the entrepreneurship club at CC, and that was all I needed to

hear to understand that the beauty of the Columbia heritage lies not in our memories of how things used to be on Morningside Heights but rather in the knowledge that the CC community changes and will always be connected to the most vibrant themes of its present time ... to the contemporary zeitgeist: exploring, testing, innovating and challenging. That's why I think so fondly of Columbia in the '60s, that's why '68 still excites me and that's why I'm proud to be a Columbia College alumnus."

I share Henry's sentiment, and I should add that I hear great things about the interim dean.

Juan Gonzalez is co-author of a new book, *News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media*.

I saw **Paul de Bary** for our once-in-a-while lunch. He looks great, and we both were pleased to read about the new football coach, Pete Mangurian. He seems exceedingly well-prepared. I predict great things for the program. Basketball is another great story. As I surmised, we have an uncanny and very talented basketball coach in Kyle Smith. I have seen a couple of games so far this year — as of this writing, we were on a seven-game winning streak. All that success, even though we lost our best player, last year's Ivy League scoring champ, to an injury in the second game.

By the way, for those of you who didn't read about the last football game of the season, the Lions upset Brown at home in overtime. For me, it was the best game in decades. With our star quarterback returning, many other fine athletes and a great new coach, I am sure that next season will be a good one; I encourage you to get to a game. I am counting on seeing **Hollis Petersen** at Robert K. Kraft Field, or else I am going to Key West and bringing him up. The Florida group — **John Roy**, **Gregg Winn** and **Neil Anderson** — have to come, too.

Gregg, you have to play the drums with the marching band.

One correction from the Winter 2011–12 issue: I thought **Gordon Harriss** was going to be at an event at my home, so I wrote about it in the column beforehand, and then he was unable to attend. So, Gordon, I hope to have a sandwich with you soon, and I salute you. (He always gets to hear about how I credit his dad with my now-36 years in public finance.) We should get a group together for another lunch; let me know if you are interested.

I know 2012 is just a few months in, and I don't want to rush the years, but 2013 might be a good time for another reunion. We should start planning soon.

Finally, I am slowly switching to my gmail address, arthursbsector@gmail.com, though you can continue to use abszzzz@aol.com. Stay well everybody. Let me know how you are doing.

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Facing the deadline for this issue with an empty inbox, I resorted (for the first time) to a blast email to all classmates for whom we have email addresses (around 300), groveling for news and asking at least for acknowledgement of receipt of the email. I received about 20 responses, most with news and a few acknowledgements. This column includes some of the news I received (filling my word limit); I am holding some news for future issues. Thanks to those who answered these calls. I still need help from the half of the class for whom we do not have email addresses; it's time for you to send in news. I'd much prefer spending my CCT time compiling and editing, and not groveling.

From **George Dent**: "In 1970 I was married (and still am) to my college sweetheart, Rebecca Holloway '70 Barnard, '75L. I finished the Law School in 1973. I clerked for Judge Paul Hays on the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals and was an associate at Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyons & Gates for three years. I then entered law teaching at Cardozo, New York and NYU law schools. Our daughters, Chloe '00 and Delia '04, were born in 1978 and 1982.

"In 1990 we moved to Cleveland, where I am the Schott-van den Eynden Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve Law School. I teach corporate and securities law and have published many articles in that field. I also write on law and religion, which led me into the debate over same-sex marriage, in which I am one of the few academic defenders of traditional marriage. Rebecca is a partner at Spieth, Bell, McCurdy & Newell. Chloe is a pain management doctor at the VA hospital and Emory Medical School in Atlanta. Delia works for Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant in Beaune, the wine capital of Burgundy, France.

"I enjoy being an academic, and my CC education is the core of my learning. I champion the Core Curriculum, the study of Western civilization, the liberal

arts and academic freedom as a director of the National Association of Scholars. (If you share these values, please join.) I'm also active in the Federalist Society. I chair the Ohio State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Rebecca and I enjoy good literature, theatre, opera, music, art, food, wine and travel. (Who doesn't?) Next year I plan to go half-time, teaching only in the fall. This will allow me to escape the brutal Cleveland winters and to devote more time to my family and my avocations."

Dave Rosedahl reports, "On September 16, I performed in the second violin section of the Minnesota Orchestra as part of a fantasy camp (see nearby photo). We rehearsed with the orchestra for two days, participated in sectional practice sessions and were treated to show-and-tell sessions with the folks who manage the orchestra and its programs. A real treat for amateurs who attend concerts with the secret hope that an announcer will ask, 'Can someone in the audience substitute for a suddenly ill musician?'"

"Upon returning to Minnesota from California in 2004, I undertook to resume playing my fiddle after a 40-year hiatus. (Following a career as an unexceptional high school concert master, the bright lights of Manhattan offered far too many distractions from practicing, rehearsing and performing classical music; the Gold Rail with Mick Jagger in the background was far more attractive.) I found a teacher, and started grinding away with bow and fiddle. I joined an orchestra and played air-violin for the first year or so. I now go to the High Sierra Music Festival each summer to play chamber music, hike and test out California's finest vino. With my grandson reaching his first birthday, and his sister born in December, how could one ask for a better year? Minnesota Orchestra and grandchildren!"

When not performing or spending time with family, Dave practices law at Briggs and Morgan, focusing on regulatory compliance and enforcement, financial markets consulting and corporate governance.

Marty Kafka writes: "I live in the greater Boston area and am a psychiatrist, affiliated with Harvard Medical School, where I am a clinical associate professor. My area of expertise is with sexual behavior disorders, particularly sexual addiction and sexual offending. I am working on a section of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Treatment Manual 5th Edition*, which is published by the American Psychiatric Association, so my professional life is active and fulfilling. I am also fortunate to



Dave Rosedahl '69, '72L (middle right) performed in the second violin section of the Minnesota Orchestra in September as part of a two-day fantasy camp.

be married with two young adult 'children.' My wife, Karen, is a speech language pathologist in our public school system and my son, Adam, is a high school senior with a strong interest in computer science and math. My daughter, Julie, is graduating from Colby College, having studied international relations and environmental science."

From **Chris Jensen**: "I am chairman of Cowan, Liebowitz & Latman, a 50-lawyer intellectual property law firm, and maintain an active litigation practice in New York and around the country. However, I am trying to find a little more balance in my life and have been increasing my pro bono activities in recent years. In February, a book was published by Knopf about a death penalty case in South Carolina that I have been handling. The book was written by Raymond Bonner, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for *The New York Times*, and is titled *Anatomy of Injustice: A Murder Case Gone Wrong*.

"Since the early 1990s, I have acted as the lead trial counsel for Edward Lee Elmore in his post-conviction review proceedings (on a claim that he is actually innocent and was denied due process of law in his three murder trials). We were unsuccessful on the habeas at the state level and in the federal trial court. I argued the innocence appeal before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals last year. On November 22, the Fourth Circuit vacated the conviction of Elmore, because of the majority's view that this was 'one of those exceptional cases of extreme malfunctions in the state criminal justice systems where [habeas relief] may appropriately be used to remedy injustice.'

"While these innocence proceedings were going on, we filed a second habeas action based on a claim that Eddy is mentally retarded and is therefore ineligible for capital

punishment under a Supreme Court decision holding that it is a violation of the 8th Amendment to execute mentally retarded persons. In 2009, I tried the mental retardation case with my co-counsel in South Carolina. Last year, the trial judge decided that Eddy is mentally retarded and commuted his capital sentence to life imprisonment. The state decided not to appeal this judgment. There is no greater satisfaction than knowing that your legal efforts and skills have helped to save a man's life.

"In 2009, I traveled to Malawi on behalf of the International Senior Lawyers Project to consult with the Malawian government about the revision of its intellectual property laws. After my visit, I recommended to the Malawi Law Commission that it proceed first with a revision of the Malawi Trademarks Act. The commission accepted my recommendation and I was able to render advice regarding the drafting of a revised Trademarks Act. This act is slowly making its way through the government for consideration and enactment.

"Finally, I assisted the South Brooklyn Legal Services with a jury trial in federal court in Brooklyn last May brought by several minority residents of low-income areas of Brooklyn who had been swindled by a real estate company that purchased dilapidated properties and 'flipped' them in quick sales to unsuspecting first-time homebuyers. The scheme was based upon the cooperation of subprime mortgage lenders who gave the purchasers subprime loans on onerous terms that quickly went into default. We succeeded in obtaining a large fraud verdict against the defendants in a groundbreaking verdict."

From **David Dolinko**: "I've been a law professor at UCLA since 1982. I majored in math at Columbia, but after graduating

I came to UCLA as a graduate student in philosophy, interested initially in logic and the philosophy of mathematics. After years of what no one could consider meteoric progress toward a degree, and having decided I was not destined for greatness as a logician, I switched to law school, graduating in 1980. While clerking for a federal appellate judge, I completed the requirements for a philosophy Ph.D. I have been married since 1983 to a law school classmate whom I met when we were law review editors (no children). I have taught mostly criminal law courses and published a modest number of articles, mostly dealing with philosophical issues about the justification of criminal punishment. I spend my non-working time largely reading nonfiction, listening to music and growing old."

Alan Yorker writes, "I head the Dual Addiction Program at the Talbott Recovery Campus in Atlanta, where I have lived since coming down south for grad school in 1972. Talbott by reputation is considered the treatment of choice for those members of the medical and health professions who have succumbed to the vagaries of addictive disease. It was the first treatment center of its kind when it began more than 30 years ago and was founded by G. Douglas Talbott '49 P&S, who is now medical director emeritus. (Coincidentally, he and I share two other alma maters: The Hotchkiss School and UC San Francisco Medical Center.) The Talbott institution is a state-of-the-art facility based upon the latest research and clinical practices and has a successful rate of treatment outcome. Patients come from all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

"The relevance for me to share with my classmates is that my four years at Columbia — which were special and shaping in many ways, mostly in acquiring a fascination with the world and all the people in it — were for the most part very unhappy personally. Having been led into a pre-med program of learning, I found myself struggling, depressed and unsure of the future. I did not apply to medical school and my family boycotted my graduation as a result.

"But I discovered soon after graduation the field of psychology and mental health (which I had overlooked as an undergrad) and thus returned to campus to fulfill course requirements to attend graduate school in that field. As a result, I have been a licensed and practicing therapist for 35 years, engaged in private practice, university teaching and serving various appointments in my professional associations and

on governmental licensing boards. The past 10 years at Talbott have provided me the opportunity to give care, guidance and compassion to those healers who have suffered in ways that confound the intuitive mind. I am grateful every day that I did not follow a path that would have certainly hurt me but instead learned to listen to my insides in authentic ways that allowed me to assist others in restoring the dignity that is deserved by all humans. I have never regretted the decision, and I am a happy man today as a result. Columbia was a place of personal discovery for me, as well as being the most intellectually stimulating place in my life. I cherish its place in my journey."

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I was excited to hear from basketball team captain **Frank Motley**, who has been "deaning" at the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University for 30 years. Frank says that Christmas is fiscally draining because he has 19 grandkids. He plays golf with a handicap of 15 and was happy to have attended the 2011 Homecoming game at Robert K. Kraft Field with **Fred White**, Stuart Reid '71, **Mark Durham** and others.

Speaking of Fred, he is a dean and professor of law at Texas Wes-

leyan School of Law and has been appointed to the American Bar Association Accreditation Committee. Congratulations, Fred!

Alan Yorker '69 heads the Dual Addiction Program at the Talbott Recovery Campus in Atlanta.

Chuck Silberman's son, Jeff '08, graduated from Yale Law last spring and has secured a position with Skadden Arps in New York. Hopefully he will remember Columbia as the springboard for his career as a lawyer!

Paul Roth and **Geoff Zucker** (also my classmates at Bronx Science) reported on their careers as doctors. Paul practices medicine in the South Central Bronx, which he says has a significant population of HIV and Hepatitis C cases. Paul is engaged in noble work, as he is helping an indigent and underserved population. Geoff runs a gastroenterology practice in Northampton, Mass., is involved in the local community hospital and is

president of the Hampshire District Medical Society. Geoff is proud of his two children, who are both employed, and of his wife, Donna, the associate dean of nursing for the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Geoff proudly added that he has repaid and then some the small grant that Bronx Science gave him to help with tuition at Columbia during his first year.

Bravo, Geoff.

Dan Feldman is a full-time academic, having become an associate professor of public management at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Dan's 2010 book on the political process in New York, *Tales from the Sausage Factory: Making Laws in New York State*, still gets favorable media attention.

In other book news, **David Lehman**'s nonfiction work, *A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs*, won the 2010 Deems Taylor Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. David writes, "I've given 'lectures with musical illustrations' based on the book in such places as Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., as well as in London. I also designed and wrote a library exhibit bearing the same title as the book. By May, it will have traveled to 57 libraries nationwide. Also, *The Best American Poetry 2011* recently appeared — it's the 24th volume in the annual series, which I established in 1988. I continue as the series editor."

Ed Rutan reports: "I recently finished my ninth year as the city attorney for Salt Lake City.

Michigan, and at this writing were preparing for winter. Our older daughter, Emily, moved to Santa Clarita, Calif., to get a master's in graphic design at CalArts, and our younger daughter, Hannah, lives in Norwalk, Conn., and works for Dia-geo in its supply chain management leadership development program. Everything considered, life has been kind to us, and Joy and I are looking forward to an urban adventure, with wind chill."

Stephen Dydo traveled to the Indian Himalayas last summer. Stephen is a musician with eclectic tastes. Here are some additional items from his long report: "I did some playing in Taiwan this fall on *guqin*, a Chinese instrument with a deep classical repertory. My performances were a mixture of traditional Chinese pieces and a piece I wrote for electric qin (my invention) and digital sounds. I even gave a short lecture in Chinese! Last year I got together a group from Western Connecticut State University and a nearby Tibetan Buddhist meditation center with the goal of bringing the Dalai Lama in to talk about creativity and compassion. Last week we got confirmation that he is coming on Thursday, October 18. What great news! Now we have to pray for his health....

"A visual artist in England, Susan Haire, has been developing multimedia works with me for five years. Some of it can be seen at dydo-haire.com, although the website needs an update. We are doing a big event next spring to mark the 900th anniversary of Peterborough Cathedral. The plan is to have artworks all around the cathedral — some of them monumental — with sound projected via infrared to headphones, so the visitors will hear particular music depending on what they are looking at. Mostly I am teaching music six days a week. It doesn't pay very much and it's exhausting, but it leaves my mornings free for composing and practicing. Also, although it surprises me every time I say it, I love doing it."

Jim Kunen writes, "I enjoyed going up to what we used to call Baker Field to watch the football team battle valiantly against Harvard and then triumph in a thrilling game against Brown. Things are looking up for next season.

"Classmates searching for a meaningful second act (especially if they've been laid off) may find my new book of interest. *Diary of a Company Man: Losing a Job, Finding a Life* recounts my journey from student 'radical' to criminal defense attorney to *People* journalist to Time Warner corporate com-

With a sustainability- and human rights-minded mayor and city council, there always are lots of interesting legal issues to keep me challenged. In addition to my regular outdoor pursuits of skiing, hiking and gardening/landscaping, for the last couple of years I have been researching and writing a history of my great-great-grandfather's Civil War regiment — the 179th New York Volunteers. I'm hoping to finish it by spring 2014, the 150th anniversary of the raising of the regiment."

From **Spencer Cowan**: "After 16 years at UNC Chapel Hill, getting a Ph.D. in city planning and working at the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, I accepted an offer to become v.p. for applied research at the Woodstock Institute in Chicago. My wife, Joy, and I live in Wilmette, in an apartment right on Lake

munications flack to, at long last, a happy and useful life teaching ESL to immigrants at LaGuardia Community College in Queens."

I was happy to receive updates from so many classmates — keep up the good work, and send more news for next time!

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Jim Shaw

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Joshua Rubenstein: "I have just [October 2011] published my latest book, *Leon Trotsky: A Revolutionary's Life*. It is a concise biography, part of the Jewish Lives Series of Yale University Press. I was at the 92nd Street Y in NYC on February 8, where writer Michael Scammell interviewed me about the book."

Irwin Warren '74L: "In August, I was in Toronto to address the ABA House of Delegates at the ABA Annual Meeting on behalf of the Section of Litigation's proposal to adopt protocols for 'best practices' for litigating cross-border class actions (a subject that only lawyers would really care about, and which passed the House). As I was waiting for my resolution to be called, a debate ensued over another resolution, this one addressing better record-keeping and enforcement of gun registration laws (a subject that everyone should care about). From the floor, **Mark Schickman '73 SIPA, '74L** (whom I did not know was there) rose and spoke eloquently in favor of the resolution, which then promptly passed. So Mark — who is a major player in the California Bar and on the Board of Governors and Executive Committee of the ABA (we had worked together to get the ABA House of Delegates to adopt resolutions supporting pro bono representation of Guantanamo detainees a number of years ago) — and I took the opportunity to hold an impromptu mini-reunion on the floor of the House."

Rob Smith: "Memory is like the Nixon tapes of Watergate fame: full of gaps. Who hasn't forgotten the name that goes with a familiar face, or failed to recall the outrageous event everyone but you remembers in excruciating detail? My first semester at Columbia is one of these memory black holes. All of the great literature and esteemed professors are now a blur. My strongest memories are of good times at the Lion's Den in the basement of long-gone Ferris Booth Hall. Yet it is not memories of camaraderie and fun times as one might suspect but memories of my food service job. Two hours of work, 5–7 p.m., five days a

week in exchange for a meal ticket. Sweet memories of burgers, fries and dirty dishes rather than the collected wisdom of the greatest minds in Western civilization? Yet it was inevitable. We remember the good times, when we rise to the top like cream, and consign stressful slogs to oblivion.

"In class I was just one of many straight-A honor society types, common and unnoticed. It was a far cry from my elite high school days. Only in the Lion's Den was I a star once again. Nobody could sling burgers or keep the French fries sizzling like I could. In my senior year of high school and the summer before enrolling at Columbia, I worked at a classic diner near the interstate highway. A veteran kitchen crew and a waitress who could teach Mel and Flo a thing or two were my professors. They taught me to work with an economy of motion that churned out food as fast as humanly possible. My last two weeks at the diner before leaving for Columbia was my master's seminar in short-order cooking. Only a mile from the county fairgrounds, we sold more food in the two-week run of the fair than we did in a normal month. I arrived at Columbia a fine-tuned cooking machine.

"The manager at the Lion's Den didn't expect much from me, just another useless freshman showing up for two hours to get a meal ticket. Every day you rotated from one job to another, bus boy one day, dishwasher the next. But the first time I got behind the griddle and started turning out perfect burgers and golden fries, saying, 'Call it out: rare, medium, well ... next!' the manager called me his star. I was behind the griddle from then on — no more dishwashing for me! Business grew, just as the GM knew it would once he had a real cook. It became an intense two hours for me. I reeked of grease, but it was worth it: I was a star, and a star gets his perks.

"Tons of food is thrown away every year at any large institution. It cannot be avoided. All that uneaten and expired food at Columbia headed to the garbage room at the Lion's Den kitchen and I had dumpster diving dibs on all of it. At the end of my shift I would load up with goodies and sneak back to Hartley Hall via the tunnel to Livingston. I shared my bounty with one and all. There was always so much old food around, my nickname became Maggot. Everyone knew me as Maggot or Mags. Only my closest friends knew me by my given name. Some shared in my bounty and had a feast; others were grossed out.

"At a Sha Na Na event years

later, I was recognized by band member Rob Leonard '70, '82 GSAS, who ran up, hugged me and cried out the only thing he could remember, 'Maggot!'"

Bob Brintz: "This March marks five years since my first symptoms of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly Lou Gehrig ['23]'s disease). The last time I checked in, I was still taking backpacking trips in the Grand Canyon and bent on taking many more. OK, so I miscalculated. No backpacking since early 2008. In January 2009, I became unable to continue my solo law practice and started to receive Social Security disability benefits. In September 2010, I went into end-stage ALS — respiratory failure — and decided to take the road less traveled. For a more contemplative view of how I am doing, here is the beginning of a statement I recently posted on an ALS website, which is titled 'A Path to Survival':

"My experience with ALS ... began four years ago with an initial reaction of panic, fear, astonishment and disbelief; and a promise to my children that I would do everything in my power to stay alive. I have not discovered a path that assures survival. What I have learned is that the human spirit is capable of embracing the full measure of life's joy despite the presence of profoundly disabling disease. These have been years punctuated by growth in the area of well-being.

"There has been much passionate and at times contentious discussion among PLMers (members of patient-slikeme.com) regarding suicide by PALS (people with ALS) — some condemning it or critical, and others defending it. The decision whether or not to vent similarly evokes passionate dialogue. In a prior post involving the decision whether to go on a vent (a ventilator for life support), I observed in part:

"The way I see it, the question whether or not to vent is fundamentally not a question of what is the quality of life on a vent as opposed to what is the quality of life with advanced ALS ... For most of us the vent question will come after we have already experienced profound loss of motor functioning and we are dependent on caregivers and assistive technology in almost every aspect of daily living. We will already have experienced unspeakable pain, frustration, fear and discomfort and have been rendered more vulnerable to potentially life-ending illnesses and mishaps. We will have seen the suffering of our loved ones as they watch us deteriorate. Each significant progression poses additional physical insults and limitations to

adjust to and more losses of prior joys. The vent life will be more of the same. The "to vent or not to vent" decision-point provides a convenient and socially acceptable opportunity for a PALS to say "Enough. I don't want to continue to live this way. I'm ready to die."

"The specific physical and social circumstances affecting quality of life will vary for each of us. However, and I believe most importantly, our perception of our quality of life is ultimately subjective, not objective (i.e., it is a state of mind and not ultimately defined by our physical state and external circumstances). Those of us who are able to cultivate the ability to focus on the positives, to remain calm and equanimous in the face of adversity ... will have the capacity to live vibrantly with ALS.

"I am not an ideologue. I speak from personal knowledge born of my own direct experience. My essence is my mind, not my body. My essence is intact and fully functioning. Each day of life is a joyous gift and an opportunity to project love and kindness into the world.

"Personally, I am dismayed and astonished that only about 10 percent of PALS choose to vent while a disheartening 90 percent elect to die. I would like to offer a compassionate non-judgmental view of why I believe the decision to die is a tragic and avoidable waste of human potential.

"In sum I pray: May all who suffer from agitated minds find inner peace, a true happiness that vanquishes all suffering. May all who are afflicted with ALS find a path to joyful and vibrant living. I wish you long life."

REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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The clock is ticking! We are only a few months from our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend — set for Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3 — and if you haven't signed up yet, you don't want to miss out. It's a great chance to visit campus, catch up with friends and enjoy the many multigenerational and class-specific activities on the schedule. Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual

Lectures and other events. For the most up-to-date information and — most important of all — to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You can also contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. And be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

We begin our classmate news with an update from the corporate world, which is often underrepresented in this column. **A. Scott Anderson**, who earned a master's in economics and international studies from Johns Hopkins, has been appointed a director of Merit Medical Systems, a manufacturer of devices used in cardiology, radiology and endoscopy. Scott also is president and CEO of Zions First National Bank, a leading commercial bank in the Intermountain Area.

Gary Szakmary, chief human resources officer for Moog, now is a v.p. of the corporation as well. Gary joined Moog in 1981 and ultimately assumed responsibility for all of the company's human resources policies and programs. He began his career on the faculty of Case Western Reserve University and later was a management psychologist at Personnel Research and Development Corp. Gary has an M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology from Princeton.

Sherwin Borsuk has a somewhat different administrative role, as president of Midstate Radiology Associates, a 10-person radiology group in central Connecticut. He'll retire from full-time practice at the end of this year. Sherwin and his wife, Ruth, who have been married 37 years, live in Meriden, Conn., and have two children. Amaranth, who has a Ph.D. in English literature, is married, lives in Somerville, Mass., and is earning a post-doc at MIT; she recently published a new-media poetry book called *Between Page and Screen*, a video of which can be found via Google. Ethan is a filmmaker with an extensive resume (check imdb.com). He lives in Brooklyn (where else?) and is shooting *Europa*.

Also in the world of medicine, **Ron Cohen** lives in California, where he is a clinical professor in the pediatrics-neonatology department at Stanford. He says, "My wife, Aileen, is a Cornell alumna — forgivable because she saw the light and went to P&S for her next three degrees." Ron has three children: a daughter at St. Mary's College, a daughter in fourth grade and a son in second grade. "I love being at Stanford, but am glad I went to Columbia," he writes. "It is more rigorous, and I'd never have been able to study on a campus this gorgeous, with weather this good."

Doug Altabef sends greetings from Rosh Pina, Israel. "My wife, Linda, and I, together with Eliza (12), the child of our old age, moved to Israel in 2009, where we host lots of friends touring the beautiful Upper Galilee. I am a senior partner at Matrix Asset Advisors, a boutique money management firm in midtown Manhattan. My partners have been kind enough to adjust to my telecommuting and actual monthly commuting. Breathtaking technology has been instrumental in making our move (and I suspect a great many others') possible. Life here has been wonderful, though I do miss my mother, our three older children (including Daniel '08), my brother, Rick '69, and many friends."

Doug reconnected in Israel with **Ken Abramowitz**. "Ken has been nothing short of heroic in his many efforts on behalf of Israel. His philanthropic activities here are manifold, exemplary and inspiring." In his day job, Ken is a

initiative, making the 100-block area around its campus in Detroit an attractive place to live, work and raise a family. William lives in Birmingham, Mich.

In other (former) basketball player news, **Rick Blank** runs his insurance business in White Plains, N.Y. He sees **Steve Pellino** and, occasionally, **Steve Messner**, who is purportedly a professor in Albany. Rick recently won his sixth (!) consecutive club championship at the Elmwood Country Club.

Mike Amdurer has been in Denver for 20 years but believes his family has Africa in its blood: He was born and lived in Cape Town for 10 years, his wife, Tia, lived in Nairobi, and now his daughter, Francesca, lives in Accra. If he can get his son, Zach, to North Africa, he says, "We'll have the continent covered." The family visited with Francesca in Ghana last August, touring there and in Togo. Mike is a business development manager for the environmental protection

Josh Aronson '73 wrote, produced and directed *Orchestra of Exiles*, a documentary about the founding of the Palestinian Symphony.

co-founder and managing general partner of NGN Capital, which he joined from The Carlyle Group in New York, where he was managing director and then senior adviser. Prior to joining Carlyle, Ken was an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., where he covered the medical-supply, hospital-management and HMO industries for 23 years.

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I hope the past few months have started everyone's years on the right foot.

Alan Aviles was named a trustee of the American Hospital Association. Alan was appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2005 to lead the NYC Health and Hospitals Corp., the largest municipal health-care system in the nation, serving 1.3 million. He was previously general counsel at HHC and is a former assistant attorney general. Alan lives in Brooklyn.

William "Foley" Jones became CEO of Focus:HOPE in 2009 after a long career with Chrysler; the organization is dedicated to solutions to the problems of hunger, economic disparity, inadequate education and racial divisiveness. He has aided in the HOPE family

and remediation arm of The Shaw Group; he handles "mostly hazardous waste and munitions cleanup for DoD."

Phil Aarons earned a degree at the Law School, worked briefly in private practice and then went to work for former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, first as an assistant to Koch and then as head of what is now the NYC Economic Development Corp. He left in 1983 to work for General Atlantic doing real estate investing, and in 1991 founded Millennium Partners, a national real estate development firm, with Christopher Jeffries '72. Phil and high school sweetheart Shelley Fox are still wed 40 years later. They have one son, Zachary '13 Business. Phil is an involved alumnus, chairing the Art History Advisory Council, co-establishing the Millennium Scholarship program and teaching part of a course in the Art Administration program at TC.

Josh Aronson has been making documentaries for a decade. He recently completed *Orchestra of Exiles*, about the founding of the Palestinian Symphony, which became the Israel Philharmonic in 1948. The film centers on the Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman, who convinced musicians fired by Hitler to help form a world-class orchestra in the desert outback, eventually saving almost 1,000

Jews between 1933–39. It premieres this year (orchestraofexiles.com).

Remarkable stuff, all around.

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This year most likely will be a watershed year for the Class of '74. More than half of us will move into our seventh decade (sounds even worse than turning 60). The retirement announcements will start to increase dramatically, and I predict the word "grandparent" also will gain in frequency in this column. I use a totally unscientific method to determine when we move from "middle age" to "geezerdome": counting the number of Class Notes pages before and after my column. In the Winter 2011–12 issue, the column began on page 24 out of 41 pages — still in the second half of the Notes. However, I also want to point out that the Class Note of the oldest alumnus was from the Class of 1935 — 39 years before us. The most recent column covers those who graduated in 2011 — 37 years after us. Grease up your walkers!

But in truth, the Class of '74 is proving to be like the Energizer Bunny. Doesn't seem we have much desire to enter into lives of golf and La-Z-Boy recliners. News keeps flowing in that shows how our classmates are using their lifetime experience of leadership and achievement to mount new challenges. For instance, our class is almost certainly the first to provide at one time the chairmen to both the Columbia College Alumni Association (**Geoff Colvin**) and the much younger, University-wide Columbia Alumni Association (**George Van Amson**). I was on campus for the Columbia Alumni Leaders Conference last fall and witnessed the vote to install George into this role. Also in attendance was **Steve Kaplan** (attending as chair of the Northern Connecticut Alumni Representative Committee, which interviews applicants to the College and Engineering). Steve is a v.p. at Michelson, Kane, Royster & Barger in Hartford, Conn.

Few in the class have reinvented themselves as many times as **Brad Higgins**. After graduating from the Law School, Brad was an associate at the law firm of Simpson, Thatcher & Bartlett on Wall Street. In the early '80s we found him at Goldman Sachs doing investment banking, and in the latter '80s he became a managing director at First Boston. Brad fell off my radar screen for a few years, but reappeared in 2004 when he was living

in Baghdad as CFO of the Coalition Provisional Authority. We next found him in Washington, D.C., as the assistant secretary of state for resource management and CFO.

Brad now is a partner with the private equity group SOSVentures and runs its Connecticut office. The group recently has been acquiring a lot of old oil fields and then using new technologies (like horizontal drilling and “fracking”) to rework them. Plans are afoot to take the project public in the near future.

Also leaving the “walker grease” on the shelf are a few classmates who sent news of career changes.

After a long career involving media, **Ashoka Varma** (known to us as “Shoke,” but now professionally using “Ash”) has become the CFO and COO at Human Resources International. The firm does executive consulting of CEOs, with 80–90 coaches around the globe.

A press release from the VLP Law Group in Palo Alto, Calif., informs us that intellectual property attorney **Kent Cheng** has joined its firm from Cohen, Pontani, Lieberman & Pavane. Kent has a B.A. in chemical physics as well as a Ph.D. in chemistry from Brandeis and a J.D. from Pace. He has had extensive experience preparing and prosecuting patent applications before the U.S. Patent Office and those in Europe, Asia and elsewhere. The firm wrote: “Kent’s extensive experience in Asia will help to strengthen and broaden the geographic footprint of our firm. With the rapid growth of chemical and pharmaceutical industries in China and other Asian countries, we look forward to Kent’s familiarity with and connections to this important part of the world.”

From Wayne, N.J., comes word of a chance encounter. Dentist **Frank Russo** tells of being in Van Cortlandt Park, in the Bronx, to run a New York Road Runners cross country race. In the finish area he was talking with a couple of fellow runners and discovered one of them was **Dan Gonzalez**. (Haven’t yet caught up with Dan, but the last we heard he was head of Hispanic Marketing and Publishing Consultants in Manhattan. Hope to elaborate on this soon.) Frank writes that one of his few regrets in life was not taking track and cross country more seriously. He stopped running after high school and didn’t pick it up again until after dental school: “I’ve now been at it for more than 32 years, and I’m still a total geek, training up to 70 miles a week and competing regularly, including in state and national championships.”

So why did I start this column with predictions of increasing

retirement? Because I also received these two notes:

Louis Klonsky says, “I am retiring from my position as senior staff geologist at Chevron after 33 years. The time went quickly. I moved from Bakersfield to Pasadena (both in California) and am going to teach a class in petroleum geology at a nearby Cal State. Other plans are not solidified, but I am going to take my time and enjoy things before I get too bored.” Louis adds that his elder daughter, Jennifer, a social worker for Los Angeles County, gave birth to his first grandchild. His younger daughter, Michelle, works at a hedge fund in Los Angeles; she is in the process of earning an M.B.A. from USC. Louis and his wife, Geri, have been married “going on 35 years.”

Les Bryan, meanwhile, writes, “I suspect I am one of the few from our class who served long enough in the Navy to earn a retirement. I retired as captain from the Naval Reserve in 2003.” There the note transitioned to commentary on my recent mention that Columbia has reinstated ROTC on campus: “I feel compelled to give my perspective on the return of NROTC to Columbia, a move I see as positive for Columbia and even more so for the Navy. No doubt there will now be a core of students who will bring a different perspective and background. After all, the Peloponnesian Wars look different to someone who will serve at sea than to someone headed for law or medical school. More importantly, we need more scholars in the military as the role of our forces becomes more and more involved with building bridges between cultures. My time in the military was a constant struggle against narrow attitudes that American influence needs to come from the barrel of a gun. I wish there had been more officers from Columbia during my time in the service.”

As I still live in Morningside Heights, I sometimes find myself dining at Tom’s Restaurant. Very often I encounter “Pete,” who many will remember as the handsome, dark-haired young man who served us. These days he is a white-haired, still-handsome 60-year-old who greets me with “Hello, old timer!” When I recently mentioned that few of the current wait staff know the phrases we heard in our time at Tom’s — “stretch one” (pour a Coke) or “burn one” (grill a hamburger) — he responded that this would not have been the case with one of our favorite waitresses, Betty.

So there you have it. Not every column is about doctors, lawyers, investment bankers and rich philanthropists. The class also has a lot

of members who are involved in professions as diverse as geology, the Navy and executive coach to CEOs. Don’t hesitate to send in an update of your own life story — we would all like to hear it!

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This is going to be even more of a personal and rah-rah-Columbia set of notes than usual. In October, I joined a group of other Columbia University alums, staff and supporters for the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) Alumni Leaders Weekend. In past years, I’ve come back to my first adult home — the Big Apple — for the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) Leadership Conference. This year, the two were combined for the first time. I was humbled and blown away by the people I met, rubbed elbows with and engaged with.

Of course, I saw classmates and already-great friends, too. **Ira Malin** (owner of QuikBook hotel booking site), who has assumed increasing responsibilities for the CCAA and the Columbia College Fund, attended, and he and I spent much of the conference together. On Friday night, we attended a panel discussion and reception on innovation (the intellectual, not musical kind) at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

It’s an interesting time for the College and the University, with an interim dean of the College, a new campus to prepare for and the ongoing discussion (and strengthening) of the Core Curriculum. The schedule included a session for College attendees at which Dean James J. Valentini spoke — without notes — for almost an hour. What an engaging and dynamic man! The College is in very capable hands.

Lunch was billed as “Lunch with the Trustees.” It was that and more. I sat at a table with Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC, former Lions football coach and now chair of the trustees. After a few minutes, he and President Lee C. Bollinger got up and did the “Lee and Bill” show for almost an hour. They make a great pair and, speaking as someone who isn’t actively involved in the day-to-day and long-term University issues, it was a compelling delivery and full of information. I spent part of Saturday making rounds of the campus to find some of my favorite iconic sculptures and to see what was new and what’s been moved.

The Alumni Medalist Gala in Low Library on Saturday was incredibly touching. **Neil Selinger**, our dear departed classmate (col

lege.columbia.edu/cct/fall11/obituaries2), posthumously received a CAA Alumni Medal. His wife, Rima Grad ’75 Barnard, and all three of the Selinger daughters — Hannah ’02, Emily ’12 and Julia ’15 — were there, and I was honored to greet each one. A video was shown for each group of medalists, but the legacy video was about Neil alone. Well, not quite alone — **Richard Witten** appeared several times, as did Neil, Rima and the girls and other special people in Neil’s life. There was even a quick flash of a picture of Neil, Ira, someone else and me — my eyes were too full of tears to take it all in.

You will be hearing more from the CAA, as well as the CCAA, the College Fund, classmates and others. As a professional whose entire career has been serving the information needs of colleges and universities around the world, I am excited at the new opportunities and information they all bring to supporting alma mater.

Other Columbia events took place in the fall. **Ira Malin**, **Bob Schneider** and other regulars met under the Big Tent at Homecoming and then went on to cheer the Lions to their loss to Penn. I was going to say, “Lions know how to lose football games graciously.” But then I might be banned, as the CU Marching Band was — temporarily, anyway — for “making fun of the team.” I won’t repeat *Spectator*’s retort, but will its comment: “The Ivy fun police have lost their damned minds!” Bob and Ira also represented the class at the Society of Columbia Graduates’ annual dinner and presentation of the Great Teacher Award.

Finally, on to other news.

Double Crescent, a show featuring 10 artists, five from New Orleans — the Crescent City — and five from Istanbul, was the opening show of the new C24 gallery, in Chelsea, co-founded by **Mel Dogan**. “Galleries don’t just happen by themselves,” said the curator of the exhibit, toasting the owners. “Art doesn’t just happen by itself.”

After 40 years of living overseas and a stint in Sarasota, Fla., **Peter A. Garza-Zavaleta** moved back to his place of birth in Brownsville, Texas. Through the University of Texas Center for Hispanic Achievement, he now teaches high school-age foreign students who are highly prepared academically but need to learn English. The center provides students with academically challenging courses in mathematics and science in their home language, enabling them to continue their growth and not fall behind because of language deficiency. Peter also goes back to Barcelona, where he maintains a residence, as often

as possible, traveling throughout Europe while abroad. He is an accomplished painter, exhibiting and competing in the art scene and growing spiritually as well as artistically with his art.

Under an umbrella he calls “Nudging the Imagination,” **Steven Krasner** now conducts interactive classroom writing workshops. He also is a children’s book author and a mostly retired sports writer who covers the Red Sox and Patriots for ESPN’s website. His work at Thalberg Elementary School in Southington, Conn., fortifying kids with strong literacy and writing skills, was reported on in the local press. Steve also conducts writing workshops via Skype. A month or so ago he was in Russia — well, via Skype — helping Russian students who are learning English to create their own stories.

Steve and his wife, Susan Oclassen, most recently on the International Board of Trustees for Designation Imagination, have been happily married for 34 years. They have three children: Amy, who is a social worker at Mass. General Hospital, working with youngsters afflicted with cystic fibrosis and their families; Jeff, who works for Fidelity in Rhode Island; and Emily, who works in retail locally. Steve has fond and touching memories of **Neil Selinger**, too.

Professor of neurology, engineering and public policy **Matthew Rizzo** practices, researches and teaches from his base at Iowa. His clinical specialties include behavioral neurology and cognitive neurosciences, and his research interests include aging and dementia, driving performance and driving simulations involving neurological diseases.

Woven into Dean Valentini’s CAA comments was a mention of the College’s last two valedictorians and salutatorians. As a former chair of the chemistry department, Dean Valentini noted with pride that all four were science majors. Margot Lazow ’11, daughter of **Stewart Lazow** and his wife, Helaine, was one of them — she was her class’ valedictorian. Margot will no doubt be appearing regularly in our Class Notes, as I will continue reporting on classmates for years to come.

A recent article by **Moses Luski** made me think again of the Core. In *What’s Due Process Got To Do With It: The True Danger of ‘Robo Signings’ and ‘Rocket Dockets’*, Moses quotes the Magna Carta (and gets bonus points for the pop culture reference as well) while condemning “unprincipled adjudications in the foreclosure arena.” Could sound like lawyer-speak to some, but provides a compelling

rationale to us (educated) laymen! (We studied the Magna Carta in CC, as I verified in my Columbia University Press edition, given to me as a wedding present by Steve Eichel ’76.)

On Sunday of the CAA weekend, **Bob Schneider** and his wife, Regina Mulahy ’75 Barnard, joined me for lunch and a quick tour of the Museum of Modern Art. We only had time and energy to see the de Kooning retrospective, one floor of the permanent galleries and the sculpture garden. So many of the pieces are also dear, longtime “friends.” After identifying and commenting on so many pieces, Regina asked if I had been an art history major. As many of you know, I was a religion major, as

Director **Bill Condon** ’76 broke box office records in the United States and abroad for his latest film, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1*.

were **Terry Mulry** and **Sigmond Wissner-Gross**. (Terry and I chatted before my NYC weekend, but just couldn’t arrange compatible schedules. Neither could **Fran Minarik** and I, but we’ll keep trying.)

Speaking of Fran, Terry and Sig makes me think about other religion connections to Columbia. When I get to campus, I always try to visit St. Paul’s Chapel, where I was confirmed, served occasionally as chapel verger and also was married just after graduation. This time, I was disappointed to find that I could not get into St. Paul’s at all! I used to walk into Campus Security in Low, get the keys and take friends on midnight tours of the catwalk and high balconies, up in the cupola.

When I was in Glee Club, and Gregg Smith was director, I showed him those spaces. (My buddy, Norm Nicolais ’76E, was the permanent verger our senior year, which is why he graduated a year later.) The recordings that the Glee Club did with the Gregg Smith Singers had the GSS soloists singing from those “inaccessible” spaces. **Bruce Grivetti** was on some of the tours, and I can’t remember if **Peter Garza-Zavaleta** and/or **Mukund Marathe** were, too. Remind me, guys! St. Paul’s, Earl Hall, the academic study of religion, my conversion and marriage at Columbia and the many fond memories they all invoke are and will continue to be a part of my strong connection to Columbia!

Then, there also are our classmates who have religious vocations as careers: Fr. **John (CJ) McCloskey** (who still hopes to return to the East Coast in the spring), Fr. **Moses** (né

Michael) **Worcester** and many others. If enough of them write, I’ll do a themed section in an upcoming Notes.

I haven’t heard from any of you on your summer reading lists, and am always looking for items to include here. Calls, emails and even snail mail are welcome. If you prefer, you can submit items to me directly via CCT’s web submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Full disclosure: I use bots, agents, spies, Facebook, LinkedIn and any and all media to find out about you, and I use what I find. Be warned and aware, or read about yourself in these pages. (Other correspondents and I agree that we sometimes write fiction liberally sprinkled with facts!)

In closing, let me repeat the “3-2-1 Challenge” that Dean Valentini issued to the Class of 2012 and repeated to us during his recent remarks. “Make a commitment to give to Columbia for three years. Convince two of your friends to do the same. Give 1 percent of your income.” All of us who are also Class Agents could consider increasing that amount — after all, we graduated more than 35 years ago. Might 4 percent or 5 percent be more appropriate for us now?

Best wishes, Go Lions and Stand, Columbia!

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The latest directorial effort of **Bill Condon** has broken box office records both in the United States and abroad: *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1* is the third film in the popular teen vampire series and is only the first installment in this long tale’s conclusion. Bill also directed *Dreamgirls* and wrote the film adaptation of *Chicago*. His screenplay for *Gods and Monsters* won an Oscar in 1998. [Editor’s note: CCT profiled Condon in March/April 2006: college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/mar_apr06/features1.php.]

I do love to hear from you, fellows! Send your news in any form and I’ll turn it into acceptable prose.

REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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I unfortunately don’t have much to report this time but our 35th reunion is right around the corner, which I hope means everyone will be reconnecting, swapping news and having fun. Just be sure to tell me about it afterward!

For those who haven’t marked their calendars, the dates are Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. In the works are plans for cocktail receptions, class-specific panels, special tours and, of course, our class dinner on Saturday. Saturday also is Dean’s Day, which means you’ll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events.

For the most up-to-date information — and more importantly, to sign up — go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You also can contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Finally, be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

As 2012 began, I found I had one kid (Caitlin, 18) going off to college next year, and another (Colin, 21) finishing at the same time. My mom once told me that the “college years” are the most difficult ones for parents: I thought she was just talking about financing, but now I wonder if she meant more than that. To judge by comments of recent years, many classmates seem to be taking these years in stride. (Or maybe not!) Please write in to let me know; or, for that matter, please just write in! With good wishes to all.

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Thanks to everyone, as the class was in a communicative mood and we have a good deal of information. If you don’t see your comments, stay tuned for the next edition.

Alvin C. Powell, who has been in a nephrology medical practice for 21 years, writes: “My wife, Tracey, and I have three adult children. I have had a chance to do medical missionary work in Honduras and Haiti, and that has been a rewarding experience. I

encourage others to share their gifts. Search for 'War on Cholera' on YouTube to get a glimpse of my experiences."

While one Columbian runs for reelection from Washington, D.C., our own **Hugh McGough** — who was on his third bid for judicial office — last November was elected a magisterial district judge in Pittsburgh. "I've been practicing law for 20 years, following 10 years as a print and TV journalist in the '80s," he says. "My partner, Kris Rust, is a public high school music teacher. I've recently completed a two-year term as chair of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission, and am outgoing solicitor for the City of Pittsburgh Citizen Police Review Board. Kris and I visit NYC twice a year for theatre, museums and friends. I was recently reunited with Pittsburgh native **Richard Levy**, whose sister, Debbie Levy McKenney, was a big help in my judicial campaign."

Also in politics, **Mark Axinn** writes, "I am finishing my second year as chairman of the New York State Libertarian Party... Clearly a pro-market, anti-war philosophy appeals more and more to the American public as the Demopublicans look more and more alike and pass the same old big government programs (e.g., Bush signs Patriot Act, Obama signs extension; Bush institutes greatest corporate welfare program in U.S. history, Obama promptly continues TARP bail-outs). While the Libertarian Party does not have the following of the two statist parties, I am proud to be a small part of the good fight for individualism and freedom."

Chester Zahn succinctly notes: "I am a practicing gastroenterologist in Southern California, raising three kids and there does not seem to be enough time for them. I keep in touch with Columbia College schoolmates."

Ed Shockley's play publishing company, YouthPLAYS.com, enjoyed its first profitable quarter in its four-year history of licensing works for young actors. Ed's own play, *The Milli Vanilli Orchestra*, is now in print. He writes, "I have been commissioned to write a work on urban violence in Philadelphia (highest murder rate in the nation). We'll premiere in June as part of the Commotion Festival. Unfortunately, Sundance passed on my film directing debut, *Turning Left 2 Go Right*, a documentary about the nation's only public high school run by the department of social services. Trailers are up at mosaictheatreproductions.com."

Robert Muirhead was quite nostalgic in his note: "I've thought so many times of what I would share with everyone: reflections

on the importance of the liberal arts education afforded me at Columbia; memories of times spent at the Quad, Baker Field, The West End, Mama Joy's and so on; the story about my catching up with former track coach Pete Schuder when I visited my son for Parents' Weekend at Boston University; expressions of sadness at the loss of my freshman year roommate and teammate **Bob Murach** in the tragedy of 9-11. I guess all of it.

"Yet, what I enjoy most is finding out what classmates have done with their lives following the leg-up we received at alma mater. So, here goes: I am married 32 years to my wonderful wife, Susan (Perreault), whom I met during spring break our junior year; we celebrate March 10 every year. We celebrated the weddings of our two oldest, Rob and Jessica, to wonderful spouses in 2010, and our youngest, Eleanor, graduates from Stonehill College this spring.

"After business school at NYU, the C.P.A. exam and the obligatory stint in public accounting, I took up a career in banking and insurance culminating in CFO roles with regional property and casualty insurers and several smaller financial institutions. Eight years ago, I became senior consultant with an international consultancy and have never looked back. The work is interesting and challenging, and I've found it satisfying to come to a client, work to solve their problems and then ride off into the sunset (well, to the next assignment, anyway). The only downside is the increasing amount of travel the work has entailed.

"I've always been proud of my Columbia affiliation and wear the light blue with some small amount of pride. The school was — and remains — a special place and a special experience!"

Judge **Joe Greenaway** admits, "Now I know we're getting old. My son, Joe, is about to graduate from Occidental College and my daughter is in middle school. I am having fun on the Court of Appeals and am teaching my Supreme Court seminar at the College. My wife, Ronnie, and I are hugging along. We love getting back to campus. Hope to see you all around."

Alec Bodkin has an interesting tale: "In 1977, a few of us met once a week in Fumal Hall for a philosophy study group; we read aloud short works of Nietzsche and Wittgenstein that leant themselves to late-night talk. The regulars were Gerry Mryglot '77, Mike Collins '77, Ken Sacharin '79, Ben Miller '79 and me.

"One of my kids, Sam '13, was home for the intersession break. And one Saturday, he and I joined



David Friedman '79, '83 P&S and his son, Daniel '16, toured the campus in February 2011; the good news of Daniel's early decision acceptance arrived that December.

PHOTO: ELIZABETH FRIEDMAN

Ben (now a psychology professor) in Brookline, along with his dad (a retired sociologist) and a friend of ours from our rival institution, Chicago, who now runs a cancer lab at MIT. We discussed a short work of David Hume's. A few weeks later, Ken (retired young from the advertising world) visited from NYC and joined in for another Saturday afternoon session. So the Great Books infatuation lives on here in the suburbs of Boston!"

Joseph Giovannelli writes, "In May 2010, after almost 10 years as associate dean at NYU's Steinhardt School of Education, I was appointed v.p. for finance and operations at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York. After a quarter-century spent working at places like NYU and Columbia — institutions so large that they can practically be seen from outer space — I thought it would be fun to be CFO at a college so small that people tend to miss it while driving past.

"Trying to hold together a small, under-endowed, liberal arts college in the current economic environment is a challenge, but it's a great place, full of talented people who are committed to the liberal arts and to undergraduate teaching and learning. It has a lovely campus full of old trees whose only problem has been a tendency to knock over power lines during storms (such as Hurricane Irene), leaving students with no place to recharge iPhones and iPads.

"Anybody whose high-schooler wants his or her college to be small, intense and near-but-not-in New York City should look us up."

Chuck Geneslaw declares, "The most important thing is that last year I celebrated 30 years of marriage. It amazes me; I have often said that, as far as my love life has

gone, I went from the sublime to the ridiculous, only in reverse.

"I also was fortunate enough to make my second trip to Peru with Operation Smile just before the holidays. I got a call a few days before the mission was to begin and, thanks to the graciousness and flexibility of my colleagues (and wife), I was able to change my schedule within 24 hours and go. This one, lucky for aging me, was a bit shorter but just as sweet and rewarding as the last one. Though arduous and exhausting, it is an opportunity for 'real doctoring' — taking care of people in great need — without giving a moment's thought to such mundane but foolish distractions as malpractice insurance, health insurance coverage, accounts receivable and other realities that, of necessity, get in the way of enjoying the best part of my profession. I hope to have many opportunities to participate in missions in the future."

Stephen Gruhin is excited about having a child join the Columbia family: "My oldest, Whitney, graduated from Emory University last May and recently completed her first semester at Mailman, where she is working toward a master's in public health. Whitney lives on West 91st and Broadway, and while all of her classes are on the Medical School campus, she prefers studying in, of all places, Butler Library. Five years ago, I exhorted her to apply to the College. She refused, arguing that she could not see herself living in NYC. Fast forward to the present, and she is ecstatic to be in a great studio apartment on the Upper West Side. Go figure!"

Daniel Kohn writes, "I have been the rabbi of a village in the Judean hills, just south of Jerusalem, for 20 years. I teach pathways and

practices for deepening spiritual consciousness to private groups and in various institutions. I am married, father of seven, grandfather to six."

Dr. **Steven D. Wexner** reports, "I am at the Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston and president of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS). I recently completed my term as president of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and I also am a past president of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. The ASCRS includes more than 3,000 surgeons, the ABCRS is the certifying body for all colorectal surgeons and SAGES is the largest general surgery society in the country, with more than 7,000 members. I was recently appointed to the Commission on Cancer, the organization that accredits all of the cancer centers in the approximately 6,000 hospitals in the United States."

Gary Becker's wife, Barbara, reports that he is busy with real estate investment in the non-robust Michigan market. Their daughter is recently engaged and their son is graduating from Michigan this spring.

James "Huck" Hill writes "2011 was a dickens of a year. My brother-in-law and great friend, Jordan Pfister '80, died from multiple myeloma in February at the end of an excruciating 20-month struggle. My agency, the OTS, was abolished by the Dodd-Frank regulatory reform, ceased to exist as of July and I now work with the OCC in the Licensing Division in New York.

"However, my wife, Kristi Pfister '78 Barnard, and our three sons traveled to Amsterdam, Berlin and Prague to pursue the arts and sample the crafts of those talented and tolerant people in the summer. And in January, I began portraying Mark Twain in an NEA program, *The Big Read*, as we present *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* out loud

to our communities on Staten Island. So, I look forward to 2012, and hope that health and harmony prevail."

Russell Frazer has been busy as a volunteer interviewer for applicants to the College through the Alumni Representative Committee (studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/volunteers.php) and was reelected as vice chair of the Aerospace and Electronic Systems/Technical Management Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Peter Samis works at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, where his team develops all the interpretive media for audiences on-site and online (sfmoma.org/explore). He writes, "This year we received a grant from the Kress Foundation to travel to and document practices at avowedly 'visitor-centered' museums: both what that looks like in the galleries and what it takes behind the scenes to make such a transformation happen."

Amittai Aviram reports, "My partner, Octavio Zaya, and I are back to living in the Big Apple — on West 135th Street, a block from the Schomburg Center. I am working on my computer science dissertation at Yale, on deterministic parallelism, and therefore commuting to New Haven a few days a week. I interned last summer and the summer before at Google-NYC headquarters. My son, Blake, is in his last semester of Fordham Law and plans to start at Kirkland & Ellis this fall."

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On August 4, **Andy Semons** was legally married to his partner of 10 years, Paul Friese, in the first same-sex civil ceremony performed in their hometown of Southold, N.Y., on the North Fork of Long Island. Andy is a founding partner of SPUR Partners, a marketing and management consultancy based in Manhattan, and Paul is advertising production manager of the *East Hampton Star*.

As we say at Cedars Sinai, here in Los Angeles, mazel tov!

In September, **Pedro R. Segarra** relocated from New York City and joined Hampton Gynecology in Southampton, N.Y.

As we say at Cedars Sinai, here in Los Angeles, oy vey!

Jeffrey D. Tolkin, co-chairman and CEO of World Travel Holdings in Port Washington, N.Y., writes, "With all the turmoil in the world, I wanted to take a moment to express

good wishes to those who have enriched my life and who I am privileged to call a friend. All the best."

Californian **Andrew Coulter** confirms that "Los Angeles is the car capital of the world, allowing me to spend much free time indulging in the car culture. The highlight of last year, and my main contribution, was the annual Palos Verdes Concours d'Elegance, now the best classic car show in Los Angeles. Showcasing rolling art, it features only classic cars, 25 years old or older. See it in September. Any contact from fellow alumni car aficionados is welcome (andrew.coulter@opco.com). Greetings to all!"

Rolando T. Acosta '82L was appointed a Columbia University trustee, effective last September. He writes, "I think you know of the life-transforming experience I had in the College, especially through our unique Core. The opportunity to give back to Columbia was simply not an offer I could refuse."

Lots of news from **Charles Skop**: "Following several years as a solo practitioner on Long Island, in 2008 I joined the law firm of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein in Garden City, N.Y., where I am a member (partner) of the firm. I practice in the corporate department handling mergers and acquisitions, business formations, financing and corporate governance. I continue to find the practice of law most stimulating and rewarding.

"My wife, Joanne, and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary last summer with a trip to England and Scotland, where, among other things, we visited the great whisky distilleries of Islay in the southern Hebrides. Joanne teaches kindergarten in Franklin Square on Long Island.

"Our middle daughter, Helaina, is an M.D./Ph.D. candidate at P&S (Class of 2012). Although she lives in Washington Heights and her research and classes are primarily uptown, she takes time out of her busy schedule to enjoy the singular pleasures of the Morningside campus.

"Our oldest daughter, Naomi Skop Richter, has an M.S.W. from the Hunter College School of Social Work and is a program associate at the Jewish Funders Network, an organization of family foundations, public charitable groups and individuals based in New York. Naomi was married in November to Dr. Joseph Richter, a pediatrician and founder of Hudson Heights Pediatrics, a group practice located in upper Manhattan. Joe also is an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at P&S. He proposed to Naomi on College Walk last April, with the Columbia University Marching Band (hired especially

for the occasion) playing in the background. You can watch the proposal on YouTube by searching for 'A CUMB Love Connection.'

"Our youngest daughter, Pamela, graduated last May from Maryland with a degree in psychology and is a teacher's assistant at the Association for Children with Down Syndrome on Long Island.

"The entire Skop family greatly enjoys our annual participation in Limmud N.Y., a Jewish learning conference that takes place each year on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in upstate New York."

David Friedman '83 P&S updates us with great news. "I am delighted to report that our son, Daniel, was accepted early decision to the Class of 2016. Based upon my experience, he will soon embark upon an intellectual journey that has no equal. I learned medicine at P&S, but I learned how to think at Columbia College. The nearby photo was taken last February (the first of many visits) and captures the excitement of that day."

Robert C. Klapper: "I was sitting in one of my favorite places in Los Angeles for pizza — it's near the UCLA campus and it has a phenomenal slice of Sicilian — called Lamonica's (in case you visit one day). As I was quietly eating this delicious combination of dough, cheese and sauce, I glanced at the wall and saw a framed NYC subway map, circa 1970s. The point of the map was to showcase the locations of the classic NYC pizza places that this Los Angeles establishment feels connected to. I describe this scene for a reason: It is because in my opinion, the purpose of this column is to trigger in your mind a Columbia College memory. This map did such a thing for me, and I started flashing back to my experiences getting to and from Columbia when I went home for vacations. (I was not a commuter, but I am from Far Rockaway, the furthest point and the last stop on the A-train.)

"My journey was a difficult one, like it was for many. My college experience and the Core Curriculum came at a very high price. Dealing with the stops in East New York — where shady characters of all kinds entered my subway car, threatening my life with each ride — was one of the many challenges that came with the trip to West 59th Street and the change to the IRT to get to those gates on West 116th Street.

"We were blessed to have the atmosphere created by deans such as Peter Pouncey and presidents like Michael Sovern '53, who made the intellectual environment so stimulating. For me, the alchemy that

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622 W. 113th St., MC 4530,
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turned jingling subway tokens into a pocketful of diamonds came from learning how to think. As **David Friedman** says in his note, medical school made me a doctor, but the College taught me how to think. So my advice to you all is to find that old subway map. It, too, will trigger memories, some good and some bad, from those crazy four years that shaped who you are today.

"Roar, lion, roar."

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Spring is in the air and I cannot wait to get up to Satow Stadium and watch our boys on the diamond.

I received a nice note from Boston's **Steve Kane**: "It was an active Columbia fall for me. I was on campus twice in October. First, on October 1, I was at St. Paul's Chapel for my son's wedding. (We are all so young; I don't know how that happened.) It was a true Columbia affair, with Matt '08 and his bride, Erica Mole '08. (And yes, she is now Erica Kane for you soap opera fans.) Columbia alumni from the 1980s were well represented by Chris Schmidt '81, Ernie Cicconi '81, Paul Tvetenstrand '82E and Bob Kennelly '81E.

"Later in the month, as president of the Columbia University Club of New England, I was on campus for Alumni Leaders Weekend. Brian Krisberg '81 also was in attendance, leading some of the sessions. During the weekend I was elected to the Columbia Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"Encourage alumni in the Boston area to attend Columbia University Club of New England events. We have frequent Networking and Pub Nights, along with events like February's [Harvard-Columbia basketball] pregame reception with coach Kyle Smith. Go to cucne.org to sign up for our email list or to get more information about our many events."

I hope all you New Englanders can make the events. I know **Joe Ciulla** will take attendance, so make sure you are on time.

Jose Morin is v.p. for academic affairs and provost at the New Community College at CUNY, a place that has been in the local news a fair amount lately.

For those who missed the news, Pete Mangurian was named our new football coach (see "Around the Quads"). Coach Mangurian has a wealth of experience on both the collegiate and pro levels and possesses a great enthusiasm for the game. We all welcome him to the program and wish him much

success in the upcoming season.

As I end this note, I want to remind you to consider a gift to the Columbia College Fund. We have seen improvement in our numbers and both **Jim Gerkis** and I want to see the momentum continue. Give online (college.columbia.edu/giveonline); call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488); or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

Drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

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A few months ago I sent out a broadcast email requesting updates, and the response was excellent. I'll start with the response farthest from NYC, which came from **Gil Atzman**, who is developing a lead-zinc mine in the wilds of Alaska. The mine is north of the Arctic Circle, close to the world's highest-grade zinc mine (Red Dog). It is an incredibly exciting opportunity, with a tremendous upside. I guess the downsides for anyone out there are the six-month winter, precious little live entertainment and too many frozen dinners.

Closer to home, **Peter Feld** is the editor of a new magazine, *Scooter*, that targets New York City parents (scooterny.com). Those who are still parenting may wish to check it out. As the father of three daughters in or finished with college, I'd like to see a magazine aimed at "de-parenting" or "how to launch your children."

I met **Don Joe** at Alumni Reunion Weekend last year, and he was kind enough to let me know that he recently ran into Abby Cynamon '81 Barnard, a friend of **Kevin Costa**; Abby is a circuit court judge in Miami.

James Klatsky had a bird's-eye view of the Occupy Wall Street protests, as his law office overlooks Zuccotti Park (James is a sole practitioner). James noted that the protests were very different from the old-school "top-down" approach, in that it was a marketplace of social, political and artistic ideas, governed by a general assembly that met once a day. He was impressed with their energy and creativity.

I would need earplugs and whisky to survive daily protesting outside my office.

Henry Berumen, in Monterey Park, Calif., is engaged to Maggie

Mouscardy '82 Cornell. Henry's first wife passed away in 2009.

Our condolences, Henry, on the loss of your wife, and best wishes on your upcoming wedding.

Also on the theme of marriage, **Stephen Masiar** celebrated his 30th anniversary with his sweetheart, Patricia, last August. Stephen has been a psychiatrist for 15 years at Southside Hospital, a facility operated by the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. In September, he was appointed assistant professor of psychiatry at the new Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine.

Steve, congratulations on your anniversary and appointment.

Rich Peltz toils in the field of church music, and has been with the same congregation for eight years. Last winter, Rich had chest pains and, as I'm sure many guys

tragedy of September 11 and has other artistic connotations as well.

I heard from **Joe Sbiroli**, a successful real estate developer in NYC. He recently was profiled in the inaugural edition of *The Real Deal*, in an article titled "Meet the Landlord" (therealdeal.com/newyork/articles/meet-the-landlord-joseph-sbiroli).

The NYC market is perhaps the most difficult to succeed in (don't believe me, just ask Donald Trump), so we wish Joe every success.

Frier McCollister recently became the managing director of the Saban Theatre (formerly the Wilshire), a 1,900-seat live theatrical venue in Beverly Hills. He also is the s.v.p., theatrical, for SAS Entertainment Group, which assumed management control of the Saban. Frier had been working in Los Angeles as an independent theatrical producer and general manager since 1994 and

Joe Sbiroli '81, a real estate developer, was profiled in the inaugural edition of *The Real Deal* in the article "Meet the Landlord."

our age do, ignored the symptoms. Turns out he was suffering a heart attack, which required a stent, though he feels much better now. For anyone who finds themselves in a similar situation, Rich strongly suggests not driving to the emergency room, but instead calling 911, as the valet service can mean everything to your health.

I must follow Rich's unfortunate health scare with a tale involving extreme athleticism and endurance, as we have a marathon runner in the class. **John DeNatale** participated in the world-famous New York City Marathon, his sixth since 1985. His wife, Mary Crowley '81 Barnard, also ran; it was her 10th marathon, including Boston in 2007. Running a marathon (26.2 miles) is no big deal — provided you take a month to do it (say, at my pace, in two-mile increments). Rich enjoyed our 30th reunion, and connected with **Dan Albohn**, **Howard Hoffman** and **Bruce Golden** (captain of the fencing team, now living in London with his wife and family). Rich also recently saw several classmates at one of their twice-yearly gatherings (**Dave Wright**, **Jesse Davis**, **Stu Christie**, **AJ Bosco**, **Greg Staples** and **Tom Leder**).

We also have a poet in the class, **Ted Walner** aka **Ted Cohen**. One of Ted's poems, "Walking Along 34th Street," appears in the anthology *9.11 ... NYC ... The Days After ...*, available through Amazon from Art for Healing NYC, a nonprofit. Ted's poem also is in the Columbia Libraries system. It deals with the

— before the new job — his most recent, notable assignment was as the AGM of *The Pee-wee Herman Show* at Club Nokia. As many of our classmates may know, Frier was the lead singer of the now-legendary funk ensemble The Malibu Dolphins, and he maintains his limited spectrum of guitar chops and appears occasionally at local jam sessions. He lives in Pasadena (which is an exceptionally fine place to avoid winter) and his daughter, Ruby, is a sophomore at Bennington.

Michael Horowitz formed the innovative nonprofit educational system, TCS Education System (tcsedsystem.edu), in 2009. TCS enrolls more than 5,000 students in three professional colleges (psychology, law and education) as well as pre-school and elementary school. He spends a lot of time in California, where each of his colleges and one of the children's schools have campuses, and is the interim president of the Pacific Oaks College and Children's School.

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg started two websites this year. One is danielginsberg.com. Despite the prices you see, it operates at a loss and is just a place to showcase his hobby. The other is worldsbestsite.com, a blog devoted mostly to medical-related topics.

I had dinner, a few drinks and a lot of laughs in October with **Michael Kinsella**, who was joining his wife for a conference in Washington, D.C.

Don Weinreich is a founding

partner of Ennead Architects, based in NYC, and is delighted to announce the completion of Stanford's new William Neukom Building (the law school) in May. Among other projects, his firm is finishing the Natural History Museum of Utah, in Salt Lake City. He writes, "The skills I learned as an undergraduate architecture major (later at Columbia's Architecture School) have been incredibly valuable throughout my career."

I am intentionally ending this column with Don's letter and personal testimony as to what the College has meant to him. All of us were touched (manhandled?) by our years on Morningside Heights, most of us positively. Either way, please keep in touch.

REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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Greetings, gentlemen! Let's begin with a message from the generous-of-heart **Liam Ward**, who wants to remind everyone about our 30th Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. He writes, "As we gear up for reunion, I've been participating as a Class Agent; it's been great fun catching up with classmates, some of whom I haven't spoken to in decades. It's amazing, though, how during our conversations the years melt away and we're right back on College Walk

"With many of us becoming 'empty-nesters' in the near future, I encourage everybody to come for the weekend. It's a great opportunity to rekindle old friendships and maybe start a few new ones. And many thanks to those Class of 1982 members who pledged to help out the Columbia College Fund (college.columbia.edu/giveonline); we have an exceptionally loyal and generous class!"

While we're on the subject of reunion, I'll add that the schedule includes lots of great activities, such as cocktail receptions, class-specific panels, special tours and, of course, our class dinner on Saturday. Note that Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events.

For the most up-to-date information and to register, go to reunion.

college.columbia.edu. You also can contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Finally, be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

Moving on ... after a less than robust response last time, I decided to exercise the nuclear option: guilt. This is a powerful motivating factor in my family and appears to have evoked precisely the response I was seeking. Don't make me go to the next level, the giving of gifts, which — in my family — is essentially an aggressive act. As in, "I gifted him," which implies a resulting obligation.

Writing in this period was longtime College supporter **Skip Parker**. Skip and I chatted toward the end of last year at a holiday party at Jennifer and Mike McCarthy '83's gorgeous Brooklyn Heights brownstone. Following a serious "guilt-down," Skip penned the following:

"Last July, my wife, Harriet, and I flew to California to attend the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna with my brother, Dr. Juan Carlos Felix '80, and his wife, Betsy (a Ph.D. from Cornell). The pageant was terrific but the time we spent with Juan and Betsy was beyond wonderful. Juan was the heavy-weight rowing co-captain in 1980 and now is the chief of anatomical pathology at USC in Los Angeles; he and Betsy have raised five wonderful children (including one at Michigan, one at Stanford and one at Williams).

"Several years ago, I visited with Juan after a heart procedure and we decided that we would try to row at the Long Beach Sprints (ergometer regatta) every year thereafter. We are preparing for the 2012 event!

"I have been involved in the financial services business for almost 25 years, most recently with UBS Wealth Management in Greenwich, Conn. My group forms long-term, multi-generational relationships with busy professionals to counsel them on the prudent management of their hard-earned wealth. Our clients are glad to have our perspective in this era of information overload.

"I have fond memories of Columbia — even went back for my M.B.A. in '91 — but almost all of my close friendships were formed with members of the rowing team, with whom I spent so much time. (I was captain of the heavyweight team.) The Columbia rowers had an inspirational dinner at Low Library in early December, at which the funding of a major new rowing endowment was announced by Tom Cornacchia '85. Rowing is a great tradition at Columbia, of

which I am proud to be part.

"My daughter, Izzy, is now rowing in Greenwich and has her sights set on Columbia (Class of 2020). I am crossing my fingers!"

Daniel J. Horwitz, a partner at Lanker & Carragher in Manhattan, was appointed to New York's Joint Commission on Public Ethics. The commission is an independent enforcement unit with broad oversight of New York state government. It has enforcement powers to investigate violations of law and financial disclosure requirements for all elected officials and their employees in both the executive and legislative branches; it also has expanded powers to oversee lobbyists due to newly expanded disclosure rules and a broader definition of lobbying.

Previously, Daniel was a New York County assistant district attorney in the Frauds Bureau and was legislative director to Rep. Thomas J. Downey (D-N.Y.). Daniel earned a J.D. cum laude from the American University Washington College of Law.

For those of you seeking public office in New York, it's probably wise to keep your proverbial nose clean!

Also checking in this period was my good pal, **Wally Wentink**. Some of you may remember Wally from his days on the swim team; he is a great contributor to our collective quality of life in New York through his work with the Central Park Conservancy. Wally reports that he's in good health and spirits and recently had a pleasant interaction with **Jamie Rubin** and his accomplished wife, Christiane Amanpour, who were walking their hound in Central Park.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the reunion!

83

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My family attended Homecoming, where I spoke with **Andy Gershon**, former basketball player, talented public interest lawyer and tireless Columbia supporter. Andy's son continues to excel at baseball. **Eric Epstein** also was at the game. Their fathers are Richard Gershon '53 and William Epstein '55, and both families reflect how important legacies are to building Columbia's spirit, tradition and future. Eric was joined at the game by John Basile '84, John McCrea '87 and Frederick Noz '85E, '87E.

I also met Rick Wolf '86 and his son. Rick develops residential buildings, and his properties are doing

well. I sat next to fellow CCT correspondent Gerald Sherwin '55 and Lee Lowenfish '63, who has written four books about baseball; his latest, *Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman*, now is in paperback.

Several years ago, Lee taught a course in jazz at NYC's 92nd Street Y, which was attended by **Steve Greenfield**. Greenfield also sent me his encyclopedic survey of music for 2010 (permanenttransience.blogspot.com). His top 10 of the pops (with apologies for its late appearance) is as follows: 1 (tie), Crystal Castles, *Crystal Castles [III]*; 1 (tie), Flying Lotus, *Cosmogramma*; 3, Chancha via Circuito, *Río Arriba*; 4, Sleigh Bells, *Treats*; 5, Four Tet, *There Is Love in You*; 6, Galactic, *Ya-Ka-May*; 7, Stars, *The Five Ghosts*; 8, Dungen, *Skit i allt*; 9, Broken Social Scene, *Forgiveness Rock Record*; 10, LCD Soundsystem, *This Is Happening*.

Steve thanks **Steve Holtje** for offering his own listening suggestions.

Kevin Chapman also attended Homecoming. He is chair of the Central New Jersey Alumni Representative Committee (ARC interviews applicants to the College and Engineering), and he was there with fellow ARC member Arthur Chin '81 and Arthur's wife, Anna.

Kevin was kind enough to send his annual letter summarizing his family's life in 2011: "The year kicked off with my 50th birthday party in January. I'm willing to go along with the idea that I'm now in the '50–59' age category on surveys, and that I can play in the 'seniors' division of the local golf tournaments, but I don't in any way feel like I could be 50. If you're as young as you feel, then I'm still in my late 20s. If you're as young as you think you are, then I'm definitely still a teenager. It was a good excuse for a party, however. And my wife, Sharon '83 Barnard, got me a Fudgie the Whale cake from Carvel, which she knows is my favorite."

Kevin's daughter, Samantha, graduated magna cum laude from NYU last year, and he and Sharon sent their second child, Connor, off to Marist College last fall as a freshman. "I've got one left for the Columbia College Class of 2018," he notes. "Keep your fingers crossed for Rossi!"

I also spent time at Homecoming with Rick Cavalli '86. Rick was on the football team with famed quarterback John Witkowski '84, and he shared some great stories about playing under the tutelage of Coach Jim Garrett, whose last coaching job was at Columbia in 1985 when the team went 0–10. After the season, Jim's sons, John, Jason and Judd — who were en-

rolled at Columbia — transferred to Princeton. Jason now is head coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

On another CC football note from the '80s, I met Joe Capone '90 and his wife at a Harvard Club family Halloween party. Joe announced the game where the team broke its 44-game losing streak (from 1983–88). *Spectator* named it one of the four best games in Columbia history.

Michael Caruso has been appointed editor-in-chief of *Smithsonian* magazine, succeeding Carey Winfrey '63; he is only the fourth editor in its 41-year history. He previously was deputy editor of *The Wall Street Journal* magazine. The official announcement from the Smithsonian Institution continues: "Caruso has been a journalist for more than 25 years and has served as editor-in-chief of such major magazines as *Los Angeles* magazine, *Men's Journal* and *Details*, and was founding editor of *Maximum Golf*. He has also held senior roles at *The Village Voice* and *Portfolio*, among others.

"I'm honored to be joining *Smithsonian*, a magazine brand that is loved by more than 7 million readers and is part of the largest and most prominent museum and research complex in the world," said Caruso. "It's also a privilege to be following Carey Winfrey, who had a superb run as editor; my challenge is to continue the legacy of journalistic excellence while evolving our brand for the future multimedia needs of our consumer."

"In making this announcement, Tom Ott, president of Smithsonian Enterprises, said, 'Michael impressed us as someone filled with energy, intelligence and curiosity, all hugely important traits for running a magazine like *Smithsonian*. He presented a tremendous vision for the future of the magazine, as well as ways to leverage multimedia platforms to enhance the reach and significance of our brand. We have no doubt — given his experience and success leading other major magazines — that he will make the Smithsonian brand a true national treasure even stronger in the years ahead.'"

Kai-Fu Lee — founder of Microsoft Research Asia, Google China and the new venture Innovation Works — writes, "My autobiography in Chinese, *Making a World of Difference: The Kai-Fu Lee Story*, has been a bestseller in China since its publication in 2009, and the English version recently came out in electronic format on Amazon."

The description on the website reads, in part: "A natural-born pioneer, Dr. Lee has explored uncharted territories and developed new fields in the high-tech world.

In addition, his Chinese-American background has enabled him to effectively bridge corporate America and the China market. He recounts all his career experiences with Apple, Microsoft and Google as well as his own technological achievements in this autobiography. Dr. Lee was once the focus of a media sensation in 2005 when Microsoft and Google fought over him in court. He shocked the media again in 2009 by resigning from the position of Google China's president. There have been many speculations about the two incidents, [about] which some insider stories are exclusively told in this book. ...

"The autobiography carries a theme based on Dr. Lee's lifetime motto, which he acquired from a philosophy professor: 'Imagine two worlds, one with you and one without you. What's the difference between the two worlds? Maximize the difference. That's the

underdog who becomes a boxing champ, to the evolving perceptions of government, to the Cold War-era uncertainty that spawned a generation of literary and celluloid superspies. We will examine representations of heroes and villains in modern American popular culture and how great films and novels of three particular genres — the Detective, the Gangster and the Spy — influenced our understanding of these archetypes. From the early influences of Hamlet and Macbeth to Sherlock Holmes, Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe, Mario Puzo's (and Francis Ford Coppola's) *The Godfather*, James Bond and Batman, we will look at the mythology and evolution of heroes and villains through popular and high culture icons, the genesis of the genres and how they developed over time, and how great directors, actors and writers influenced audiences worldwide

Michael Caruso '83 has been appointed editor-in-chief of *Smithsonian* magazine, following Carey Winfrey '63.

meaning of your life.' A detailed record of all the difference Dr. Lee has made, the book was initially written in Chinese.... Rewritten for Westerners, the English autobiography clearly explains all the Chinese customs mentioned in Dr. Lee's personal history. It also insightfully analyzes how international businesses should approach the China market in its chapters about Microsoft Research Asia and Google China."

In November, my wife, Debbie, and I hosted a dinner for several College students as part of a new program to match students and alumni with similar career interests. We met the president of the Student Council, a pre-med who is a student council representative, a member of the CU Ballroom Team and a first-year whose family owns a farm in upstate New York. We also invited **Eddy Friedfeld** to join us, and I received the following response about his fall semester at NYU:

"I'm teaching a new film and literature course, and Wednesday and Thursday are busy with students and class. It's called 'Wise-guys, Spies, and Private Eyes.' [As the description explains], 'Through thematic analyses of books and films by topic and genre, this seminar explores the ways in which specific American archetypes and themes are perceived and articulated, from the rugged Old West individualist, to the persevering

and were themselves influenced by culture and history.'"

Maren Pyenson and **Bruce Abramson** welcomed a son, Lincoln Ariel Abramson, on November 1. He weighed 7 lbs., 13 oz. and measured 21 inches long. Everyone was doing great.

Debbie and I attended the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner in November, where University Trustee H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest '58L announced his pledge of \$30 million to help build a multidisciplinary arts venue on the Manhattanville campus. We sat with James McMennamin (former director of admissions and now director of principal gifts and senior adviser to the dean of the College) and also spoke with Michael Schmidtberger '82, Brian Krisberg '81 and former Dean of Students Roger Lehecka '67.

Kenny Chin sends the following note: "My son and I attended an admissions event, and I found myself in the session about studying science at Columbia. Dean James J. Valentini was one of the speakers. I introduced myself to him afterward and, when he realized that I did not major in science, he encouraged me to apply as well; this way he could teach it to me and the College could benefit from receiving my tuition dollars once again. I told him that, unfortunately, my grades and scores were not high enough for me to be admitted now. We both had a good laugh, and the session was very impressive."

Wayne Allyn Root writes, "Famed conservative syndicated national radio talk show host Bill Cunningham of Premiere Radio said on his show recently: 'The most important, must-read columnists and commentators in America — that I love, that light me up, that I learn from — [are] Charles Krauthammer, Thomas Sowell and Wayne Allyn Root.' It's quite an honor for a CC alumnus to be making such a difference with conservatives in the national political scene. I made more than 1,000 media appearances in 2011, and I have an offer on the table for *The Wayne Allyn Root* radio show. I'll let you know when it's finalized."

I am sorry to report that **Peter Stevens** has died. The following notice appeared in *The New York Times*: "The members of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Weill Cornell Medical College mourn the untimely passing of our friend, colleague and collaborator Dr. Peter Stevens, director of endoscopy at our sister division at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Pete was a gifted, innovative gastroenterologist and endoscopist, a wonderful and caring clinician, and beloved mentor to a generation of physicians he trained. He had boundless integrity, kindness and a gentle spirit. He will be greatly missed."

At a recent Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting, an alumni-sponsored student internship program was initiated. One of the main goals is to offer students internships in the workplace this summer. Alumni members who cannot sponsor students can still mentor them. For more information, or if you are interested in participating, please contact me.

Debbie and I attended the bar mitzvah of William Simon, son

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Class Notes received by **Monday, March 19**, are eligible for inclusion in the Summer 2012 issue.

of Mark Simon '84 and his wife, Melissa. I spent time with Jim Weinstein '84 at the services, as well as Paul Maddon '81, a Columbia trustee. Debbie and I also caught up with Paul at a reception at the home of Cheryl Milstein '81 Barnard and her husband, Phil Milstein '71, also a Columbia trustee. I knew Cheryl when she was a student, and it was great to reconnect with her.

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Eldridge Gray has left Goldman Sachs, where he was a managing director, to form an independent San Francisco boutique, Seven Post Investment Office.

Bruce Skyer was named CEO of the National Kidney Foundation. The foundation is the major national voluntary health agency dedicated to preventing kidney and urinary tract diseases, improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases and increasing availability of all organs for transplantation.

The California Coastal Commission in December unanimously approved **Charles Lester** to be its fourth executive director. Charles takes over a powerful agency that oversees land-use policies along California's 1,100 miles of coast.

In recognition for his work in corporate and tax matters for Lawyers Alliance clients, **Louis Vlahos** received the Lawyers Alliance for New York's Cornerstone Award. Louis leads Farrell Fritz's tax practice and is on the board of the Society of Columbia Graduates, the Board of Directors of the Queens Theatre in the Park, the Queens Chamber of Commerce, the Long Island City Business Development Corporation, the Queens Economic Development Corp., the Queens College Business Advisory Board and the advisory committee of the Queens Museum of Art. He also is an adviser to the Queens College Business Forum and a member of the Estate Planning Council of Nassau County.

We had another great success with the Columbia Alumni Association's annual party, held during the same weekend as Art Basel Miami Beach, in December. Alumni met poolside at the National Hotel on Collins Avenue to wine and dine over discussions of art, politics and, as it happened, the Marching Band.

Yours truly, **Dennis Klainberg**, donned his CUMB rugby shirt and baby blue shorts in celebration of

the band's coup. For those of you who missed the dust-up, CUMB made national headlines in the fall for playfully dissing our then-winless football team and was barred from performing at the last game of the season; the band manager made a public apology, and then, on First Amendment grounds, the band was permitted to once again spirit the team — to victory!

Kudos to Donna H. MacPhee '89, v.p. for alumni relations and president of the Columbia Alumni Association, as well as the entire CAA team, for the extraordinary experience. Among the luminaries in attendance were Miami legal eagle **Bernardo Burstein** '88L and his wife, Lynne, a former music industry maven and now Microsoft Latin expert; Seth Schachner '85 and his wife, Allison; and dear friend Adlar García '95, formerly with our Alumni Office and now at the University of Miami Alumni Office.

Also, special thanks to dear friend **Doug Mintz**, *medico extraordinario*, for taking time out to visit me at the Scope Art Fair.

Bruce Skyer '84 was named CEO of the National Kidney Foundation.

And of course, the moment we returned to New York, we were summoned by — and asked to extend salutations from — the great Karl-Ludwig Selig, Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese, who is still sharp and quixotically swatting at windmills in Manhattan.

Keep those emails, snail mail and *cortaditos* coming!

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Curtis Mo '88L was one of the featured speakers last fall at a panel at the Columbia University Club of New York, "Entrepreneurs." Curtis is a Silicon Valley attorney focused on early-stage ventures as a partner at DLA Piper.

Gregory Jarrin was married on November 27 to Dyanne Vanessa Medina. "We have four children between us: Julian (18) is a high school senior, hoping to go to ASU; Luke (15) is a high school sophomore, playing point guard for the junior varsity basketball team; Felicia (12) is in seventh grade, playing flute; and Chloe (10) is enjoying both fourth grade and being active on her student

council. Julian is Vanessa's son and Luke, Felicia and Chloe are mine. The wedding was in Puerto Rico. We had a great time celebrating Thanksgiving there as well. The kids wanted to stay for another week but unfortunately, it was back to work. I have been helping coordinate trauma care for the Hopi and Navajo reservations, and during the second weekend of November I ran the 13th annual Navajo Area Surgeon's Conference at the Grand Canyon. The topic was interventional endoscopy. It was stressful, but worth it after seeing all my surgical colleagues. Best wishes to all classmates."

Michael Nagykerly will be moving back to New York with his French companion, Géraldine, and their 7½-month-old son after spending most of the past year in Provence. Looking back on his career, he explains, "Over these past 2½ decades, I have imported fine handcrafted decorative items to the interior design trade (a tough sell in years like these!), been a special rep for an Italian manufacturer breaking into the U.S.

market and worked in the historic preservation field in New York. Coming back to the city, I shall see what interesting opportunities can be creatively developed in a difficult environment.

"But, more importantly, Géraldine gave birth to our son, Aslan Gabriel, on July 31 in the picturesque Luberon valley in Provence. He was baptized five weeks later in a 12th-century stone church on the edge of the charming little town of Vauignes, which also served as the backdrop for the Daniel Auteuil and Emmanuelle Béart movies *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources*, based on the writings of Marcel Pagnol. For two months, this was our own little corner of paradise. About two dozen close family and friends attended the ceremony, and then joined us for a delightful weekend of celebration. A very happy moment in life!"

Congratulations to **Tom Scotti**, his wife, Karen, and their daughter, Anne, on Anne's admission into the Class of 2016! Our class Glee Club alum legacy count stands at three.

For **Michael Hadley**, "Last year shaped up to be a fine one for my family and my business (a video production company based in Montclair, N.J.). A project earlier in the year had me shooting in

Italy, Belgium, Germany, India and Hong Kong. At three weeks abroad, it was the longest I'd been away from my wife, Debbie, and our four kids.

"Another career highlight was directing Robert DeNiro in a series of public service announcements for the 9/11 Memorial, which included shoots at Ground Zero and in a New York studio with survivors and first responders. (You can search for the spots at 911memorial.org.)

"Despite living only 15 miles from Columbia, I only made it to one 25th anniversary event this summer: a cocktail party at *The New York Times* building. It was a great time, and astounding to realize that 25 years have passed. Even more astounding, my oldest son, Ben, is a sophomore at RPI and my high school junior, Alex, is starting to look at colleges. And I've got two more in the pipeline after that — gotta keep pedaling faster!"

On the home front, I was fortunate to attend a series of campus events last fall. During the Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, I attended a great panel discussion, "Innovation in New York"; the next morning, I heard Dean James J. Valentini speak passionately about the Core and heard many parents of current College students speak glowingly about their children's experiences in the College. The following month, I saw **Bryan Barnett** (an adviser at Concorde Investment Services) at another Columbia event.

Like my neighboring class correspondent Mr. Dennis Klainberg '84, we have finished the bar mitzvah cycle, as our youngest son, Josh, had his in the fall. Time indeed flies. On the other end of the spectrum, our eldest son, Isaac '14, has been named to the managing board of *Spectator* as co-design editor. And our middle son, Noah, spent much of the fall with a fractured tibia (leaving his afternoons without activity on the cross-country and wrestling teams).

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After 10 years at Merrill Lynch, I moved my wealth management team to UBS. Even though my new office is only a few blocks away in midtown Manhattan, it was still a big move — it's exciting to repot yourself and join a new firm. You can check me and my team out at ubs.com/team/weinbergergroup.

Rony Weissman is living the

dream. He's been in France for the last 12 years, is married to a French woman, Nadine, and has two children, Emile (8) and Solene (5). They live in Lyon, where he is a private wealth manager for Union Financiere de France.

Thomas Yanni is working on a Ph.D. in history at UC Riverside. By the time you read this, he should be ABD (all but dissertation). In 2011 he earned a second master's and now is in his fifth year of teaching part-time in the humanities department at Riverside City College. For fun, he is working on a novel with his writing partner from previous publishing ventures.

Joe Rio became a certified coach and mediator a few years ago and enjoys working with individuals who are looking to adapt their working identity. His three-year-old, minority-owned small business, based in Washington, D.C., has expanded to include professional transitions, career and life coaching and diversity training. In fact, Joe is finishing a coaching and meditation app to help people feel happy. Check out his new site, wantjobnow.com.

Crain's New York Business reports that **Bill Fink** has joined Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. as assistant executive director for external affairs; he previously was director of development at Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service.

Jonathan Rutchik, a clinical professor in neurology, environment and occupational medicine with UC San Francisco, writes: "Playing a lot of tennis and focusing on work; involved in a number of fascinating toxicology and neurology consulting projects; and looking forward to ski season! My 5-year-old plans to be a wild man on the slopes. Regards from Mill Valley."

I regret to announce that **Anthony Duncan Stark** passed away unexpectedly on October 19. Anthony (50) lived in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and also was a graduate of Browning School and London Film School. He was a film director and screenwriter, following in his father Art's entertainment footsteps. (The elder Stark was a TV producer whose credits included *Who Do You Trust?* and *The Tonight Show*.) Anthony co-wrote and directed the 1998 film *Into My Heart* starring Rob Morrow, and he wrote *The Art of Murder* and *The Zone*. He is survived by his wife, Victoria, and his stepchildren.

Please email me your remembrances of Anthony. I wish I had known him, as he led a very interesting life. I was told that a memorial service was going to be held in New York City at a later date; I will let you know more details as I get them.

REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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87

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Can you believe it has been 25 years since we graduated? I, for one, cannot! If you haven't already, mark your calendars for Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 31-Sunday, June 3. I'm including more information at the end of the column, but first we have a few bits to get us all in the mood to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

Starting with news from some of the many literary members of our class, I heard from **Marguerite Tassi**. Marguerite is the Martin Distinguished Professor in English at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, where she said she has the great pleasure of teaching Shakespeare all the time. Marguerite's book, *Women and Revenge in Shakespeare: Gender, Genre and Ethics*, recently was recently published by Susquehanna University Press. She said, "This book evolved out of one of my favorite courses to teach, 'Wild Justice: Women and Revenge in Western Literature.' I'm looking forward to writing more books about revenge in literature — it's a subject that's hard to let go of!" [Editor's note: See Bookshelf.]

Steven Drachman, who has been a lawyer in financial services for nearly 20 years, had his first novel published last summer. *The Ghosts of Watt O'Hugh* is a historical fantasy set in the 1860s and 1870s in the American West, New York City and China. He recently learned the book was named to Kirkus Reviews' Best of 2011.

Steven said, "I met my wife, Lan, on line at the freshman orientation barbecue in August 1983 — back then, 'on line' didn't mean the Internet; she was actually standing in front of me, waiting to get some hot dogs. And we now have been married for almost 22 years. We have two children, both girls (8 and 12), and we live in Brooklyn, in an amazing shrinking apartment on the second floor of a 100-year-old building in Park Slope."

Branching out into other disciplines, **Morgen Fleisig** sent a note about his busy 2011: On August 6, Morgen, an architect and six-year resident of Brooklyn, and Margie Lavender of Dallas were married in Long Beach, Calif. This followed his May graduation from NYU's

Interactive Telecommunications Program. He wrote, "Since then, I've been working to build my architectural practice into an interdisciplinary one that embraces not only architecture but also electronic product design, mobile/web interface, special effects and set design for theater and film."

Pascale Kerlegrand sent in a long overdue and very welcome update. She has been married to Muhammad Younas, a Pakistani-American, for 18 years, and they have two sons, Assad (16) and Saif (10). Pascale said, "We've lived in New Jersey for 17 years. As a native Brooklynite, I never thought I would leave New York City (except for the four years I lived in Buffalo for medical school). But apparently I am a New Jerseyan now."

"I work in both New York and New Jersey. I had a solo family medicine practice in Queens for many years before I sold it in 2004. I worked in corporate medicine after that, joining the medical staff at New York City Transit and New Jersey Transit. I then became medical director at *The New York Times*. Early last year, I went back to solo practice, opening a part-time office in Bloomfield, N.J., near my house. I also am a primary care attending in the Outpatient Psychiatry Division at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center."

"Throughout the 25 years since graduation, I've come in contact with various CC '87 alums through medical school, conferences and patient consults, including **Nabesa Herring**, **Jean Cange** and **Annie Joseph** (née Fils-Aime). My former 705B Carman roommate, **Karen Valentine**, and I are still as close as sisters, as we were at Columbia."

If you haven't registered for reunion, it is not too late. Please get in touch with me or the Alumni Office (see contacts in the box at the top of the column), and we can get you hooked in to all the fun! Or, register online: reunion.college.columbia.edu.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed Shari Hyman '88 as commissioner and chair of NYC's Business Integrity Commission.

The schedule includes cocktail receptions, panel discussions, special tours and of course our class dinner on Saturday. Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events. There are family-friendly activities, too, so don't hesitate to include the kids. See reunion.

college.columbia.edu for the most up-to-date information on activities, and check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

You are not going to want to miss out on this one, believe me! We are going for record attendance, so help us show Columbia yet another reason why the Class of '87 rules!

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I had the nostalgic pleasure of returning to Morningside Heights for my recent induction into the Society of Columbia Graduates (socg.com). I admit that the sense of timelessness I usually feel when I climb the steps of Low and survey the campus was diminished somewhat by overheard references to Starbucks and Facebook and by the sight of students doing homework on their iPads. I distinctly recall banging out term papers on a manual typewriter freshman year, but once my sophomore suitemate obtained a clunky early-'80s Macintosh, things were never the same.

At the induction ceremony in Low, I was glad to meet **Ahmet Can**. Ahmet wrote to me later with the news that he works in Southampton, N.Y., at innRoad, his fourth Internet start-up since leaving investment banking in 1999. The company, a software as a service (SaaS) company in the hospitality sector, is raising venture capital funding so it can open offices in New York and London and continue its growth momentum. Outside of work, Ahmet enjoys traveling off the beaten path with his family.

Ahmet recently caught up with **Eric Won** and his growing family in Honolulu. He also is in touch with **Ganesh Ramchandran**, who lives in Singapore with his wife and three boys. Ahmet is an active member of the Alumni Representa-

tive Committee (ARC; studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/volunteers.php) and enjoys interviewing applicants. He is somewhat dismayed by the lack of attendance by fellow alumni at the annual Dean's Day and hopes to see more from our class in attendance this year (Saturday, June 2; college.columbia.edu/deansday). He also encourages alumni to join

the Columbia College LinkedIn group, which he administers, to share news about the College.

Congratulations to **Shari Hyman**, whom New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed as commissioner and chair of the Business Integrity Commission. According to a press release from the mayor's office, "Most recently, Commissioner Hyman served as director of business acceleration and senior counsel to the deputy mayor for operations. Formed in 2001, the Business Integrity Commission licenses and regulates three business sectors that have historically been preyed upon by organized crime including the public wholesale markets and the private waste carting industry."

The press release goes on to quote Bloomberg: "Shari Hyman will be an excellent leader of the Business Integrity Commission, as it continues to ensure that marketplaces and regulated businesses compete fairly and are free from fraud, rackets and threats of violence ... There is no one better that I can think of [for the position] than Shari, who will bring with her an impressive skill-set and a tremendous commitment to public service."

TIME named Joanne Ooi '89 one of its "2011 TIME 100" most influential people for her work exposing air pollution in Hong Kong.

Also on the subject of mayoral appointments, Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez has selected **Mojdeh Khaghan Danial '91L** to join the Financial Recovery Board of Jackson Health System, according to the *Miami Herald*. Mojdeh, an attorney, is an officer and shareholder in the Morgan Reed Group, an investment holding company specializing in real estate and securities. She is the seventh member of the Jackson governing board and its first female member. Mojdeh also is president of the Women's Philanthropy department at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

Linda Na'amah Weinberg writes from her home in London that she recently qualified as an occupational therapist in the United Kingdom. She and her husband, Daniel Roselaar, have "four lovely children, ages 3-16."

Steve Silverstein is "living in Manhattan with my wife of eight years, Suzanne, and kids, Jacob (6) and Mara (3). I work for SocGen and thus have been muddling along with the rest of the bankers during the Eurozone crisis. I took the family to Homecoming last fall and was entirely impressed by the

setup. The game itself was another matter. I was there with **Shep Long** and Tom Leder '89 and family. Postgame, the Silverstein crew went to V&T for dinner."

Burying one's sorrows with V&T pizza after a Columbia football loss? The more things change....

Keep the updates coming! If you haven't written in the past year or two, your classmates would love to hear from you.

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I hope 2012 is shaping up well for everyone! To start things off, I heard from **Guy Molina**, who is commuting between Stuttgart and Prague while working for Chrysler as a marketing manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He plans to relocate to Turin, Italy, in March.

Joanne Ooi has been busy, as she attests, having "turned around the luxury goods brand Shanghai Tang five years ago." At the time, Joanne was on the cover of *Fast Company* magazine. She continues, "Now I am an environmentalist working on

air pollution in Hong Kong, where I've been living since graduating from Penn Law in 1993." Last April, Joanne was nominated by *Time* magazine as one of the world's "100 Most Influential" for her work exposing Hong Kong's air pollution and putting it on the global environmental map.

In addition to her environmental work, Joanne is the CEO and co-founder of plukka.com, a fine jewelry site that, for the first time, combines the group-buying mechanism directly with manufacturing. Joanne is married and has a 12-year-old son.

Matt White writes, "After graduation I moved to the Southwest to balance my fill of urban life in New York City with the hiking, kayaking, skiing, rock climbing and green chile of New Mexico. Without a network of friends who could join me on these outdoor pursuits, I reconnected with a friend from my varsity swimming days at Columbia, **Soren Lowell**. Soren was in Tucson getting a Ph.D. in speech language pathology, and for nearly five years we met for long weekends and holidays to hike and camp the national parks of the Southwest.

"Although jobs and relationships steered us out of the Southwest nearly 15 years ago, Soren and I continue to connect on regular outdoor adventures. We've kayaked the Baja Sea and hiked the Cooper Canyon of Mexico, but mostly we meet in the Adirondacks of New York. We haven't joined the elite group of Forty-Sixers who've hiked all the High Peaks, but there's still time. Soren is a professor in speech pathology at Syracuse, and I study federal housing policy for a consulting firm in Washington, D.C., from my telecommuting home office in Columbus, Ohio."

Isaac Castanada married Maggie Miqueo '93 in 1999. He writes, "Soon thereafter we quit our New York jobs in asset management and law and moved to the Dominican Republic to run an ice plant and water bottle operation. We lived in the factory for two years and almost went mad. We grew the company organically, and through a merger with two competitors came to dominate our markets under the brand Alaska.

"Maggie and I are no longer in the day-to-day of the company and now devote our time to trying to control our children and to a couple of ventures with wonderful partners: Vizstara, a dental implant training facility in the United States, and Reenergy, where we are testing a device for quick recharge of electric vehicles. In our free time we enjoy mule riding with our kids in the rugged terrain of our property in the Samaná Peninsula. Last year we planted yam (December harvest) and built our first trail. In 2012 we hope to have a couple of bungalows in one of the hills facing the Atlantic."

After college, **Samantha Jacobs Jouin** moved to Germany and then France, where she spent 10 years and married her husband, Francois. She earned a graduate business degree at the École Supérieure de Commerce de Toulouse, and started work in the field of marketing medical devices. She says, "In 1999, after having our first child, we moved back to the Philadelphia area, where I am still at work in the medical device field, at Synthes, an orthopedic implant manufacturer. I've been in product development and marketing roles and even spent some time working on global business transformation. I now lead the company's efforts to expand into a new specialty market. We live in Malvern, Pa., with our two children and enjoy annual trips to France to see family and friends."

Michele (Gable) Coulombe lives in Collingswood, N.J. After teaching elementary school for many years, she became a consultant for Children's Literacy Initiative, a nonprofit whose mission is to

close the achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers. In this position, Michele works with teachers to improve the quality of their teaching and provides training in best literacy practices. She also is the mother of three boys whose interests range from archery and art to soccer and *Star Wars*. Her husband, Joe, is an English professor at Rowan and the author of two books.

Michele keeps in frequent contact with some of her college friends, including **Joanna Kibel-Gagne** and **Julie Keisman Miller**.

I received a brief note from **Andrew Hoffman**, who lives in London with his wife and two small children and is a lawyer for the Financial Services Authority.

Finally, my husband, Dave '90, and I and our three kids had a wonderful time at Homecoming. We visited many classmates including **Jill Pollack Lewis**, **Amy Weinreich Rinzler**, **Elisabeth Socolow**, **Jody Collens Fidler**, **Krissie Barakat '88**, **Jenna Wright '88**, **Christine Giordano '89**, **Barnard**, **Chris Della Pietra**, **Alex Margolies**, **John MacPhee**, **Donna MacPhee**, **Michael Behring**, **Danielle Maged**, **Andy Cowder '89E**, **Tom Leder** and **Claudia Lacopo**. There were others there whom I knew, but of course I failed to write down their names afterward — though I swore I would — and my aging mind now refuses to recall accurately. If you were there and I haven't mentioned it, send me a note. Or better yet, send me a note anyhow.

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Rick St. Hilaire recently attended the triennial meeting of the International Council of Museums Conservation Committee in Lisbon, Portugal, where he was elected to a three-year term as head of the Legal Issues in Conservation Working Group. He is an attorney whose legal practice includes cultural property and museum law. Rick is a former chief prosecutor and is among those featured in the recently published book *Hot Art: Chasing Thieves and Detectives Through the Secret World of Stolen Art*. He blogs about looted antiquities, stolen art and other cultural property legal issues. To learn more, visit culturalheritagelawyer.com.

Robert Boland was named academic chair of the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management at the NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies. He previously was a clinical associate professor of sports management.

Robert Schweitzer proudly announces the October 23 arrival of Lilah, weighing in at a lucky 7 lbs., 7 oz. and with a full head of hair. At 1 month of age, Lilah already was shopping at the campus bookstore for some CU gear. "Roar, Lion, Roar" also is a part of her lullaby routine.

Matthew Connelly, of Columbia's history department, has made it easy for us to keep tabs on him at matthewconnelly.net. He says the most notable recent item is the three-part radio documentary on world population he did for BBC International in October. He also added to the world population in 2009 with daughter Lily Kovner.

After graduating from Northwestern University School of Law in 1995 and moving to the Washington, D.C., area, **Alex Choi** decided to take a chance and relocated to Seattle in 2010. He hasn't regretted it, and is thoroughly enjoying Seattle's good food and drink, beauty and mellow lifestyle. Alex is an attorney in the Seattle office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Adam Grais, formerly of the CU Marching Band, continues to play drums, performing with the Chicago Bar Association Barristers Big Band (you can find them on YouTube), and he sees bandmate Liz Pleshette '89 every few months. He was pleased with the amount of press the marching band received during football season. Adam has three daughters: the 10-year-old twins play flute and cello, while his 12-year-old plays volleyball. Adam is a partner at Sugar, Felsenthal, Grais & Hammer. His practice primarily focuses on tax and transactional work, and the firm's strength is in representing entrepreneurs, business owners and their families, both individually and with their businesses.

Adam Levitt, a partner in the Chicago office of Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz, has been selected as one of *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Lawyers in America for 2011. *Lawdragon* is a print publication and website of U.S. attorneys; among other things, it annually recognizes 500 lawyers who brought in the biggest verdicts and settlements, handled the biggest deals and defined law practice. Adam was recognized for his role as a lead negotiator of a \$750 million settlement reached last July with Bayer AG and its global affiliates on behalf of U.S. rice farmers who suffered losses when a strain of Bayer's genetically modified rice contaminated the supplies of the farmers, causing a plunge of nearly 14 percent in long-grain rice futures and the shutdown of U.S. rice exports to the European Union. Adam also won the *AmLaw*

Litigation Daily's Litigator of the Week Award, the *American Lawyer's* Big Suits Award and *Law 360's* "How They Won It Award" for the settlement and five years of work on the farmers' cases.

I always am happy when classmates just want to check in to say life is good. Busy, but good. **Ijeoma Acholonu Ejeh**, chief of general surgery at a hospital in Fayetteville, N.C., who also practices laparoscopic general and bariatric surgery, spends her "free" time keeping tabs on her three busy kids and cardiologist husband, Sylvester. She looks forward to making it to our 25th reunion in 2015, which is not so far away.

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Greetings, all! I spent Thanksgiving in San Francisco with family and caught up with **Sonya Cho Hong**, who has been living there for a while now with her husband, David Hong '92, and their two sons. Sonya runs her successful cake business, Butterfly Cakes, and hasn't changed a bit!

Jeff Michaelson's oldest, Connor, celebrated his bar mitzvah in December. Connor did amazingly well, and their family and friends had a great time at the party. Jeff and his wife are keeping busy with their life in Detroit and their four children.

Jackie Harounian '91 was named a New York Super Lawyer in family law by *New York Super Lawyer* magazine for the second consecutive year.

Heather Munoz sent in this update: "Early in 2011 I decided to take a break from life as a mobile/experiential marketing tour manager to embark on an around-the-world adventure. My first trip like this was in 2008-09 and proved it really does pay to travel slowly. My travel partner, Donny, and I began in May with a visit to Japan. It was so much fun to have a reunion with high school friends — I was there as an exchange student my senior year — and also a comfort to visit my Japanese family so soon after the earthquake/tsunami. From there we spent a month in South Korea with its raging pop culture, music and so on, mixed with lots of history and some beautiful nature. Two months in China were challenging but rewarding. Southeast Asia (Thailand, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam) was



Meeting in Tahoe last winter for a day of sledding were (back row, left to right) **Robby Bollyky**, **Paul Bollyky '94**, **Greta Bollyky**, **Amanda Kahn-Kirby '95**, **Myles Kirby** and **Mason Kirby '94**; and (front row, left to right) **Jenna Bollyky**, **Alexandra Bollyky** and **Julia Kirby**.

amazing as well and, unbelievably, four months seem barely enough time to scratch the surface. One of our favorite places is Laos, though the diving we did in Indonesia makes that a close second. Our fondest memories are of the people who have shared their stories and a moment of their lives. Next stop after New Year's was India. My blog, with links to lots of photos, is turtlestravel.wordpress.com. Hope all is well with all of CC '91!"

Jackie Harounian was named a New York Super Lawyer in family law by *New York Super Lawyer* magazine for the second consecutive

of one, since my wife **Sara (Silver)** also is CC '91. We have lived in suburban Cleveland since 1996, moving after Sara finished medical school at SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn. She is a psychiatrist in private practice. After two stints in graduate school, I am a development director with a small nonprofit. I also recently began my own law practice, Goldman Legal Services (goldmanlegalservices.com), which focuses on the needs of nonprofits and small businesses. We have three sons, one of whom is in New York as a freshman at Yeshiva University. We get together with high school buddies **Boris Kogan** and **Carmi Abramowitz**, who are still in the NYC area. And I have found some Columbians here in Cleveland."

Don't forget that we have a Facebook page, Columbia College Class of 1991. It's a great way to keep up with classmates. And you can always submit updates directly to me via CCT's web submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Hope you are all having a great 2012! Until next time ... cheers!

REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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Hi everybody! We are closing in on our 20th Alumni Reunion Week-



Cindy Warner '97 married Nathan Kruger on November 12. Celebrating were (left to right) Richard Monte '97E; Brian McCollum '97E and his wife, Hannah Trooboff McCollum '97; the bride; John Guthrow '97; Maggie Osbody-Katz '97; and Gabriella Carolini '97.

PHOTO: BRETT DEUTSCH

end, which will be held Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. I don't know about you, but I can't believe it. If you keep reading, there's a special sneak preview of what's ahead for us that weekend. (Also be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.) But before we get there, there's plenty of news.

Benjamin Ortiz, who left the Department of Pediatrics at the CU Medical Center and Harlem Hospital last March to be a medical officer at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the Office of Pediatric Therapeutics, is lead officer for the Pediatric Latin America program, where he interfaces with regulatory agencies throughout Latin America, addressing issues regarding pediatric medical product development. As Ben explains, "Travels have taken me to Brazil and Argentina, with more expected. The program's mission is to ensure the safe and ethical development of medical products (drugs and devices) for children throughout the region."

As was reported in October in the *New York Observer*, **Matthew Weiland** has become a senior editor at W.W. Norton. The article notes, "It's an exciting move for Mr. Weiland, whose books at Ecco have included Padgett Powell's conceptual novel *The Interrogative Mood* and Philip Connors's nature memoir *Fire Season*." According to the article, Matthew was pretty excited by the move, too: "My whole life I've wanted to work on 42nd Street, and I thought, if I don't do this I'll have to work for Port Authority." Norton's offices are on East 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue.

Congratulations and keep us posted!

Sara Hall has been appointed associate dean for academic affairs in the Honors College at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she has been teaching in the Germanic studies department since 2000. Sara was promoted to associate professor in 2007 and has been chairing an undergraduate minor in moving image arts since then. She lives in Evanston, Ill., with her husband, Monty George, who runs a digital design company, and her 5-year-old son, Spencer.

David Abbott is enrolled in the M.A. program in music therapy at NYU Steinhardt and is "looking forward to an exciting new career in this rewarding field." He and Ishaani Sen were married in Central Park's Conservatory Garden. **Sebastian Ruta '92E** and **Jyoti Vaswani-Ruta '92E** attended.

Alexandra Colacito (formerly Hershendorfer) recently relocated to the Boston area. She is eagerly looking forward to reconnecting with classmates in the area as well as to visiting New York City and alma mater now that she is an "East Coast girl" again.

Ah yes, that preview of reunion? I am pleased to report that, among others, you may hear from **Rich Rosivach**, **Heather Benson** (formerly Ganek), **Andrew Contiguglia**, **Karl Cole-Frieman**, **Jennifer Madrid** and **Laura Lopez** to plug the weekend's events. As it stands, we are looking at a Thursday night party at Locanda Verde (locanda.verdenyc.com), followed by an informal walk of the High Line Public Park with a cocktail reception nearby on Friday night. Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events. Of course, there will

be a gala class dinner on Saturday followed by the all-class Starlight Reception on Low Plaza. For more information and, most importantly, to sign up, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You can also contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column.

That, friends, is all for this update. Keep the news coming — there will still be plenty of catching up to do at reunion. And since this is a big one, I hope to see lots and lots of you there. Cheers!

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Due to unforeseen circumstances, **Betsy Gomperz** had to hand over this month's writing responsibilities to her friends **Neil Turitz** and **Kevin Connolly**. Read at your own risk.

It all started in October, when correspondent No. 1, Kevin, and his wife, Laura, jetted west from New York to the badlands of Las Vegas, where they met up with old pals **Joel Cramer** and **Steve Cootey '93E** and their lovely wives. Joel lives in Winneka, Ill., with his wife, Ania, and their kids: Conrad (6), Claudia (5) and Cooper (3). He is head of business development for an asset management firm in Chicago. Steve, meanwhile, is living the rock star life in Vegas with his wife, Rahnia, and their kids: Liam (8), Braeden (7) and Addison (4). He is v.p. of corporate finance for the Sands. As you might expect, the weekend consisted of numerous tee times, lots of cribbage and a Charleston dance-off (won by the Connollys).

Once back on East Coast soil, the festivities turned "freaky" at a surprise birthday costume party for Kevin, thrown by the adoring Laura in the tony wilds of the Hamptons. Kevin turned 40 — young for a '93-er but his parents had him start school early, because he was so smart, unlike correspondent No. 2, Neil, who turned 41 just six weeks later, and who we all know isn't the sharpest knife in the drawer. But both correspondents digress ...

On the day of the party a freakish snowstorm gripped the Northeast, keeping away such stalwart friends as **George Hassan** and his wife, Julie; **Betsy Gomperz** and her husband, Mike; **Sandi Johnson** and her husband, Rob Murray; and **Matt "Nigel Tufnel" Streem**. Neil, however, was there — outfitted in an entirely appropriate Bob Ross costume, complete with enormous bright red afro — as were Marci Levy '93 Barnard and her husband,

Mitch, dressed as Joanie and Richie Cunningham.

The look on Kevin's face when he saw his friends (especially Neil in that frightful wig) was similar to what the zombies look like on that TV show, *The Walking Dead*: wide eyes, slack jaw, slow and wooden movements. Later, after Kevin had dressed up as Aquaman (because that's the name of his pool services company ... get it?), pictures were taken to ensure that neither of this month's correspondents will ever successfully run for public office (although an "Aquaman for President" Facebook page is rumored to be in the making).

A few weeks later, right before Thanksgiving, long-lost pal **Patti Lee** came to New York with her husband, Paul, from the alien land of San Francisco (where, sadly, Neil once left his heart), and your correspondents joined the lovely Ms. Lee for cocktails, caught up properly and decided that more such meetings need to take place. Patti is an on-air news reporter for the San Fran Fox affiliate, which is fitting because she is not only smart, engaging, witty and urbane, but also so, so pretty. (Patti bought the drinks, so you'll forgive the flood of compliments.)

After Patti and Paul headed off to the theatre, Neil and Kevin retired to a midtown watering hole. They discussed Neil's recent triumphant off-Broadway show *Spurn* (which had a seven-week run in November and December and was considered by many to be one of the funniest things they'd seen all year); Kevin's thriving swimming pool business on the East End of Long Island and his new digs in Long Beach, N.Y.; and Neil's plans to finally make another movie in early 2012, following up the much-beloved *Two Ninjas*, starring **Cara Thum** (née Buono).

That should just about wrap it up. Neil and Kevin thank you for your time, wish everyone well and remind everyone that Betsy's still running the show here, no matter how entertained you may have been this issue.

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Congratulations to **Anne Kornblut**, who writes with the happy news that she and her husband, Jon Cohen, welcomed son Arlo Cohen into the world on May 20. "Eliza Lowen McGraw and Paula O'Rourke '94 Barnard visited him at Sibley Hospital before he even made it home, and he also has bonded with **Rebecca Weinberg**

Femia," Anne writes. "Jon and I both work at *The Washington Post*, under the editorship of Marcus Brauchli '83, and I am still covering that other Columbia grad, Barack Obama '83."

Rob Gaudet lives in The Hague, the international city of peace and justice. He writes, "My law firm has expanded the scope of its services to include international arbitration and U.K. legal services, as well as U.S. legal services. Two new professionals are featured on my firm's site: retired judge Koorosh Ameli from the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal and English barrister Ingrid Dettter de Frankopan, who advised Pope John Paul II for more than 20 years. I enjoy a good fellowship with these colleagues."

"I am cohabitating with my girlfriend, Karin. I am in touch every now and then with Jenik Radon '67, who organized the Eesti Fellowship and helped me with my law school applications." Rob noted that he's met a few Columbia alumni in the Netherlands through the local alumni chapter.

He continues, "If any alumni travel through Amsterdam, I would be happy to meet them at Schiphol for coffee or take them to view one hour of a trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia or the International Criminal Court."

Paul Bollyky is an assistant professor in the Allergy and Infectious Disease Division at Washington, dividing his time between seeing patients and doing research. In 2011 he and his wife, Jenna, went sledding in Tahoe with **Mason Kirby** and his wife, Amanda Kahn-Kirby '95, and all of their kids (see nearby photo).

David Luse has been named a managing director in Jefferies' Financial Sponsors Investment Banking Group. He is based in the firm's Los Angeles office and focuses on coverage of private equity clients across the western United States. David joined the firm from Bank of America Merrill Lynch (and its predecessor, Merrill Lynch), where he was a managing director and spent 12 years in its Los Angeles and San Francisco investment banking offices. Previously, he spent three years at Morgan Stanley in investment banking in New York and London. He earned an M.B.A. from Stanford.

And finally, last fall **Janet Balis** was named head of sales strategy, marketing and partnerships for AOL Advertising, where she is responsible for the go-to-market strategy for AOL Advertising's products and services. Prior to joining AOL, Janet was e.v.p., media sales and marketing, at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, where



Laurent Vasilescu '99, '10 Business and Sophie Anderson were married on June 18 in Brussels. Celebrating were (left to right) Danielle Vasilescu Powell; Alan Powell; Eugene Krishnan '98E; George Thomas '98; Susan Kassir '99; the groom; Tony Munoz '99; the bride; Brad Neuberg '99; Jenna Johnson '99 and her husband, Martin Mraz '99; Sameer Shamsi '99; Adam Nguyen '98; and Nathan Hale '00, '01J.

she led a team of more than 100. Janet has an M.B.A. from Harvard and was named among the "Women to Watch" by *Advertising Age* in 2010 and one of *Crain's* "Top 40 Under 40" in 2006.

Thanks to everyone who wrote in! Until next time.

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We're unfortunately light on news, so let me take this opportunity to encourage you to send an update. I know you all are up to interesting things. Let us know about them!

Dr. **Udit Kondal** M.P.H. completed his first hip-hop/rock/reggae album for his music production company, Post Partum Productions. He invites classmates and friends to check out his website and buy some songs: ppprocks.com. Udit is a family physician working in the underserved area of Corona, Queens. Contact him at druditkondal@gmail.com.

Michael Kingsley, a Bloomberg colleague of mine, and his wife, Harra, are the proud parents of Aaron Lucas Kingsley. Aaron was born on June 9 and weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz.

Kei Wah Chua, a former executive director and vice chairman of Radford Capital Investment, has been appointed an executive director at Wo Kee Hong Holdings, according to a company press release.

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I am happy to report that **Uchenna Acholonu** and his wife, Colleen, welcomed the beautiful (truly, I have seen a picture) Kiera Chinasa Acholonu into the world last September. Uchenna also has completed a fellowship in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. Congratulations, Uchenna! **Tom Humphries** is Kiera's godfather. Tom is an attorney in Washington, D.C., and lives in Maryland with his wife, Natalie, and their four children.

A special thank-you to Uchenna for providing me with a lot of news of our classmates. Among those whom he recently caught up with was **Shondelle Solomon Miles**. Shondelle lives in Hollywood, Fla., with her husband, Ron, and their two kids. She owns Synergize gym and focuses on competitive CrossFit training. **Stephani (Stas-sou) Katechis** lives in New Jersey with her husband, Dennis, and their daughters, Sophia and Julia. **Jill (Fromson) Van Beke** recently

was featured on Home and Garden Television's *Run My Makeover* with her husband, Chris. Jill, Chris and their daughter, Annie, had their Knoxville basement remodeled, and Uchenna reports that it looks fantastic! **Jacqueline (Snyder) Colussi** moved back to the United States from Sweden. She and her husband, Dado, live and work in Chicago. **Evan Malter** has returned to the U.S. after six years in Australia. He lives in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., with his wife, Nina, and sons, Jake and Cody.

Jennifer Fishbein and her partner, Michael Parrott, welcomed their son, Gideon Joseph Parrott, into the world in December. **Julie Porter** lives in Brooklyn and works at P&S. **Matt Wirz** lives in Ditmas Park, Brooklyn, with his wife, Sarah; daughter, Raya; and newborn son, Asher. Matt is a reporter covering debt for *The Wall Street Journal*. **Daniel Lin** keeps busy with his wife and three children and his nephrology practice in Pennsylvania. **Ravi Iyer** and his wife, Jane, live in Venice, Calif. Ravi recently finished a Ph.D. in social psychology.

Dan Cole married Nicholas Grinder last November. Nick is a wholesale account executive for Jonathan Adler, a home décor and furniture company in Manhattan, and also a freelance interior designer. Dan has been working at Eva Gentry Consignment, a women's clothing and accessories store in Brooklyn.

Congratulations, Dan!

As always, send in more news! I want to hear from you. In honor of this election year, I leave you with this, um, thought:

"Carbon dioxide is portrayed as harmful. But there isn't even one study that can be produced that shows that carbon dioxide is a harmful gas."

—Michele Bachmann

REUNION MAY 31–JUNE 3

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Our 15th Alumni Reunion Weekend is fast approaching! Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. The Reunion Committee is hard at work on many exciting plans, including cocktail receptions, dinners, class-specific panels and special tours. Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events. There are family-friendly activities, too, so don't hesitate to include the kids. For the most up-to-date information — and more importantly, to sign up — go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You also can contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Finally, be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you at the big event.

After being an assistant district attorney in New York County's District Attorney's Office for 10 years, **Shirley Irick** has opened a general practice law firm, **Hercules & Irick**, in downtown Brooklyn. The firm, which specializes in trusts and estates, entertainment, family and criminal law, prides itself on providing affordable, high-quality legal services with honesty and integrity.

Matt Rosenberg and his wife, Donna, spent the holidays with Matt's dad, John D. Rosenberg '50, hiking in Death Valley and cruising around in a Jeep.

Sadarias Harrell '99 released his newest songs on Amazon and iTunes.

Luisa Cruz is teaching at a new school, making her dreams of leading an inner-city band a reality.

John Christopher Balzano '01 and **Anthony Frank Porto** were married in November at the Saybrook Point

Inn in Old Saybrook, Conn. Anthony is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Yale School of Medicine, a pediatric gastroenterologist at the Yale Medical Group and the director of pediatric gastroenterology at Greenwich Hospital in Connecticut.

Congratulations, John and Anthony!

Matthew Morningstar and Alan Van Capelle are excited and proud to announce the birth of their son, Ethan George Van Capelle Morningstar (Morningstar for everyday use). He was born on October 26 and weighed 6 lbs., 13 ozs.

Congratulations, Matt and Alan! **Hannah Trooboff McCollum**, **Brian McCollum '97E** and daughter Lena welcomed Caroline Amalia to the world in July, one week before Lena's third birthday. Caroline has proven to be a happy kid who finds her sister endlessly fascinating and hysterical. For her part, Lena is proving a responsible and thoughtful sister, making Hannah and Brian proud.

Brian is the director of project management at Hi-Tech Pharmacal, a generic pharmaceutical company in Amityville, Long Island, where he enjoys putting his M.B.A. and background in chemical engineering to work. Hannah is the associate director of admissions for grades 5–12 at Trinity School on the Upper West Side. She writes: "It's great fun to be back in a school setting, and I am learning a ton and love being around such smart, eager and motivated students and such talented faculty and administrators." Hannah and Brian live in Park Slope and enjoy seeing **Daphna Gutman** and **Jon Schwartz**, who are their girls' godparents, often.

On November 12, **Cindy Warner**, a marketing lawyer in-house at Unilever, married Nathan Kruger, a cardiologist in New Haven. Cindy's guests included bridesmaids **Hannah Trooboff McCollum** and **Gabriella Carolini** as well as **Brian McCollum '97E**, **John Guthrow**, **Maggie Osdoby Katz** and **Richard Monte '97E** and his wife, Lindsey. The bride and groom live in Woodbridge, Conn.

Just missing the wedding was **Chi-Ren Choong**, who made a November trip to NYC to attend the International Emmy Awards. Chi-Ren was the first person from Malaysia to be nominated for a cartoon action adventure, *Saladin*, which he wrote and directed.

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Happy spring, Class of '98! As often is the case, there's wedding news

to share. **Joseph Harold Schwartz** married Alyson Emily Sachs on December 4. The wedding was officiated by Rabbi Shmuel Lewis at the Metropolitan Building in Long Island City, Queens.

According to their wedding announcement in *The New York Times*, Joseph is a visiting rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan, and Alyson is an attorney at Weil, Gotshal & Manges.

Mazel tov to Joseph and Emily!

On a November trip to the city, my husband, Hans Chen '97, and I attended a memorable birthday party for **Julie Yufe**, who had just gotten engaged. Julie and her fiancé, Michael Dreyer, are headed down the aisle this year. The birthday party boasted several double-Columbia couples, including **Jeannette Jakus** and **Ben Kornfeind**; **Daniel Pianko** and **Melissa (Epstein) Pianko**; **Laura Levin Schreiber '99** and **Harlan Schreiber '97 GS**; and **Reena Russell** and **Lex Maldutis '91**.

Best wishes to Julie and Mike!

In December, **Alejandra Montenegro Almonte** was named general counsel of gategroup, Division Americas. Alejandra joined the company in 2009 when she left Weil, Gotshal & Manges to go in-house. According to Alejandra, gategroup is the leading independent global provider of products and services related to airline passengers' on-board experience. They specialize in catering and hospitality, provisioning and logistics, and on-board solutions to the airline industry. Alejandra and her husband, Jorge, live in northern Virginia with their children, Javier (5) and Lucia (3).

I'd love to receive notes from those of you who haven't updated us in a while. I know you're involved in interesting things. Don't hesitate to write!

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Hello, Class of 1999! Here are some updates I received from our classmates during the holiday season.

Barbara Rutkowski Eustice lives in Arlington, Va., and is a litigation associate at Goodwin Procter in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, John, welcomed their second child, Arianna Eve, on March 18, 2011. Brother, Jack, is a precocious, music-loving (and playing) 2-year-old. Barbara reports that they haven't slept in a couple of years, but couldn't be happier.

Tony Munoz and his wife, Stac-

ey Averbuch, welcomed a daughter, Elle Olivia Munoz, on December 12. When Tony is not busy changing diapers, he's a managing director in the investment banking division of RBC Capital Markets focusing on healthcare.

Daniel Alarcón reports that he and his wife, Carolina Guerrero, along with Annie Correal '04J and Martina Castro, founded a project called Radio Ambulante. The idea behind it was to create something similar to "This American Life," but in Spanish and with a transnational theme. The team recently has been producing three pilot episodes, featuring radio pieces from Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Honduras and cities across the United States. The show will launch this spring as a podcast and can be seen at radioambulante.org.

Please don't hesitate to drop a line to say hello.

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Much to report, thanks to everyone who wrote in. I hope you enjoy the wonderful updates — lots of babies, weddings and first-time reports.

Claude Roxborough writes, "Big congrats to Glynny the Glynn-dog **Mike Glynn** for beating the field and Martin for the championship during this year's fantasy football league. Drinks are on Glynny during Q1."

Meanwhile, **Andrew Ricci** emailed while waiting to take his daughter, Sofia, for her first trip to Walt Disney World. He and his wife, Manuela Marino, were married on August 20, 2005, and Sofia was born June 15, 2008. Andrew began at Fordham Law that fall and now is entering his last semester, due to graduate in May. He works at Rosenberg & Estis, an NYC real estate firm.

Rich Ciancimino recently was promoted to senior producer at MLB Network and won his fourth Sports Emmy Award for a live studio show (*MLB Tonight*), beating ESPN's *Sportscenter* and TNT's *NBA on TNT*.

Congrats, Rich!

Laura Pietropinto directed the premiere Asian production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *Next to Normal* in Seoul, Korea. Laura was the assistant director of the show — book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey '93, music by Tom Kitt '96 (Laura's sister Rita '93's husband) — on Broadway.

In 2009, **Stephan Boeker** was married on Maui (his home of 11 years now) to Kazuko Ikeda, an

Leilah Broukhim '00 Brings Passion to Flamenco

BY SAMANTHA JEAN-BAPTISTE '13

From Philosophy Hall to the stages of Europe, **Leilah Broukhim '00** has been entertaining audiences with the art of flamenco for 15 years. In her latest project, *Dejando Huellas* ("Traces"), she combines her passion for the classic Spanish dance with her own heritage as the daughter of Sephardic Jews. The show premiered to a sold-out audience at the annual Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, Poland, in June, and the U.S. premiere took place in late February at The 92nd Street Y's Resource Center for Jewish Diversity in New York City.

"It was time for me to do something more personal and to distinguish myself from other Spanish dancers," says Broukhim, who has worked as a professional dancer in Barcelona for the past decade.

"*Dejando Huellas* is a reflection of how she has been able to discover herself — her past, present and future — through flamenco," says Broukhim's former floor mate Tanjila Islam '00. "Her embodiment of an art form that allows her to express herself in myriad ways has a profound impact on all those who watch her."

Broukhim began dancing tap, jazz and ballet at 10, aspiring to be the next Paula Abdul. "I've always loved to dance, but I never truly felt comfortable in any of those forms. Ballet and jazz are for a certain body type," she says.

She became interested in flamenco when her high school Spanish teacher took her class to see a flamenco version of Euripides' *Medea*. "I was blown away. It felt very natural and organic. I was attracted to the rhythm," she says.

Broukhim, who grew up in Midtown, began taking flamenco classes the summer before college and continued throughout her years at Columbia, where she majored in film studies. She

gave her first flamenco performance in Philosophy Hall, an event she called "Noche de Flamenco" ("An Evening of Flamenco").

"Leilah's performance freshman year was passionate and soulful. Even though she had only been dancing flamenco for a few months, she was captivating. The audience loved her," Islam says.

While a student, Broukhim also participated in the benefit show *Broadway Tonight* with the dance organization Collaborative Arts Project 21; the performance helped raise awareness about AIDS.

Her academics enriched her dancing as well. Classes about Persian literature and culture, taken with Hamid Dabashi, the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies, helped when incorporating her Persian roots into her dancing. (Broukhim's parents emigrated from Iran to New York before she was born.) Her work with Robert G. O'Meally, the Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature, improved her understanding of how music is about culture.

O'Meally surprised Broukhim by attending one of her shows. Broukhim was "touched and honored" by his attendance. "So many professors influenced me, and in general my time at Columbia was amazing. I felt a lot of support from them," she says.

By her senior year, Broukhim began doing more professional work and did advanced study with teachers in New York and special workshops with dancers from Spain. After graduation, she says, "My intention was to

spend a year in Spain to learn as much as I could about flamenco and then return to New York to apply to film school. But I got bitten by the flamenco bug."

So while she returned to New York and applied to graduate schools as planned, her mind remained in Spain. She felt she had too much left to learn.

"Flamenco is culturally based. It's not just about the language or the music or the singing. All of it comes together, so one year wasn't

enough to get everything in. Even now I'm still learning. It's a humbling process that is never-ending," Broukhim says.

Although she no longer takes classes, Broukhim continues to learn from her everyday dancing experiences. One of her greater challenges has been navigating the differences between cultures. "When I arrived in Spain more than 10 years ago, there were very few foreign professional dancers working there," she says. "The first challenge was studying and working hard to feel comfortable on stage artistically. The second was feeling part of the group off-stage, understanding the daily cultural differences, accepting them and adapting to them, without compromising one's own cultural identity."

Dejando Huellas tells the story of a Sephardic woman through time, as she makes her way back to Spain. It also is a reflection of the skills Broukhim gained during her years at Columbia. "There was a lot of analyzing of visuals, sound

and acting that I learned senior year that I'm applying now," she says. "My college education has helped me to synthesize all my experiences and put together this show."

To view videos of Broukhim dancing, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct. View her website at myspace.com/leilahflamenco.

Samantha Jean-Baptiste '13 majors in English and African-American studies.



Leilah Broukhim '00 at the New World Flamenco Festival in September.

PHOTO: JACK HARTIN



Dawn Zimniak '03 and Jibril Jackson were married on June 25 at St. Patrick's Cathedral and had a reception at the Harvard Club of New York City. Gathered behind the bride and groom were (left to right) Marissa Balak '04; Jenn Chu '04E; Joe Garnevicus '03; Anita Moore '07E; Michelle Mahlke '03; Dana Tignor '05; Ryan Wilner '03; Susan Nwankpa '03; Zulaika Jumaralli '03, '07 GSAS; and Tito Hill '05.

PHOTO: LE IMAGE

Olympic alpine skier. They welcomed their first child, Frida Kokoro Boeker, to the world on November 11, 2010. Since then, "his entire family has made the move out to the Aloha State and all live on the west flank of the crater. Life is good."

Barry Mason and Pamela Mason (née Parris) '00 Barnard relocated to Atlanta in August 2010. Barry is a urologist for Kaiser Permanente. Pam, Barry and son Oliver (4) welcomed Sophie Ariella to their family in October 2010. Barry notes, "She is the first Mason in our family to be born south of the Mason-Dixon Line."

Matt Wilson and **Sarah Bartlett Wilson** are planning celebrations for their 10th wedding anniversary. Together they run Faction of Fools Theatre Company, a Commedia dell'Arte company in Washington, D.C. Faction of Fools (factionoffools.org) has partnered with the Columbia University Club of Washington, D.C. for several events and one of their latest productions, *A Commedia Romeo & Juliet*, was set to begin at the Kennedy Center in February.

Also in D.C. are **Kate Samuel**, **Ozlem Chung** (née Bankoglu) and **Manelle Martino** (née Nunez).

Kate and her husband, Ryan Samuel, welcomed their second child, Sophie, on June 6. Sophie joins Benjamin (2).

Ozlem and her husband, Sheanon Chung '01, welcomed son Sinan Sonny to the world last March. Last year they also moved from NYC

to Washington, D.C., where Ozlem works in risk management for the IFC/World Bank and Sheanon works in proprietary trading. They would love to connect with others in the area.

Manelle reports, "Recently my husband, Peter, and I welcomed our new baby, Victoria Marguerite. The other kids are Arden (7), Willem (5) and Henry (2). In addition to expanding my family, I am expanding my business, Capital Teas gourmet tea shops, in the Washington, D.C., area. We recently opened our fifth retail location and launched a new website, capitalteas.com. I also had drinks with **Alex Conway**, who ran the NYC marathon in the fall. Go Alex!"

Jaime Sanders will finish her residency in anesthesiology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia in July. She and her husband, Glen Tarasov, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Elise Pearl Tarasov, on September 29.

Also in Philadelphia is **Tara Gangadhar**, who joined the faculty at Penn as an assistant professor of medicine. Tara specializes in melanoma oncology and would love to catch up with alumni in the Philadelphia area.

Kelly Alderson's second son, Cristian "Cris" Philip Radics Alderson, was born on October 12 in Lima, Peru. He joins brother Andrés "Andy" Gustavo, who is 18 months older. Kelly happily reports, "My husband, Axel Gustavo Radics, and I have been in Peru for

almost five years and are enjoying life with our two little *peruanitos*."

On October 23, **Jonathan Seif** and his wife, Orit (Barnea) Seif '02, welcomed a son, Yakir Yeshaya.

Peter Freuler and his wife, Holly, welcomed a daughter, Charlotte Noelle Freuler, to the world on November 22. She joins Alexander (2).

In December, **Kirsten Olds** and her husband, Jeremy, had their second child, Sabrina Poppy, who joins Ian Warner (22 months). After earning a Ph.D. in the history of art from Michigan in 2009, Kirsten joined the faculty of the University of Tulsa as an assistant professor in the School of Art in fall 2010. She specializes in modern and contemporary art history and also is enjoying life in Tulsa. Kirsten would be happy to meet up with fellow Columbia alumni in the area, so please look her up!

Ben Huang moved to Boston to begin a postdoctoral fellowship in neuroscience research at Harvard's Center for Brain Science. He is interested in meeting up with CC '00 alumni in the Boston area.

Jason Streem writes, "I am a periodontist and have finally finished all of my years of training and naval service and started in private practice back home in Cleveland. I am married and we have one son (14 months). I've been working hard to get my son to wear as much Columbia gear as possible, as my wife is a Harvard grad. Go Lions!"

Samuel Rubert and **Athalia E. Lujo** '01 were married in 2005 after meeting at the University of Miami School of Law. They have a 2-year-old daughter, Emerson Danielle, and a 3-month-old daughter, Noa Esther. Samuel and Athalia live in Miami, where he is a solo practitioner in the field of alcoholic beverage law.

After 12 years in Boston at Harvard for medical school, graduate school and his ophthalmology residency, **Glenn Yiu** will head to North Carolina this summer for a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at Duke.

Michael Shen and Erika Shen (née Palmer) '02 Barnard had another son, Elliott Peter Shen. Michael writes, "Spencer, our first, is now almost 2½. I act in Los Angeles but I'm also blogging and freelancing as a writer, and I teach/tutor on the side."

Tracey Graham and Todd B. Luce were engaged last July and are scheduled to get married in June.

Kim Salzman (née Worly) married Oren Salzman in June 2010 in Israel and gave birth to boy and girl twins on November 25. She is an attorney for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Tel Aviv.

Nathaniel Farrell and his wife, Musa Gurnis, have said goodbye (for now) to New York and celebrated their first anniversary this past August in their new hometown, St. Louis.

Kirsten Neuhaus writes: "After nearly 10 years in the business, I started my own literary agency in April 2009. I'm coming up on my company's third anniversary and have even represented CU students and professors who were writing books."

Check out her venture, Kirsten Neuhaus Literary, at kirstenneuhausliterary.com.

Danny Guggenheim writes, "Hello from L.A.! I can't believe that my wife, Jenna, and I are each starting our fifth year at our respective 'new' jobs (we each lasted about three years at the mega-firms that we joined after law school). Nor can I believe that my daughter, Elle, is almost 2. But really, I can't complain. I practice law exclusively in the realm of commercial real estate transactions (debt and equity financings, in particular) as a senior associate with Pircher Nichols & Meeks, and am grateful to have had a great year professionally and an even better year of family fun time. If I'm not at home or at work, you can likely find me surfing in Santa Monica — though I had a great time surfing with **Jesse Leff** in York, Maine, last summer before his wedding! — or playing soccer with my ol' pal **Michael Edelstein**."

Sam Hirzel reports: "Effective January 1, I was elected to the partnership at Proctor Heyman in Wilmington, Del., where I practice corporate and commercial litigation. One of my cases recently was featured on the front page of the local paper. I married Christine Kane in 2006. Christine is a 2001 graduate of King's College, and we met at Dickinson Law. Outside of the office, I spend my time in the park with our two dogs and practicing Brazilian jiu jitsu. My wife and I spend a lot of time with **Matt Rice** '00E, '04 Business and **Joe Zilcosky** '96."

Daniel Beliaevsky earned a Ph.D. in music theory and composition from NYU in 2006 and is a visiting professor of music theory and history at The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, at Yeshiva University, at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and at City College.

Excited about his work, he shares, "In 2011, I completed my first music documentary, *sonata* (1957), about composer Donald Harris (b. 1931) and his Opus 1, Piano Sonata (1957). This film has been broadcast on CUNY TV and on the Ohio State Public Televi-



Adam Zucker '06 and Marisa Harary '06 were married on June 2 at The Grand Prospect Hall in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Although the wedding occurred during their fifth-year Alumni Reunion Weekend, many alumni attended (left to right): Michael Glick '04, '08 P&S; Amalia Goldvaser '05; Kelsey Osgood '06; Adam Rozencjwajg '06; Samantha Shapiro '06; Larry Manis '05; Daniel Blau '06 '10L; Zachary Kleinhandler '06; Jacob Appel '06; Ezra Surowicz '07; Antonio Cabrera '06E; Peter Lederman '07; Richard Rho '06E; Jon McLaughlin '06; Monica Sethi '06; Alexandra Amari '06; Phillip Rapoport '05; Kristin Soong '06; and Zachary Rose '05. The newlyweds are pictured with the groom's grandfather, Alvin Zucker '44E.

PHOTO: PHOTOPINK NYC

sion network, and will be screened at Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium on March 29 at 6 p.m. It would be wonderful to see some Columbia alumni there. To view clips and read more about this film, and to read more about my work overall, please visit opus1films.com. I'm now working on my second film, a feature-length documentary about the Pulitzer-Prize-winning composer David Del Tredici."

Finally, I thought I'd save my Jay 12 floormates for last.

Jon-Claude Zucconi moved to Credit Suisse as a managing director in asset finance in June. He is married to Riann Smith '99 and they have a son, Grant (2½; perhaps CC '31?). Jon-Claude continues to race J/105 sailboats competitively on "free pass" weekends along with Frank Rinaldi '99.

Salil Seshadri lives on the Upper West Side with his wife, Jennifer (whom he met in 1998), and their daughter, Mia (3). Salil has been with Soros Fund Management for three years, after spending almost nine years at Goldman Sachs. He plays tennis when he has the time and recently played with some of the current Columbia team. Salil notes, "They proved to me that I really am 35, which, in

tennis, qualifies you for the senior tour. I am also in touch with some of our classmates but not enough. I reconnected with my former roommate, **Ed Zargarian**, which was great."

John Kriegsmann is back in New York City, at SIPA, when he's not traveling to Zanzibar and Nairobi.

After spending two years in the Office of Corporate Engagement at Goldman Sachs, where I had the great luck of facilitating many Goldman Sachs Gives grants to Columbia, I now am the director of the recently launched Women in the World Foundation at the Newsweek Daily Beast company. Please check out womenintheworld.org.

01

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I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I cannot believe how quickly it passed, and now we're well into 2012. Lots of exciting news to report, so let's get to it!

Jordan Fischbach and Yael Silk '01 Barnard welcomed their son, Natanel Alon, to the world November 30. He weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz.

Genna Weinstein sent great news on behalf of **Samantha Fong**: the birth of Sam's son, Benjamin Fong Yu Gordon Tabor! He was born September 24 and is already wearing Columbia gear (I saw the photograph). Ben was 7 lbs., 15 oz., and 20 inches long.

Genna also shared the following births from August: **Mariel Martinez Gesualdo** had her second baby, Vincent, 7 lbs., 10 oz., and 20 inches long. Vincent joins sister Lucia. **Teresa Genao Harding** gave birth to her first, Astrid Maria, who was 6 lbs. and 19¼ inches long.

Lots of future Columbians in the mix!

My former Carman 11 hallmate, **Katie Campion**, and Matthew Land '05 wed on October 8 — approximately four years after they met at KDR during Homecoming. Their rehearsal dinner was at Faculty House, the ceremony at St. Paul's Chapel and the reception at the New York Athletic Club. Katie and Matt reside in Matt's hometown of Tulsa, Okla.

Columbia was well represented in the bridal party and among the guests. The bridal party included Dalen Cuff '06, Allan MacQuarrie '05, **Ellen (Werner) Volpe**, Joan Campion '92, Adam Ballew '11

Business and Maggie Cocca.

Other attendees included **Sofia Berger**, **Liz Salamy**, Roya Vakil '02, Matthew Preston '05, Colin Davis '05, Jennifer Beubis '91, former men's head basketball coach Joe Jones, Philip Cottone '61, John Hentschel '04 Business and Lindsay Reddington '11 TC.

Continuing on the Carman 11 front: two more exciting updates. **Steve Song** announced the birth of his daughter, Eden Song, on November 6 in Manhattan. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 14 oz. and 20½ inches long.

In addition, **Max Joseph Dickstein** and Erin Holly Branum were married in Santa Cruz, Calif. on November 12, with a beautiful Pacific sunset as the backdrop. **Christopher Brady** was a groomsman. The wedding had an air travel theme, suiting the way the couple met when they were randomly seated together during a flight from New York to California in August 2007. That flight's carrier, JetBlue, donated wedding gift bags for all. Other Columbia alumni in attendance included Ravi Shankar '00E and Nicholas Stark '99E. Max is sports editor at *am New York* newspaper and Erin runs a music accounting business.

Congratulations to Max and Erin!

Joe Rezek recently started a job as an assistant professor of English at Boston University, where he will teach 18th- and 19-century British and American literature. He earned a Ph.D. at UCLA in 2009, after which he was a postdoctoral fellow at Penn. He concludes, "For the last couple of years I was living mostly in New York, but now I'm a full-time Bostonian."

Israel Gordan writes, "I'm sorry I missed our 10-year reunion. The past year has seen quite a few changes. On November 3, our daughter, Noa Ariel, was born at 7½ lbs. and 20¾ inches long. She's been doing great and will be more than a year old by the time this is published."

"Almost exactly a decade after our Class Day and Commencement, I graduated from the H.L. Miller Cantorial School and the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. I earned a master's in Jewish education and a master's in sacred music, and was invested as a hazzan. My wife, Abby, and I spent another six weeks at Camp Ramah in California this past summer — the first time for Noa, who had a blast."

"I accepted a job at the Huntington Jewish Center in Huntington, Long Island (where Rabbi Neil Kurshan's wife is a Barnard grad, one of his daughters is a College grad and another of his daughters is married to **Dan Feldman**). I was officially installed as their cantor on September 9, and in the fall I led my first Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services for them, which went pretty well. Abby is working on a dissertation for her Ph.D. in education and Jewish studies from NYU and is at JTS once a week working for the Davidson school."

Thanks to Izzy for the comprehensive update on all the excitement and change in his life.

John Balzano and Dr. Anthony Frank Porto '97 were married on November 11 at the Saybrook Point Inn in Old Saybrook, Conn. Officiating was Judge Joette Katz, a former associate justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, for whom John was a clerk from 2007 to 2008.

John is a lecturer at Yale Law and a senior fellow of the China Law Center of Yale, which focuses on legal reform in China. He earned a master's in East Asian studies and a law degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Anthony is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Yale School of Medicine, a pediatric gastroenterologist at the Yale Medical Group and the director of pediatric gastroenterology at Greenwich Hospital in Connecticut. He

earned a master's in public health and a medical degree from Tufts.

My investigative skills (thanks, Facebook!) revealed that **Dan Karlin** was selected as a 2012 Laughlin Fellow by the American College of Psychiatrists.

Congratulations to Dan.

As always, please keep in touch!

REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3
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Such exciting updates — marriages, babies, careers and awards! But before we get there, don't forget that our 10-year reunion is set for Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3. The schedule includes cocktail receptions, class-specific panels, special tours, assorted entertainment and — most important — our class dinner on Saturday. Note that Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events.

Beth Mickle '03, production designer for the movie *Drive*, was nominated for the Art Director's Guild Award for Contemporary Film Design.

For the most up-to-date information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You also can contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Finally, be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT.

Talya Colombowala was born to **Saira Banatwala** and Kumail Colombowala in NYC on September 22.

Sarah Elizabeth Weintraub married Jason Israel Rezmovits. Sarah is a strategy director for Saks Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. She earned an M.B.A. from Penn.

Allison Lloyds married Matthew O'Neill on October 23 at the St. Regis Hotel in New York City. In attendance for the celebration were **Jacqueline Cockrell Karp**; her husband, David Karp '01; **Megan Murphy Quinn**; Rebecca Gabin '04; Toby Goldstein '02; **Barnard**; **Jennifer Dwork**; and **Melissa Asch McInerney '02E**. Allison recently launched a private practice, Synergetic Psychotherapy,

which provides therapy/counseling for individuals, couples, families and groups in New York City.

Shay Raquel Weiner '03 and **Yong Jin Woo '02E** were married in New Orleans. Shay is a producer at 2929 Productions, where she most recently was an associate producer for *Tim & Eric's Billion Dollar Movie*. Yong is an online technical producer at Blizzard Entertainment, a computer game maker.

Joyce Chang Anderson lives in Evanston, Ill., with her husband and two boys. James was born April 22 and Henry turned 3 on New Year's Eve. Joyce is taking a break from legal practice, raising her children and coaching the Evanston Township H.S. girls' varsity tennis team. She sees Leena Krishnaswamy Gupta '03 and Rebecca Nathan '01 regularly, and she had a mini-reunion with **Lillian Davies de Gournay**, **Joanna Keh Shing '02E** and all their families in San Diego last year.

Scott Koonin writes, "In May, I graduated from NYU Stern with an M.B.A., and despite their best efforts to turn me into a Violet, I still bleed light blue. On July 2, I married Elizabeth Cobb in Lenox, Mass., close to the town in the Berkshires where she grew up. We had a small wedding but a strong representation from Columbia. Alumni in attendance include Sheldon Wong '01, Tamer Obied '01, John Wilbeck '01, **Eric Phil-**

associate at the law firm of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel.

03 **Michael Novielli**
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For those of you who will be swinging by Beijing in the coming year, please do drop me a line; I hope we can catch up in person. For now, on to the updates.

Sharif Nesheiwat is with the Department of Homeland Security in the Chief Counsel's Office in New York City as a trial counsel.

Forrest Lensing writes, "I'm finishing my residency in radiology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. Next year, I'll be doing a fellowship in neuroradiology at the University of Utah."

Beth Mickle was the production designer on the movie *Drive*, which starred Ryan Gosling and recently was nominated for the Art Director's Guild Award for Contemporary Film Design.

Last year was an eventful one for **Shay Raquel Weiner**. She writes, "I produced a short film, *Cost of Living*, starring Brandon Routh and Bret Harrison, which premiered to raves at Fantastic Fest in Austin. I associate produced *Tim & Eric's Billion Dollar Movie*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 27 and was set to open in theaters on March 2. And on November 11, I married Yong Jin Woo '02E in New Orleans. The ceremony was actually a surprise; we tricked several of our good friends from Columbia into meeting us down there for the long weekend."

Christina Pfenning writes, "I will graduate from Marquette in May with a master's in political science. After that I plan to pursue a degree in journalism at Marquette. A fun tidbit is that my boyfriend and I spent our second New Year's Eve in Reykjavik, Iceland. We highly recommend it as a vacation destination."

Matt McMillan was appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Association of Political Consultants at the 44th IAPC World Conference, held in Istanbul in November. His firm, Buzz-Maker, has worked with more than 100 high-profile campaign and advocacy clients in 10 countries.

Belen Fernandez's new book, *The Imperial Messenger: Thomas Friedman at Work*, takes a critical look at Friedman, a *New York Times*

Seth Flaxman '07 Wants You (and All Your Neighbors) To Vote

BY KAREN KELLER '05J

Voting should be as easy as renting a movie through Netflix, if you ask **Seth Flaxman '07**.

"The Internet has fixed everything except for government and public services in general," says Flaxman, who was the student body president of Columbia College Student Council from 2006–07.

We can easily find our friends from college online, or order shoes and get them delivered the next day, he says, but we still can't rise to our democratic duty without having to get up off our living room couch.

Enter TurboVote (turbovote.org), Flaxman's dummy-proof absentee voter registration service.

Here's how it works: A voter signs up for the free service online. TurboVote fills out an absentee ballot request form for the voter with his or her personal details. Then TurboVote sends the voter the form along with a pre-stamped envelope. All the voter has to do is fill in a Social Security number, sign on the dotted line and drop the envelope in the mail.

To prod even the laziest of voters when Election Day nears, Flaxman's growing venture sends voters reminder emails and text messages.

TurboVote can be used for every election — local, federal, special, primary and general, though Flaxman has a soft spot for local elections.

"All politics are local, but local politics are ignored," says the Nyack, N.Y., native, who in high school chauffeured kids of voting age in his Jeep to school board elections.

Last year, for example, America hosted one-half million local elections for positions such as town supervisor or mayor. Historically, turnout for these elections dips to as low as 5 percent, Flaxman says, citing statistics from FairVote (fairvote.org/voter-turnout).

Flaxman came up with the idea for TurboVote while get-



Seth Flaxman '07 works in his closet-sized home office in Brooklyn.

PHOTO: KAREN KELLER '05J

ting a master's in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He graduated in May.

"I can build [TurboVote] more easily than I can remember to vote in every election for my entire life," the pro-democracy activist recalls thinking.

TurboVote debuted in 2010 in a pilot at Boston University. After using the service in a real election, one-third of the participating students said they wouldn't have voted had it not been for his service, says Flaxman, who runs TurboVote full-time out of a closet-sized office in his Brooklyn home. Two part-time co-founders, Katy Peters, COO, and Amanda Cassel Kraft, now on TurboVote's Board of Directors, whom he met at Harvard, are helping the nonprofit grow.

By September, Flaxman wants 100 colleges and universities on board. Columbia and Harvard have signed up, and he is in talks with MIT, CUNY and Miami Dade College. Each school pays TurboVote \$3,000–\$4,000 for the service per year. With 300 schools TurboVote would be sustainable, which Flaxman estimates will be about three years from now. Later, TurboVote would sell its services to local election boards.

For now, Flaxman doesn't

mind living on a shoestring.

"Last Friday, I took my boyfriend out for date night at a falafel food truck," he says.

Eventually Flaxman wants to expand the service to all 30 states that allow absentee voting.

So far, TurboVote has collected into a database the addresses of local election boards from the 3,810 towns and counties the service puts on its self-addressed envelopes. Flaxman says he doesn't know of any other pro-democracy group that has compiled so many election board addresses.

Making the list required "BST," he says — "blood, sweat and tears." And a lot of phone calls.

Flaxman has secured roughly \$370,000 in seed money from the Sunlight Foundation, Google and Kickstarter, and he's angling for more.

"Sometimes simple ideas done right can have an incredible impact. At the Sunlight Foundation, we believe that TurboVote is one of these rare moments," the foundation says on its website.

Flaxman has always had a knack at finding ways to streamline political processes, friends say.

As a volunteer for the John

Kerry 2008 campaign in Ohio, he figured out how to maximize a door-to-door campaign.

"You'd have one guy moving down the center of the street shouting addresses, 'OK, 1202! OK, 1206!,'" says Jimmy Vielkind '07, a roommate of Flaxman's at Columbia who now is a political reporter for the *Albany Times-Union*.

Another of Flaxman's friends from Columbia, Bari Weiss '07, says she can imagine Flaxman running for political office someday. "He's just someone people are attracted to and want to get behind," she says. "He's so likeable and humble and energetic."

Flaxman, who in 2011 was named as one of *Forbes* magazine's "30 Under 30" in the law and policy category, can see running for office someday, too. But right now, he's more focused on short-term goals.

"I'm hoping there are some Columbians who might have office space," he says.

Karen Keller '05J is a writer for *The Daily* and a freelance journalist. Her work has appeared in *AOL News*, *amNY*, *The Star-Ledger*, *Fortune*, *Travel & Leisure* and other publications. She is the author of *Portuguese For Dummies*.



Mallory Carr '09 and Justin Fiske '08 were married on July 16 in Los Angeles. Lions in attendance included (top row, left to right) Dan Whitt '09E, Ari Gardner '08, Veronica Montalvo '09, the bride and groom, Brian Kauffman '07, Sara Pulit '09, Amanda Sebba '09 and Spencer Silverstein '09; and (bottom row, left to right) Rachael McMillan '09, Vanessa Rigaud '09, Isabel Broer '10 and Allison Half '09.

PHOTO: RALPH DeBERNARDO '09

foreign affairs columnist. It was published in November.

Don Lee writes, "I'm in Sweden with Lynnette Marrero '09 and Dave Arnold '97 Arts at the Absolut Akademi."

Jason Magnus has been appointed principal in the financial services practice at CTPartners, a global executive search firm.

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! Feel free to email me at aeg90@columbia.edu or via CCT's web submission form: college.columbia.edu/ccf/submit_class_note. On to the news:

Congratulations to Richard Mammana '02 and **Mary Christian Winthrop Brownrigg** '05 TC, who welcomed Emilia Ruth Winthrop Mammana into the world on October 17 in New Haven, Conn. Emilia weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz. and was 20 inches long. Strenuous debates have ensued about whether a Columbia onesie or a Yale onesie is more suitable. (Richard is a graduate student at Yale, but doesn't want to expose alma mater to excessive spit-up.)

Congratulations also to **Susan Michele Wager**, who married Lorenzo Giovanni Buonanno in August. Sara is a candidate for a doctorate in 18th- and 19th-century French visual culture at Columbia, while Lorenzo is a candidate for a

doctorate in Italian Renaissance art. They met in New York in 2008 at a gathering of art history students.

Also in August, **Steven Lesans** married Stacey Dankner — congratulations! Steven is an investment analyst at Luminus Management, an energy-focused hedge fund in Manhattan.

Hope Glassberg married Roger Caplan at a ceremony in Hope's hometown of St. Louis last September. Columbia was well-represented at the festivities: **Margarita O'Donnell**, Gareth Eckmann '02, '04E, **Ariel Fox**, **Annie Chen**, **Robyn Mar**, **Alexandra Magness**, **Annie Pfeifer**, **Erica Wolff**, **Shawn Choy** '03, **Sudhir Muralidhar** and **Katherine Isokawa** were present to sing a resounding rendition of "Roar, Lion, Roar." Hope and Roger recently relocated to Washington, D.C., where Hope is a special assistant to the director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Congratulations to the happy couple!

In other relocation news, after 10 or so years in New York, **Margarita O'Donnell** recently moved to Washington, D.C. Maggie started a job as a trial lawyer with the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and has been happy to reconnect with Columbia folks in the area.

05 **Peter Kang**
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Two exciting things have happened to **Bennett Cohen** and **Any**

Cherneff in the last year: one, they got engaged and will be getting married this summer, and two, they started a social enterprise together, Empower Generation (empowergeneration.org). Empower fosters female-run, renewable energy businesses in Nepal, creating job opportunities, furthering economic development and women's empowerment, and promoting the dissemination of renewable energy technologies. Bennett and Anya are proud to have a few '05 alums sit on their first Board of Directors: **Amira Ibrahim** '05 Barnard, **Jeffrey Engler**, **Becca Brown**, **Kate Lane** and **Anna Sternoff** '05 Barnard.

On September 4, **Rebecca Weber** married Ben Carver in Breckenridge on a bluebird Colorado day. Several Columbia alumni attended, including Rebecca's father, **Joseph Weber Jr.** '81J; bridesmaid **Lindsay Joelle Glabman**; and friends **Rena Rudavsky**, **Isaac Kohn** '04, **Cara Rachele**, **Maggie Gram**, **Nick Summers**, **Telis Demos** '04, **Kelly Rader** '10 GSAS, **Adam Kushner** '03 and **Ajay Vashee**. Rebecca and Ben met at Stanford Law and are attorneys in New York. Ben works at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and Rebecca clerks for Judge Joseph Bianco in the Eastern District of New York. They live in Boerum Hill.

Claire Tamarkin Snyder lives in downtown Jersey City and teaches seventh- and eighth-grade English at Link Community School, a private middle school in Newark, N.J.

Carrington Lee writes: "I started a job at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, a major Wall Street law firm, in November after six years with Dewey & LeBoeuf. I'll be running Milbank@Harvard, an attorney development initiative with Harvard Law in which Milbank associates spend several weeks on campus at Harvard to develop key non-legal skills. I'm based in New York but will be in Cambridge regularly throughout the year, so those in Boston should let me know if they want to get together!"

Caryn (Waterson) Gehrke '09 P&S and her husband, **Martin Gehrke** '06E, welcomed their second son on December 2. His name is **Levi Waterson Gehrke**, and his brother is **Martin Robert Gehrke**. The family now lives in Slippery Rock, Pa. Caryn works part-time at Wise Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine.

Shelley Diaz became engaged in November. She and her fiancé, **Misael Vale Jr.**, will tie the knot in October.

Steve Esses reports: "I earned an M.D. from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine last May. I'm a resident in internal medicine in Morristown, N.J., and will do

a residency in radiology at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York next year. I'm married to **Daniella Lichtman Esses** '05 Barnard, '09L, who is a first-year associate at Cravath, Swaine and Moore in New York. We recently had a son, **Joey**. As of this writing, he's 7½ months old and just starting to crawl!"

Nicole Bryant married **Alexandre Le Tiec** in October at the Omni Parker House in Boston. Alums in attendance were **Lauren Mancina** and her husband, **Adam Gidwitz** '04; **Patrick Young** and his wife, **Alice Kentridge** '06; **John Meyers** and his wife, **Catharine Fairbairn** '06 Barnard; **Averill Leslie**; **Emily Beeny**; **Katharine Enna**; **Frank Angones**; and **Brandon Woolf**. Nicole and Alex live in Washington, D.C., where she works in the administration of the D.C. public schools.

Thanks to everyone for sharing their updates and congrats to our soon-to-be-married couples, newlyweds and new parents. Please send updates my way!

06 **Michelle Oh Sing**
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I'm delighted to share announcements of four marriages.

Jaime A. Madell and **Negisa Balluku** '06E were married at Boule in New York City on September 11. **Darren X. Zhou** officiated. **Rakesh Kilaru**, **Nirav Mehta**, **Shira L. Feldman**, **Uri Weg** '06E and **Phuong Le** were in attendance. Jaime is a first-year associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York City. Negisa is finishing her last year at NYU Law.

Kelly Gavin and **Seth Zucker** were married in Philadelphia on November 5. Though the distance between their freshman dorms, John Jay and Fumal, was almost too great to overcome, Kelly and Seth closed the gap through a few nights at The West End and other shared experiences. Kelly is a high school English and dance teacher at Marble Hill School for International Studies in the Bronx and Seth is in his second and final year of an M.B.A. program at the Business School. The couple looks forward to many happy years filled with Columbia blue and a yearning for JJ's chicken fingers.

Laura Schnaidt married her college sweetheart, **Jeff Stedman** '05, on June 11 at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, Conn. She writes, "I am proud to report that many generations of Columbians were in attendance. My dear friends and senior year suitemates were my bridesmaids (**Laurel Eisenach**, **Kinara Flagg** and **Julia Werb**). Jeff

and I met on Valentine's Day 2003 at the ever-so-romantic AmCafe (back in the days when the bouncer handed out lollipops at the door as sustenance for the long hike back to campus). We have been living in NYC since graduation and both ended up at hedge funds (different ones, though). I escaped the finance world a little more than a year ago and am now a 2L at New York Law School. Hope to see you at the next reunion or around the city!"

Meredith (Humphrey) Moll writes, "On August 6, I married Tommy Moll '11L in our mutual hometown of Fort Smith, Ark., after having met when he began law school at Columbia. We were so grateful for the great showing of Columbia grads who made the trek down south for the wedding: **Seth Rosenfeld, Alexa Hawrysz, Ashvi Sivapalan, Laura Regensdorf, Molly Melican, Margaret Hayden, Laura Dresser, Lily Laux, Jessica Mullin and Eli Kamara '06E.**"

Adam Zucker and Marisa Harary were married on June 2 at The Grand Prospect Hall in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Although the wedding occurred during our fifth-year Alumni Reunion Weekend, many CU alums were in attendance. (See nearby photo.)

In other news, **Jennifer Schnidman Medbery** was included in *Inc.* magazine's annual "30 Under 30" list of top young entrepreneurs for the success of her New Orleans-based company, Drop the Chalk: inc.com/30under30/2011/profile-jennifer-schnidman-medbery-founder-of-drop-the-chalk.html.

Sam Schon defended his Ph.D. in geology at Brown in September. He and his wife, Katie, then took a month-long trip to more than 20 national parks before moving to Houston, where Sam works for ExxonMobil and looks forward to connecting with Columbians in Texas.

Jacob Rubin misses his Columbia friends **Matt Del Guzzo, Jimmy Mark and Chris Belz**. He is excited to note Matt's newfound interest in ice skating, Jimmy's continued search for a decent jump-shot and Chris's glorious return to Manhattan after two years in Texas. Jacob, meanwhile, invites old friends to visit him in San Francisco, an offer sweetened by his recent acquisition of San Francisco Giants season tickets.

Hilary Simon received her ESL certification from Cambridge University in September and is an ESL teacher in NYC. She writes, "It is difficult, but very rewarding!"

Evan Sanchez has been appointed president of the Columbia Venture Community, a 2,000-plus member community for Columbia students, alumni and employees

interested in all aspects of entrepreneurship. CVC seeks to foster entrepreneurship by facilitating communication, providing access to resources and creating community.

Teddy Diefenbach is a game designer and is finishing his master's in interactive media at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He is in production for his thesis game, *The Moonlighters*.

REUNION MAY 31-JUNE 3

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I hope that everyone had a great winter! Before I get to the news, I want to remind you that our five-year reunion is right around the corner, Thursday, May 31-Sunday, June 3. Hard to believe it's time for all of us to go back to campus. The schedule includes cocktail receptions, class-specific panels, special tours, assorted entertainment and — most important — our class dinner on Saturday. Saturday also is Dean's Day, which means you'll have the opportunity to participate in Mini-Core Curriculum and Public Intellectual Lectures and other events.

For the most up-to-date information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You can also contact the Alumni Office staff listed at the top of the column. Finally, be sure to check out the special reunion preview section in this issue of CCT. As it's our class's first reunion, you won't want to miss it.

Now for some exciting updates.

Ritwik Banerji recently returned from fieldwork in Brazil, where he "studied with an eccentric, talented, but little known percussionist/theorist in Salvador as well as the surprisingly large noise/experimental music scene in Rio and São Paulo." Ritwik also found himself struggling to convince other travelers that he really was doing research. ("No, really! I am!" "Yeah, yeah. Finish your drink....")

Ben Baker will return to Morningside Heights this fall to start the M.B.A. program at the Business School.

Isaac Schwartz, who is studying medicine at Case Western, "recently mastered the Tri-City Tough Mudder Challenge with his brother."

Becca Hartog also was at the event.

Andrew Russeth shares, "Avi



Mark Vieyra '08 and Elizabeth Feldmeier '09 were married on October 29 at Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Manhattan. Celebrating were (left to right) **Joseph Rubinstein '08, Gilma Avalos '08, Sally Lauckner '08, Miguel Lopez '08, Bradley Blackburn '08, Laura Aguilar '08, the groom, the bride, Kishori Rajan '08, Andrew Kaufman '08, Jhanteigh Kupihea '08, Matthew Birkhold '08 and Daniel Wald '08.**

Zenilman and I toasted our 27th birthdays with Anna Phillips '08 at the Zenilman-Phillips residence in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, at the end of November. **David Chait**, sequestered in Washington, D.C., on business, sent a bottle of fine wine and a handle of Maker's Mark. Both survived no more than 30 minutes. Also sipping beers and dancing were **Marc Tracy** and **Eliza Shapiro '12.**"

Monica Ager writes, "I graduated from Berkeley Law last May and got engaged after taking (and passing!) the New York bar exam. My fiancé and I spent two months exploring Europe for our bar trip and then both started at law firms in Washington, D.C. I'm in the District until August, when I move to Michigan to clerk for Judge Helene White on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Until then, I'd love to see any CC'ers who live in the area!"

Kimmy Szeto '00, '07 GSAS, a librarian at SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx, married Anne Lovering Rounds, a senior editorial assistant at Cambridge University Press in Manhattan.

And last (but certainly not least) **Caitlin Shure** shares, "Caitlin is single. Anyone interested?"

08

Neda Navab

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Three weddings, two engagements, one baby, young lawyers in the making, world travelers and a new

star at the Museum of Modern Art (among other things). Damn, Class of '08! You done made me proud!

Rachel Belt is the logistics coordinator for a trauma and critical care hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. "I began work here in March of last year, and even as we approach the second anniversary of the earthquake, a large number of the people who lost housing in the earthquake still live in tents. And although there is a newly elected president, the prime minister still is not approved and there is no functioning government."

Keep up the amazing work, Rachel.

Calvin Sun completed a trip around the world. "I was in 12 countries: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, UAE, Nepal, Kashmir (part of India), Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar, China and North Korea. Myanmar and North Korea were sick!"

Elizabeth (Liz) Reeve and Craig Hormann were married on September 30 at Orfila Vineyards and Winery in San Diego. Traveling west for the occasion were 26 (26!) Columbians, including many former members of the CU field hockey and football teams on which Liz and Craig played. The couple has settled near Central Park on the Upper West Side, just blocks from where they met on campus as first-years.

Jon Cioschi is in second semester at Harvard Law with plenty of Columbia folk (at both HLS and Harvard's other grad schools). He is hoping to be in New York City, New Jersey or Philadelphia this summer doing civil rights/civil

liberties impact litigation work for “one of those super-conservative legal powerhouses like the ACLU or Center for Constitutional Rights. If I’m in NYC, best be seeing y’all around.”

Andrew Ness proposed to Alicia Bonner ’08 Barnard in August while on vacation in Cozumel, Mexico. He says, “We look forward to our wedding in June in Massachusetts.”

David Gerson acts and directs in New York. “In August I had the thrill of playing a scene with Al Pacino in David Mamet’s *Phil Spector* biopic. It was a piece of a dream come true to work with those two greats. Also, my short film *Ultra Violet for Sixteen Minutes* played in October at the Pompidou museum in Paris, and has recently been acquired into the permanent collection of MoMA. Hoping to get back to doing a lot more theatre in the months to come!”

“I’m engaged!” reports **Juliana Ilvento**. “Jack asked me last New Year’s Eve in Stowe, Vt., while we were on a ski trip. My fiancé’s full name is John Fitzpatrick; he works in investment research and is an ’08 from St. Lawrence University. We will be married in October at my parents’ home in Montecito, Calif.”

On November 7, at 4:26 a.m., **James Long** and his wife, Cheyenne, welcomed their first child, Yosef Martel Long, into the world. Since graduation, James has been in the statistics Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley; he has been developing an automated system to detect irregularities on the ocean floor, helping scientists to locate sunken ships with priceless artifacts.

Cara (Seabury) Radzins and David Radzins are happy to announce their marriage on May 28 in Litchfield, Conn. Columbia alumni who shared in the occasion included Vanessa Ramirez ’07, Liz Logan ’09, Bob Bowne ’05 Business, Anna Backus ’07E and **Tina Curry ’08E**. The couple honeymooned in Athens, Greece, and reside in New Britain, Conn.

Carmen Jo Ponce recently moved to Houston to begin her career as a lawyer at Baker Botts. While settling into her new hometown and new job, she also is busy planning her wedding. She writes, “It’s an exciting time full of new experiences!”

Stephanie Shieh and Norman Yung ’06E were married on October 1 at Benner’s Farm in East Setauket, N.Y. As Stephanie says, it was “a real-life working farm with pigs, goats, the works.”

Later that month, **Mark Vieyra** was married (in the midst of a freak snowstorm) to Elizabeth Feldmeier ’09 at Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Manhattan. (See nearby

photo.) The reception was at the New York Academy of Medicine. Columbia alumni in attendance included Mark’s father, Daniel Vieyra ’76 GSAS; Liz’s father, Harvey Feldmeier ’70 GS; and Liz’s mother, Arlene Garbett Feldmeier ’71 GSAS. College alumni included Mark’s uncle, David Raab ’76, and cousin, Joshua Raab ’12, as well as **Elizabeth Gates, Miguel Lopez, Joseph Rubinstein, Matthew Birkhold, Elizabeth Kaplan ’09, Ben Small ’09, Layla Houshmand ’09E, Kishori Rajan, Gilma Avalos, Bradley Blackburn, Laura Aguilar, Andrew Kaufman, Jhan-teigh Kupihea, Daniel Wald, Sally Lauckner** and Marvin Pilo ’66.

09

Alidad Damooei

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Mallory Carr and Justin Fiske ’08 were married on July 16 in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Many Columbians were in attendance, and a good time was had by all (see nearby photo). The couple recently moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. After two years teaching high school special education in South Los Angeles, Mallory now works for Teach for America as a manager of teacher leadership development. She supports first- and second-year teachers in San Jose. Justin, meanwhile, is a human resources manager at Stan-

Without Borders, which agreed to develop the village’s infrastructure over five years. In July, a team of five EWB undergraduates and their advisers joined Nina in Ait Bayoud. They spent two weeks under the hot Moroccan sun, surveying potential bridge sites that would provide residents access to the clinic, the school and the weekly market during rainy season. The team will return in May to begin construction of the bridge. More information about the project can be found at its trip blog (ewbusacumorocco.summer2011.wordpress.com). After completing her service with the Peace Corps this fall, Nina will return to the United States to pursue a master’s in public health.

10

Julia Feldberg

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Thanks for sending in all of your great updates. Let’s get right to the notes!

Cindy Lou Gooden writes, “I’m excited because I recently signed to Infinite Best Records, home to Columbia bands Ava Luna (Carlos Hernandez ’07 and Nathan Tompkins ’05) and Twin Sister (Dev Gupta ’09). Infinite Best will be putting out my songwriting project’s first full-length album in the fall. I couldn’t have asked to work with a better label!”

Daniel Adams is a second-year student at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. An alumnus of the

Mary Martha Douglas ’11 works on CNBC’s only global program, *Worldwide Exchange*, broadcast to 300 million homes around the world.

ford; he facilitates the recruitment and hiring process for employees of the School of Engineering.

Jared Hecht married Carrie Weprin on September 4 in Snowmass, Colo. Many of our classmates joined the happy couple to celebrate their wedding. Jared also made another big decision in his life by selling his company, GroupMe, to Skype in August (college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/alumni_profiles4). GroupMe is an app that helps users with group messaging, conference calls and photo sharing.

Nina Morency-Brassard is a public health volunteer for the Peace Corps in Morocco. She has spent her time in Ait Bayoud, a remote farming village. Soon after assessing the needs of this rural community, Nina saw an opportunity to collaborate with Columbia through its chapter of Engineers

Columbia-Juilliard Exchange, he is interested in the role of music in healthcare settings. He also recently co-designed and implemented an elective course for medical students at Mount Sinai, “Music and Medicine.”

Upon graduating from USC with a master of accounting degree in May, **Chris Da Silva** was a TA for the accounting Summer Intensive Program at USC while taking and passing three of the four parts of the California C.P.A. exam. He then moved from Los Angeles to San Jose, in the heart of Silicon Valley, to begin his public accounting career with Ernst & Young. He has enjoyed being an auditor for E&Y; as a part of the revenue team, his main client is Apple. Chris took his last C.P.A. exam in January and looks forward to earning his C.P.A. license and progressing in his career!

Natalie Gossett is halfway through Villanova Law and works at the SeniorLAW Center in Philadelphia, assisting the elderly with legal problems. She plans to move to Philadelphia or Florida after graduation.

Gabriella Ripoll writes, “Second year of law school is super-rough, so I don’t get out much, sadly. I don’t know if any fellow CC grads have enrolled at NYU Law — anyone else around? I hung out with **Maximo Cubilette, Laura Weldon, Noé Kinet, Nick Bazzano** and **Lillian Udell** a fair amount last fall. I have a dog, so anyone who needs fluffy dog time in NYC is welcome to visit! I also went rock climbing with Camille Avestruz ’09 Barnard and her fiancé, and I helped Miriam Manber ’10 Barnard housewarm her apartment, which is gorgeous. If anyone goes climbing, I’m looking for belay buddies, as Camille is in New Haven most of the year. Love to my CC crowd!”

Chad P. Musgrove recently joined Centerline Capital Group’s Mortgage Banking Division. He writes, “Centerline Capital Group provides real estate financial and asset management services with a focus on affordable and conventional multifamily housing. Centerline is headquartered in New York City, with nearly 200 employees in seven offices nationwide.”

Alex Haring recently moved on from Wall Street and now works at Tesla Motors. He lives in Manhattan.

After a brief hiatus from the column, **Chris Yim** is back. He shares:

“These days, you can find me working at Trader Joe’s, sleeping in a bunk bed, sporting a new hairdo (à la Scott Parker) and thinking about how Jesus can love sinners. Isn’t it interesting how when you meet people in New York (or out of college), the second question they ask is ‘What do you do?’ — as if your job or preoccupation defines who you are.

“After a humbling year of sleeping on a couch, disappointing internships and seeing celebrities at J.Crew, I have gathered enough bits and pieces of wisdom to create my manifesto. Last year taught me (the hard way) to relinquish finding life fulfillment in my professional aspirations and career pursuits. Though New York is a great and grand city, it is a place characterized by the pursuit of many people’s dreams, whether it is on Broadway, on Wall Street or on a campus in Morning-side Heights. This pressure to know why you are here is one I once felt suffocating. I didn’t know where I was headed and found my vain forced attempts to ‘figure it out’ incredibly frustrating. It was not until I stopped exercising control and authority over my future that I



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felt empowered by a truer identity. The Rev. Tim Keller said, 'Happiness can never be found directly ... happiness is always and only a byproduct of seeking something else more than happiness.'

"I have been fortunate enough to have been surrounded by beloved friends who remind me of how aggravating I can be at times, and a family that will always welcome the prodigal son. At the end of the day, I am just human, with myriad imperfections, and a sheep who has lost its way."

11

Colin Sullivan

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Not nearly enough news this time around — I know you guys are

up to exciting things; please let me know about them!

Mary Martha Douglas '12 GSAS

is two classes away from finishing an M.A. in the political science department; she is focusing on legislative behavior. She also works at CNBC on the network's only global program, *Worldwide Exchange*, which is broadcast to 300 million homes worldwide. Though free time is scarce, she enjoys catching up with former Undergraduate Recruitment Committee pals and spent Thanksgiving celebrating at home in Connecticut with fellow Lions.

Zila Acosta deferred the Law School and works at Goldman Sachs. She has gotten involved with Columbia College Women, specifically the scholarship committee and mentorship program. [Editor's note: See feature on CCW in this issue.]



Alumni Corner

(Continued from page 112)

took the city about seven hours to come take it away. I can attest that it is all true.

In retrospect, the transition of Columbia College from all-male to coeducational proceeded remarkably smoothly. Socially, the College experience really did seem to change overnight. Columbia was more than ready and the College community embraced the change. So much hard work, thought and planning by the College administration contributed to the smooth transition. Dean Robert Pollack '61; Associate Dean Michael Rosenthal '67 GSAS; Dean of Students Roger Lehecka '67, '74 GSAS; Associate Dean of Students Karen Blank; Assistant Dean of Students Ben Lieber '72, '74 GSAS; and too

many others to name deserve thanks. They worked tirelessly and made it happen.

It is hard to describe the appreciation I feel for having been a participant at the inception of coeducation at Columbia College. It is a feeling of gratitude that returns whenever I come back to campus or talk about Columbia with family and friends. Coeducation at Columbia, and the College's success as a coeducational institution during the nearly past three decades, is a story about a great college becoming even greater.



Brian C. Krisberg '81, '84L is a member of the Columbia College Board of Visitors and past president of the Columbia College Alumni Association.

ALUMNI CORNER

1983

The Beginning of Columbia College as We Know It

BY BRIAN C. KRISBERG '81, '84L

When I applied to the College in 1976, I spent hardly any time thinking about the fact that it was an all-male institution. I think I was pretty typical of the applicants of that era, and I knew Barnard College was across Broadway. How hard could it be to cross the street?

When I finally settled in to 10 Livingston in September 1977, it was a shock to my system. Men and women were for the most part, well, separate, especially during freshman and sophomore years. It was virtually all guys in my Core Curriculum courses and in John Jay Dining Hall. Female Engineering students living in the dorms were a popular novelty. I had so much fun talking to a Marymount student (read: female) for hours at a FIJI party early sophomore year that I decided to pledge.

I suspect no one on campus today talks much about the Fashion Institute of Technology. In that era, we spent a lot of time wondering how many FIT women were going to make the trip each weekend to the pub in John Jay basement, which offered loud music, cheap beer and dancing from 10 p.m.–4 a.m. Thursday through Saturday nights.

The College seemed to wait patiently during my college years for Barnard to come around and merge, but then it reached a point where it could wait no longer. It had to act. It was at a competitive disadvantage with the peer institutions. My friends in the poli sci crowd and I all knew we were receiving an extraordinary education, but couldn't they do something to make it more fun? Heck, even conservative Dartmouth started admitting women in the early '70s.



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

After graduating, I stayed on for law school at Columbia at a time when it was looking for a Carman Hall head resident to succeed the legendary Doc Deming. I applied and was selected. Coeducation at Columbia College was not what motivated me per se. I just felt this was another way to give time and energy to the college that I cared for deeply. I did not fully comprehend the historic change that was coming and the opportunity I would have to witness it when the first fully coeducational class arrived.

The last year of "all male-dom" as I like to say, and my first year as Carman head resident, 1982–83, was not easy. I vaguely remember a massive flood on the sixth floor. The residence hall had been allowed to fall

into a state of disrepair.

Everything changed the following summer. The University refurbished Carman and did a great job. Somehow it made the lounge into a welcoming environment where students wanted to hang out and study. New windows. Fresh paint everywhere. New furniture and beds in the rooms. New carpets in the hallways. Upgraded elevators. It was exciting to watch. It got more exciting when the Class of '87 arrived. When I come to campus, which I do often, I make a point of walking through the Carman gates. It brings a smile to my face to think about that late summer day when the great group of floor counselors I had that year and I labored in the heat to move the first-year class, including the first few hundred College women, into Carman.

As school years go, 1983–84 was rather eventful. The football team edged Yale in New Haven, came home jubilant and threw a massive party on 11 Carman, my counselor and quarterback John Witkowski '84's floor (for those who do not recall the name, John went on to play four seasons in the NFL). It seemed like the whole team was there. Little did we know that triumph would be the last Lions victory on the gridiron until Homecoming against Princeton in 1988. The counselors came up with the idea of a Hawaiian party and imported a 70-lb. pig from one of the counselor's father's butcher shop in Delaware, which they proceeded to roast on a makeshift spit in the lounge as the first-years downed a few kegs and partied into the wee hours.

Then there was January 29, 1984, now part of Columbia lore for decades of residence counselors, students and administrators. Loosely labeled the "Dead Body Story," legend has it that on that fateful day, three first-years spotted a rolled-up rug next to a dumpster on West 114th Street, thought it would fit in their room and proceeded to carry it up to the 8 Carman landing outside the elevator. You can figure out what was inside when they unrolled it. It

(Continued on page 111)



Susan Kraham '87, '92L (left) and Cecily Rhett '87 move into 502 Carman in fall 1983.

PHOTO: COURTESY UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

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

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A photograph of Javi Plasencia, a young man with a beard and mustache, wearing a red and black plaid shirt over a white t-shirt. He is smiling and standing in front of a large, light-colored stone building with many windows. To his right, there is a statue of a person in a long coat. The ground is paved with red bricks.

Javi Plasencia '11CC
Kluge Scholar

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Come celebrate Alumni Reunion Weekend 2012 — 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, June 1, at the “Back on Campus” sessions, including Core Curriculum 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 with theatre, ballet, music and art gallery tours.

Columbians will be dispersed throughout the Heights and greater Gotham all weekend, but Saturday, June 2, 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 31–Sunday, June 3, 2012

Register Today!

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If you register before Wednesday, May 2, you’ll receive a 10 percent discount on all events, excluding Broadway shows, New York City Ballet and New York Philharmonic tickets.

