

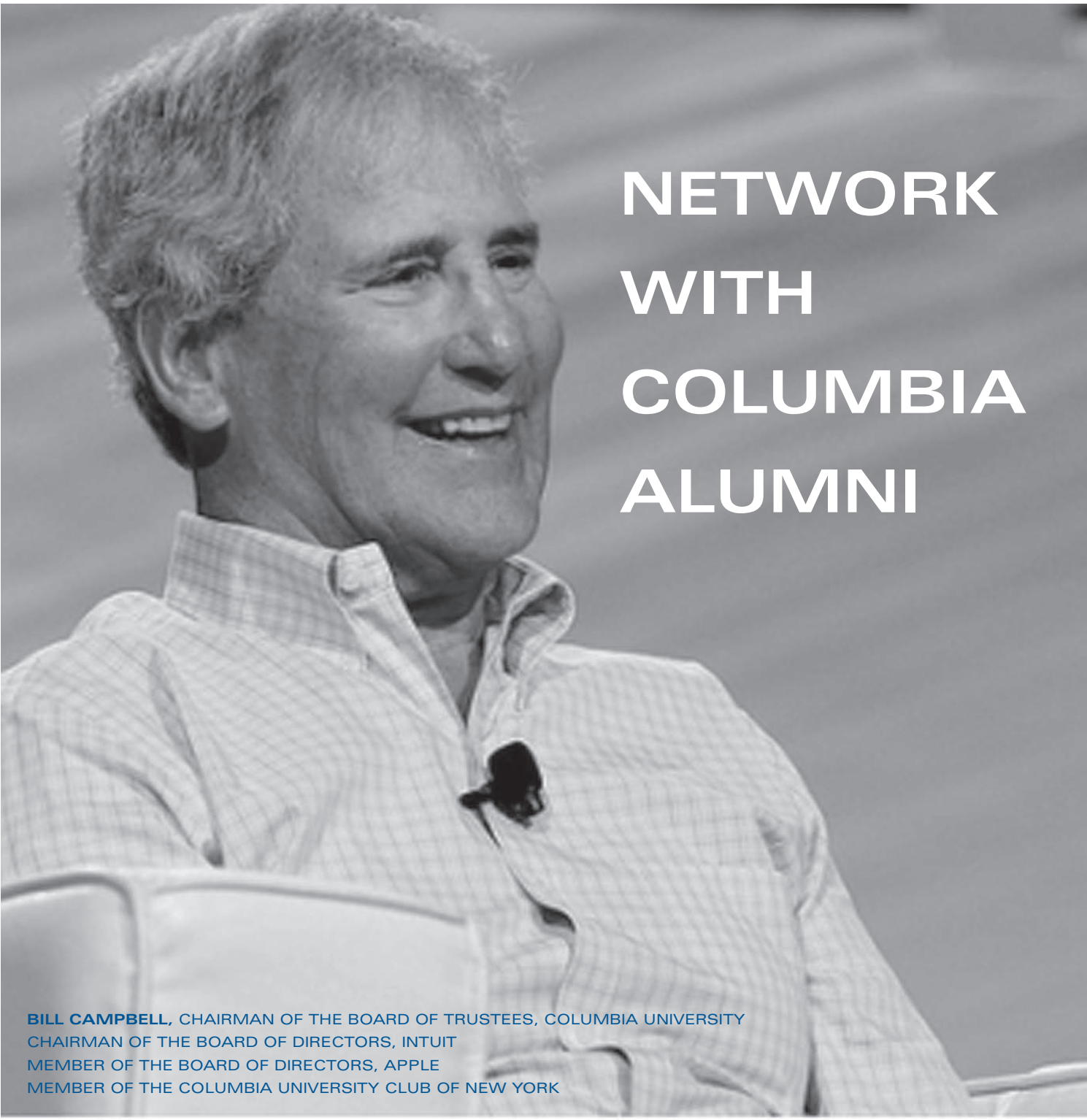
# Columbia College

Summer 2013

TODAY 



**The College Connection**  
Alumni and Students Forge Meaningful Bonds  
Across Disciplines and Generations



# NETWORK WITH COLUMBIA ALUMNI

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

# Alumni and Students Benefit from Intergenerational Interaction

This spring, at a campus event celebrating the 75th anniversary of Literature Humanities, faculty, students, alumni and parents gathered in classrooms around campus to discuss *The Odyssey*, Euripides, Montaigne and Jane Austen, and to deliberate the value of Lit Hum and the Core. Current students heard about the significance of the Core in former students' lives and former students heard how it has changed — and stayed the same — during the years since they took it. It was a great opportunity for intergenerational interaction. And it was just one example of many such opportunities at the College each year.



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Columbia College alumni and students engage through internships, mentoring programs, pre-professional advising, scholarship matching and at events. They engage in formal settings and less formal settings on campus, in workplaces and in coffee shops around the city and the world. The process



Students engage with alumni at events such as a media panel at Bloomberg headquarters (above) and through community-building activities such as the annual Alumni Parade of Classes.

PHOTOS: TOP, PETER FOLEY; BOTTOM, EILEEN BARROSO

begins when students are applying to Columbia — many are interviewed by Alumni Representative Committee (ARC) volunteers — and continues through Class Day, when representatives of each alumni class march in the Alumni Parade of Classes onto South Lawn to celebrate that year's graduates. Such interaction is key to the College experience: Students see their possible futures through alumni, and alumni remember their pasts and what they experienced as students.

In my two years as dean, I have noticed again and again how passionate students and alumni are about seeking connections with one another. And I am committed to creating more opportunities for such connections. One of my long-term goals for the College and the Columbia College Alumni Association is to match every current Columbia College student with a Columbia College alumni mentor. We will be working on developing and implementing this mentorship program with the CCAA and the College's alumni relations and development staffs. This is part of my goal of 100 percent alumni engagement in the College — of encouraging every alumnus/a to be involved in some way each year. I look forward to updating you on this effort.

The Columbia College experience is a continuum that starts from the point of being admitted and lasts until you celebrate the 50th, 65th or even 80th anniversary of your graduation. For me, there are three stages of Columbia College students: future student, current student and former student, and as alumni — former students — you play an important role as mentors, advisers and inspirations for our current students. In you, our talented and accomplished alumni, our students see the exciting opportunities that a Columbia College education can provide.

If you are interested in engaging with our current (and future) students, I urge you to get involved. Here are a few ways to do so:

- interview prospective students: [undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/admissions/archandbook/frontpage](http://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/admissions/archandbook/frontpage);
- mentor a student: [college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/mentoring](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/mentoring);
- attend an event with students: [studentaffairs.columbia.edu/studentandalumni](http://studentaffairs.columbia.edu/studentandalumni); and/or
- sponsor an internship, give students career advice or help them prepare for job interviews: [careereducation.columbia.edu/alumni](http://careereducation.columbia.edu/alumni).

Enjoy the summer. I hope to see you on campus soon!

WEB EXTRAS

View additional photos of and a video about Hurricane Sandy's impact on Scholars' Academy

View photo albums from Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2013

Read more alumni reflections on Literature Humanities

Read about rower Nikki Bourassa '13 and her Olympic aspirations

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



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## Letters to the Editor



### Keeping the Spirit Alive

Congratulations to the CCT staff for creating an alumni magazine that has kept alive the spirit of intellectual curiosity and exploration that has been such an important part of what Columbia has stood for through the years and, in particular, for your two most recent issues celebrating “the Pride of the Lions” and the Core Literature Humanities course.

*Dr. Howard B. Levine '64*  
BROOKLINE, MASS.

The Winter 2012–13 issue was the very best I have seen, perhaps ever. Good work.

*Dr. Paul Erik Gorrin '63*  
MILFORD, DEL.

### Lit Hum @ 75

Time flies. Value stays.

Lit Hum started in 1938. I took it as a freshman in 1939 and again in my sophomore year.

Initially I was annoyed to have a course imposed on me, then entranced.

I have kept all the books. The binders are cracked and the pages yellow — but the contents priceless.

*Cedric Philipp '43*  
AUDUBON, PA.

I don't think I've ever read as large a percentage of an issue of *Columbia College Today* as I did of the [Spring 2013] issue about the anniversary of Lit Hum.

My memories of this class are somewhat painful: Reading a book a week was difficult for me, often impossible. But despite my not having completed all these great works, I would not trade the experience for anything. I am convinced that I

am a better scientist and person for having been exposed to these books and the discussions they generated.

Each year, when we are evaluating applicants to medical or graduate school at the University of Michigan, where I am a member of the faculty, I pay special attention to whether they have [studied] a broad liberal arts curriculum. I find that if a student's classes have almost exclusively been in the hard sciences, they lack some of the maturity that I think bodes well for success in graduate or professional school.

Columbia should be proud of this tradition. I look forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary.

*Mike Imperiale '76, '81 GSAS*  
ANN ARBOR, MICH.

I was deeply influenced by the Humanities courses; I had never read most of the authors we were exposed to nor was I familiar with their ideas.

I was lucky enough to have two great teachers — very different, but both stimulated my mind as nothing before. James Gutmann [Class of 1918, '36 GSAS] was a kind and gentle scholar who pushed the class to think for itself and guided us so gently we didn't realize how much we were learning. He had us to his apartment for tea and cookies and reminded us there was a world outside the College. Mark Van Doren ['21 GSAS] was a brilliant scholar and he did not suffer fools lightly. We were reading *The Odyssey* and someone in the class said Odysseus was an “arrogant” man. Van Doren looked at him and said, “All great men are arrogant. I myself am arrogant.” The inference was not missed by any of us.

I took many other fine courses with great teachers such as James Shenton ['49, '54 GSAS], Moses Hadas ['30 GSAS] and Wm. Theodore de Bary ['41, '53 GSAS] and was deeply influenced by all of them. I received an amazing education at Columbia, but Lit Hum was the first [course] to open my eyes to the wonderful world I now enjoy.

*Dr. Carl Norden '56*  
PHILADELPHIA

Contrary to the self-congratulatory tone of the Lit Hum 75th anniversary issue [Spring 2013], my most vivid Lit Hum memory was standing in front of Low Library holding a paperback edition of

something or other in my hand and wondering how I would get through 450 pages of fairly dense reading in a week — and if I did, how I would remember any of it.

*Russ Abbott '62*  
CULVER CITY, CALIF.

The series on Lit Hum in the Spring 2013 issue is excellent. I shall be forever grateful for the Core Curriculum. It was then that my education truly began.

Having said that, I have always regretted that only Western Civilization was covered. The world ended in Greece. The rich and manifold cultures, politics, economics and religions of the Near, Middle and Far East were ignored. In that silence, those regions were tacitly relegated to unimportance and I, for one, left with that mindset. If the world ended in Greece for Columbia graduates, the same limited perspective might well have been shared by graduates of other schools with their even narrower curricula. The history of the last century and this one so far has shown the huge importance of the world beyond Greece. Most of today's headlines deal with events in those regions.

One wonders whether more broadly educated college graduates of my day might have produced better managers of world affairs than the less than brilliant record of the West in the 20th century — and the 21st, too, so far.

*Dr. G.J. D'Angio '43*  
PHILADELPHIA

I enjoyed CCT Editor Alex Sachare '71's “Reevaluating My Lit Hum Experience” [Within the Family, Spring 2013]. Even if you read the books more fully, there is always a desire to re-read the Core.

My CC '92 next door neighbor from first year and I hatched a plan that at 70 we would retake both CC and Lit Hum. Recently we were emailing regarding this fantasy subject and hoping the College doesn't go all online by then. For us, half of the experience is the reading; the other half is being in a classroom with a professor and the other Columbia College students. The diversity of philosophical thinking in those intimate classroom [settings] generated discussions I will never forget.

I regret not reading even more in-depth than I did at 18; but I don't ever believe the college experience is wasted. Those books read and unread shaped and inspired my thoughts, fostered dreams realized and unrealized, and bonded me forever in a future with a large intellectual community of thinkers.



James P. Mirollo '61 GSAS, the Parr Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature, pauses during a Literature Humanities class in 1991. Mirollo was one of the panelists at the keynote event during the Lit Hum @ 75 celebration on April 26.

PHOTO: NICK ROMANENKO '82

To this day I can spot the Columbia College graduate because in every field he or she is known to be the uniquely courageous voice asking the most uncomfortable, difficult, unanswerable questions. I believe the Core experience is responsible for what I describe as the CC unpretentious search for truth.

*Jennifer Madrid '92*  
BEDFORD, N.Y.

I enjoyed immensely the latest CCT on the Core [Spring 2013]. Everyone who has attended the College owes an immense debt to this seminal idea. I was privileged to extend my Lit Hum experience to “super Lit Hum,” the “Colloquium on Literature, Language, Philosophy and History,” in my junior and senior years.

A student had to be nominated [to take the class] by the Lit Hum faculty. This was a weekly seminar with two University professors and eight students from different majors reading works from *Gilgamesh* to the Enlightenment the first year, then through the 20th century for the second year. My professors included Edward Said, James Wood and Hugh Amory. We continue the tradition with a small group in New Orleans. The University would do well to revive this course.

*Dr. Frederick G. Kushner '70, '74 P&S*  
NEW ORLEANS

Unlike the ponderous chest-thumping that filled the Spring 2013 CCT dealing with Lit Hum history, I am going to take a different view in offering my memories of my wonderful time in the course. This memory is

apocryphal and has a necessary touch of verisimilitude.

I was walking down Broadway from 116th Street to approximately 113th Street with an armful of clothing for the Greek-owned dry cleaning establishment. Ahead of me, to my astonishment, was walking Professor Moses Hadas ['30 GSAS], the legendary Lit Hum professor whom I had heard speak on many occasions.

Professor Hadas walked into the dry cleaning establishment and greeted the owner. Apparently, they were on familiar terms.

The owner looked at the garment that Professor Hadas had placed on the counter between them and said, “*Euripides?*” Without pause, Dr. Hadas said, “Yes. *Eumenides?*”

I have never forgotten that brief, poignant moment.

*John Breeskin '57*  
TAKOMA PARK, MD.

For more alumni reflections on Literature Humanities, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

(Continued on page 111)

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not CCT, the College or the University. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for space and clarity. Please direct letters for publication “TO THE EDITOR” via mail or online: college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus.

WITHIN THE FAMILY

## Influences and Inspiration

**T**his issue of *Columbia College Today* focuses on student-alumni engagement — the growing number of programs designed to build bridges between these two segments of the Columbia family and the value and enjoyment this interaction can provide for both.

Shortly after becoming editor of *CCT*, I had the pleasure of being asked to participate in a program in which an alum would speak to a group of students, in an informal setting, about his or her career path and the twists and turns along the way. The program was a forerunner to the Dinner & Discussion Series and others described in our cover story.

When I got to the lounge on the top floor of Schapiro Hall dormitory, the site of the event, I was unsure exactly what I was going to say and why any 20-year-old would find my words to be of value. But as I began to speak, I found the students to be attentive listeners with provocative questions, and I enjoyed relating the way my career had evolved while mentioning some of the people who had influenced me, albeit indirectly, along the way.

One of those people was Robert Lipsyte '57, '59J. When I was in school, Lipsyte was a sports columnist for *The New York Times* who often wrote about what he labeled SportsWorld and Jock Culture, the interaction between sports and society. He didn't celebrate athletes but rather contextualized them, and this fascinated me; it also seemed to validate my subsequent career choice as something more than a frivolity, to say nothing of a waste of a Columbia education. Lipsyte's career has included a stint as an Emmy award-winning TV correspondent; authorship of numerous young adult novels as well as an acclaimed book about his battle with cancer; co-authorship of Dick Gregory's autobiography, *Nigger*; and now a post as ombudsman of ESPN.

Another influence was Leonard Koppett '44, who was more of a traditionalist than Lipsyte. Koppett, who died 10 years ago, was old school; he loved analyzing the games and the people who played them, and he relished the statistics of sports and the meaning behind the numbers. His perceptive analysis led to his induction to the writers' media of both the Baseball and Basketball Halls of Fame.

I describe them as indirect influences because, unfortunately, programs that promoted interaction between alumni and students such as the ones detailed in our cover story did not exist at the time I was a student. I admired Lipsyte's and Koppett's work and knew both were College alumni but felt too awkward as a student to reach out to them on my own. I did not meet Koppett until 15 years after graduation, after I had left AP and was working for the National Basketball Association in charge of its editorial department. And it wasn't until I interviewed for the editorship of *CCT*, nearly 27 years after my graduation, that I finally met Lipsyte.



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

I'm glad programs now exist that promote interaction between students and alumni and urge members of both constituencies to participate.

**D**ean James J. Valentini welcomed the 1,169 members of the Class of 2013 into the ranks of Columbia College alumni on Class Day, May 21, with remarks that touched upon — in typical Deantini fashion — the humor of Dr. Seuss, the wisdom of William James and the inspiration of Juan Manuel Fangio.

Valentini quoted from Dr. Seuss' *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, published in 1990, before nearly all the graduates were born: "You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any direction you choose." He noted that the students had brains and feet before they got to Morningside Heights but that Columbia provided the shoes in terms of a College education featuring the Core Curriculum. Then he quoted another line from Dr. Seuss' book, sales of which annually peak around graduation time: "You're off to great places, today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!"

For wisdom, Valentini cited James' words on how to spend one's life: "The best use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it." Then he offered some more concrete advice of his own: "Work hard, try hard, play hard" and "Life's an adventure — enjoy the ride."

As for Fangio, an Argentinian Formula One race car driver, and why he should be a source of inspiration, the dean said, "No Deantini address to students is complete without a quiz," and drew laughs when he said he would provide the answer in his blog a week after graduation. So I quote from the Deantini blog of May 28 ([college.columbia.edu/about/dean/blog](http://college.columbia.edu/about/dean/blog)):

"In the German Grand Prix on August 4, 1957, Fangio was in first place when he took a pit stop at lap 13. The stop was a disaster — a mechanic changing a wheel lost the wheel nut and spent nearly 30 seconds looking for it (an eternity in racing) — and Fangio fell way behind to a very distant third place. But over the next 10 laps he achieved what seemed impossible. He made up the time lost in the pit stop, setting lap record after lap record, and won the race. This is often cited as one of the greatest achievements in racing history.

"Fangio was put way behind due to an error by someone other than himself — a member of the pit crew — but he did not let the mistake keep him from trying. He seemingly had no chance of winning the race, but he was undeterred by his unfavorable circumstances. He could have given up, but he didn't; he simply tried harder. He did not let the seeming improbability of success limit his effort."

*Alex Saizhane*

# AROUND THE QUADS

## Class of 2013 Celebrates at Senior Dinner

**L**it by the glow from colored floodlights as well as their fast-approaching graduation, more than 900 seniors gathered on May 7 to celebrate the annual Senior Dinner. At the time of the dinner, the 2013 Senior Fund was well on its way to raising more than \$25,000, the most of any senior class in Columbia College history.

Members of the 255th graduating class gathered under a tent on South Lawn, donned foam crowns and enjoyed food, music, a slideshow and remarks from Class President Ryan Mandelbaum '13, Senior Dinner Co-chairs Helen Bao '13 and Erin Connell '13, who gave the evening's toast, and Columbia College Student Council President Karishma Habbu '13.

Wearing a green bling sign with "7DD" (the hexadecimal number for 2013) around his neck, Dean James J. Valentini also addressed the gathering, declaring, "I'm only going to say two things. One, pass the swim test, and two, congratulations to the Class of 7DD, the best class ever. And if you don't understand that, ask a computer science major."

A highlight of the evening was the announcement by Senior Fund Chair Maria Sulimirski '13 about the fund's record-setting year. More than 750 seniors contributed to the campaign, 294 of whom opted into Valentini's "3-2-1 Challenge" to contribute for three years, encourage two friends to do the same and have their gifts matched one-to-one by an alumnus/a (for the second year running, Board of Visitors member Gene Davis '75). Because of meeting the participation goal, the Class of 2013 secured an additional gift of \$100,000 from Charles Santoro '82, also a BOV member.

Attendees also enjoyed a rousing rendition of *Sans Souci* led by CC Alumni Association Executive Committee member Jess Drabkin '79 and CC Young Alumni President Calvin Sun '08.

To view photos from the dinner, go to [facebook.com/ccyoungalumni/photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/ccyoungalumni/photos_albums).



Members of the Class of 2013 turned out in their finest for the annual Senior Dinner on May 7; for some, a foam crown offered the finishing touch.

PHOTOS: GENE BOYARS



## A Million Reasons to Give

**T**he Columbia College Fund raised more than \$2 million through a new campaign, "A Million Reasons to Give," which ran throughout April. Nearly 2,500 Columbians made a gift, meeting a \$1 million fundraising challenge to earn the full \$1 million matching gift pledged by an anonymous donor.

The campaign used a multichannel approach including mailings, social media, video and email, all touching upon the million reasons to give to Columbia; these ranged from fond memories of late nights

in Butler to recollections of first stepping onto College Walk to the bonds formed from debating Dante in John Jay.

Gifts to the Columbia College Fund bolster all aspects of the undergraduate experience. The donors' generosity will enhance financial aid, provide the resources necessary to maintain the Core Curriculum, foster improvements in student services and help fund summer internship stipends. Alumni support of the College Fund has made possible enhancements to Columbia's academic and student programs.

## Dames, Gasparov Selected for Van Doren, Trilling Awards



(Left to right) Celebrating at the May 8 ceremony were College staff and Academic Awards Committee members Rose Razaghian, executive director, planning and analysis; Dean Emeritus of Columbia College and the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature Austin E. Quigley; AAC Co-chair Sahng-Ah Yoo '15; Aidan Mehigan '16; Dorothy Chen '13; honoree Nicholas Dames; Alan Timberlake, who accepted on behalf of honoree Boris Gasparov; AAC Co-chair Lindsay White '13; and AAC Co-chair Cathi Choi '13.

PHOTO: CHRIS BALMER '07

The Columbia College Student Council's Academic Awards Committee presented the 2013 Mark Van Doren Award to Nicholas Dames, the Theodore Kahan Professor of Humanities and chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature, and the Lionel Trilling Award to Boris Gasparov, the Boris Bakhmeteff Professor of Russian and East European Studies. The awards were presented on May 8 in the Faculty Room of Low Library. Alan Timberlake, professor of Slavic languages and director, Institute of East Central Europe, accepted on Gasparov's behalf.

The Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching has been awarded annually since 1962 in recognition of a faculty member's humanity, devotion to truth and inspiring leadership. The award was established in honor of Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, novelist, playwright, critic, editor and biographer

as well as a renowned scholar and legendary Columbia faculty member.

The Lionel Trilling Book Award is awarded annually to a member of the faculty whose book was published in the previous year and upholds a level of excellence commensurate with the work of Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS. The award was established in 1976 in honor of Trilling, a gifted and dedicated Columbia professor who was committed to undergraduate education, as well as a public intellectual known for his scholarship and literary criticism, which appealed to a wide audience. Gasparov was honored for his book *Beyond Pure Reason: Ferdinand de Saussure's Philosophy of Language and Its*

*Early Romantic Antecedents.*

The awards are the only academic honors judged and presented by students. The 15–25 Academic Awards Committee members are selected by the co-chairs so the group represents a cross-section of classes and majors. The committee seeks nominations for the awards and committee members audit the classes of Van Doren Award nominees, read books under consideration for the Trilling Award and have discussions before deciding on the finalists.

To view photos from the ceremony, go to [facebook.com/columbiacollege1754/photos\\_albums](https://facebook.com/columbiacollege1754/photos_albums).

### Ten Faculty Members Honored with Lenfest Awards

Ten Arts and Sciences faculty members have been honored with the Lenfest Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards for their ability to engage, challenge and inspire students in the classroom.

Established in 2005 by University Trustee Gerry Lenfest '58L, the awards are given annually to recognize and reward exceptional teaching and mentoring. This year's recipients, who were honored at a dinner at the Italian Academy on February 28, each will receive \$25,000 per year for three consecutive years. They are Frances A. Champagne, associate professor of psychology; Jean Cohen, the Nell

and Herbert Singer Professor of Contemporary Civilization and Political Thought; Giuseppe Gerbino, associate professor of music and chair of the Department of Music; Don J. Melnick, the Thomas Hunt Morgan Professor of Conservation Biology in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology; Rosalind C. Morris, professor of anthropology; Gerard Parkin, professor of chemistry; Caterina Pizzigoni, associate professor of Latin American history; Ovidiu Savin, professor of mathematics; Melissa Schwartzberg, associate professor of political science; and Joseph Slaughter, associate professor of English and comparative literature.

### Columbia College Alumni on Facebook

Check out the new Columbia College Alumni Facebook page at [facebook.com/alumnicc](https://facebook.com/alumnicc). Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more!

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Frances Champagne is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology focusing on behavioral neurosciences, maternal behavior and epigenetics. Born and raised in Canada, Champagne earned her undergraduate degree at Queen's University, and her master's in psychiatry and Ph.D. in neuroscience at McGill University. She has been at Columbia since 2006 and runs the Champagne Lab in psychobiology and neuroscience in addition to her professorial responsibilities.

tive behavior. ... This work shows how the interplay between genes and the environment works. It brings people past the dichotomy of nature and nurture and moves them into something new.

**And what's your interest within epigenetics?**  
I'm most interested in how early life experiences shape the brain, shape our behavior. For example, how toxins in the environment affect our behavior and might increase risk of psychopathology or

the mother/infant interactions in mice and rats. It's hard to fit research around a class schedule, and that's something they can come in and do for an hour and then leave. We also have students looking at gene expression, taking brain tissue and analyzing what genes are increased and decreased in their activity. We have students looking at different protein levels in the brain.

**What do you think students get out of working in a lab?**

keep going with it, because we don't have any final answers; there's always something more to do or something that we can do better. So, I think in terms of pursuing a career in academia, that's invaluable. Knowing that there are these weaknesses in all the work that's done but that we can actually deal with that and do better.

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

I go to York in Yorkshire, England, quite a lot; that's where my husband [Assistant Professor of Psychology James Curley] is from. We met in Cambridge,

actually, but York is an old city with so much history that you don't get in North America.

**What's a talent that you'd like to have?**

To play the violin.

**If you weren't a professor and a scientist, what would you like to do?**

Probably run a small bookstore. It'd be nice to be somewhere surrounded by literature.

**What's on your nightstand?**  
Baby books.

**How about your DVR? Any guilty pleasures?**

*Game of Thrones*, which I can't really watch right now because of the baby. Too violent.

**You said she's your first?**  
Yes, Isabelle. She's 14 months.

**So, does that mean you've started thinking about your research in relation to your own life?**

Well, to some degree [laughs]. But I also think there's a risk of knowing too much and worrying too much. That's one thing I know from work — it's best not to be stressed.

*Interview: Alexis Tonti '11 Arts  
Photo: Lynn Saville*

## Five Minutes with ... Frances Champagne

**What drew you to psychology?**

I always had an interest in it, probably more clinically oriented; I did a master's in psychiatry to explore that interest. I was interested in schizophrenia and did a master's project looking at genetic and environmental factors and how they influence symptoms in schizophrenic individuals. I liked it but found I couldn't ask the kind of mechanistic questions I was interested in; it was fine that these individuals had had these early experiences or traumas but I wanted to know more, in terms of *how* these experiences could lead to abnormal behaviors.

**How would you describe epigenetics to a layperson?**

Epigenetics refers to the control of gene activity. We have our DNA but it has to do something, it has to produce something, to affect our biology. Epigenetics refers to the factors that can control that; the factors around DNA that can serve as kind of an on/off switch to gene activity. And then that gets laid into our biology and can last across the lifespan and lead to variations in stress reactivity, social behavior and reproduc-

health problems; how stress does the same thing; how mother-infant interactions can promote well-being or inhibit well-being. And then, what the long-term and multigenerational consequences are — meaning, the experiences you have during your life span shape you but they can also be passed along generations.

**What sort of work can undergraduates get involved with in your lab?**

Quite a lot. For example, because we study mother/infant interactions, we have undergrads help with characterizing

It's fine to read about findings in papers but it's quite another to be involved in the research and see how it's actually done. I think it's quite shocking at first — it's a lot of work and it's not always the most exciting work all the time. But it's about the process of science. So I think they learn a lot.

**What do you teach?**

I teach a big lecture course, "The Developing Brain," and also two undergraduate seminars. I've been on maternity leave, though, and I just got back this past semester.

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

Get them to appreciate how complex the process of science and the process of discovery is. You read textbooks and everything sounds so final and understood and clear — and something that's hard to do in a lecture class but that I can do in my seminar classes, where I can interact with the students a bit more, is get them to critique the science that's out there and realize that nothing's perfect. That's why we



## College Fetes Lit Hum at 75 Years

On April 26, alumni, parents and students gathered in Low Rotunda to celebrate "#LitHum75: Dialogues on the 75th Anniversary of Literature Humanities," an event dedicated to the late Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS. The conversation began in Low Rotunda with introductions by Roosevelt Montás '95, director of the Center for the Core Curriculum and associate dean of academic affairs, and Dean James J. Valentini, followed by a panel moderated by Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and chair of Literature Humanities. The panel featured Core faculty members James V. Mirollo '61 GSAS, the Parr Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature; Julie Crawford, associate professor of English and comparative literature; and Jessamyn Conrad, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Art History and Archaeology; as well as Huilong Han '15 and Jacqueline Bryk '13. The dialogue focused on the way Lit Hum has changed and its current relationship to the digital age.

Immediately afterward, alumni and parents were invited to join students in classrooms across campus for seminar-style discussion groups where attendees discussed either preselected works from the Lit Hum curriculum or their opinions about what they considered to be the most important part of the Core. This was followed by a reception featuring remarks by Valentini and Edward Tayler, the Lionel Trilling Professor in the Humanities Emeritus, held in the Faculty Room in Low Library.

Throughout the evening participants near and far were invited to join the conversation live and share Lit Hum memories by tweeting to #LitHum75.

*To explore the evening's tweets, visit [twitter.com/search?q=%23lithum75](https://twitter.com/search?q=%23lithum75); to join the conversation, share your own memories by tweeting to #LitHum75.*

*For more information about Literature Humanities' 75 years at Columbia, visit [college.columbia.edu/core/lithum](http://college.columbia.edu/core/lithum).*

## Four Alumni Honored with John Jay Awards



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Four accomplished alumni — Thomas Cornacchia '85; Katori Hall '03; Mike Schmidtberger '82, '85L; and Dr. George Yancopoulos '80, '86 GSAS, '87 P&S — were presented with 2013 John Jay Awards for distinguished professional achievement on March 6 at Cipriani 42nd Street. Proceeds from the annual John Jay Awards Dinner benefit the John Jay National Scholars Program, which aims to enhance academic and extracurricular experiences for outstanding first-year College students. This year's dinner raised

\$1.4 million.

Above, Dean James J. Valentini (far left) joins the John Jay Scholars who presented the honorees with their awards, and the honorees, at the dinner. Left to right: Bryan Terrazas '13; Cornacchia; Ethan Kogan '13; Hall; Ariana Lott '13; Schmidtberger; Yancopoulos; and Tehreem Rehman '13.

*To read more about the dinner, see a Facebook photo album and view a video, visit [college.columbia.edu/news/archive/2012-13](http://college.columbia.edu/news/archive/2012-13).*



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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Pianist Conrad Tao '15 Explores His Relationship to Music

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

Conrad Tao '15's extraordinary musical journey began the day his parents found him sitting at the family piano at 18 months, plucking out *Mary Had a Little Lamb* to the best of a toddler's ability. On that same piano, at 8, Tao practiced Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major, K. 414* for his concerto debut. Since then, he has given critically acclaimed performances of Stravinsky, Chopin and other master composers in venues around the world.

Tao, the only classical musician included in *Forbes*' "30 Under 30: The Youngest Stars In The Music Business" list in 2011, has taken the stage with The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony, to name a few. He has given solo recitals in the United States and abroad, including multiple engagements at the Louvre in Paris. He took the Spring 2012 semester off from the College to accommodate a busy tour schedule — approximately 45 concerts — that included stops in Brazil and Germany as well as American cities from Santa Fe to Kalamazoo. Most recently, in June, he released his first full-length album, *Voyages*, and performed in a music festival of his own design, UNPLAY Festival, which was held across three nights in Brooklyn. Each night was devoted to a different conception of classical music, while the festival as a whole explored the changing role of the musician in contemporary culture.

"I love the work; that's what keeps me committed to performing works that have been around for centuries," says Tao, who in 2011 was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts and last year received the Avery Fisher Career Grant from Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The \$25,000 award is given to instrumental artists for demonstrated excellence and potential.

The liberal arts education he is receiving at the College "made me realize the importance of understanding what

I am doing as a musician, instead of allowing it to be a convenient 'This is just what I'm good at, this is what I do.' That isn't satisfying enough," he says. "It's really important to me that I gain a more critical understanding of what I am doing."

A longing for a "challenging and intellectually stimulating environment" was one reason Tao chose the College; the other was the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange, a cross-registration program that allows students to take lessons at the Juilliard School, where Tao has studied with Veda Kaplinsky since he was 9.



Conrad Tao '15 is an award-winning classical pianist and composer.

PHOTO: RUIMIN WANG

Though his trajectory in the College is somewhat atypical — as a result of his Spring 2012 academic hiatus, he took his first semester of CC before finishing his second semester of Lit Hum — it is nonetheless the most traditional educational experience Tao has had since middle school. He graduated from Indiana University H.S., a distance education program that allowed him to keep a busy performance schedule. "Now there are classrooms and conversations and I am thrilled about that," says Tao, who is

considering a concentration in philosophy or sociology in lieu of a major.

Tao's mother, Minfgang Ting, is a research professor at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and, whenever he is in New York, Tao spends three or four hours a day in his family's apartment practicing on his beloved piano. The instrument originally was purchased for his sister, Connie Tao '11. "It's nice to live close to a piano I have grown up with and feel comfortable with," says Tao.

Though piano is currently his sole musical focus, Tao also is an accomplished violinist and has received recognition for his original classical piano compositions in the form of eight ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards. This fall, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra will premiere a new work by Tao, *The World is Very Different Now*, which he was commissioned to write in observation of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Kaplinsky, who describes Tao's performances as "riveting," marvels at his maturity and drive. "Conrad is one of those people who are born with the focus and mentality of an adult," she says. "His natural musical instincts, his impressive intellect and his pursuit of perfection all contributed to an amazing level of performance as a child, and a continuous upward trajectory through his teens."

Eloquent and articulate, Tao takes none of his success for granted. He wonders, in fact, if he would even be a musician had there not been a piano in the house. "I feel fortunate that things lined up the way they did," he says.

For more on Tao and to see him perform, go to [conradtao.com](http://conradtao.com).

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

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Eric Garcetti '92, '95 SIPA won his bid to become Los Angeles mayor on May 21, defeating city controller Wendy Greuel in a runoff election that ended a race that lasted nearly two years. Garcetti, a city councilman since 2001 who is considered a moderate Democrat, is the son of Gil Garcetti, a former district attorney who became famous for prosecuting O.J. Simpson, and a grandson of Mexican immigrants who trace their roots to Italy. His multicultural heritage is considered an asset in a city as diverse as Los Angeles.

"Los Angeles is ready to put the recession in the rearview mirror and become the city of opportunity that I grew up in once again," Garcetti told his supporters. "It's time for Los Angeles not just to be a big city, but a great city once again."

Four alumni were on the *National Law Journal*'s list of "The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America," released in March: Lanny Breuer '80, '84 SIPA, '85L; Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, '76L; Jay Lefkowitz '84, '87L; and Abbe Lowell '74, '77L. The magazine described its selections as "100 lawyers who shape the legal world through their work in the courtroom, at the negotiating table, in the classroom or in government. They have taken on major legal battles and orchestrated the biggest corporate deals. They've tackled unpopular causes and helped run giant corporations."



Janet Lorin '95, '96J

PHOTO: PETER FOLEY

Janet Lorin '95, '96J and John Hechinger of Bloomberg News won the 2012 George Polk Award for National Reporting for a yearlong series that exposed

abuses in higher education finance. The Polk Awards, presented in 14 categories and administered by Long Island University since their inception in 1949, place a premium on investigative and enterprise reporting and rank among the most coveted honors in journalism.

Vampire Weekend, the all-CC indie rock band of Ezra Koenig '06, Chris Tomson '06, Ros-tam Batmanglij '06 and Chris Baio '07, released its third album, *Modern Vampires of the City*, on May 14, two days after appearing as the musical guest on *Saturday Night Live*. The album, which debuted at No. 1 on the "Billboard 200," has received rave reviews: *USA Today* wrote, "The blending of gospel, Motown and Sun Records adds heft to the band's Upper West Side Soweto-style"; *The New York Times* called the songs "taut and meticu-

lous" and described Vampire Weekend as "a band that packs complex ideas into twisted pop songs"; and *The Washington Post* wrote that the album was "filled with smart, shiny pop songs that showcase an expanding and inventive musical palette," adding that "Vampire Weekend has emerged as one of today's most authentic bands." The band was formed while its members were undergraduates (see [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct), June 2007).

Leon Wieseltier '74, literary editor of *The New Republic*, was among the 2013



Leon Wieseltier '74  
PHOTO: JILL KREMENTZ

winners of the Dan David Prize, which is headquartered at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Prizes of \$1 million are granted by the Dan David Foundation in each of three dimensions — past, present and future — for "innovative and interdisciplinary research that cuts across traditional boundaries and paradigms," according to the foundation website. Wieseltier was one of two winners in the "Present – Ideas, Public Intellectuals and Contemporary Philosophers" category.

The foundation described Wieseltier as "a foremost writer and thinker who confronts and engages with the central issues of our times, setting the standard for serious cultural discussion in the United States." The award was presented at Tel Aviv University on June 9.

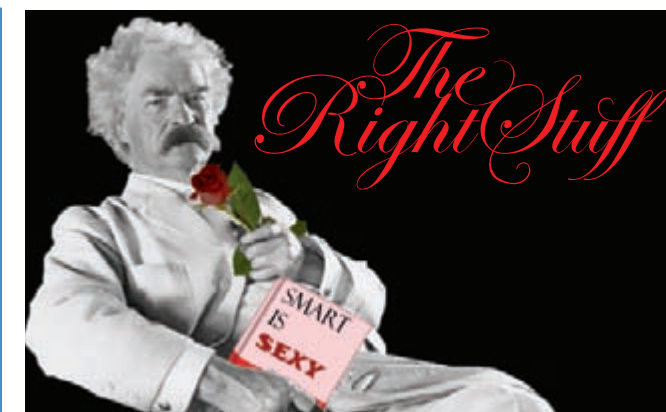
*Farah Goes Bang*, an independent feature film by Laura Goode '06, '08 Arts (writer, producer) and Meera Menon '06 (writer, director) was named a "2013 Official Selection" at the annual Tribeca Film Festival. As director, Menon also won the festival's inaugural Nora Ephron Prize, which came with a cash prize of \$25,000, for "work and talent that embody the spirit and vision" of the late Ephron. The film, which premiered on April 19, was included in the festival's "Viewpoints" category as well as in a special new online division. Goode and Menon met as undergraduates during production of Goode's first play at Lerner Hall's Austin E. Quigley Theatre.

Alex Sachare '71

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# Roar, Lion, Roar

## Baseball Wins 11th Ivy League Crown



Columbia's baseball team celebrates near the pitcher's mound after sweeping Dartmouth to clinch the Ivy League championship.

PHOTO: MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Columbia's baseball team won its second Ivy League championship in six years and 11th title overall, sweeping a doubleheader against Dartmouth at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium on May 4 to capture the 2013 Ivy crown.

Columbia then posted its first win in NCAA tournament play by beating New Mexico 6-5 in 13 innings on June 1. The Lions had scored five runs in the eighth inning to tie the game and won it in the 13th on an RBI single by Nick Cruet '13. Although Columbia was eliminated from the Regionals after losses to host Cal State Fullerton and Arizona State, the Lions finished the season with a 28-21 record and matched their record for most victories in a season, set in 1987.

The Lions won a school-record 16 Ivy League games during the regular season, capturing the Lou Gehrig Division with a 16-4 record. Then they swept Red Rolfe Division champion Dartmouth in the best-of-three playoffs, winning 6-5 in 10 innings in the first game and 12-5 in the second game.

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

"It feels great," pitching ace David Speer '14, who compiled a 6-2 record

and a 2.17 ERA during the regular season, told *Spectator*. "I've been imagining this since the year started — since my playing career started, really. It couldn't be better. Everything we've worked so hard for this year is coming through, finally."

"The guys worked their butts off all year and it's great to see it come to fruition," said coach Brett Boretti, whose team last won the title in 2008 and lost to Dartmouth in the 2010 playoffs.

Speer had 12 strikeouts in the opening game against Dartmouth and reliever Kevin Roy '16 worked his way out of a no-out, bases-loaded jam in the 10th inning without allowing a run before Gus Craig '15 delivered the game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the 10th. Columbia broke the second game open by scoring six runs in the seventh inning, with Ferraresi's two-run double breaking a 5-5 tie and putting the Lions ahead to stay.

By winning the Ivy League title, Columbia became the first team to earn a berth in the NCAA Regionals.

Speer, shortstop Aaran Silbar '14 and outfielder Jordan Serena '15 were named to the All-Ivy first team; pitcher Joey Donino '14, catcher Mike Fischer '14, first baseman Alex Black '13 and designated hitter Joey Falcone '15 GSAS made the second team; and Roy and pitcher Tim Giel '13E received honorable mention.



Coach Brett Boretti accepts the Williams Clarence Matthews Championship Trophy from Matthew Singer of the Ivy League.

PHOTO: MIKE McLAUGHLIN

## Bartnik Leads Lions to First Women's Tennis Title

In two seasons, Columbia's women's tennis team has gone from worst to first.

The Lions, who finished last in the league with a winless record just two years ago, captured a share of the first Ivy League title in school history by sweeping Princeton 7-0 on April 21. Columbia, led by two-time Ivy League Player of the Year Nicole Bartnik '13, finished the season at 6-1 in the Ivies and 13-5 overall, both program bests. Yale shared the crown with Columbia at 6-1 and advanced to the NCAAs by virtue of a 5-2 win over the Lions on April 14.

"In our first meeting of the year, I told the team that we had one and only one goal and that was to win the title," head coach Ilene Weintraub '02 said. "That was the first and last time I ever talked about it or allowed them to speak of it. Instead, we focused on the process and on the little things."

Weintraub added that she told the team that winning a championship "would require tremendous sacrifice on their part and when it happens in the end, then we would celebrate. Today is that day."

Bartnik was undefeated in Ivy singles play for the second consecutive season and earned All-Ivy first team honors for the third consecutive year. She was joined on the All-Ivy first team by Bianca Sanon '14, who earned the honor both in singles and in doubles, with Kanika Vaidya '16. Vaidya earned second team honors in singles, as did Bartnik and her doubles partner, Crystal Leung '15.

"This year, everyone was on the same page and was putting in



Columbia's women's tennis team gathers at the base of Alma Mater to celebrate winning the first Ivy League championship in school history.

PHOTO: GENE BOYARS

100 percent every day — every time they stepped on the court, or every time they went to the weight room," Bartnik said. "It just feels so great to have all your hard work pay off."

Columbia swept four of its Ivy opponents and compiled a 7-0

## Meili, Santos Honored at Varsity C Celebration



Wrestler Steve Santos '13 and swimmer Katie Meili '13 are congratulated by Director of Athletics M. Dianne Murphy upon being presented the Connie S. Maniatty Outstanding Senior Scholar-Athlete Awards.

PHOTO: GENE BOYARS

championships, won seven Ivy titles and was part of three relay championship teams during her College career. She holds three Ivy records and 10 school records — five individual events and five relays. She finished third in the 100 breaststroke at the NCAAs to earn All-America first team status.

Santos, who wrestled at 149 lbs., won the first 15 matches of his senior season and concluded the campaign by becoming Columbia's

swimmer Katie Meili '13 and wrestler Steve Santos '13, both of whom finished third in their events, were presented with the Connie S. Maniatty [43] Outstanding Senior Student-Athlete Awards at the 92nd Varsity C Celebration at Levien Gymnasium on April 30.

Meili, the Most Outstanding Swimmer in the last two Ivy League Cham-

19th individual Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association champion and then placing third in the NCAAs, the highest finish ever for a Columbia wrestler. He was recognized by the website Flo Wrestling as the most improved NCAA Division I wrestler of the 2012-13 season.

The Athletics Alumni Awards were presented to George Van Amson '74 and Ari Brose '84 Barnard. Van Amson, who was a University Trustee from 1996-2008, competed in football and baseball at Columbia. Brose was a distance runner who captained the first women's cross country and track and field teams to compete as Columbia Lions after the establishment of the Columbia-Barnard Athletic Consortium.

## Archery Wins at Nationals

Columbia won the 2013 Archery National Championship, defeating Cal State-Long Beach 7-4 at the U.S. Collegiate Archery Association Outdoor US Intercollegiate Archery Championship event on May 18 in Cedar City, Utah. The Lions received a bye, then beat Atlantic Cape CC 4-0 and James Madison 5-4 to earn its spot in the finals.

In the women's recurve division, Sarah Bernstein '15 Barnard won the individual bronze medal by defeating Cal State-Long Beach's Kalie Sabajo. Bernstein was joined by teammates Tiffany Kim '16 and Grace Kim '15 in the top eight medal finishers to earn both All-American and All-Academic honors.

### CAMPBELL SPORTS CENTER SCOREBOARD

<b>2</b> Times that Nicole Bartnik '13 was named Ivy League Women's Tennis Player of the Year	<b>7</b> Student-athletes named to Phi Beta Kappa	<b>9</b> Baseball student-athletes named All-Ivy League	<b>21</b> Outdoor track and field student-athletes who qualified for the NCAA Track and Field East Regional
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## Class of 2013 Joins Ranks of Alumni

BY ALEX SACHARE '71

Dean James J. Valentini welcomed the 1,169 members of the Class of 2013 into the ranks of Columbia College alumni at Class Day on May 21, saying he had calculated their accomplishments: 1,946,970; 124; and 1. He drew laughs when he explained, "1,946,970 minutes since your very first class on September 9, 2009; 124 credits for graduation; and 1 swim test."

He noted that the graduates swell the ranks of living CC alumni to 47,516 and said, "It is they, now including you, who allow me to say that Columbia College is the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world."

The next day, the members of CC '13 joined some 13,000 other Columbians who officially graduated as President Lee C. Bollinger presided over Commencement. Honored during the ceremony were the 2013 Alumni Medalists, including Stephen L. Buchman '59, '62L; Dr. Marvin M. Lipman '49, '54 P&S; and Ira B. Malin '75, co-chair of the Columbia College Fund.

The Class Day keynote speaker was playwright Terrence McNally '60, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, who recalled spending his first night in New York City sleeping on the sidewalk outside the Mark Hellinger Theatre, waiting for the box office to reopen



Terrence McNally '60, the keynote speaker at Class Day, told the graduates, "Your work is just beginning."

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO

the next morning so he could nab a standing-room ticket to see *My Fair Lady*. "If that didn't make me some kind of an instant New Yorker, I don't know what would," he said.

As for words of advice, he noted, "Good or bad, advice is easy. I don't have a lot for you. Be nicer to people, wash your hands more frequently, count to 100 at least twice before asking someone to marry you. Be useful, keep your word. Re-read that email before you hit the 'send' button. Don't put compromising photos of yourself on Facebook. That's about it."

Also speaking at Class Day were Bollinger, salutatorian Yoshiaki Ko '13 and class president Ryan Mandelbaum '13. In addition, then-Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger presented distinguished class awards, Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis presented academic awards, Columbia College Alumni Association President Kyra Tirana Barry '87 presented alumni awards and prizes, and Senior Fund Chair Maria Sulimirski '13 presented the class gift.

Watch the Class Day and Commencement ceremonies at [totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=columbiacomm](http://totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=columbiacomm). Read McNally's keynote address at [college.columbia.edu/terrencemcnally](http://college.columbia.edu/terrencemcnally). View more photos from Class Day and Commencement at [facebook.com/alumnicc](http://facebook.com/alumnicc).



The 1,169 members of the Class of 2013 celebrated their rite of passage at Class Day and Commencement as they joined the ranks of College alumni. Some sported fanciful decorations on their caps while others wore crowns and carried toy swords. Dean James J. Valentini wore his crown at Commencement when he asked President Lee C. Bollinger to officially grant the seniors their degrees. A highlight of the Class Day processional was the 10th annual Alumni Parade of Classes, where the graduates stood and cheered as alumni marched with their class banners to symbolically welcome them into the alumni community.

PHOTOS: LEFT, SUSAN COOK; ALL OTHERS, EILEEN BARROSO



are borrowed into Polish," says Fuchs, who presented her research at the Annual Conference of the International Linguistic Association, held in April at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn.

Buoyed by her experience as a teaching assistant for two semesters each of "Introduction to Linguistics" and "Introduction to Statistics," which entailed leading review sessions and occasionally lecturing, Fuchs now envisions herself as a linguistics professor. "Seeing [the students'] eyes when they get it — that's the greatest part," says Fuchs, whose father has taught at the University of Detroit Mercy's School of Architecture since she was 8 months old. "When I finish a lecture or a review session, I feel that I won something huge; it's the best feeling."

Fuchs, who split her childhood between her native city of Warsaw, Poland, and Royal Oak, Mich., recalls always wanting to attend an Ivy League school. It was



Zuzanna Fuchs '13  
PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

the Core, however, that ultimately drew her to the College. "A solid base of knowledge in a lot of different areas before specializing — that was really important to me," she says.

Since her sophomore year, Fuchs' main extracurricular pursuit has been the College Group Committee at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The committee, which includes students from the College as well as Barnard, NYU, the Pratt Institute, Hunter College and other NYC schools, plans museum events for fellow college students. As publicity coordinator her senior year, Fuchs helped plan and execute an Andy Warhol-themed event in October 2012 that she proudly says was well attended by Columbians. "It says a lot about the Columbia student body that everyone has varied interests and that the Met brings in everyone,

not just the art majors," she says.

Nathalie Alonso '08

## Alexzander Hudson Raises Awareness of Mental Health Issues

Alexzander "A.J." Hudson '13 can say he was accepted to the College, not once, but twice. Though offered admission the first time he applied, he was unable to enroll due to a last-minute problem and matriculated at The George Washington University. A year later, on a whim, he reapplied to the College and was thrilled to be among the small number of transfer students — less than 10 percent — accepted each year.

"I wanted the most challenging city in the world and the most challenging school in the world and they are both here," says Hudson.

The Indianapolis native made the most of his second chance at a College education. Honored as a Senior Marshal, Hudson majored in psychology with a concentration in sociology — "I love understanding how thoughts work, how they are processed and where certain things arise in the brain," he says — and was among the 10 percent of the graduating class initiated into Phi Beta Kappa.

In October 2011, Hudson helped start a Columbia chapter of Active Minds, a national nonprofit that raises awareness about mental health among college students. "Our programming revolves around explaining the common mental illnesses that are in the popular dialect, which people don't know as much about as they think they do," says Hudson, who also joined the University's NAACP chapter upon arriving in the College. This year, Hudson was recognized for his extracurricular efforts with the King's Crown Leadership Ex-

cellence Award in health and wellness from Columbia Student Affairs, which recognizes students who "exemplify the spirit of caring for and about the members of our vast and diverse community."

Hudson's fascination with the human mind led him to pursue several psychology research opportunities in his senior year. With funding from the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, he took a role as a research assistant at the Earth Institute's Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED). His initial task was to review "The Psychology of Climate Change Communication," the center's guide on how to effectively inform the public of issues such as global warming. Hudson now is conducting independent research at CRED on the motivating factors behind prosocial behaviors such as recycling. Since October, he also has recruited subjects for a study at the Mailman School of Public Health that examines the use of mobile dating applications among gay men.

This fall Hudson will begin a stint as a science teacher at a public middle school in Brooklyn through Teach For America. He hopes to enter a Ph.D. program in which he can study the intersection of psychology and education. "I want to get some perspective and I feel there's a lot I can learn by teaching at a middle school," says Hudson, whose long-term goal is to "pursue social policy for education using psychology research."

Nathalie Alonso '08



Alexzander "A.J." Hudson '13  
PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

## Eric Kutscher Plots Path To Opening AIDS Clinic

Eric Kutscher '13 was struggling with how to integrate his love of biology, health, humanities and human sciences until he traveled to Africa during his junior year to study sexual health.

In Kenya, Kutscher, a history major with a concentration in African studies, lived with a family, studied Swahili and conducted field research on male circumcision and HIV risk in the Luo tribe. He walked throughout Kisumu, a port city, conducting surveys and discussing perceptions of circumcision with male residents.

"Circumcision is against the Luo culture, but western campaigns funding male circumcision there have been very successful," he says. "I wanted to find out exactly why so many men were lining up to get circumcised."

Kutscher discovered that Luo men believe circumcision leads to more pleasure and that it also increases condom use, lowering HIV/AIDS risk. The project showed Kutscher that he could merge the social and biological sciences and led to a dream: getting an M.D. and an M.P.H., then starting an HIV/AIDS clinic in New York City.

Kutscher ascribes his interest in Africa to two classes he took to satisfy the Global Core requirement, "Major Debates in the Study of Africa" and "Africa in Cinema." His interest in sexual health was more personal: In 2011, Kutscher was rejected from donating blood in NYC because he identified as a gay male.

"After this incident, I became fascinated by the public health policies around AIDS," he says. "It got me really interested in the idea of 'acceptable risk.'"



Eric Kutscher '13  
PHOTO: STELLA GIRKINS '15

Kutscher honed this interest during his junior year through classes at the Mailman School of Public Health. He also participated in The Hertog Global Strategy Initiative, a summer program in the history department that in 2011 focused on "The History and Future of Pandemic Threats and Global Public Health."

The following summer, after returning from Kenya, Kutscher interned in the policy department of Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), but he missed the interaction with patients that he had in Kenya and realized his interests would be best applied as a doctor. So six days after graduation, he will start at Goucher College's one-year Post-Baccalaureate Premed Program. From there, he hopes to attend medical school to study infectious disease and open his clinic.

"What I would want to be unique about my clinic is the quality of care. By mixing a private infectious disease practice where patients receive top-notch care with a general STI and HIV clinic, I think the ease in which someone can come to one place and get everything done will increase," he says. "Likewise,

it brings people from all backgrounds to the same center ... decreasing the stigma against HIV/AIDS."

Even in his final College days, Kutscher did not take time off. He volunteered as a peer advocate at Columbia's Gay Health Advocacy Project and as an HIV tester and counselor at GMHC. His recently completed thesis on the history of public policy and gay bathhouses in San Francisco and New York City received the history department's Garrett Mattingly Prize.

Stella Girkins '15

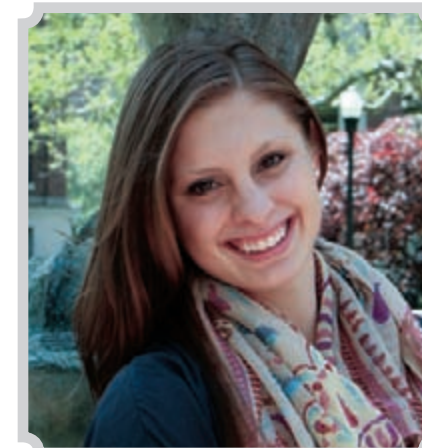
## Swimmer Katie Meili Aims for 2016 Olympics

Katie Meili '13 might have been in the 2012 Summer Olympics. But 20 days before the Olympic Team Trials, on June 1, 2012, the record-breaking Columbia swimmer broke her hand during a meet warm-up.

She opted for surgery over a cast so she could get back in the water in only a few days. And while she didn't make it to the Olympics, and considers the injury her most trying moment, she often reminds herself how lucky she was just to compete.

Despite the setback, Meili plans to pursue professional swimming after graduation. This summer, she will compete to join the USA Swimming National Team. If she makes it, she might have another shot at the Olympics in 2016.

"It's hard to think about the Olympics because it's just a long time and a lot of things can happen between now and then," Meili says. "But I'm definitely training in the summer. Once you start swimming, you're in it for the long run."



Katie Meili '13  
PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

Raised in small-town Colleyville, Texas, Meili started swimming competitively at 8. She followed in the footsteps of her older sister, who, she says, "would never let me win." With passions for art and theatre, Meili always wanted to move to a big city. And since arriving at the College, she hasn't lost momentum in the pool.

This academic year alone, Meili won first place in the Ivy League Championships in three events — the 100-yard breaststroke, the 200-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard individual medley — as well as placed third in the National Collegiate Athletic Association for the 100-yard breaststroke and competed in both the Olympic Team Trials and the U.S. Open Swimming Championships. Her 200-yard individual medley record outpaces Cristina Teuscher '00, a 1996 Olympic gold medalist and the University's best-known swimmer.

Meili loves to win, loves to race and is willing to make sacrifices to be successful. "People have told me that they have never seen someone as competitive as I am," says

Meili. "I often go 40–50 days at a time without taking a day off. ... As you get older, you learn to push your body in different ways. You can push your limits and see how far you can go."

That's not to say that everything has been smooth sailing. Waking up for 6 a.m. practice every day, committing time to train and travel for meets, all while taking five or six courses at a time was exhausting, Meili says. But she attributes most of her success to her coaches and teammates.

"I always say that if I hadn't come to Columbia, I wouldn't have gotten this good at swimming," she said. "It was definitely

hard when all your friends are going out, and they can stay up as late as they want, and they can eat whatever they want ... when I had to go to bed because I was exhausted or I had practice the next morning ... It's a hard sacrifice when you are going through it, but it's so worth it in the end."

[Editor's note: Another senior has set her sights on the 2016 Olympics. Read about rower Nikki Bourassa '13 at [college.columbia.edu/ct](http://college.columbia.edu/ct); click on Web Extras.]

Grace Lee '14 PH

## Gerard Ramm Studies His Native American Heritage

With the support of the College's Henry Evans Travelling Fellowship, Gerard Ramm '13 will devote several months immediately after graduation to exploring his Native American heritage.

Ramm, a registered member of the Quapaw tribe, will live with relatives in Quapaw, Okla., while studying the tribe's language with an elder. He also will assess online Quapaw language databases, which he hopes to expand. "I want to learn the Quapaw language as fluently as possible," says Ramm, who claims tribal ascendancy through his father. "Many Native American languages are in dire threat of extinction."

Ramm's desire to strengthen and preserve the Quapaw language stems from the independent summer research he conducted with funding from an earlier fellowship, the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, awarded each spring to five sophomore minority students with the goal of preparing them for doctoral study. Fellows meet faculty, learn about the process of choosing and applying to Ph.D. programs and receive yearly stipends and summer research funding for the remainder of their College careers. Ramm spent summer 2011 in Quapaw, simultaneously studying and helping to organize his tribe's yearly powwow, which he fondly recalls witnessing as a child. Then, last summer, he attended the Dhegiha Gathering in Quapaw, which brings together speakers and teachers of the Dhegiha family of indigenous languages. "I was exposed to the ways people teach and learn language and the stakes for language revitalization and survival," says Ramm.

An English and comparative literature major, Ramm wrote



Gerard Ramm '13  
PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

his senior thesis on the treatment of Native American figures in contemporary American literature. "There is a lot of Native American literature that gets overlooked in curricula and a lot of Native American traces and symbolism that get overlooked in contemporary literary criticism," Ramm says. "How we deal with the presence of indigenous figures in the larger transnational literary canon is interesting to me."

Ramm, who felt alienated from his Native American roots while growing up in Old Saybrook, Conn., is grateful to the College for enabling him to explore his personal history in an academic setting. "Coming here was an opportunity to rediscover a lot of issues," he says. "There are a lot of resources here, a lot of Native American students and Native American events and professors from whom I learned."

While Ramm, a Junior Phi Beta Kappa inductee, chose the College for its academic reputation and location, he also sought a school where he could nurture his lifelong passion for music and theatre. He played the saxophone with the Columbia University Jazz Ensemble and appeared in several

plays with the Barnard theatre department. His most enjoyable portrayal, however, was Bottom in the King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe's spring 2012 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "It's a huge comedic part and it was so much fun," recalls Ramm.

During the next year, Ramm plans to apply to graduate programs in either literature or Native American studies. "My goal is to bring perspectives on Native American culture and politics into a discourse of current cultural studies," he says.

Nathalie Alonso '08

## Pre-Med Ashley Shaw Connects Students with Elderly Patients

The elderly nun, a resident at ArchCare at Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center (TCC) in New York City, was quickly declining. A once-gregarious teacher, she had lapsed into near silence by the time Ashley Shaw '13 delivered an envelope in July 2012.

"She held my hand and gripped it," recalls Shaw, a pre-med student who was then interning at the extended care facility for the terminally and chronically ill. "I asked if she wanted me to open the envelope for her. She indicated that she did. A friend

had sent her \$5 to buy a Diet Coke — she loved Diet Coke. I remember the sort-of smile on her face. I sat with her for an hour or more, in silence, just holding her hand."

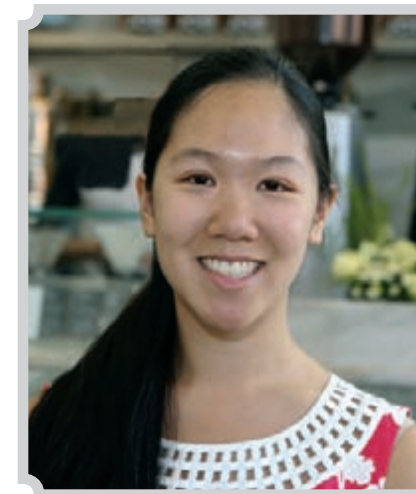
Such experiences had prompted Shaw to start the volunteer At Your Service program, which connects Columbia students with elderly TCC residents to provide long-term companionship for those nearing the end of life. With grants from the Columbia College Alumni and Parent Internship Fund and the Work Exemption Program, Ashley devoted summer 2012 to laying the

groundwork for At Your Service. Now, each semester approximately 30 College and post-baccalaureate students devote four hours a week to TCC, two of which are spent engaging residents in recreational activities.

"TCC could really benefit from extra hands and extra people to talk to residents who might not have many friends or family who visit," says Shaw. "And there was also the need of pre-med students [at Columbia] who yearned for meaningful patient interaction."

Shaw, who majored in biology with a concentration in art history, became involved with TCC during summer 2011 through an internship offered by the Earth Institute Center for the Study of Science and Religion. She has accepted post-graduation employment at TCC and hopes to enroll in medical school in fall 2014.

In addition to palliative care, Shaw is interested in adolescent medicine as a result of her involvement with Peer Health Exchange, a national teen-oriented health education organization. During the last four years, through the organization's



Ashley Shaw '13  
PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

Barnard/Columbia chapter, Shaw has taught more than 45 health workshops in public high schools throughout New York City. As a senior, Shaw also was president of the Columbia University American Medical Students Association – Premedical Chapter and community adviser for McBain residence hall.

The Torrance, Calif., native chose the College for the opportunity to live in New York City, a decision she relishes every time she escapes to Lincoln Center to catch a performance by the New York City Ballet.

A dancer herself since she was 4, Shaw sees a direct connection between her love of art and her work at TCC. "A lot of people at the end of life start to think about what makes life meaningful. Learning about art and what has inspired people to make art throughout the ages — whether it is religion, politics or just the need for expression — is what makes life meaningful. I feel those two areas of my studies are congruent and complementary."

Nathalie Alonso '08

## Devyn Tyler Juggles Interests in French and Acting

By the time Devyn Tyler '13 enrolled in the College, she had landed minor roles in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett, and *The Great Debaters*, directed by Denzel Washington. For the past four years, however, her film career has been largely on hold in favor of a degree in French and Francophone studies.

Since the Spring 2011 semester, Tyler has had the support of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, awarded each year to five sophomores of under-represented minorities who are interested in and demonstrate potential for doctoral study and professorial careers. Fellows meet faculty and graduate students in various fields, learn about the process of applying to graduate school and receive financial support and research training for the duration of their College careers. "It took me from being a sophomore, not knowing what a Ph.D. was or why it mattered, [to having it] explained to me, not only what it is, but also why it's important and how I can get there," Tyler says of the program.

Tyler, who plans to pursue a Ph.D. in French, credits the course "Major Debates in the Study of Africa" with broadening her view of the French-speaking world and French colonialism. "I realized I could go to many different places and understand many different histories," she says.

After spending the Fall 2011 semester in Paris through the Columbia-Penn Program at Reid Hall, Tyler became a peer adviser in the Office of Global Programs, where she was a resource for fellow students pondering study abroad in the French capital. This

past semester she co-taught an extracurricular French course to middle schoolers at the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change in Harlem, where she had her students research a French-speaking country. "That wide, diasporic view of the world that French gave me and that made me so excited in college — I wanted to expose them to that," she says.

Tyler first studied French at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, the city her family relocated to when her native New Orleans was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Tyler, who had just started high school in New Orleans, evacuated ahead of the storm and, despite seeing the destruction on television, was initially resistant to starting over in a new state. "I was forced to, because we couldn't go back home," she says. "Even if we did go back, our house wasn't going to be there."

Tyler's transition to the College was smoother; she knew she wanted to go to Columbia from the moment she first visited the Morningside campus as a high school student. "When I saw it I thought, 'That must be what college is.' It was my first 'picture' of college," she says.

After graduation, Tyler, who played Mariana in the King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe's Spring 2010 production of *Measure for Measure*, plans to take time off from academia to pursue acting more intensely. "I'm going to take at least a year to get back into the film industry and theatre and get artistically productive again," she says.

Nathalie Alonso '08



Devyn Tyler '13  
PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN

# The College Connection

*Alumni and students forge meaningful bonds  
across disciplines and generations*

BY ALEXIS TONTI '11 ARTS



Alumni and students mingle in Low Rotunda at Media Networking Night on March 11.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

On a Saturday afternoon last June, 70-plus incoming students — along with their family and friends — attended a Summer Advising session in Alfred Lerner Hall. After greetings and informational remarks by administrators and alumni, copies of *The Iliad* were handed from alumnus/a to student, one by one, in a ceremonial welcome to the Columbia community. “You could see the enthusiasm on their faces,” Ganesh Betanabhatla '06 says of the incoming students. “But I could also see people were nervous. It brought me back to how I felt, embarking on that journey, having so many different thoughts and questions.”

On his way out, Betanabhatla stopped by a group of six or seven students and introduced himself. They ventured a few questions — about the city and college and even life after college. He chatted for a few minutes, then gave each his business card and

promised to be responsive if they contacted him.

Among those students was Nikhil Nayar '16. A few weeks later, back home in Yardley, Pa., Nayar began putting together his Fall class schedule. As his thoughts turned to majors and possible career paths, he went to the Center for Career Education (CCE) website to scroll through alumni profiles and immediately recognized Betanabhatla. Nayar's curiosity about finance made Betanabhatla, who works for a New York-based investment firm, a natural go-to. A few emails later, they arranged to meet for brunch near Union Square.

“It was a great experience,” Nayar says. “Basically he gave me an intro to what Columbia was, and what the experience was like. He got me very excited about coming here.”

Importantly, Betanabhatla also drew out some of Nayar's other interests.

“When he realized I was interested in tech startups,” Nayar recalls, “he said, ‘You're going to have a lot of time to think about your career; make sure you consider all of your options.’ And there

are times when we've met since then that he's reiterated that idea. It really affected my freshman year and the choices I made. I was more open to considering different things when I was choosing clubs; I joined the entrepreneurship club [Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs] early on, and since then it's become an important part of my Columbia experience.” He adds that he'll be on the executive board, as treasurer, next year.

Betanabhatla believes strongly in this type of informal meeting with students.

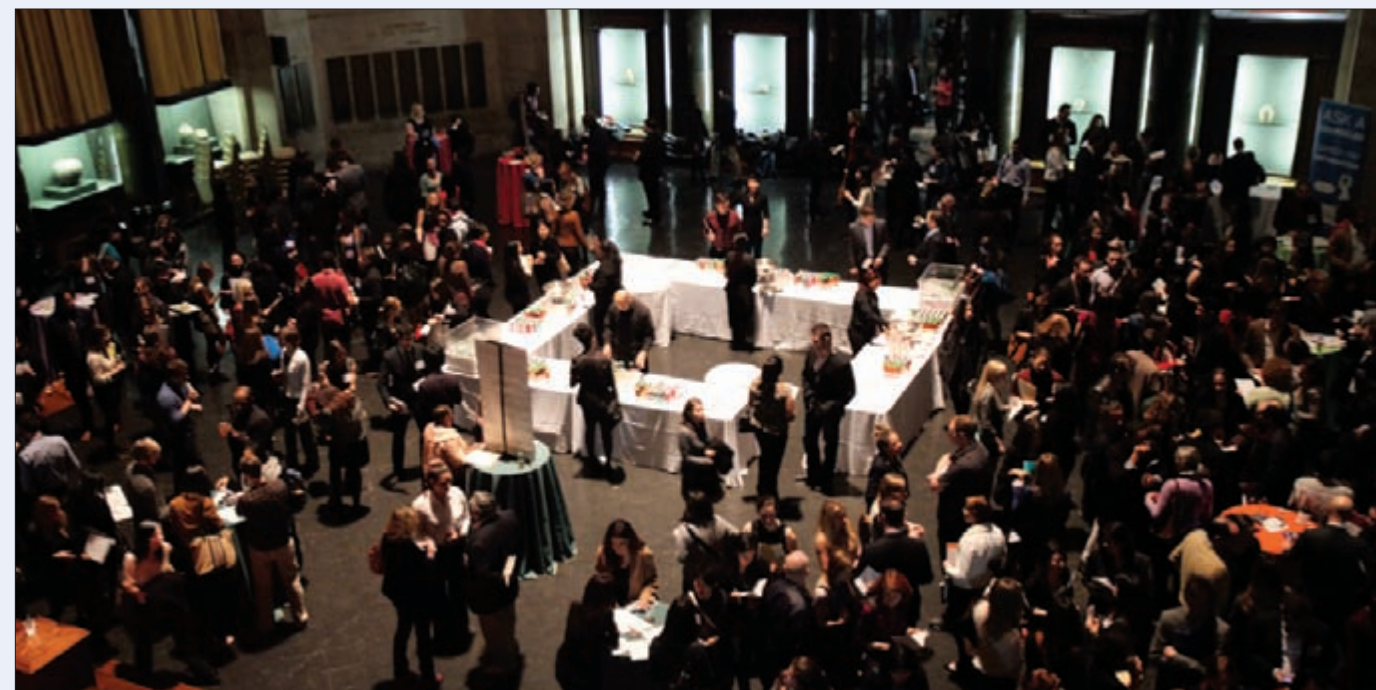
“I pay for breakfast and talk about whatever students want to talk about,” he says. “Unless you ask, you never know the answer to things: ‘Do you know someone who can help me? I'm thinking about journalism.’ or ‘Do you know someone who can help in human rights?’ They discover the concept of a network and the power of the community that they belong to.

“To say that student-alumni interaction is important is under-selling it,” Betanabhatla adds. “It's an essential or critical part of the

the overarching mission is the same: to enrich the student experience, strengthen alumni ties to the College and in general bridge the gap between life as a student and life after graduation.

“Our 47,500 highly accomplished alumni are one of the greatest resources the College has and I am grateful that they are eager to share their experience and expertise with our current students,” says James J. Valentini, dean of the College and vice president for undergraduate education. “The intergenerational community is a key part of the Columbia College experience. Alumni help students imagine career paths and envision life after Class Day, and current students, in turn, provide alumni an opportunity to relive their time on campus. We all benefit from this alumni-student relationship.”

The opportunities for connection take many forms, from career-related programs to mentorships to community-building activities. While one office usually takes the organizational lead, programs more often than not are the result of staff members



Media Networking Night has proven to be extremely popular, with students and alumni filling Low Rotunda.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

undergraduate experience. One of the unique elements of the CC undergraduate education is having access to general life mentors or professional, career-oriented mentors who are a subway ride away. It's embodied in the name of our school: Columbia University in the City of New York. That prepositional phrase says a lot.”

Intergenerational interaction is becoming a definitive part of the Columbia College experience. While alumni-student relationships can grow from less formal encounters, the shift in large part reflects the effort of the College and many of its units, including CCE, Columbia Student Affairs, Columbia Undergraduate Admissions and the Columbia College Office of Alumni Affairs and Development (CCAAD). Working on their own and in partnership with each other and alumni groups — such as the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) and the Columbia Alumni Association — staff members have developed an array of programming to increase and enhance the quality of engagement among students and alumni. Specific goals vary from one program to the next, but

throughout the College pooling expertise and resources.

CCE spearheads the Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Student Internship Program (see page 30), Columbia Exploration Extension program, Columbia College Dinner & Discussion Series, Media Networking Nights and more. Student Affairs also tailors programs toward professional subjects, from industry-specific panel presentations such as Doctor in the House, Legally Speaking and MBA Marketplace, to lecture series such as CSA Talks, which provides a platform for people “with experiences worth sharing.”

Student Affairs also oversees programs in conjunction with the Alumni Office. These include the Dean-in-Residence Dinner and Discussion Program at the Living-Learning Center — the College's all-class integrated residential community — where Cristen Scully-Kromm, assistant dean for community development and residential programs, hosts an intimate, monthly dinner with an alumnus/a for LLC students. There's also the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day and Convocation, which reinforces and celebrates Columbia bonds.

The Alumni Office additionally puts students in contact with alumni through events such as the Dean's Scholarship Reception and the Columbia College Senior Dessert Reception. The former gives scholarship recipients and scholarship donors (and/or their representatives) the chance to meet. Sponsors learn about students' paths to Columbia and lives at the College as well as their plans for the future; students learn about donors' experiences as undergraduates and their professional endeavors. The latter, held for the first time this spring, brought seniors together with members of Columbia College Young Alumni to learn about the opportunities to engage with the Columbia community after graduation, both in NYC and through regional and international alumni clubs.

The Alumni Office also collaborates closely with Columbia College Women, whose mission is to create networks within the alumnae and student communities while building on the legacy of women at the College. CCW's flagship activity is its mentoring program, begun in 1993, which connects alumnae with female

months later, during the send-off reception he hosted with his wife, Anita Vela-Johnson '83 Barnard, he made a point of collecting their email addresses.

"I'd seen and interviewed dozens of students during the last 14 years but what I hadn't done was make that connection afterward," says Salas, who also is president of the Columbia University Club of San Antonio. "I thought, I don't want to lose them anymore — once you're admitted, you're [on your way toward becoming] an alum, and part of the alumni network — and that's something I really want to develop going forward."

While in NYC in October, Salas gathered the entire group for dinner at V&T Pizzeria. "They'd never been," he recalls with a laugh. "I said, 'How can you have been here for a semester and not been?' So I got to introduce them to that. But what I really wanted to know from them was, 'How's it going?'"

Kelly Echevarria '16 and Matthew Sheridan '16E were among the seven. "Simon was great at interacting with all of us on an



Elliot Sloane '83 spoke with a group of students at a Dinner & Discussion Series event on March 4.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

undergraduates in one-on-one matches. This year, there were 175 matches. "The program is not meant for the students to find a job," says Michelle Estilo Kaiser '87, '97 P&S, co-chair of the CCW Mentoring Committee, "although that's first and foremost on their minds. And certainly the relationship is different for everyone; there's chemistry involved. But we hope both parties get something out of it that's really valuable, even if it's just one conversation that sticks in their mind."

For some students, relationships with alumni are forged even before they begin their first year. Through the work of the Alumni Representative Committee (ARC), many high school seniors meet alumni during interviews, through welcome receptions for accepted students or at send-off receptions for those who decide to attend.

Simon Salas '79, '83L, '83 SIPA, who chairs the San Antonio/South Texas Valley region for ARC, had a particularly meaningful experience last year. Of the eight students who attended his welcome reception in Spring 2012, seven chose Columbia. Several

individual basis as well as in a group," Echevarria says. "I could tell that he was concerned that we were doing OK and getting through freshman year. He called a few weeks later to check up and to ask about others in the group ... and asked us to make sure they were doing OK. That's what I really appreciated about him."

Echevarria continues: "I love having the relationship with him that I do. If ever I need anything, I can talk to him and he's always looking out for us. A lot of things at Columbia are stressful and career-focused and everyone's looking for alumni relationships to get a job — but it's nice to have this casual, general support relationship, more of a family-type relationship than one that's based on getting ahead or getting into the job market."

Sheridan echoes the sentiment: "It was cool to know that he was looking after our well-being, and to be able to tell our friends, 'Oh, we're going to meet 'our alum.' They all wished they had someone like that from their cities. ... Simon had given me advice not to sign up for so many classes, which I'd ignored — and then got slammed and had to drop one. But I was able to tell him, 'You were right.'"

Addressing more broadly the value of students speaking one on one with alumni, Salas says: "When you see an alum who has been out of Columbia for five, 10, however many years, and they're successful and they have interesting jobs, you see the possibilities. Yes, the alumni are emissaries [for the College] but it's more than that — it's about showing here's what life can be. You can read about people's accomplishments and that's great, but when you meet someone and talk to them, and they're articulate and accomplished, the student says, 'That can be me.'"

**H**elping students to see a pathway — or rather, to see many pathways — is a central goal of the career-oriented programs that take place throughout the year. These run the spectrum from large-room lectures, to networking events, to small group dinners. While the backdrop varies, alumni speakers often hew to the same model: They describe their careers and the forces that shaped them, illuminate

advertising, newspapers and more.

Off-campus, two dozen students attended a CCE panel discussion at Bloomberg headquarters in Midtown. Hosted by Janet Lorin '95, '96J, the panelists included journalists John Brecher '73; Robert E. Friedman '69, '71 GSAS; Jared Sandberg '90; and Nick Summers '05 (all of the panelists but Sandberg are former editors-in-chief of *Spectator*). The panelists described their career paths, stressing the value of a broad liberal arts education for journalists, then answered students' questions, staying afterward to chat more casually with individual students.

Other destinations for CCE-sponsored site visits included Bloomingdale's, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the headquarters of Major League Baseball.

CCE's Columbia Exploration Externship program, which matches first-year students with alumni in an array of industries for a three- to five-day job-shadowing experience during Spring Break, also took place in March. Among this year's participants



(Left to right) Hooman Mehran '86, Rick Wolf '86 and Mark Berman '86 proudly carry their class banner in this year's Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day.

PHOTO: SUSAN COOK

what it means to work in their industry and field questions from students on matters both professional and personal.

A survey of March and April alone illustrates the variety. The CSA Talks series welcomed Li Lu '96, '96L, '96 Business, a leader of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and chairman and founder of Himalaya Capital, and Jodi Kantor '96, a *New York Times* reporter and author of *The Obamas*. The Columbia College Dinner & Discussion Series featured Elliot Sloane '83, founder and CEO of the communications firm Sloane & Company, and David Feith '09, an editor with *The Wall Street Journal* and chairman of Citizenship First. And the Dean-in-Residence Dinner and Discussion Program brought in actress and Barnard theatre professor Rita Piropinto-Kitt '93, '96 Arts; she spoke about breaking into show business as well as her experiences with the Tony Award-winning play *Next to Normal*, written by her husband, Tom Kitt '96, and Brian Yorkey '93. There also was a Media Networking Night, which allowed students to chat with alumni who work in film, television, marketing,

were Shen Qiu '16 and Albert Pan '16, who worked with Venture for America COO Eileen Lee '05. (The nonprofit trains and places top college graduates at start-ups around the country to give them experience in the world of entrepreneurship.) The last day of their externship coincided with an especially big day for VFA — the final selection of its 2013 fellows — and Qiu and Pan were greeting candidates, observing group interview sessions and taking photographs. In the process, they'd read applications of many of the fellowship candidates, themselves college seniors. Earlier in the week, the two had, on their own initiative, conducted interviews with nine of the 10 VFA staff members to learn more about their backgrounds as well as their positions with the company.

Reflecting on the externship, Pan says, "I had a lot of upperclassmen telling me, this is what you have to do to get into investment banking, and I was pretty set to do all the steps. But now it got me thinking about all the diverse possibilities — like during my summers I don't have to intern at a bank ... Talking to a lot

of people, finding out about their experiences and seeing other people's resumes, it's really like wow, there are so many more options out there. [You can] live your life and try to do interesting things other than just following the generic path."

Of the VFA staffers in particular, Qiu says, "The more interesting part is their personal story, their motivations and inspirations, and how to plan your college life and career. We heard that some of them, for example, went to [a big banking company] and then quit after a year because it was boring or tedious to work in a huge company where you're only functional. We were surprised to hear that, even though the name is prestigious, it's not very challenging or meaningful for intellectual people to work there."

He adds that the experience opened up his and Pan's thinking about the future: "Should we work in those huge-name companies or should we do something like entrepreneurship or a business that we like, like an NGO or nonprofit? It's very inspiring."

For Lee, who has worked for VFA for 2½ years, Qiu and Pan

when you are young you have to depend on alumni for opportunities, and when you are old you offer opportunities back to the University, which is really good. It's a win-win effect, because you get something and then you give back."

**S**peaking with alumni about the reasons they get involved with students underscores this idea of a community in action — one whose members help each other in the ways that they can, when they can, and also enjoy that sense of building and belonging to something greater than themselves.

"Above all else Columbia is a community of people. Through our interactions with one another, we have created a unique opportunity for students and alumni to learn, grow and pursue knowledge throughout our lives," says Kyra Tirana Barry '87, president of the CCAA. "Students benefit from the wisdom and guidance alumni provide, while alumni are enriched and energized by the new ideas, enthusiasm and talents that students bring to the table.



Janet Lorin '95, '96J hosted a panel on journalism at Bloomberg headquarters in Midtown on April 4 that featured (left to right) Nick Summers '05, Jared Sandberg '90, John Brecher '73 and Robert Friedman '69, '71 GSAS.

PHOTO: PETER FOLEY

had just the experience she was hoping for. "I thought I only had four options coming out of school," she says. "It was either investment banking, consulting, law or medicine. And so I went into consulting ... [I liked] the idea of being able to expose two freshmen to something other than that, and the idea of trying to make an impact on somebody."

The students also spoke to the value of connecting with Lee herself.

"We can relate on a lot of different levels even though she graduated 10 years before," Pan says. "She was asking us, 'Do you go to these restaurants, these places?' and I said, 'Yeah, I do!' She's been really helpful and down to earth. Before, I would have been hesitant to reach out to people, but now it's given me a different perspective on how they're just willing to be there."

Qiu adds, "I'm from China and in Chinese universities people don't have a very strong connection with alumni. Here we have an Alumni Center and it's a very dynamic relationship, because

Alumni are able to share in students' journeys — once again experiencing intellectual wonders and professional pursuits, while enjoying the growing stature of a Columbia College degree."

Jerry Sherwin '55, who is among the College's most active alumni, echoes the sentiment: "Participating in student-alumni programs has made for the most rewarding experiences I have been involved with over the past many years. It has made me feel like I have never left the school."

Pietropinto-Kitt, who as a senior was the student representative on the Board of Directors of the CCAA, recalls the value of her own early experiences with alumni. "It certainly was a direct connection with what the alumni community was after graduation, which I found very comforting, because I didn't want to leave. I was so happy here. It was a very nice bridge for me to see that there was this big network, and I relied on people like Jerry Sherwin and Brian Krisberg ['81, '84L] and Lisa Landau [Carnoy '89], all of these alumni who were just always there to give advice. They weren't

necessarily in the arts but they were certainly life mentors, which was really important."

Rick Wolf '86, in concert with the Alumni Office, began a tradition of alumni-hosted Thanksgiving dinners for students who can't make it home for the holiday. "Part of what drove me is that I had almost no relationships with alumni as a student," says Wolf, who invited students to his Scarsdale, N.Y., home for several years. "It's an attempt to contribute to building a community and helping these students see that when they get out, they're part of a larger community of alumni and that they should be contributing the same way."

Brett Bernstein '84, who also has hosted the dinner, says, "Giving money for some people is easy, and for others it's a stretch. This is another way of giving support that's meaningful. Hopefully it makes students feel good and comfortable and that Columbia truly is more of a community."

Both spoke to the fun of meeting such a diverse group of stu-

the various questions I thought about as a student."

He adds, "As I think about the greatest inflection points of my life, there's normally someone from the Columbia alumni world who came before me who has mentored me or provided me with transformational advice and altered my perspective on things in a way that I hadn't thought possible."

Betanabhatla cites his relationship with Adam Beshara '96, '04 Business as an example. The two met when Betanabhatla was a junior and Beshara was leading JP Morgan's investment banking recruitment effort on campus. Beshara became Betanabhatla's main point of alumni contact both during recruitment and after graduation, once he started with the company.

"On the career end, those first few years are challenging from a physical, mental and emotional standpoint, in terms of hanging in," Betanabhatla says. "There was comfort in having a Columbia alum at the bank who knew what I was doing there, who knew what I was going through, who could be there with



Li Lu '96, '96L, '96 Business, an investment banker who is the founder and chairman of Himalaya Capital Management, spoke with students at a CSA Talks event on March 28.

PHOTO: KATHERINE CUTLER

dents. "Some of them are quite inspiring as to how they got to college and what they've overcome," says Wolf. "They're a uniquely impressive bunch of students — all very intelligent, very driven, much more poised than I was at that age — by miles." He laughs. "It's nice to see who's at the College these days and to feel that connection to the school when you host."

Betanabhatla, who has met with a number of students in addition to Nayar, says that alumni-student relationships are among the things he valued most when he was a student as well as now, as an alumnus: "I love being part of the Columbia family — getting to know students and learn about their interests and I hope, in some way, be helpful as they think about

advice and point me in the right direction. I talk to him to this day about career choices."

Betanabhatla adds that when his older brother passed away in 2008, "Adam was there to say, 'I understand you're an ambitious kid but there are some things that are more important than your job.' He talked to me about balance and family. He said you have to do these things. He understood who I was and the parts of Columbia that had shaped me and were in me. He was just a great mentor — personally and professionally."

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

## Get Involved

- For information about interviewing prospective students through the Alumni Representative Committee, go to [undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/alumni/resources](http://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/alumni/resources).
- To help students with career preparation or to sponsor an internship or externship, go to [careereducation.columbia.edu/alumni/opportunities](http://careereducation.columbia.edu/alumni/opportunities).
- To find out about Columbia College Women and other student-alumni programs, go to [college.columbia.edu/alumni/getinvolved](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/getinvolved).



# CCASSIP Provides Hands-On Experience

*Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Student Internship Program pairs alumni with students for mutual benefit*

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

**W**hen Dr. Thomas Nero Jr. '89 was an undergraduate, the philosophy-religion major wasn't sure what career path he would pursue. The summer between his sophomore and junior years, exploring an interest in medicine, he interned with Dr. George Hashim '67 GSAS, a professor at the Medical School studying autoimmune disease. "It was a transformative experience, and convinced me I could go to medical school," says Nero, now a cardiologist in private practice in Stamford, Conn.

Never having forgotten his pivotal internship, Nero contacted the College about 1½ years ago seeking to provide a similar experience for today's College students. The timing was perfect. He was told about a program set to debut in summer 2012: the Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Student Internship Program (CCASSIP). Nero happily signed up to take on a student intern, and Ruth Angrand '13, an art history major and volunteer with the Columbia University Emergency Medical Service, landed the opportunity.

As opposed to a research internship or shadowing experience, the CCASSIP internship was very hands-on, Angrand says. She helped Nero organize an event to train lay people in CPR and

also worked with his patients, interviewing them, taking their vitals and sitting in during consultations and procedures.

"I had a vague inclination to be an ER doctor, and I've completely changed because of the internship. Now I want to be a cardiologist," Angrand says. "Dr. Nero was such a great mentor and doctor, by the end of the summer I pretty much wanted to do what he does."

CCASSIP is the result of a partnership between the Columbia University Center for Career Education (CCE) and the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) to provide work experience and career mentoring for students. Alumni sponsors arrange for internships at their workplaces; CCE supplies the students with training and follow-up, including goal-setting workshops and tips on getting the most out of an internship. In addition, students attend social and networking events organized by CCE for all CCASSIP participants and, at the end of the summer, each submits a project, in the format of their choosing, about their experience. Some created blogs recording their work experiences; others submitted a letter, essay or photo essay.

CCE works with the Alumni Office to identify potential alumni sponsors. A committee of volunteers led by Jonathan Sobel '88 and Kyra Tirana Barry '87 then reaches out to prospects on an individual basis; potential sponsors also receive a letter from Dean James J. Valentini, describing the program and encouraging their participation. "This program has and will continue to build upon existing alumni engagement in student career development," says Kavita Sharma, dean of CCE.

"I found internships to be extremely helpful in guiding my early career choices and believe that it is my job to help current students so that they too are able to make educated decisions about their career paths," says Stacy Rotner '99, corporate responsibility manager at the law firm Sidley Austin in New York; Rotner was an alumni sponsor both last year and this year. "CCASSIP provides invaluable opportunities for students while it helps to build and strengthen the Columbia College community."

Last summer, 27 rising juniors and seniors participated in eight- to 12-week internships at 20 alumni's workplaces, including AOL Ventures, NBCUniversal, Public Art Fund, Peppertree Engineering, The Kitchen and The Jed Foundation. This year the program has grown to more than 40 interns.

CCE recruits students to the program in part through information sessions, which cover an array of internship

opportunities, late in the fall semester and in January; administrators then help them one-on-one to prepare cover letters and resumes. Accepted interns attend a half-day training session and are taught workplace etiquette and how to handle scenarios that might arise: What if you come into work early and there's nothing to do? How do you handle water cooler gossip? When is an appropriate time to connect to a coworker on LinkedIn? How do you dress? Special emphasis is placed on getting the most out of the work relationships — getting to know the employer and expanding one's network.

To that end, each intern also is paired with an alumni mentor. The mentors, who don't work at the same company as the intern and might not even be in the same field, are recruited and matched by CCE based on several factors including career interests, shared majors or shared class activities while on campus. (Mentor recommendations also come from CCAA and Columbia College Young Alumni.) The mentors serve as additional contacts to answer questions and discuss concerns about working in the real world and life beyond college.

By design, CCASSIP students do substantive work. Samantha Peltz '14 and Christopher Perkins '14 were placed in the Newark, N.J., office of the Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. '78, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Third Circuit, who also is a University Trustee and adjunct faculty member. Their main project was to help Greenaway prepare a speech to be given at Columbia in celebration of Constitution Day (September 17), which celebrates the signing of the U.S. Constitution. "I feel I've read about every civil rights case in the history of the country," Peltz says of the research effort. "It was one of my favorite experiences and opportunities I've had through Columbia."

Greenaway respects the interns' abilities and wants to ensure that both he and the interns get the most out of the relationship. "What I've learned is, they have much more to contribute than you might think," he says. "The real point of this is: Can Columbia kids get an opportunity to do something they wouldn't otherwise be able to do? The question is never, 'Are they capable?' but are you going to be able to give them enough to do so they feel they're making a worthwhile contribution?"

Michael S. Satow '88 arranged for Corinna Bertelsen '14 to work at Nutrition 21, a supplement company in Purchase, N.Y., of which he is president and CEO. Among other things, she prepared databases using information from human clinical studies and crafted PowerPoint presentations to be used for R&D and marketing purposes. Because of the company's small size, Bertelsen also was able to interact with the executives. For example, she joined in on a conference call with a media consulting firm and the head of sales and marketing regarding Nutrition 21's approach to social media, and subsequently created and ran the company's Twitter feed.

"It was great having her. She made a real contribution — it's good for business as well as good for the student," Satow says. "I think if people knew the quality of the candidates they could give offers to, they'd realize they'd be lucky to have the opportunity to work with them because they're so impressive." He says a bonus was hearing how campus life today is both different and the same as when he was in school.

The internship was Bertelsen's first experience working in an office. She says she learned how tough it is to handle a 9-5 job, with a commute, and find time to keep up consistent training (Bertelsen is a member of the varsity swim team). She says she also realized the advantages of working for a small company, as well as her affinity for the field: "This program was illuminating



The Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. '78 (center) stayed in touch with CCASSIP interns Samantha Peltz '14 and Christopher Perkins '14 even after the program ended.

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

in discovering what I want to do. I might like to pursue something in pharmaceuticals." She noted that many of the company's leaders have advanced degrees, which has inspired her to think about getting a master's or Ph.D.

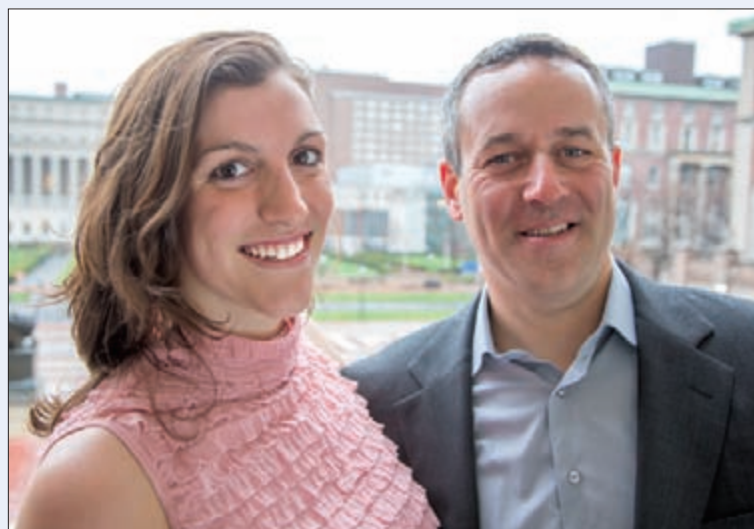
A successful internship program draws on the talents of both parties: Students are expected to work hard, and alumni sponsors must do their part to make sure the experience is meaningful. "It's not easy, it's not like you can get a free employee — that's not the point," Nero says. "I spent at least an hour a day with them I'd otherwise spend on work. The aim is to get them excited about the field." Angrand says she had many discussions with the doctor, not only about patients and procedures but also about women in medicine, the business of having a private practice "and of course Obamacare."

Greenaway, too, made sure to mentor the interns closely. In addition to making himself available for daily discussion time, he arranged for guests from other fields of law. "It gave me specificity about what options I might have after law school," Peltz says. "Judge Greenaway takes mentoring very seriously. How accessible he was was amazing, especially for how busy he is."

Greenaway says that CCASSIP is a great example of one way that alumni can give back to the College that doesn't involve writing a check. "No matter what the professional endeavor, there are opportunities for Columbia students to have challenging and interesting experiences, and it's as or more rewarding for the alum as for the student," he says. In January, he met with Peltz and Perkins about possibly turning his Constitution Day speech into a book and how they might help with that.

Nero believes so strongly in the internship program that he has been trying to convince fellow alumni to participate, including his wife, Elizabeth Zimels '89, a veterinarian. "The more we get involved with the College as alumni, the better the College will be," Nero says. "We should stay involved. Our college experience should never end."

Shira Boss '93, '97J, '98 SIPA is contributing writer for CCT. Her most recent feature, in the Spring 2013 issue, was about faculty members' experiences with teaching Literature Humanities.



Michael S. Satow '88, president and CEO of Nutrition 21, says Corinna Bertelsen '14 "made a real contribution" during her CCASSIP internship last summer.

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

# Vision Quest

*Through decades of research, Dr. George Yancopoulos '80 oversees numerous drug advances — including a breakthrough in one to treat eye disease*

BY DAVID MCKAY WILSON

**D**r. George Yancopoulos '80, '86 GSAS, '87 P&S seemed to have it all in spring 1987. With his newly minted doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biophysics in hand, he'd accepted a faculty post at P&S and had won a coveted \$2 million award from the Lucille P. Markey Charitable Trust to support his research across eight years.

But the Columbia research labs had yet to be built and the timetable for their completion kept shifting. Through research circles in biotechnology's early days, he'd met Dr. Leonard Schleifer, an enterprising neurologist intent on using gene technology to regenerate neurons — the impulse-conducting cells that serve as the functional unit of the nervous system.

The company was named Regeneron, and Schleifer wanted Yancopoulos to be its founding scientist.

"Len was a very ambitious, big-thinking kind of guy who was charismatic, honest and genuine," says Yancopoulos, who received a 2013 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement from the College in March. "We really hit it off."

At the time Schleifer approached him, Yancopoulos, the son of Greek immigrants, was hearing little cheering around the Sunday dinner table in Queens about his career in academic scientific research. His father, Damis George Yancopoulos, who patched together a living at jobs that ranged from furrier to insurance salesman, reminded his son that the grant covered the laboratory's equipment as well, leaving him with a relatively modest salary.

"I thought I'd hit the big time," says Yancopoulos of his academic prospects. "I thought my father would finally be proud of me."

His father, however, had a different path in mind for his first-born son and namesake, the valedictorian at Bronx Science as well as the College. Perhaps it was in the private sector, putting his scientific talents to use healing patients, one at a time, as a physician. Or he could continue his research in a corporate pharmaceutical lab, discovering drugs that would alleviate human suffering for millions. His son might even earn a fortune.

George's father was always talking up Dr. P. Roy Vagelos '54 P&S, also the son of Greek immigrants, who vaulted from academic research to chief scientific officer of Merck & Co., and later was the Big Pharma giant's CEO. He'd often clip articles about Vagelos from Greek newspapers to send his son, detailing how Greece was

proud that the Merck executive had made it big, very big.

"My dad knew scientists didn't make much money, and he wanted to educate his son to make money," says Yancopoulos. "He'd read about Roy Vagelos, and he told me, 'Why don't you be like Roy Vagelos?' When I hit a rough spot in grad school, he told me, 'Just call Roy Vagelos, he'll help you out.'"

Yancopoulos never called Vagelos. But his father's advice was present in his mind following his meetings with Schleifer, as he designed his post-doctoral life. It was settled. He turned down the \$2 million Markey award. He turned down the Columbia faculty position. And he joined Schleifer as Regeneron's founding scientist.

"I gave up eight years of guaranteed funding for a company that at the time was located in Len's apartment on the Upper East Side," says Yancopoulos, who now is president, Regeneron Laboratories. "It was a convergence of things — meeting Len, my dad pushing me and my intrigue in building something from scratch. If it didn't work out, I figured I could try my hand at the academic track."

With both a medical degree and a doctorate, Yancopoulos was armed with the skill set essential for successful drug discovery. He had the advanced knowledge of science, honed in Columbia's research laboratories. He also had the keen understanding of disease, developed at P&S, which opened his eyes to the unmet medical needs that could be addressed through pharmaceuticals. By 1989, Yancopoulos, Schleifer and two other Regeneron employees moved into 10,000 sq. ft. of lab space in the former Union Carbide complex in Tarrytown's Eastview section, about 22 miles north of Morningside Heights.

**T**wenty-four years later, Regeneron has emerged as New York's largest biotechnology company, with 2,000 employees, up from 1,000 in 2009. Its campus of offices and laboratories now sprawls over close to 590,000 sq. ft. in Tarrytown, and a trophy case in Regeneron's lobby highlights its meteoric rise. In 2011, *Crain's New York Business* celebrated Regeneron as one of the New York area's fastest-growing public companies. Another honor came in September 2012 from *Science* magazine, which named it the world's best employer in

**(opposite) As Regeneron's founding scientist, Dr. George Yancopoulos '80, '86 GSAS, '87 P&S led the team that created EYLEA, a drug used to treat age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss in older people.**

PHOTO: BEDFORD PHOTO-GRAPHIC



## Regeneron is New York's largest biotech company, with

the biopharmaceutical industry.

The company lived up to *Crain's* billing with revenues of nearly \$1.4 billion in 2012, tripling its totals for 2011. Driving the explosive growth is the drug EYLEA, used to treat age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss in people aged 50 and older.

This disease is caused by abnormal growth of blood vessels behind the retina, in the back of the eye. The blood vessels become weak and prone to leakage, which damages the retina. EYLEA's active ingredient — a genetically engineered molecule — binds to a protein that encourages blood vessels, and does so in a way that inhibits blood-vessel proliferation.

The drug won approval from the FDA in November 2011, after more than a decade of research and clinical trials. In January 2012, the company forecast EYLEA sales of \$125–\$150 million that year. By year's end, EYLEA had become so popular among ophthalmologists that sales reached \$838 million. Plans to market the drug in Latin America, Japan and Europe are under way.

"It's now one of the top five blockbusters in biotech history," says Yancopoulos. "We're so well positioned right now. In the last few years, we've gone from a company that was struggling to one that's profitable. It's a very exciting time for us."

At Regeneron's Westchester campus, Yancopoulos greets a visitor wearing jeans with a white button down over a gray T-shirt, and three pens in his shirt's breast pocket. He lives in Yorktown, N.Y., with his children, Damis George (17), Luka (15) and Demetra (12). His other daughter, Ourania (19), attends Washington University in St. Louis.

As Regeneron's chief scientific officer, Yancopoulos oversees the company's robust research program, which has deep Columbia roots. The company research efforts focus on two platforms: the technology that creates new approaches to doing research, and the research itself, with Yancopoulos helping to find new targets, developing molecules for those targets, creating clinical opportunities and then bringing a drug through the federal approval process.

Yancopoulos meets regularly with the scientists to plan and strategize about their projects while also making sure that promising candidates move through a rigorous scientific process.

Drew Murphy '87 GSAS, s.v.p., Regeneron Research Laboratories, was a teaching assistant in Yancopoulos' class in molecular biology at Columbia.

"George is all science, all the time," says Murphy, who joined the company in 1999. "He tends to look at things differently. The researchers will have meeting after meeting and come up with a consensus view of how to proceed. Then George will pull out something from a different point of view. He's always right."

Yancopoulos also will go to great lengths to make sure his findings stand up.

"He's highly skeptical of his data and doesn't believe his own results until he has gotten them in multiple ways, using multiple methods," says David Glass '81, who was Regeneron's v.p., muscle diseases, from 1991–2005 and now teaches at Harvard Medical School and conducts research in Cambridge, Mass. "He's one of the strongest scientists I've ever worked with."

The success of EYLEA is the latest triumph for Yancopoulos in a brilliant science career that was nurtured at Bronx Science in the mid-1970s, when he conducted a research project on a single-celled organism, *Blepharisma*. He was named a finalist in the 1976 Westinghouse Science Talent Search competition, which solidified his dream of becoming a scientist.

As a Columbia freshman, Yancopoulos took a position working in the laboratory of Professor Jonathan Greer '81J, who used X-ray crystallography to study how proteins worked. It was fascinating yet painstaking research, and Yancopoulos eventually grew restless with the pace of progress.

By his senior year, Yancopoulos decided to move on. He'd become enthralled by new technologies that allowed scientists to clone genes, so he dropped crystallography to dive into that nascent field.

Yancopoulos lived on campus but typically made it home to join his mother and father for Sunday dinner in Middle Village, Queens. He captained the Columbia crew team his senior year and kept in shape by running to Queens on some Sundays — an eight-mile jog through Central Park and over the 59th Street Bridge.

His one regret: not accepting an invitation to row with the national lightweight team in 1980.

"I went to medical school instead," he says. "I always wonder how I would have done on the team."

Drug discoverers like Yancopoulos have to learn to be patient. It took Regeneron two decades to earn its first drug approval, in 2008, and it can cost more than \$1 billion to take a drug from concept to market. In 2012, the company had three drugs on the market, 12 drugs advancing through clinical trials and more than a dozen under development that are candidates for tests on humans. The drugs under development cover the gamut of human maladies: cancer, eye diseases, pain, inflammation, bone disease, muscle disorders, metabolic disease and obesity, infectious disease and cardiovascular disease.

"It never ceases to be an adventure," says Yancopoulos. "My theme has always been that you need to be willing to risk failure. Scientific research is a business of failure, and you have to keep learning from it."

One such failure came in 1997, five years into development of a drug for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Results were unfavorable from the Phase 3 clinical trial, in which large numbers of people were tested to confirm the drug's effectiveness, monitor side effects and compare it to commonly used treatments. The drug was never brought to market.



Yancopoulos, who in March received a 2013 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, is described by a colleague as "all science, all the time."  
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

## 2,000 employees and 2012 revenues of nearly \$1.4 billion.

"We were a little arrogant and naive," he says.

A seemingly promising drug to treat obesity met a similar fate in 2003.

Regeneron, however, hadn't wagered its entire pot of investment capital on just one or two drugs. There always were several more in the pipeline.

"When we had the failure, we already had new things we were working on," says Yancopoulos. "It's best to keep investing in the next great thing. You can't wait for a drug to fail. You've got to create a new bet."

Having top leadership helped, too. As Regeneron suffered through a bout of start-up pains in the mid-1990s, Schleifer heard that Vagelos, the pharmaceutical executive whom Yancopoulos' father suggested should be his son's role model, had reached the mandatory retirement age at Merck. Schleifer wondered if Regeneron might woo him to chair the company's board of directors.

Yancopoulos doubted he'd come on board. "My dad had been telling me for 20 years to call Roy Vagelos," says Yancopoulos. "I told Len: 'What, are you crazy? Roy Vagelos isn't going to return your phone call.'"

But Schleifer called Vagelos, and Vagelos did return his call. It turned out that Vagelos, one of the University's most generous benefactors, had read scientific papers Yancopoulos had published during Regeneron's early years. The man who led Merck to the pinnacle of the international pharmaceutical industry was now interested in the Westchester start-up whose first drug approval was still 13 years away.

"George had demonstrated leadership in cloning important genes that might have an impact on disease, and it was clear that he would eventually score by making an important drug," says Vagelos. "I was willing to make a bet on that."

Vagelos, who has been chairman of Regeneron's Board of Directors since 1995, joined the company just as Yancopoulos' team was developing the scientific tools to transition Regeneron from a company focused on neurobiology, creating drugs to treat neurological diseases, to one that used mouse genetics and mouse technology to develop therapeutics for a broad range of diseases.

Tom DeChiara '90 GSAS, Regeneron's senior director of transgenic technology until 2011, arrived in Tarrytown in 1992. He had begun to explore embryonic stem cell technology and Yancopoulos saw its promise.

DeChiara learned quickly of Yancopoulos' leadership talent and scientific acumen. For example, DeChiara says, Yancopoulos is methodical and contemplative at meetings as he listens to what everyone has to say, and then offers his interpretation of the data. He can be a taskmaster as well.

"He holds your feet to the fire, but not in a demeaning, negative way," DeChiara says. "He does it in a way that makes you realize that you've erred. He says you were wrong, but won't make you feel like a moron."

DeChiara was part of the Yancopoulos research team that found a way to better understand the genetic code of human beings by manipulating the genes of the laboratory mouse, a close mammalian cousin whose genes are remarkably similar to humans.

When scientists mapped the human genome, they were able to identify the 25,000 genes that compose the human genetic code. While the genes were identified, the function of many of these genes was still unknown.

Yancopoulos' team engaged in what is known as the "knock out" process, in which a gene is made inoperable and scientists observe how its absence changes a mouse's functioning. Knowing what a gene does is a first step toward developing drugs to either increase or decrease its function.

While there are other "knock out" technologies, Yancopoulos' laboratory has developed a group of technologies — subsequently

adopted by the National Institutes of Health — to determine the function of thousands of unknown genes. The Regeneron method does gene knock outs rapidly, and at scale, rather than one or a few at a time.

The VelocImmune mouse — which Regeneron calls the largest mammalian genetic engineering project ever accomplished — has substituted the genes from the human immune system into mice, which then have the capability of producing human antibodies that can serve as potent therapeutics.

"Until you have a tool, you can't imagine what you can build with it," Yancopoulos says. "At one point, I was asked, 'Why are you spending a couple of million dollars on it? It's just a drain on the company.' But I said, 'Let's let the guys figure it out,' and they did."

Yancopoulos' scientific rigor has paid dividends on Wall Street as well as in medical clinics, as Regeneron developed into what's called a FIBCO — fully integrated biotech pharmaceutical company, which takes a drug from discovery to manufacturing and marketing. Regeneron has funded its research through partnerships with major pharmaceutical companies around the world.

"When Roy came in, our stock was \$2 a share," Yancopoulos said in March. "Two years ago it was \$18. Since EYLEA won approval from the FDA, the stock price has risen to \$172. Our market capitalization is now valued at \$16 billion."

Yancopoulos' father passed away in 2010, before EYLEA hit the market and became a biotech sensation. Would he be proud of his son today?

"My dad was an old-time guy, a WWII veteran, a tough sort of guy who rarely expressed anything so positive," Yancopoulos recalls. "Even in 2010, I still wasn't good enough; he was still asking me if I was pushing myself. But at the funeral, a bunch of his cronies told me what I knew deep down inside: He was always bragging about me to them."

David McKay Wilson, a columnist at The Journal News in White Plains, N.Y., also writes regularly for TC Today at Teachers College.



Dr. Leonard Schleifer, president and CEO of Regeneron (left); Yancopoulos; and Dr. P. Roy Vagelos '54 P&S, chairman of Regeneron's Board of Directors, at the 2013 John Jay Awards Dinner in March that honored Yancopoulos and four other alumni.  
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

# WWII & NYC

*No shots were fired in earnest,  
yet New York City — and Columbia —  
played a significant role in WWII*



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO



*Kenneth T. Jackson, the Jacques Barzun Professor in History and the Social Sciences, has taught at Columbia since 1968. Though he hails from Memphis, the former Air Force officer is a preeminent authority on New York City and the leader of an annual all-night bike ride from Columbia to Brooklyn. His many books include Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States (1985), Empire City: New York Through the Centuries (with David S. Dunbar, 2002) and The Encyclopedia of New York City (as editor, 1995). When asked by New York magazine to describe what he does for a living, he answered, "I read a lot. ... and I talk about New York City, just about all the time."*

*The excerpt that follows is from the book that accompanies "WWII & NYC," an exhibition staged by the New-York Historical Society this past spring (Jackson was president of the society from 2001–04). Both the exhibition and the book describe New York's pivotal role in the 20th-century war that was one of the United States' greatest military moments. In the short term, Jackson says, the war stimulated New York's economy, but in the longer term, the city lost ground to places in the South and West that could better accommodate huge factories and military bases.*

*Readers can view "WWII & NYC: Harbor Tour With Kenneth T. Jackson," on YouTube: [youtube.com/watch?v=SnoxyokTVaA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnoxyokTVaA).*

Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard

**The S.S. America makes its way up the busy Hudson River in 1940, steaming past the skyline of lower Manhattan.**

PHOTO: McLAUGHLIN AIR SERVICE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, PR 043, DEPARTMENT OF PRINTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTIONS, THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**O**n December 7, 1941, Japanese airplanes launched a surprise Sunday morning attack on the United States Pacific Fleet at its anchorage at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. The skilled pilots of the *Rising Sun* disabled or sank all eight American battleships in port and killed more than 2,400 sailors, soldiers, and civilians. The next day, a resolute FDR spoke of the attack as “a day which will live in infamy” and asked a joint session of Congress for a declaration of war against Japan. On December 11, Germany declared war on the United States, even though Hitler’s defensive agreement with Japan did not require the Third Reich to act unless Japan were the victim, not the aggressor.

When the United States entered the war, New York was the largest city in the world, with more than seven million residents in the five boroughs and another four million in the nearby suburbs. Even during the Great Depression, New York’s harbor was the busiest, its skyscrapers the tallest, its land values the highest, and its industrial output the greatest of any city in the world. Fifth Avenue already was synonymous with shopping, Broadway with theater, Madison Avenue with advertising, and Wall Street with finance. The great radio networks and publishing empires were all headquartered in Manhattan, and the New York Stock Exchange was the financial world’s dominant trading floor.

Once war was declared, residents of the city faced the un-

ington to demand more war contracts; the city, he said, had vast resources to support the war, including millions of square feet of empty factory space, tens of thousands of vacant apartments, and three hundred thousand unemployed workers.

With the entrance of the United States into the war, the military presence in and around the city grew dramatically. Bases like Floyd Bennett Field and Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, Fort Dix in New Jersey, Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, Fort Tilden in Rockaway Beach, Fort Hancock on Sandy Hook, and Camp Smith to the north all expanded swiftly. The Navy established the Eastern Sea Frontier, under the command of Vice Admiral Adolphus Andrews from his headquarters at 90 Church Street in Manhattan, to monitor ship movements along the coast. It also installed a submarine net between Staten Island and Brooklyn to prevent incursions by U-boats into the harbor. Coastal artillery batteries went up along the south shore of Brooklyn, the east side of Staten Island, and on the edges of Long Island Sound. Fortunately, they never were forced into action.

The only real Axis test came in the early morning hours of June 13, 1942, when a U-boat took advantage of fog and landed four German saboteurs on the beach at Amagansett, Long Island. Carrying four crates of explosives and \$84,000 in cash, they were instructed to wait six weeks and then begin to destroy American war-making facilities. Unfortunately for the saboteurs, a Coast Guardsman patrolling the beach spotted them soon after they had buried their uniforms and detonators. In desperation, they paid the beach patrolman \$260 to buy his silence. They took an

## Would American coastal cities — New York chief among them — become targets for bombing? What about submarine attacks?

known. They had read in newspapers and listened on radios about the Luftwaffe blitz on London in the fall of 1940. Would American coastal cities — New York chief among them — become targets for bombing? What about submarine attacks? After all, German U-Boats — Hitler’s fleet of attack submarines — had already been waging a relentless under sea war against Atlantic shipping, and they would presumably redeploy to American waters to attack defenseless oil tankers and cargo ships along the East Coast, crippling American supply lines.

Initially, the Empire City did seem vulnerable. Although German bombers never had the range to reach the United States, U-boats could reach New York, and during the first four months of 1942, enemy undersea vessels sank eighty-seven ships in the Atlantic. One of the first victims was the *Coimbra*, a British tanker transporting American oil to Britain. On January 5, 1942, thirty miles off Long Island, she was sunk by a single torpedo from a U-boat, and the captain and thirty-five crewmen perished; only six injured survivors were rescued from the freezing waters of the Atlantic.

New Yorkers quickly adapted to the mobilization that war demanded. Thousands of volunteer aircraft spotters and air raid wardens turned out for duty twenty-four hours a day. On June 13, 1942, a giant “New York at War” parade saw five hundred thousand participants march up Fifth Avenue from Washington Square to 79th Street. It took eleven hours for all the civilians and members of every service to pass in front of more than two million cheering onlookers. Two days later, Mayor La Guardia told radio listeners in his weekly program that he would go to Wash-

ington early morning commuter train to Manhattan, while the Coast Guardsman immediately reported the incident to his superiors. The hunt was soon under way.

Trying to blend in with the millions of other people in the great city, the four conspirators took a room on the Upper West Side, mingled with other sightseers at Grant’s Tomb, walked around Columbia University, shopped at the Rogers Peet men’s store on Fifth Avenue, listened to jazz, and visited a brothel. Despite their infiltration, the saboteurs never blew up anything. They were caught (along with four accomplices who had come ashore in Florida) after two of them traveled to Washington and confessed to the FBI. President Roosevelt ordered a closed military trial for the Germans. All were sentenced to death; FDR commuted the sentences of the two who had confessed; the remaining six were executed on August 8, 1942.

Although sabotage remained a real threat, not all losses came at the hands of the Axis. On February 9, 1942, the *S.S. Normandie*, the most luxurious ocean liner in the world, was moored at Pier 88 on the West Side. Once the property of France, which was at this point occupied by Germany, the ship had been confiscated by the United States after war began and rechristened the *U.S.S. Lafayette* for the purpose of taking American troops to Europe. The ship caught fire during its conversion when sparks from a welder’s torch allegedly ignited a pile of life vests. Several fireboats and dozens of fire companies were on the scene within minutes. But the flames were not easily extinguished, and the firefighters poured so much water into the vessel that, in the early hours of February 10, 1942, it capsized at its berth.

**T**he Army’s recruiting office at 39 Whitehall Street in lower Manhattan became one of the busiest such facilities in the United States as New Yorkers, like their countrymen across the land, joined the service to defend their country. Between 1942 and 1945, more than a million persons in the metropolitan region served in the armed forces, and military uniforms became ubiquitous on the city streets. The New York area became a major center for training as well. Roughly twenty-four thousand men were graduated from the U.S. Naval Reserve Midshipmen’s School at Columbia University, meaning that more officers were trained in New York during World War II than at the Naval Academy in Annapolis. The Navy’s Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) had its most important national training site at Hunter College (now Herbert H. Lehman College) in the Bronx, the United States Coast Guard maintained its largest training station at Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn, and two-thirds of all merchant seamen who sailed the *Liberty* and *Victory* ships carrying supplies to the front were trained in the city.

The industrial achievement of the United States in World War II was phenomenal by any measure. In 1940, when President Roosevelt issued a call for the production of fifty thousand airplanes per year, it was widely felt to be a pipe dream. Yet by 1944, American factories were producing almost one-hundred thousand airplanes per year — about twice as many as both Germany and Japan together and almost as many as the rest of the world combined. Statistics for jeeps, artillery pieces, self-propelled guns, oil, aluminum, and bombs were equally dramatic. The nation produced so many trucks and shoes that it shared its resources with the British Army

and the Red Army, both of which desperately needed them. Meanwhile, America’s shipyards produced so many vessels that by the end of the conflict, the United States Navy was not only larger than that of any other nation, but it was larger and more powerful than all other navies in the world combined.

While World War II helped end the Great Depression of the 1930s by providing jobs for the unemployed, New York was slower to come out of the crisis than other industrial cities, and it received smaller war contracts than other places. In part, this reflected the federal policy of favoring big companies because they could ramp up war production faster than smaller companies could. The degree of concentration was startling. Through the summer of 1942, the largest one hundred firms in America had received seventy-three percent of the war contracts by dollar value. But Gotham’s twenty-seven thousand factories, ever small, averaged only fifteen employees each, nothing like General Motors, Ford, and the Chrysler Corporation. And New York companies typically were not oriented to the production of tanks, rifles, boots, artillery, airplanes, jeeps, trucks, armored personnel carriers, and other major instruments of war. Not surprisingly, Detroit received approximately six times the per capita volume of contracts as New York did, and Newark, San Francisco, Cleveland, and Los Angeles garnered four times as much as Gotham. As a result, New York still had an unemployment crisis as late as 1942, when a special delegation went to Washington to convince federal officials to spend more money in the nation’s largest city.

With the delegation’s success in Washington, New York’s industry grew rapidly. By 1944, there were a record 1.86 million people in manufacturing jobs in the city, of which seven-hundred thou-



Navy midshipmen stand at attention with their respective units during a drill on South Field in 1942.

PHOTO: PACH BROS., N.Y.; GIFT OF CHARLES A. RIDDLE III, COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

sand were war-related; this was at a time when one million men from the area were in the armed services. The year before, almost three-hundred new industrial plants opened in New York between January and April. The products turned out in the city's factories were wide-ranging: airplane parts, metal products, spun glass fibers, optical lenses and prisms, dehydrated foods, bombs, canvas goods, tents, tarpaulins, haversacks, leggings, mattress covers, powder bags, bandages, and life preservers. The Canal Street area was covered with small electrical and metal shops, many of which contracted with the War Department.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard was the busiest such facility in the world. With more than seventy-five thousand employees (versus over fifty-five thousand at the Philadelphia Navy Yard or more than twenty thousand at the Wilmington Shipyard) working seven days a week and around the clock between 1942 and 1945, the "yard" was a world unto it-



William W. Havens '46 GSAS, who began his career working on the Manhattan Project at Columbia and was for nearly two decades the University's director of nuclear science and engineering, scans the screen of a cloud chamber in Pupin, watching the tracks of nuclear particles. The chamber is an apparatus, weighing more than 300 lbs., for making visible the paths of submicroscopic nuclear particles.

PHOTO: MANNY WARMAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## New York's most important contribution to the war effort — the Manhattan Project — remained a secret until long after the final surrender.

self. Its two-hundred-ninety acres contained seven huge dry docks, forty-seven mobile cranes on tracks, eight piers, two colossal steel shipways, two twelve-hundred foot-long graving docks, foundries, machine shops, warehouses, a power plant, and a hospital. It was crisscrossed by nineteen miles of paved streets and thirty miles of rails. Pier G was home to the Hammerhead, the largest crane in the world at the time. And just outside the gates were more than eighty supporting factories, which together reduced the amount of materials that needed to be transported there.

The Navy Yard was the foremost builder of battleships in the world, and it produced more of them than Japan during World War II. The *U.S.S. Arizona*, which was bombed and sunk at Pearl Harbor — taking more than one-thousand sailors to an early death — was built there at the end of World War I. So too was the battleship *U.S.S. Missouri*, on whose deck the Japanese formally surrendered on September 2, 1945. In addition, the workers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard built battleships *Iowa* and *North Carolina* and five aircraft carriers (including the *Franklin D. Roosevelt*, the *Bon Homme Richard*, the *Bennington*, the *Kearsarge*, and the *Oriskany*). They also constructed eight large ships designed to ferry tanks onto the beaches on D-Day.

Warships built at other facilities were frequently brought to the Brooklyn Navy Yard to be fitted with guns. More than five thou-

sand other ships were repaired at the yard during World War II, including the Royal Navy battleship *H.M.S. Malaya*, which was refitted in Brooklyn to relieve the pressure on British shipyards.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard was but one of forty ship-building and ship-repair facilities in the city. Bethlehem Steel's Staten Island yard built forty-seven destroyers, seventy-five landing craft, five cargo ships, and three ocean-going tugs during the war. Todd Shipyards in Brooklyn's Erie Basin had 19,617 employees in 1943, occupied mainly with building and repairing destroyers. They reputedly could take a vessel that had been badly damaged by a German torpedo and put it back in service in a matter of days. Over the course of the war, Todd repaired and refitted some three hundred vessels and built twenty-four landing craft of the type which took American soldiers to the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.

Other New York factories were equally busy with work.

Inside a converted ice plant on Marcy Avenue in Brooklyn, Pfizer — a Brooklyn company founded by two German immigrants in 1849 — built the first factory to mass-produce the world's first life-saving antibiotic, penicillin. Having beaten other companies in finding a way to mass-produce the brand-new drug, Pfizer bought the ice plant on September 20, 1943, and quickly converted the factory into the first penicillin factory in the world. Amazingly, within three months of the plant's opening on March 1, 1944, it produced most of the penicillin to go ashore with American troops on D-Day, June 6, 1944. By that date, American penicillin production was one-hundred billion units *per month*, and Pfizer was making more than fifty percent of it. An advertisement of the time depicted four military men and women at the center of a line of civilians. Beneath them, a caption read, "These are alive today...because of PENICILLIN."

The Carl L. Norden Company developed and manufactured the top-secret Norden bombsight for the Army Air Forces, which needed it for bombardiers over Germany and Japan. The Norden Company had its headquarters and major production facility at 80 Lafayette Street in Manhattan and an additional factory at 50 Varick Street. Meanwhile, the Sperry Gyroscope Company in Brooklyn and the Ford Instrument Company in Long Island City were producing other devices to help naval gunnery officers

adjust their aim to control for the tossing of the sea.

In Queens, the Steinway Piano Company manufactured glider wings on behalf of General Aircraft Corporation. On D-Day, these gliders were towed behind regular aircraft and then cut loose over drop zones in France to take airborne assault troops behind enemy lines. Aircraft parts were made in Long Island City, and the Aluminum Corporation of America built a 101-acre, 1.1-million square-foot plant along Maspeth Creek that employed ten thousand workers and produced millions of tons of aluminum.

The City's garment industry, long the center of American clothing manufacture, produced a substantial number of military uniforms. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America negotiated for the Army and Navy contracts to be dispersed among its many union shops in different cities, but New York was assured that its fifty thousand metropolitan-area members would have work. A contract for more than 1.2 million overcoats (valued at \$2.8 million) was issued in 1942. New York and Philadelphia shared a contract for one hundred thousand Navy uniforms, and the Army gave contracts for one-hundred-twenty five thousand garments to shops in Brooklyn and Manhattan. The United States Naval Clothing Depot, at Third Avenue and 29th Street in Brooklyn, was among the largest and most sophisticated clothing production and distribution plants in the world. Within its walls, over a thousand employees manufactured, packaged, and shipped all the white twill and blue flannel uniforms and auxiliary garments that were worn by sailors of the entire United States Navy.

In the New York area, heavy industry was located in the suburbs rather than in the city itself. Long Island in particular had been important in aviation history from the time the Wright Brothers first demonstrated the possibility of controlled flight. Republic Aviation's Farmingdale plant made more than fifteen thousand P047 Thunderbolt fighters, many of which provided air support above Allied armies in Europe. Similarly, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation in Bethpage was the major production center for the Navy's Hellcat fighter planes and Avenger torpedo bombers. And in New Jersey, the Curtiss-Wright Company made aircraft engines and propellers in Caldwell and Paterson.

Many of the metropolitan area's contributions to Allied victory were intellectual and psychological rather than physical. The city's



(Top) John R. Dunning '34 GSAS (left) and Eugene T. Booth at the control panel of a cyclotron in the basement of Pupin in 1967. At that site, 25 years earlier, they witnessed the first demonstration of atomic fission in the United States. (Above) A certificate awarded by the War Department to Columbia in 1945 for its part in the Manhattan Project.

PHOTOS: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

which they were headquartered would avert suspicion. Eventually, even as it moved across the country, the entire undertaking would come to be known as simply the Manhattan Project. Its lead researchers moved to the University of Chicago and then to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Hanford, Washington. In Los Alamos, New Mexico, the final development of the weapon occurred, headed by J. Robert Oppenheimer, who had grown up at 155 Riverside Drive on the Upper West Side.

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# WWII & Columbia

*Although far removed from the battlegrounds of Europe, Africa and Asia, Columbia played a significant role in WWII. Pupin Physics Laboratories on the Morningside Heights campus was the site of the Manhattan Project, where the development of the atomic bomb began. Approximately 24,000 men graduated from the U.S. Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School at Columbia during WWII, meaning more officers were trained during that time in New York than at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.*



(Left, top) The academic procession at Commencement in 1944 makes its way up the steps of Low Plaza between lines of uniformed midshipmen standing at attention and civilians in academic dress. (Left, bottom) V-12 students in naval dress race to class in Hamilton Hall in 1943. (Opposite) Students stand guard with binoculars and fire extinguishers atop Butler Library (then called South Hall) during an air raid drill in December 1941.



PHOTOS: (LEFT, TOP) 1944 COLUMBIAN; (LEFT, BOTTOM) COURTESY BERNARD SUNSHINE '46; (OPPOSITE) JACK M. LEWIS '42, '43E, ALL COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES





(Opposite) Columbia competes against the Midshipmen's School during winter 1943-44. (Clockwise from top left) John R. Dunning '34 GSAS (right) describes to George Pegram (Class of 1903) his "atomic pinball machine," which he used to explain atomic energy to the public; Army reserve students take an exam prior to going on active duty, May 1943; Frank D. Fackenthal (Class of 1906), who was acting president of Columbia from 1945-48, receives a plaque from the Navy Department "for effective cooperation in training of naval personnel during World War II"; students buy war bonds in 1942; children study a 1948 exhibit dealing with Columbia's role in the atomic energy program; Valentine Diehl '41, a Marine lieutenant, recruits students in February 1942.

PHOTOS: (OPPOSITE) PHILIP S. LACY; (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) COLUMBIA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE; ALUMNI FEDERATION OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; MANNY WARMAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; JOHN MLADINOV '43, '43E; MANNY WARMAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; JACK M. LEWIS '42, '43E, ALL COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES





# Alumni Relive Their Campus Days

Nearly 4,000 alumni and guests enjoy campus and NYC at Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2013

BY LISA PALLADINO



Blue skies and festive banners welcome alumni to campus; Dean James J. Valentini chats with two alumni at the Saturday afternoon affinity reception for varsity athletics.

PHOTOS: LEFT, EILEEN BARROSO; RIGHT, MICHAEL DAMES

**A**lmost 4,000 College alumni and their guests returned to campus and to venues throughout New York City from May 30–June 2 for Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean's Day 2013. Gathering this year were classes that end in 3 and 8, and all alumni and parents were invited to Saturday's Dean's Day, which offers lectures and Mini-Core Courses that allow alumni to relive their classroom days while offering parents a taste of what their sons and daughters experience.

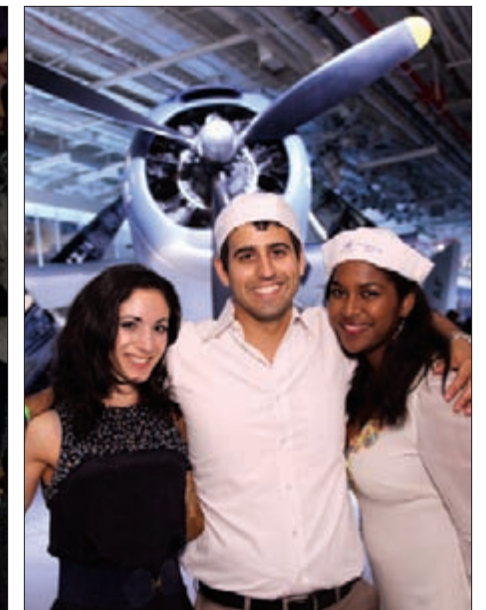
Among the weekend's highlights were Thursday's cultural events in Midtown; Friday's Mini-Core Courses and the Young Alumni Party aboard the *U.S.S. Intrepid*; and Saturday's address by Dean James J. Valentini, Public Intellectual Lectures and the presentation of the Society of Columbia Graduates 65th Annual Great Teacher Awards. Perennially popular events, such as Camp Columbia for Kids, the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception all were back and offered something for every age group. Some classes also held panel discussions, giving alumni a chance to revive their Columbia-honed debate skills as well as to discuss a current topic of interest. Sunday offered a new event,

the Celebration of Service to Columbia, Community and Country, an interfaith service held in St. Paul's Chapel.

Another new event was the presentation of the Dean's Leadership Award, which recognizes those who demonstrate extraordinary class leadership and honors an alumnus/a "whose behavior raises the sights of all classmates and has a positive impact on the College's fundraising priorities." The inaugural recipients were CCT Class Correspondent Paul Neshamkin '63; University Trustee Jonathan S. Lavine '88; and Board of Visitors Member Andrew Borrok '93, '01 Business. Each was honored at his Saturday class dinner by Valentini.

Several reunion classes set records with their Class Gifts this year. The Class of 1963 presented the largest 50th reunion gift to date with \$1.925 million, the Class of 1988 presented the largest reunion gift ever with \$19.88 million and the Class of 1993 presented \$242,612, a class record.

*To view more photos from Alumni Reunion Weekend, Dean's Day and the Young Alumni Party as well as to view class photos and the list of Dean's Pins recipients, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).*



Even Butler Library dresses up for Saturday night, which includes (left) dancing under the tent at the Starlight Reception and (above, left) attendees taking a break and reminiscing on Low Steps; on Friday night (above, right) celebrants-turned-sailors gather aboard the *U.S.S. Intrepid* at the Young Alumni Party.

PHOTOS: MIDDLE ROW RIGHT, MICHAEL DAMES; ALL OTHERS, EILEEN BARROSO



On Saturday (clockwise from top left), Society of Columbia Graduates director Ronald Mangione '69E (far left) and president Guy Longobardo '49E (far right) present the 65th annual Great Teacher Awards to Engineering professor Shih-Fu Chang and College professor Stuart Firestein; Philip Kitcher, the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy, considers how to integrate scientific expertise with democratic values during a Mini-Core Course; two attendees share a laugh at the Class of '43 and Class of '48 combined luncheon; guests catch up during an afternoon reception; and little Lions enjoy Camp Columbia for Kids.

PHOTOS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: EILEEN BARROSO; MICHAEL DAMES; MICHAEL DAMES; SUSAN COOK; SUSAN COOK

# Relief, Recovery, Resilience

**M**ore than eight months after Hurricane Sandy made landfall on the night of October 29, the reverberations are still being felt, especially in the coastal areas of New York and New Jersey. At the time the storm hit, Nate Bliss '05, who has worked on Coney Island economic development issues for eight years, shifted immediately into a relief role for the battered neighborhood on the southern edge of Brooklyn and has been focused on recovery ever since. On a different peninsula, in Rockaway Park, Queens, Brian O'Connell '89 saw Scholars' Academy, the public school that he founded in 2004, severely damaged by floodwater. His was the simultaneous challenge of seeing to the students' education as well as the school's restoration.

In both cases, these hard-working and dedicated alumni contributed to the rebuilding of their communities. Read on for their stories.



New York's coastal areas, including Coney Island and the Rockaway Peninsula, suffered tremendous damage from Hurricane Sandy. In Coney Island's Sea Gate community, many beachfront homes were battered by the storm surge.

PHOTO: BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP/CORBIS

# Sand in His Shoes

*Nate Bliss '05 has played a key role in Coney Island's comeback*

BY MARY JEAN BABIC

**O**n a cold, sunny morning in late March, a group of elected officials, business owners and civic leaders crowded a small stage on the Coney Island boardwalk to proclaim the amusement mecca open for the 2013 season. Palm Sunday opening day is a longstanding tradition with longstanding rituals: the blessing of the rides, the breaking of a bottle of Brooklyn egg cream on the Cyclone roller coaster. This year, the ceremonies held particular significance. Just five months earlier, Hurricane Sandy had decimated the iconic beachfront community, and at times it seemed doubtful the rides would ever run again.

Up on the dais, seated next to U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), a young man with short dark hair listened attentively as one dignitary after another stepped to the microphone. Though he didn't speak, Nate Bliss '05 has been an indispensable figure in Coney Island's recovery. In fact, when Dennis Vourderis, co-owner of Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park and the morning's emcee, introduced the people on stage, he said of Bliss, simply, "Everyone knows Nate."

This was true enough before Sandy and it's even more so now. Bliss has worked on Coney Island economic development issues for eight years and is the city's point man on ambitious plans to revitalize "the people's playground." He wears several hats: a v.p. of the New York City Economic Development Corp.; president of the EDC-funded Coney Island Development Corp., which is charged with implementing strategic and rezoning plans; and interim executive director of the Alliance for Coney Island, a recently formed group of businesses and civic organizations dedicated to the neighborhood's improvement.

Busy as he was with development work, it went on the back burner for a while after October 29. When the hurricane struck, Bliss swung instantly into relief mode. He worked nearly non-

**(Opposite) Nate Bliss '05 stands in front of the Wonder Wheel, one of Coney Island's iconic amusement park attractions, which was damaged by Hurricane Sandy but reopened in March after \$1 million in repairs.**

PHOTO: NATALIE KEYSAR



stop for weeks — shoveling sand off the boardwalk, organizing volunteers, knocking on businesses' doors to see what they needed — and soon thereafter helped launch an initiative called #ConeyRecovers. Operating under the auspices of the Alliance for Coney Island, #ConeyRecovers is a central resource for grants and information to help residents and business owners rebuild. City Hall took note of Bliss' actions, and in early December he was named leader of a newly created Business Recovery Zone in south Brooklyn, tasked with helping small businesses get back on their feet. Shortly after that, EDC President Seth Pinsky '93 asked Bliss to join the citywide Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency. The initiative, headed by Pinsky at the behest of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, will make recommendations on how New York City should rebuild from Sandy and prepare for the impact of climate change on critical systems and infrastructure. The group's report was due in May.

Disasters make for extraordinary times, and though some of his responsibilities will dial down as the recovery moves forward, Bliss has put in a lot of evening and weekend hours to keep up with it all. But his EDC colleagues, he says, work just as hard; long hours go with the territory. Fortunately, he enjoys what he does. "It's a privilege to help New York City and its neighborhoods and residents reach their full potential," he says. "It's rewarding work."

**T**he morning after the storm, Bliss was one of the first city employees to reach Coney Island. Driving down Ocean Parkway from his home in Prospect Heights, he knew things were bad before he even reached the northern edge of the neighborhood. Electricity was out, cars were scattered pell-mell and sand covered the road several blocks inland. "The scariest thing was when people started opening their doors and rolldown gates and seeing what was behind them," says Bliss. "It was five to eight feet of stillwater flooding that killed us in Coney Island."

Some landmarks were shuttered for months, including the New York Aquarium, which had been a week away from breaking ground on a 57,000-square-foot shark exhibit and suffered \$65 million in damage, and the original Nathan's Famous hot dog emporium, which had never closed a day in its 96-year history. Both reopened in May.

That first day, Bliss set up an impromptu relief center in the parking lot of MCU Park, the Brooklyn Cyclones' baseball stadium. The parking lot quickly became an operations base from which Bliss directed the efforts of volunteers and a host of aid groups including the American Red Cross, FEMA and the National Guard. Barely a year earlier, Bliss had taken a catastrophe response class while studying for a master's in real estate from NYU. Now, he faced a full-on catastrophe in his own backyard.

Lola Star, who owns the Lola Star Souvenir Boutique on the boardwalk, says that Bliss "was an absolute hero" in those first awful days. "I don't know what we would have done without Nate," says Star. "His dedication to and love for Coney Island during this tragedy were absolutely extraordinary."

The image of Bliss shoveling sand off the boardwalk is one that will stay with the Wonder Wheel's Vourderis, but he already knew of Bliss' dedication from years of working with him on redevelopment efforts. "He's at meetings, he's at grand openings, he's at ribbon cuttings," says Vourderis, whose family has owned the Wonder Wheel and adjacent amusement park for 40 years. "He's part of the family, part of the fabric that makes up Coney Island today."

Vourderis sees in Bliss a sincerity and attention to detail not often found in city staffers. "A lot of these guys will give you lip

service, but not Nate," he says. "Nate gets stuff done. He's not afraid to get his feet wet, to get his hands dirty."

Pinsky, Bliss' boss at the EDC, says that Bliss combines the technical and management acumen to see a capital-improvement project to completion — be it an amusement park or sewer system — with more intangible qualities.

"Where I think he's particularly effective is in dealing with the people in the community, making himself really a trusted partner," says Pinsky. "There are a lot of people who bring only one set of skills. Nate is a unique individual in that he is not just empathetic but able to turn that empathy into action."

And even with hurricane recovery dominating their efforts in recent months, Pinsky adds, "Nate and his team have not lost sight of the long term and the need to keep thinking strategically while helping people on a tactical level."

For his part, Bliss was deeply moved by the community's determination to dig out from the hurricane's wreckage. "People didn't sit on their hands for a moment," he says. "They started rebuilding their businesses as soon as they could."

No one denies, however, that the neighborhood has a long road ahead. For all the celebratory vibe of opening day, some of the neighborhood's 50,000 residents remain displaced and out of work. Many businesses are yet to reopen; some have closed for good. "There's optimism," Bliss says, "coupled with the new reality."

**G**rowing up in Virginia with Yonkers-born grandparents, Bliss visited New York City frequently enough to know that he wanted to live there one day. It was one of the strongest draws for attending Columbia, and he soaked up all the city had to offer — music, food, neighborhoods. On campus, he was "a real explorer" of academic paths and extracurricular activities; he tried pre-med before settling on urban studies as his major. For one season he rowed with the lightweight crew and became fascinated by what he calls the city's "forgotten urban waterfront," the Harlem River, where the team practices. He also started a Bliss family tradition: His sisters Rebby '07, '13 Business and Samara '13 both followed him to Columbia.

When he's not working, Bliss is the bassist and backup vocalist for a pop/punk/indie band called the Aye-Ayes. He's also planning his wedding next year to Amira Ibrahim '05 Barnard. They didn't know each other during their time on campus but friends introduced them shortly after graduation. "So clearly," says Bliss, "Columbia has had an influence on my life trajectory."

Bliss' employment at EDC began in 2005, when he took a summer internship in its development department. He parlayed the internship into a full-time job as a junior project manager, and in 2010 he was promoted to his current position. All along, Coney Island has been his territory.

The neighborhood offers a feast for an urban policy guy to sink his teeth into: amusement parks, entertainment, a major transit center, a beach and a diverse population. "The people are awesome," says Bliss, who has collaborated with "pastors from local churches as well as burlesque dancers and freaks from the entertainment venues." And after working side by side with residents after the hurricane, Bliss says his connection to Coney Island now "is doubly strong."

Perched on the southern edge of Brooklyn, about an hour by subway from Midtown, Coney Island — which actually is not an island but sits on a peninsula — has drawn recreation seekers since the 1830s, when sweaty Manhattanites traveled there by steamship or carriage for a seaside vacation. The first half of

the 20th century was the area's heyday, especially after subway service linked Brooklyn to Manhattan in 1915, delivering hordes of daytrippers to its beach, amusement parks and cheap entertainment. Following WWII, a number of factors contributed to Coney Island's decline: air-conditioning, which made it more bearable to stay indoors; the expansion of automobile ownership, which put less-crowded Long Island, New Jersey and Connecticut beaches within easier reach; and the city's overall economic troubles in the 1970s.

When Bliss started working in Coney Island in 2005, the city was in the throes of writing a comprehensive plan to stimulate economic growth in the neighborhood. Securing its distinctive character as an amusement destination was a central piece of that strategy. At that time, the trash-strewn, vacant lots along the boardwalk were being eyed for high-rise hotels and condos, something few Coney Islanders wanted to see. So the city bought about seven acres from condo developers — an acknowledgment, says Bliss, "that amusement parks will have a hard time surviving, given the vagaries of the real estate market. If the city was serious about preserving Coney Island, it had to do that."

The city, however, had no wish to actually operate amusement

parks. A private company runs the two new parks that have gone up on city-owned land: Luna Park, which opened in 2010, and the Scream Zone, which opened a year later. Another major project, Steeplechase Plaza, was set to open on Memorial Day. It will be an outdoor plaza with retail and performance space and a restored 1919 carousel. Both Luna Park and Steeplechase Park resurrect the names of long-closed attractions from Coney Island, harkening back to its glory days and, the hope is, heralding new ones. Beyond the amusement zone, a YMCA is under construction and rehabilitation of several neighborhood parks also is in the works.

In November, New York City voters will elect Bloomberg's successor. At the moment, Bliss isn't heading for the door, but the arrival of a new administration, he says, is a natural turning point for someone in his position. Whatever his next job may be, Bliss knows he's been fortunate to have begun his career on turf as unique and rich with history as Coney Island.

"There's a saying in Coney Island: 'Once you have sand in your shoes, you never get it out,'" says Bliss. "For better or worse, I'll always have sand in my shoes."

Mary Jean Babic is a freelance writer who lives in Brooklyn.



Bliss has been working in Coney Island since 2005 and says wherever his career takes him, "I'll always have sand in my shoes."

PHOTO: NATALIE KEYSAR

# Scholars in the Storm

*How one alumnus, the school he founded and a community beat Hurricane Sandy*

BY MICHAEL R. SHEA '10 ARTS

**O**n a brisk February morning, 20 middle school honor students, most with a parent or two by their side, sat before plates of bacon and eggs in the second floor library at Scholars' Academy, an accelerated New York City public school for sixth through 12th graders in Rockaway Park, Queens.

"This," school principal and founder Brian O'Connell '89 told the gathering, "is my favorite day of the month."

The students had earned their special before-school breakfast with O'Connell through a combination of good grades and good character. During the next hour these Outstanding Scholars of the Month were celebrated; the principal read glowing letters from the teachers and the students posed for pictures snapped with an iPad before beaming parents. For these kids, it was an achievement on many levels: some of them still lived in hotels, or with their extended families or in the few rooms in their homes not destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

Scholars' Academy sits in the middle of the Rockaway Peninsula, on a slice of land less than a 1/2-mile wide, sandwiched between Jamaica Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. When Sandy made landfall here on October 29, it flooded the school in minutes. Saltwater mixed with overflow from a sewage treatment plant next door. The basement became a fish tank of floating waste. The gray-black water came up through the first floor, destroying everything that wasn't suspended four feet up. The new gym floor, bought with the help of parents and local businesses, rippled and cracked. Black mold soon covered everything, working up the walls toward the classrooms on the second floor of the two-story building.

Scholars' Academy was among the hardest hit of all New York City schools by the hurricane. It was also the last one to reopen afterward — nearly three months later, on January 11, which happened to be O'Connell's birthday. Remarkably, thanks to the school administration's quick redirection of students to temporary schools in East New York, most of the kids didn't miss a single day of school.

"You stood out," O'Connell told the 20 middle-schoolers. "You avoided distractions. You earned this."

**S**cholars' Academy grew from O'Connell's vision. Born in Brooklyn, raised in the Rockaways by a taxi driver father and a mother who worked in the cafeteria at Far Rockaway H.S., he grew up watching its best students endure long bus rides to the city's top middle and high schools. In 2003, as prin-

icipal at The Belle Harbor School in the Rockaways (then just an elementary school), O'Connell was struck by the local class numbers: Of the 125 fifth-graders graduating from his school, only 24 matriculated to Rockaway Park's only middle school, P.S. 180.

"Parents vote with their feet," O'Connell says. "For a lot of reasons, they didn't feel a viable middle school option was in their community."

With the support of his regional superintendent, Kathleen M. Cashin Ed.D. — now a member of the New York State Board of Regents — O'Connell drafted the plan for a different kind of school on the edge of Queens. As an accelerated program, it would require applicants to score high on the city's standardized tests. As a meritocracy, it would retain the Rockaways' top talent, regardless of race, religion, neighborhood or financial situation.

Anywhere other than a school hallway O'Connell could be mistaken for a politician or corporate executive, with his direct manner and tailored suits. But here at Scholars', he seems more like a fun uncle. "Hey, Mr. O!" the students call out, holding doors for him, asking about his weekend.

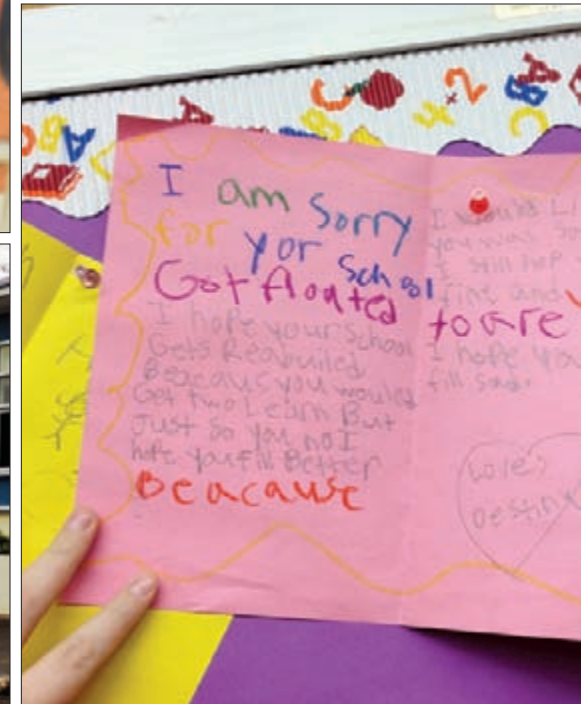
Outside his second floor office, O'Connell stops. "See this," he says, slapping a wall that's covered with photos of his wife and two kids, of students and of school sporting events. "This is my Facebook. No one can hack it."

Inside, a small Irish flag hangs over his desk. His father is Irish. On one bookshelf is an autographed picture of *The Sopranos'* Paulie Walnuts. His mother is Italian. Through the window, the football field of next-door Beach Channel H.S. stands against Jamaica Bay. "That's where I made a 95-yard touchdown run," O'Connell says. "I'm sure that's why I got into Columbia."

O'Connell was an all-city fullback and rushed for just shy of 1,000 yards his senior year, 1984. Recruited, he played all four years at the College, at a time when the program wasn't quite so storied. "*Sports Illustrated* covered us one year, and not because we were great," he says, laughing. When his team broke the school's 44-game losing streak, he swung from the goal posts with the other players.

O'Connell graduated with a major in political science, though his mother told him: "You should become a teacher. You'll never be bored." He says she couldn't have been more correct. "I'm restless. I have a lot of energy. It's still something I manage and focus."

After Columbia, O'Connell substitute taught in Brooklyn while earning a master's in elementary education in just five months at Adelphi University on Long Island. He also owned two taxicabs that he managed out of Howard Beach Taxi. During Easter recess one year, his driver wrecked a car on the Van Wyck Expressway; his second car had engine troubles and was down for the count.



Scholars' Academy, founded by Brian O'Connell '89 in 2004, moved into its two-story home in Rockaway Park (Queens), N.Y., in 2005. It was flooded from Hurricane Sandy plus toxic overflow from a sewage treatment plant next door, and its students were bussed to other schools for nearly three months. At Mill Basin Elementary School, they were greeted with welcome cards made from construction paper. Scholars' reopened on January 11 and in early February, O'Connell posed with some of his students in front of a sign bearing the slogan that came to define their rebuilding effort: Rockaway Resilient.

PHOTOS: TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM: MICHAEL SHEA '10 ARTS; ALL OTHERS, BRIAN O'CONNELL '89



"I spent the whole break taking the front end off one car with a ratchet set and putting it on the other car. It was mechanical, finger-banging, hand-scrapping, back-breaking work," he says. "I remember thinking, 'This isn't for me.' I knew I had to throw myself 100 percent into education."

He was hired full-time as a fifth-grade teacher at P.S. 236 Mill Basin in Brooklyn in 1992 and rose to assistant principal in 2000. But that December, he found himself "in a funk," having lost out on a principalship. He turned to technology, always his hobby-horse, and started videotaping his best teachers in action in the classroom. On staff development days, he showed the videos to staff, and the highlighted teacher would present on how his or her style worked.

In April 2003, O'Connell was promoted to principal of Belle Harbor School, the elementary school where he realized just how few Rockaway students stayed in the Rockaways for middle and high school. That summer he was tapped by Cashin and started on what he calls "the dog and pony show of selling a school." He pitched the district and the community the idea of a gifted middle school program that could retain the peninsula's best and brightest.

Scholars' Academy opened in 2004 as a sixth-grade middle school program, with the students divided between two locations in East New York. A year later the staff and students moved into a permanent home, which they shared with a struggling local high school, P.S. 180. By 2006 Scholars' had morphed into a full middle school, hosting grades six through eight. In 2007, based on community response, it expanded into an accelerated high school program by adding one grade a year until 2011, when its first senior class graduated. P.S. 180 was eventually phased out and Scholars' Academy has since earned straight A's on its NYC Department of Education Progress Reports for both the middle and high schools.

If you found yourself in a Scholars' classroom today and thought you'd wandered onto the set of *Star Trek*, you couldn't be faulted. Technology is one of O'Connell's core interests, and using it to enhance the classroom experience was a founding tenet of the school. It shows. There's more technology packed into the 700-sq.-ft. rooms than your typical Apple store. The white boards are digital — three, four, sometimes five to a room. All the administrators and teachers carry iPads. There are carts with dozens of iPads and Kindles for the students to use. There are few textbooks and no paper. Every lesson is posted online and beamed to the walls and the tablets. Parents have logins to the school's website and can track their children's progress.

The curriculum is built around the SCALE-UP model, which places students at round tables, not desks, in "learning triads" or "cooperative learning groups" to encourage collaborative learning and team problem solving. "It's about promoting interdisciplinary learning, where it fits," Cashin says. "We created a strong framework with lots of reading, fiction and nonfiction, a lot of writing and a lot of project-oriented learning. Brian took that framework and moved it to a new level. He's so talented, so intelligent that he saw how technology can reach out to parents, enhance communication and heighten integration in the classroom."

Approximately 25 percent of Scholars' Academy students come from east Rockaway peninsula, which is predominantly black and Latino, and another 25 percent come from the west peninsula, which is primarily white. Roughly 40 percent of the students come from District 27, which makes up the outer edge of Queens. Ten percent come from elsewhere in the city, some as far away as Park Slope in Brooklyn and Forest Hills in Queens.

"The school is literally smack in the middle of the peninsula," O'Connell says, thumping a map of the Rockaways on his office wall. Despite the technology and all the innovative learning strategies, he considers the central mission of Scholars' Academy "positive integration" in the middle of a socially, economically and religiously diverse community. "The round tables are about equity," he says. "The triads are about social cooperation."

"We lost our home. We lost our business. Eight feet of water covered everything," says Lintia Lyons, whose sixth-grade son, Caleb, had just received his Outstanding Scholar certificate from O'Connell. After the storm, the family bounced from a Hilton to a friend's home to staying with family to a rental near their property so they could continue down the long road of reconstruction.

Such stories were typical among Scholars' families and many others across the city, and NYC public schools shut down for an unprecedented five days after the storm. When they reopened, O'Connell's students were displaced out and around the five boroughs. With the help of Google Docs and cell phone contact with parents, his assistant principals pinpointed the neighborhoods with the highest densities of Scholars' students. They set up charter bus depots to transport kids from those neighborhoods to temporary schools in East New York. "I didn't even know how we'd pay for it," O'Connell says. "But I figured, hey, that's what FEMA is for." (FEMA did come through with some funding.)

Yet the night before that first day back, a major miscommunication occurred. The NYC Department of Education sent a notice to parents to have their kids at the Scholars' Academy site to meet district busses, not at the bus depots the Scholars' staff had set up and already communicated about to parents.

O'Connell drove to Scholars' that morning from the Bay Ridge hotel where he'd been living with his wife and children since the storm. Fourteen students had shown up at the school (the majority had gone to the bus depots anyway). It was freezing. A nor'easter was approaching the city.

"I got on the bus with them and asked, 'How many of you have electricity?'" he recalls. Not a single hand went up. "How many of you have heat?" Not a single hand. "How many of you have hot water?" Not a single hand. "How many of you want to go to school?" Every hand on the bus shot up.

All told, Sandy displaced 30 percent of the school's staff and 60 percent of its 1,200 students. The Department of Education committed \$200 million to repair the flooded and broken building but even with such funding the work was slow. Demolition teams brought down walls, chiseled away the rotted gym floor and collected all the school's trashed paper records in a cargo container by the front door. For their part, the parents, students and teachers worked just as hard, bearing down on the work of teaching and learning in their temporary East New York schools.

Four months later, when the kids finally moved back into the Rockaway Park school building that had become a home away from home for so many, O'Connell handed them all T-shirts. On the front, it read "Scholars Strong," and on the back, "Rockaway Resilient."

For more photos of and to view a video about Hurricane Sandy's impact on Scholars' Academy, go to Web Extras at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

Michael R. Shea '10 Arts is a freelance writer who lives in New York City.

# Alumni News

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Members of the cast of the 1940 *Varsity Show*, called *Life Begins in '40*, take advantage of beautiful weather on March 20, 1940, to rehearse on Low Plaza. Their dance routine, "Pony Ballet," included student-athletes with a combined weight of more than two tons. *Life Begins in '40* was written by famed *Varsity Show* alumnus I.A.L. Diamond '41, who went on to write *Some Like It Hot* (1959) and *The Apartment* (1960) with Billy Wilder.

PHOTO: WIDE WORLD PHOTOS, INC., COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



MESSAGE FROM CCAA PRESIDENT KYRA TIRANA BARRY '87

## Students and Alumni Have Much To Share

**A**s an alumna, two of my favorite days on campus are Convocation in August, when a new group of first-year students officially enters the Columbia community, and Class Day in May, when the College welcomes its newest alumni.

The students' energy, enthusiasm and anticipation is abundant at Convocation. Four years later, that energy translates into cheers and exuberant "woo-hoos" when those same students — now the graduating class — watch the alumni march during the Alumni Parade of Classes on Class Day. The moment is an affirmation of the importance of alumni to students, who are soon to become alumni themselves.

What happens during the four years from Convocation to Class Day is a focus of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) Board of Directors, and in particular of its Student Alumni Committee.

The Student Alumni Committee, co-chaired by Dan Tamkin '81 and Scott Koonin '02, seeks to help the College improve student life by exposing students to the knowledge, experience and guidance that alumni have to offer. This interaction can be enriching to students and alumni alike and can provide a model for students of what it means to be an active member of the alumni community.

Working closely with Student Affairs and the Alumni Office, the committee looks to identify areas where alumni can support and enhance the quality of the non-academic areas of student life (residences and dining, student advising and activities) as well as create meaningful interactions between alumni and students throughout a student's undergraduate journey. This past year, the committee planned a CCAA board meeting devoted to student-alumni programs, focused on the key role of data in enhancing alumni participation and the transition from student life to alumni life, attended student council meetings and selected the alumni prizes awarded to seniors on Class Day.

Part of the process is to hear from students directly, and their voices informed the discussions at the board's January meeting. Working closely with the three student representatives to the board (Maryam Aziz '13, Allan Kang '14 and Maria Sulimirski '13), the Student Alumni Committee developed an agenda for the meeting and questions for the board members, and invited students to participate in intimate roundtable discussions. More than 20 students attended the meeting and



A growing number of programs, such as this Media Networking Night on March 11, provide opportunities for students to engage with alumni.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

sat alongside alumni to discuss the objectives of student-alumni engagement programs, the benefits of these programs to both students and alumni, and best practices to communicate student-alumni engagement opportunities to both constituencies in order to maximize participation.

What we are learning is that Columbia has many wonderful programs and opportunities for students and alumni, as described in the cover story of this issue, and that both students and alumni want to increase direct connections with one another. Both want more informal interactions, more events spread out during the students' campus experience and easier access to engagement oppor-

unities. Alumni are enlivened when they meet with and engage with our extraordinary students, and students are grateful and feel a sense of connectedness when they find alumni who want to advise and support them.

This feedback has been very helpful to the CCAA board as it works with the Columbia College Alumni Relations Strategic Task Force, which is led by the Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. '78, a University trustee who has been an active alumnus since graduation. The task force, with CCAA board support, worked hard this spring to develop a plan to serve alumni. The board's intention is to have a final report by this fall to guide the Alumni Office.

Behind this recent activity is a dynamic new College leader, Bernice Tsai '96. As the senior executive director for alumni affairs and communications, Bernice has had an immediate and significant impact on the College's alumni affairs and communications efforts, supporting and shaping the strategic planning process as well as leading the increasingly important Alumni Affairs and Communications team. The CCAA board couldn't be more delighted to have her as a partner and looks forward to working with her team on behalf of the more than 47,500 College alumni. If you see Bernice at an event, please introduce yourself, or reach out to either one of us (bst8@columbia.edu or ccaapresident@columbia.edu) with your thoughts on how to engage 100 percent of Columbia College alumni to better support our wonderful community.

Happy summer, and I hope to see you at Convocation's Alumni Parade of Classes on Monday, August 26.

Kyra Barry

### CCAA Student Alumni Committee

#### CO-CHAIRS

Dan Tamkin '81  
Scott Koonin '02

#### MEMBERS

Jean-Marie Atamian '81  
Eric Branfman '69  
Michael Braun '70  
David D. Chait '07  
Alexandra Feldberg '08  
Stephanie Foster '12  
Lauren Gershell '99  
Ellen Gustafson '02  
Stephen Jacobs '75  
Barry Levine '65  
Ira B. Malin '75  
Teresa Saputo-Crerend '87  
Steven Schwartz '70  
Gerald Sherwin '55  
Roxann Smithers '99

#### AFFILIATE MEMBER

Randy Berkowitz '04

# Bookshelf

**Next to Last Words** by Daniel Hoffman '47. The late poet laureate's 13th collection of imaginative poetry explores the cosmos, politics, history, nature, love and grief (Louisiana State University Press, \$16.95).

**You're My Dawg, Dog: A Lexicon of Dog Terms for People** by Donald Friedman '49, with illustrations by J.C. Suarès. Friedman defines an array of dog-centric idioms, proverbs and metaphors (Welcome Enterprises, \$12.95).

**Tales to Tell: Memoir** by Tracy G. Herrick '56. Herrick recounts rising to the top of the nation's largest securities firm, experiencing vivid premonitions of his son's death and becoming a young scholar and a champion of the free market (Xlibris Corp., \$19.99).

**Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Prepared for Life** by Peter Gray '66. Developmental psychologist Gray argues the need for self-directed learning and free play for children from a biological perspective (Basic Books, \$27.99).

**Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time** by Ira Katznelson '66, the Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History. Katznelson examines the New Deal Era in America and argues that democracy was rescued but distorted by southern lawmak-

ers such as Walter Lippmann and Theodore Bilbo, who sought to safeguard racial segregation, manage capitalism and assert global power (Liveright Publishing Corp., \$29.95).

**A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens, edited by Michael D. Aeschliman '70. A new edition of the classic novel on the French Revolution, with introduction and notes by Aeschliman, the professor emeritus of education at Boston University (Ignatius Press, \$11.95).

**The Oxford Book of American Poetry** chosen and edited by David Lehman '70. Beginning with the work of 17th-century poets such as Anne Bradstreet, this anthology features 1,100 poems with informative notes for the novice reader (Oxford University Press, USA, \$35).

**Death, Dying, and Organ Donation: Reconstructing Medical Ethics at the End of Life** by Frank G. Miller '70 and Robert D. Truog. Miller and Truog undertake an ethical examination that aims to honestly face the reality of medical practices at the end of life (Oxford University Press, \$57.50).

**Offerings** by Richard Smolev '70. In this novel, Kate Brewster becomes the first woman to run a Wall Street institution and perseveres through family crisis, illegal trading schemes and attacks on her integrity (Academy Chicago Publishers, \$26.50).

**Japan and the Culture of the Four Seasons: Nature, Literature, and the Arts** by Haruo Shirane '74, the Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture. Shirane discusses textual, cultivated, material, performative and other representations of nature in Japan as well as the cultural construction of the four seasons as a Japanese aesthetic (Columbia University Press, \$25).

**The Universe Within: Discovering the Common History of Rocks, Planets, and People** by Neil Shubin '82. Paleontologist and geologist Shubin explores the unexpected links among human biology, the planet and the universe and demonstrates how the evolution of the cosmos can be seen in our bodies (Pantheon, \$25.95).

**A Steven Spielberg Film, Lincoln: A Cinematic and Historical Companion** by David Rubel '83; afterword by Tony Kushner '78. Rubel's narrative, combined with art and first-person recollections, provides an account of the making of *Lincoln* as well as the historical events upon which the film is based (Disney, \$45).

**The Kickstarter Handbook: Real-Life Crowdfunding Success Stories** by Don Steinberg '83. In this book for entrepreneurs, artists and innovators, Steinberg, a business journalist for *The Wall Street Journal*, lays out strategies for leading a successful Kickstarter campaign (Quirk Books, \$14.95).

**An Artist in Venice** by Adam Van Doren '84. Painter Van Doren combines narration, history, sketches and maps with 25 of his watercolor paintings of the Italian city (David R. Godine Publisher, \$26.95).

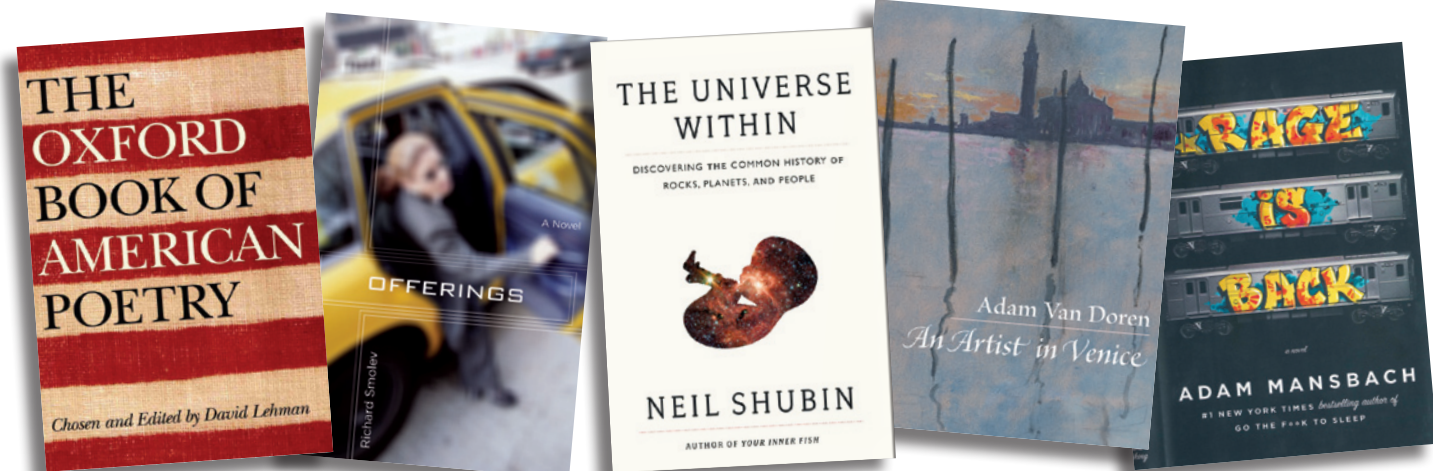
**The Moment of Racial Sight: A History** by Irene Tucker '87. The author analyzes racial perception from the Enlightenment to the HBO series *The Wire* (The University of Chicago Press, \$45).

**Rage Is Back: A Novel** by Adam Mansbach '98. A father and son are reunited in New York, rallying with graffiti artists to bring down the man running for mayor (Viking, \$26.95).

**Year-Round Slow Cooker: 100 Favorite Recipes for Every Season** by Dina Cheney '99. Cheney offers 100 recipes for the slow cooker, an underappreciated tool that can be used to cook modern, colorful and flavorful meals with ease (Taunton Press, \$19.95).

**Impossibly Glamorous: How a Misfit from Kansas Became an Asian Sensation** by Charles Ayres '00. In this memoir, Ayres, an entertainment personality in Japan, addresses such issues as sexuality, discrimination, love, poverty and substance abuse (Impossibly Glamorous Studios, \$16.95).

**International Interplay: The Future of Expropriation Across**



## Is Our Tradition of Tinkering at Risk?

BY JUSTIN DEFREITAS

**Alec Foege '88** says tinkering — the impulse to experiment with existing objects and technologies to make “something genuinely new out of the things that already surround us” — is a crucial factor in America’s centuries-long success story. In his new book, *The Tinkerers: The Amateurs, DIYers, and Inventors Who Make America Great* (Basic Books, \$26.99), Foege makes his case by imparting great tinkering tales past and present, from lesser-known endeavors of the Founding Fathers to the prolific output of Thomas Edison’s laboratory to modern-day innovators, entrepreneurs and educators.

In some respects, Foege says, tinkering is not as easy as it used to be. Electronics manufacturers and their overzealous legal departments are increasingly determined to discourage us from cracking open those sleek cases of molded plastic and brushed aluminum — corporate America recently succeeded in making it a criminal act to hack your phone in order to switch carriers. But despite efforts to keep our curiosity at bay, Foege believes we’re in a golden age of tinkering.

“Thanks to innovations such as the 3D printer and the \$35 Raspberry Pi computer, high-tech tinkering is increasingly within the reach of everyone,” Foege says. “In addition, crowd funding sites such as Kickstarter and Quirky make it easier than ever to fund a new idea, and incubators such as Tech All Stars and Y Combinator provide much-needed mentorship and networking resources to young entrepreneurs.”

Yet he also argues that the tradition is at risk.

“For many generations in the postindustrial age, puttering around with the mechanical devices that surrounded us was practically a rite of passage and, for many, a way of life,” Foege writes. “After an era of economic excess that transformed our nation from one of doers to consumers, the United States risks losing its hallowed tinkerer tradition as well as the engine of innovation that fueled an unprecedented era of growth.”

Foege himself has long been a tinkerer of sorts, and he recalls cycling through an array of hobbies and scientific pursuits while growing up in Rye, N.Y. In fact, he says, he well may have tested every chemistry set on the market, and even survived a few experiments with Presto’s infamous hot dog cooker — that almost medieval device that impaled a sausage on a bare rod connected directly to an electrical outlet. As a teenager his interests turned to rock and jazz. “But I was drawn as much to the gear as to the music,” he says, “tweaking amps and effects pedals to alter the sound of my guitar.”

Foege attended Columbia because he felt it was the most countercultural of the Ivy League schools, having nurtured the budding talents of writers such as Allen Ginsberg '48 and Jack Kerouac '44. He became a writer for *SPIN*, *Rolling Stone* and *People*, and later was one of the founding editors of *In Touch Weekly*.

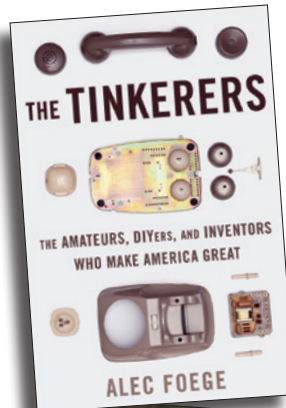


PHOTO: ABIGAIL POPE

Along the way he wrote books about Sonic Youth, Clear Channel and Pat Robertson. In 2005 Foege founded his own business, Brookside Research, an investment research company. Foege credits his range of interests in part to the realization, during his time at Columbia, that the divide between the sciences and the arts and humanities is not only artificial but also constraining. And conquering that divide, he says, is a crucial element in tinkering.

“Tinkerers need to be dilettantes,” he says, “and I mean that in the best sense. You have to let a bit of air into your thinking.”

The idea for the book came from one of Foege’s editors, but the concept really came into focus when Foege faced a typical latter-day consumer electronics quandary: The screen on his BlackBerry broke, rendering the device unusable. He took it to a licensed dealer but the sales representative said they were no longer allowed to fix them. “That was my favorite part of the job,” he told Foege. “Now all I get to do is sell phones.” He informed Foege that all he could do was sell him a new BlackBerry, at the full retail price.

Foege decided to research cheaper replacements online. “What I stumbled onto instead was a short video on YouTube [that] showed a pair of hands disassembling a BlackBerry and replacing the screen in a matter of minutes,” he writes. He ordered a new screen from an online retailer and fixed the device himself for less than a quarter of the cost of replacing it. Foege had tapped into an online network of DIYers

and discovered that tinkering is indeed alive and well.

The most interesting case studies Foege presents are of modern-day tinkerers who are attempting to instill a bit of that old-time spirit in younger generations. One is Gever Tulley, who started Tinkering School, an adventurous and industrious six-day overnight camp in San Francisco in which kids work on a series of ever-larger projects. The first camp, in 2005, saw the kids progress from building chairs to building bridges and towers, ultimately uniting these concepts for their final project: a 100-ft.-long roller coaster.

“The detail with which they remember riding the roller coaster or flying the hang glider that they built,” Tulley says, “the minutiae they remember and the principles that are burned into their brains from those experiences — those are lasting, durable memories.”

Like Tulley, Foege believes that the importance of tinkering has not been generally recognized in recent years, and his book represents an effort to give the tradition its due. He’s optimistic.

“I believe Americans are beginning to unlock a new level of consciousness about tinkering,” Foege says. “Having lived through the era of mammoth corporate conglomerates, we as a country are returning to our tinkering roots and fully appreciating the power of our historic pioneering spirit.”

Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer, editor and artist.

**International Dispute Settlement** by Riddhi Dasgupta '07. Dasgupta analyzes international disputes over land rights and proposes solutions to the issues that arise from

expropriation (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, \$82.99).

**The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers**

**Our Future** by Joseph E. Stiglitz, University Professor. Stiglitz assesses the implications of an economically divided society on democracy, policy and globaliza-

tion and proposes a plan for a more just and prosperous future (W.W. Norton & Co., \$16.95).

Karl Daum '15



# Obituaries

1926



Malcolm R. Warnock '26

**Malcolm R. Warnock**, retired attorney, Maplewood, N.J., on October 9, 2012. Warnock was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and grew up in Cranford, N.J. He entered Princeton but transferred to the College. He earned a degree from the Law School in 1929. During WWII, Warnock worked for the predecessor of the Air Force and then on the Manhattan Project. Until he retired in 1973, he worked for the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Warnock was an avid tennis player into his 90s. He narrated his church’s Christmas pageant for 40 years and often had the lead in amateur plays and musicals. He was a trained singer, a painter and an antique clock collector, and he read widely.

### 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, 6th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

Warnock and his wife, Dorothy, lived in Short Hills, N.J., for more than 50 years. She predeceased him. Warnock is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Eugene Carlough; daughter, Eleanor; and one grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to the College (college.columbia.edu/giveonline), the Law School (giving.columbia.edu/giveonline) or Winchester Gardens Association Scholarship Fund, 333 Elmwood Ave., Maplewood, NJ 07040.

1943

**Harold C. Vaughan**, retired history teacher, Fort Lee, N.J., on September 22, 2012. Vaughan was born in New York City on October 26, 1923. He did not attend his College commencement, as he was already off to basic training in Biloxi, Miss., followed by pilot training with the Army Air Corps at Elon University. After the service, Vaughan returned to Teachers College for an M.A., graduating in 1945. He began a 38-year career as a high school history teacher in New York at Collegiate School in 1947. He taught at Brooklyn Friends School from 1949–59 and at Ridgewood [N.J.] H.S. from 1959–85, where he introduced a stock market course. Vaughan was recognized in 2000 with a special tribute at Brooklyn Friends. He was a devotee of theatre and the arts, author of seven history books, a world traveler and an ardent supporter of civil rights. Vaughan is survived by his sister, Dorothy V. Brophy; nephew, Thomas E. Brophy; nieces, Diane V. Brophy and Meta A. Brophy; two great-nephews; and two great-nieces.

1946

**Charles J. Fabso**, retired sales manager, Durham, N.C., on January 17, 2012. Fabso was born on June 19, 1925, in New York City. He graduated from Stuyvesant, where he was president of the senior class and a member the National Honor Society (known as Arista in NYC public schools). At the College, he was president of Beta Theta Pi. After earning an M.S. from the Business School in 1947, Fabso joined General Electric, where he was manager – sales, Audio Products Department, and manager – sales, Home Laundry Department. He later was director of marketing, Consumer Electronics Division, for Philco-Ford. He retired from GE as general manager, Sales and Distribution Department, House-

wares and Audio Business Division. Fabso was a member of the Congregational Church of Easton, where he was chair of the Board of Deacons, the Board of Finance and the Board of Stewardship and Missions. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joan Winsko Fabso; children, Joan Fabso Cassell and her husband Ronnie, and Charles; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Congregational Church of Easton, PO Box 37, Easton, CT 06612; note in the check’s memo line “Book of Remembrance — Charles Fabso.”

1950

**Alfonso A. Lordi**, sales manager, Denver, on January 22, 2012. Lordi was born on January 6, 1925, in Mount Vernon, N.Y., and was a 50-year resident of Dover, Mass. He was a decorated WWII tech sergeant serving directly under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 9th Army Headquarters Company. He fought at Normandy, in the Battle of the Bulge and into Germany. Lordi was then sent to Okinawa Island to prepare for the invasion of Japan. He was awarded six battle stars and the Meritorious Service Award for Outstanding Combat Performance. After the war Lordi attended Columbia, reuniting him with Eisenhower, then University president, who often called on him to entertain foreign dignitaries. After graduating with a degree in business, Lordi embarked on a 40-year sales career for Mennen, Playtex and Exquisite Form. A mechanical whiz, he was quick to fix anything with a motor. In Dover, he was a member of the local VFW and a longtime member of Saint Dunstan’s Episcopal Church. Lordi was predeceased by his wife of 40 years, Elisabeth Perry Lordi, and is survived by a son, Alan; daughter-in-law, Pamela; three grandchildren; two of his three brothers, Frances “Dick” ’50 and Gerardo ’48; and their wives and children.

**Daniel L. O’Keefe**, retired magazine editor, Chappaqua, N.Y., on August 29, 2012. O’Keefe was born on February 25, 1928, in Jersey City. He earned a Ph.D. at The New School for Social Research and studied at St. Catherine’s College Oxford as a Rotary Fellow. His journalism career started in high school with speeches around the country for Junior Achievement. O’Keefe had a New York radio show, “Youth Demands the Answer,” but was

fired when an on-air fistfight broke out between guests. A *Reader’s Digest* editor, he worked with writers such as Ray Bradbury, Ishmael Reed and Czeslaw Milosz. His book, *Stolen Lightning: The Social Theory of Magic* (1982), was a National Book Critics Circle Award nominee. In a *New York Times* paid death notice, John Leonard said, “Not since Marx, Darwin and Freud has there been anyone so opinionated” and “Mr. O’Keefe is a better writer than Darwin.” O’Keefe’s invented family holiday, “Festivus,” appeared in a *Seinfeld* episode, written by his son Daniel. Each weekend in a Chappaqua bar, he spoke multiple languages with his wife and anyone else who would listen; he spoke 40 languages in all, with varying accuracy. O’Keefe is survived by his wife, Deborah; sons Daniel, Laurence and Markham; and one grandson.

1952

**Mark Flanigan**, retired naval officer, Washington, D.C., on May 26, 2012. Flanigan was born on October 5, 1930, in Manhattan. He was commissioned in 1955 and began service in the Office of Naval Intelligence. In 1965, after completing his first tour of active duty, Flanigan returned to Morningside and served for four years as assistant dean of the College, with responsibilities including the direction of Columbia’s Upward Bound compensatory education program. Coaching Columbia’s 1966–67 College Bowl team, Flanigan told *Spectator*: “I am the only coach on campus with an undefeated, untied and unscored-on team.” Resuming active duty, he co-authored recommendations to the chief of naval personnel for countering the 1969 NROTC crisis on the nation’s campuses, which Flanigan had experienced as assistant dean. He earned an M.A. in modern European comparative literature at Harvard (1960) and taught at Columbia, Hunter and the Defense Intelligence School. Flanigan retired in 1990 with the rank of captain and had been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal. He is survived by his wife, the former Doris Rohte ’53 Barnard, and their daughters, Page and Meg.

1954

**Peter D. Ehrenhaft**, attorney, Washington, D.C., on July 25, 2012. Ehrenhaft was born in Vienna, Austria, and came with his family to the United States in 1938. He grew up in Queens. Ehrenhaft served in



## Daniel G. Hoffman '47, '56 GSAS, Former U.S. Poet Laureate

**D**aniel G. Hoffman '47, '56 GSAS, an author, professor and 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States (1973–74), died on March 30, 2013. He was 89 and lived in Swarthmore, Pa.

Hoffman was a prolific poet who also wrote free verse and scholarly essays. His first book of poems, *An Armada of Thirty Whales*, was published in 1954, won the Yale Younger Poets Prize the same year and was chosen by W. H. Auden as part of the Yale Series of Younger Poets. Other works include, but are not limited to, *Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe* (1971); *Brotherly Love* (1981); *Hang-Gliding From Helicon: New and Selected Poems, 1948–1988* (1988), winner of the 1988 Paterson Poetry Prize; a war memoir, *Zone of the Interior: A Memoir, 1942–1947* (2000); *Darkening Water* (2002); *Makes You Stop and Think: Sonnets* (2005); and *The Whole Nine Yards: Longer Poems* (2009). His final collection, *Next to Last Words: Poems*, was released this year (see Bookshelf).

Born on April 3, 1923, Hoffman grew up mostly in Larchmont, N.Y. His father was a financial adviser and his mother a high school English teacher. Hoffman entered Columbia as a pre-engineering student but was called up to serve in the Army Air Forces during WWII, serving stateside as a technical writer and as the editor of an aeronautical research journal, *The Technical Data Digest*, which featured abstracts for articles relevant to military research and development.

Hoffman returned to Columbia in 1946 and graduated the next year with a B.A. in English, following that with an M.A. (1949) and a Ph.D. (1956), also in English. He taught briefly at Columbia, then at Swarthmore for 10 years before moving to Penn in 1966, where he was the Felix E. Schelling Professor of English Emeritus until his retirement in 1993. Many of his poems are set on Cape Rosier in Maine, where he spent summers. Hoffman received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2005 from Swarthmore. Other honors include the Memorial Medal of the Magyar P.E.N. for translations of Hungarian poetry, grants from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters as well as the Ingram Merrill Foundation, fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Arthur Rense Prize.



PHOTO: ELIZABETH McFARLAND, COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

Hoffman joined the Council of the Authors Guild in 1974 and later was one of three plaintiffs in *The Authors Guild et al. v. Google Inc.* (2005), the purpose of which was to prevent Google from providing a complete searchable index of extant books.

Hoffman married poet and *Ladies Home Journal* editor Elizabeth McFarland in 1948; she died in 2005. He is survived by a son, MacFarlane, and daughter, Kate Hoffman Siddiqi. *Karl Daum '15 and Lisa Palladino*

the Air Force and reached the rank of colonel in the Air Force Reserve. He simultaneously earned degrees from the Law School and SIPA in 1957 and went to Washington, D.C., in 1961 to serve as senior law clerk to U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren. He then entered private practice and, in 1968, became a partner at the firm then known as Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Kampelman. In 1977, Ehrenhaft joined the Department of the Treasury as deputy assistant secretary for tariff affairs. He returned to private practice in 1980 and was a partner in the Washington offices of several firms. In the late 1980s, Ehrenhaft was an appellate military judge with the Air Force Court of Military Review. He was a lecturer at The George Washington Univer-

sity Law School from 1965–72 and at Penn's law school in the 1980s. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Charlotte Kennedy Ehrenhaft; children, Elizabeth Rankin, James and Daniel '93; a brother; and six grandchildren.

### 1955

**Samuel Astrachan**, novelist, Gordes, France, on August 5, 2012. Astrachan, who was born in the Bronx in 1934, wrote most of his first novel, *An End to Dying*, during his junior and senior years at Columbia. He married Claude Jeanneau in 1960 and began dividing his time between the South of France and the United States. He taught creative writing at Wayne State University in Detroit for one semester of every

year starting in 1971 until his retirement in the late 1990s. Astrachan is survived by his wife; son, Isaac-Daniel '90; daughter-in-law, Meghan Farley; and one grandson, as well as his books: *An End to Dying* (1956), *The Game of Dostoevsky* (1965), *Rejoice* (1970), *Katz-Cohen: A Saga of Three Generations* (1978), *Malaparte in Jassy* (1989, 1994), *Hotel Sevilla: Rockaway Beach* (1996), *Le General, Ses Filles* (1998), *Dans les Jardins De La Marquise* (1999), *Winston* (2001) and *Treife: la fable de l'architecte* (2004).

**James J. Phelan Jr.**, bank executive, New York City, on May 21, 2012. Phelan was born on May 7, 1931, in New York City. A Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, he earned a business administration degree

in 1970 from Adelphi. Exposed to Wall Street at 16 as a runner for his father's firm, he swore he "would never work on Wall Street again," recalling in *Institutional Investor* that "the pay was low, the trip [from home] was terrible, and the job was awful. I thought there must be a better way to make a living." In 1957, however, he rejoined his father's specialist firm, which became known as Phelan & Co., and became managing director after his father's death in 1966. As New York Stock Exchange president (1980–84), he was instrumental in Wall Street's multimillion-dollar investment in the computerization of many of the Big Board's high-tech operations. He then became chairman and chief executive from 1984–90. Phelan was commended for his response to the Black Monday crash of 1987, telling *The Wall Street Journal* at the time, "If we close it [the market], we would never open it." Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Joyce Campbell Phelan; sons, John '85, Peter and David; sister, Elizabeth Lawlor; and six grandchildren.

### 1961

**Thomas E. Bratter**, psychologist, Salisbury, Conn., on August 3, 2012. Bratter was born on May 18, 1939, and grew up in, Scarsdale, N.Y., where he also raised his family. He earned a degree from Teachers College and worked at The John Dewey Academy, a residential high school for bright, troubled adolescents in Great Barrington, Mass., which he established. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Carole Jaffe Bratter; daughter, Barbara '90; son, Edward '87; daughter-in-law, Andrea; three grandchildren; and siblings Nancy Phillips, Nancy Polikoff and Stanley Newman. Memorial contributions may be made to The John Dewey Academy c/o Mario Verdolini, 450 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10017.

### 1963

**Gilbert W. Einstein**, artists' representative, New York City and Wilmington, Mass., on September 21, 2012. Einstein was born in New York City in 1942 and graduated from Bronx Science. After his College graduation he enlisted in the Navy, where he served as Lt. j.g. in the U.S. Pacific Fleet during the early part of the Vietnam War. In 1967 Einstein returned to New York and earned an M.B.A. from the Business School in 1968. In 1972 he incorporated G.W. Einstein Co., which represents a select group of contemporary fine artists and specializes in 20th-century works on paper. It was there that Einstein met painter Anne MacDougall; they married in 1981. Einstein had an encyclopedic knowledge of

jazz, loved going to the theatre and was an avid reader. He also took great pleasure in cooking for family and friends, smoking a fine cigar, flopping the nuts at the poker table and watching a winning New York Yankees season. He is survived by his wife; sister, Carol Einstein Neukomm; daughter, Susanna Einstein and son-in-law, David Zimmerman; stepson, Ashton Chandler MacDougall Ballou, and step-daughter-in-law, Laura Williams Ballou; four grandchildren; and first wife, Nancy York.

### 1964

**Frederick H. Levine**, retired cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon, Amherst, Mass., on September 18, 2012. Levine was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and grew up in Queens. At Columbia he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho, the Columbia College Citizenship Council, the Seixas Society and the Pre-Med Society and wrote for *Spectator*. He earned an M.D. from Harvard, cum laude, in 1968 and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Levine completed his training at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and served in the U.S. Public Health Service for two years at the National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. He was on the staff at MGH and an associate professor at Harvard Medical School until he was named chief of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Detroit Medical Center Sinai-Grace Hospital. Levine was a member of the American College of Surgeons, the Society for Vascular Surgery, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. He is survived by his wife, Patricia '65 Barnard; daughters, Shira and Hallie; sons-in-law, Mark Enstrom and Jamie Sklar; brother Gary; and five grandchildren.

### 1972

**Peter V. Darrow**, attorney, New York City and Sag Harbor, N.Y., on May 19, 2013. Darrow was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., and earned a master's from Trinity College, Oxford. In 1978, he graduated from Michigan Law. During his 35 years as a corporate attorney Darrow was a partner in two firms, Mayer Brown and DLA Piper. He was president of the Columbia Chapter of Alpha Delta Phi and helped the chapter's alumni group acquire the AD house from Columbia in the 1990s. Darrow was chairman of the board of The Cambodia Trust as well as on the board of Everybody Wins. He began rowing in 1968 at Columbia and in 1998 organized a team reunion to compete in the Head Of The Charles Regatta in Cambridge, Mass., a tradition main-

## 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.

- 1932 Vincenzo R. Onorato**, Carmel, Calif., on February 20, 2013.
- 1939 Robert L. Pelz**, attorney, New York City, on March 30, 2013.
- 1940 Albert S. Benoist**, artist, author and futurist, retired architect, Monmouth Beach, N.J., on September 20, 2012. **Melvin H. Intner**, Maplewood, N.J., on March 30, 2013.
- 1942 Arthur E. Smith**, Venice, Fla., on April 12, 2013.
- 1944 Richard E. Bader**, physician, New York City, on April 16, 2013. **Howard H. Wilson**, Three Mile Bay, N.Y., on January 30, 2013.
- 1945 Louis A. Collins**, Boonton, N.J., on April 3, 2013. **Charles A. Kiorpes**, retired business executive, Palm City, Fla., on March 22, 2013.
- 1946 S. Irving Sherr**, door corporation executive, Sarasota, Fla., on March 24, 2012.
- 1948 Donald L. Auperin**, Amityville, N.Y., on February 10, 2013. **Merrill L. Brockway**, director and producer, Santa Fe, N.M., on May 2, 2013.
- 1951 Robert Nielsen**, retired teacher and guidance counselor, Senior Olympian, Montgomery, Ala., on March 15, 2013. **Allan W. Robbins**, Alexandria, Va., on March 3, 2013.
- 1952 David A. Braun**, attorney, Montecito, Calif., on January 28, 2013.
- 1953 Aristide R. Zolberg**, professor emeritus, New York City, on April 12, 2013.
- 1954 A. Joshua Sherman**, attorney, investment banker, academic, Middlebury, Vt., on April 6, 2013.
- 1956 William V. Silver**, advertising display executive, New York City, on May 8, 2013.
- 1958 Myron Bander**, professor of physics and astronomy, Newport Beach, Calif., on December 19, 2012. **Leon Mir**, Brookline, Mass., on February 23, 2013. **Warren C. Smith**, retired teacher, Hampton Bays, N.Y., on January 20, 2013.
- 1959 Allan D. Gardner**, retired advertising executive, Hillsborough, Calif., on March 19, 2013.
- 1960 David S. David**, nephrologist, Beverly Hills, on April 9, 2013. **Norman E. Hildes-Heim**, architect and international hotel developer, Fairfield, Conn., on March 20, 2013.
- 1963 Byron C. Cohen**, art gallery owner, Kansas City, Mo., on May 10, 2013.
- 1967 John L. Dent**, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada, on May 7, 2013. **Joel A. Linsider**, retired, Jerusalem, on June 28, 2012.
- 1972 Harvey S. Hirsch**, psychiatrist, New York City, on March 13, 2013.
- 1977 Paul R. Pastorini**, physician, New London, N.C., on September 28, 2012. **Mark V. Sutton-Smith**, Swarthmore, Pa., on March 12, 2013.

tained for several years. Last year Darrow raised funds to purchase a shell for Columbia's women's crew team. After their mother died of cancer in 2001, Darrow and his brother, Duncan '71, established Fighting Chance, a free-of-charge cancer resource center. Darrow is survived by his wife, Denise V. Seegal; brother; children from a former marriage, Meredith '04 and Peter; and sister-in-law, Wendy. Memorial contributions may be made to Fighting Chance – Free Cancer Counseling Center, PO Box 1358, Sag Harbor, NY 11963.

### 1991

**Juan J. Calderon**, attorney, San Antonio, Texas, on June 12, 2012. Calderon was born in Mexico on November 23, 1968. As an attorney on the Southside of San Antonio, he was affectionately known as "el abogado de los Latinos." Calderon was a dedicated Spurs fan and season ticket holder. He is survived by his parents, Alfredo and Sara; brothers, Alfredo Jr. and his wife, Aurora, and Otoniel "Tony"; sister,

Claudia; three nieces; a nephew; and two goddaughters.

### 1997

**Laura L. Tatum**, architectural records archivist, Guilford, Conn., on October 13, 2012. Tatum was born on October 5, 1975, in Astoria, Ore. At the College, she discovered her professional and personal callings: the professional via work at Columbia's Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, and the personal through her delight in the vibrancy of life in New York City. Upon graduation, Tatum took a position in the MoMA library before returning to school to earn an M.S.I. in library and information services in 2002 from the University of Michigan. Tatum spent much of her career in Manuscripts and Archives at Yale University Library; she worked at UC Berkeley for one year and in 2011 joined the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal. She held leadership roles with the Society of American Archivists and the International Confederation of Architectural Museums. Tatum



Laura L. Tatum '97

also often wrote about food, keeping a blog and contributing to several books. She is survived by her husband, Andy Benner; sister Jesse; brother Mitchell; and parents, Bill and his wife, Lynda. She was predeceased by her mother, Teresa Karch Tatum. Memorial contributions may be made to The Center for Land Use Interpretation (clui.org) or the Connecticut Food Bank (ctfoodbank.org).

Lisa Palladino



















"One of the pleasures of 'cleaning house' is the discovery of the unexpected," Paul Nagano '60 writes from Honolulu. "I was going through letters my mother saved (she saved all the correspondence I sent her when I went away to college and into the Navy), and I came upon a birthday card that I sent to my dad in November 1956. To show him where I lived, I did an ink and watercolor sketch out of my dorm window in Livingston Hall. No iPhone camera then."

ILLUSTRATION: PAUL NAGANO '60

"This summer we are all hiking in Glacier National Park."

We have heard from two of our class' authors who continue to be productive. **Jay Neugeboren** writes, "My 19th and 20th books, both novels, were published this season — *The Other Side of the World* (December) and *The American Sun & Wind Moving Picture Company* (March). Also, I was invited to teach a master class this spring for the graduate writing program of the School of the Arts."

Not to be left out, **Jerome Charyn's** latest novel, *Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln*, will be published next year. He also is working on a study of Emily Dickinson. His 11th in a series of crime novels, *Under the Eye of God: An Isaac Sidel Novel*, recently was published (the entire series is available as e-books). The Isaac Sidel novels are being turned into an animated series for television. As of this writing, Jerome was set to read from an earlier novel, *The Secret Life of Emily Dickinson*, at the American Library in Paris in May.

Jerome lives in New York and Paris. He visited Richmond (and the White House of the Confederacy) late last year while researching his novel on Lincoln, but was unable to meet with **David Peck**, who was out of town.

**J. Peter Rosenfeld** and his wife, Carmen, recently returned from Chile, where they visited with Carmen's brothers, in-laws and one daughter. Peter met with prison system authorities in Chile, where he hopes to start a project to test his concealed information detection technology.

They took a drive up Chile's

amazing Pacific coast — more than comparable with California's, what with the Andes on the other side. They went to the dry northern area to Ovalle, then east to one of Chile's mountain observatories and saw the moon, spiral nebula and Jupiter. Peter says it was amazing.

**Jerry Perlman** brings us up to date. "After completing my orthopedic residency, I was fortunate to meet and marry Norma Diamond of Chattanooga, Tenn. We have two sons. Doug founded Sports Media Advisors in New Canaan, Conn., while Jeff is a partner at LNK Partners, a private equity firm in White Plains, N.Y. They each have three sons, so if I can play first base, we have our own baseball team.

"We live in Wilton, Conn., where I enjoy golf, painting, travel and, most of all, time with the grandkids. I have given up surgery and emergency call duty, and work in the office three half-days a week. Fortunately we all have been healthy and able to enjoy it all. Looking forward to the 55th reunion."

From **Arthur M. Louis**: "I have a new book, *The Little Champ: A Different Kind of Novel*, based on the life of Abe Attell. Attell was the early 20th-century featherweight boxing champion who was implicated in the fixing of the 1919 World Series (the Black Sox series). It is my attempt to get inside Attell's head and write the autobiography he never did. Because I took liberties with the facts, I changed the name of the principal character, although he is easily recognizable."

**Hal Stahl** has been busy. "My wife, Toby, and I spent a lot of time in 2012 with election-related

activities. We worked for a number of Democratic candidates in our largely right-wing state of Arizona, from President Barack Obama '83 down to the local level, and even for a couple of candidates for non-partisan elected positions.

"We lobbied our state re-districting commission to draw more equitable congressional and legislative districts, and largely succeeded. Therefore we were able to help elect a Democrat in our congressional district in a close race, so now the Arizona congressional delegation is majority Democratic. The Arizona State Senate and House Republican majorities were greatly reduced. Obama of course lost the state, which he knew he didn't need to win for an Electoral College victory.

"Healthcare was a major issue and we worked with organizations to help overcome misinformation being propagated against Obamacare. Our other issues included education and election integrity.

"I'm a precinct committeeperson (so is Toby) and I'm also a delegate to the Democratic Party's state convention, which meets quarterly around the state. We still managed to spend a lot of time with our children and our grandsons, three of the four being in Minnesota with my younger daughter, and to enjoy our season tickets to the Arizona Diamondbacks and to the Arizona State U (Toby's undergrad alma mater) baseball team.

"This year we've already seen some extreme national and state legislation, such as interfering with voting rights, so we are going to continue our political activities in 2013."

**Kenneth Scheffel** and **Clive Chajet** report that they are well and that no news is good news.

**Allan D. Gardner** succumbed to a brain tumor on March 19, 2013. Our sympathies go out to his family.

**Fred Knauer** sent the following: "It is with great regret and sadness I report **Saul Brody** died on March 21, 2013. I was told he had never recovered from a recent series of strokes."

We have a bit of advice from **Gene Appel**. "Fellow Columbians of 1959: My wife, Linda, and I offer our congratulations to all of you who are here to read this! It's an accomplishment to have lived three-quarters of a century, and I hope you have had many successes. If you really wonder what success is for you, I constantly refer to Emerson's definition, which is framed on our entryway to our house. To save you the trouble of looking it up, here it is: 'To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.'"

Gene continues: "I am pleased to say, although there could be more, life for us has been full of good memories. Last year, however, culminated in the fact that all of a sudden, I realize, I ain't what I used to be! As a matter of fact, I'm feeling decrepit! So maybe that is why our class is not sending in news. Who the hell wants to talk about arthritis, prostate problems, loss of strength, stumbling, shortness of breath or — I forgot what I was going to say!"

"Don't worry about all that and just be happy you are still here! My advice to everyone is pick up that phone and call someone you haven't heard from for longer than you want. Second, give a big hug to the person closest to you. Third, smile at the world around you and say, 'Damn it, I made it to 2013.' And that's the news from Portland!"

Thanks, Gene, we needed that reminder.

**60 Robert A. Machleder**  
69-37 Fleet St.  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
rmachleder@aol.com

The formative years of our adult lives were directly affected in a variety of ways by a slender tendril

clinging to the coast of Indochina on the South China Sea. A destination so remote that rarely, if ever, did it register on the itinerary of places we longed to visit. And then, in the mid-1960s, it erupted into our consciousness and held us enthralled, dominated our conversations, became a focus of endless debate and a goad to political engagement. It redrafted the finely drawn blueprint we had designed for our lives in consequence of the high or low number on our draft cards and the distance to the horizon beyond which our draft deferments disappeared. Possibly it hastened the advent of fatherhood, which had become a basis for draft exemption. The obsession only increased and grew darker with the passage of time. But the physical reality of Vietnam, for most of us, never became more than an abstraction. Not so for **Paul Brief**. For Paul, quite unexpectedly, the war zone became his home for a year that spanned 1969-70.

Upon finishing New York Medical College, Paul enrolled in the Berry Plan, which enabled him to complete a residency in orthopedic surgery with the proviso that he serve two years of active duty in the Navy immediately thereafter. Unbeknownst to Paul, the Marine Corps drew all of its medical personnel, administrators and other non-combatants from the Navy. Paul, along with the late **Dick Nottingham**, who were together in medical school and orthopedic residency at the Hospital for Joint Diseases, were dispatched to Marine Corps basic training at Camp Pendleton MCB, Calif., then to Field Medical Service School for training in combat surgery and on to the First Medical Battalion Hospital, First Marine Division, in Da Nang. (Dick was rotated out of Da Nang as a result of a knee problem. You may recall, as I do with sadness — for Dick and I were teammates on lightweight crew — that after practicing orthopedic surgery for many years in Flushing, Queens, he developed a brain tumor and died two years later, in 2004.)

Paul was no stranger to war. WWII broke out only weeks after Paul was born in Soroca, Romania. Early life was a succession of flights from one refugee camp to another to escape the Nazi occupation and the tuggish Romanian Black Guard. When he was 9, Paul and his family landed in Paris where the sting of anti-Semitism was ever-present during his school years. The family emigrated to New York one year before Paul (and all of us) donned freshman beanies on Morningside Heights.

After years of fits and starts, Paul has finished a memoir that touches on his early childhood and some of his experiences in stateside hospitals. But its burden is a most compelling, gripping and haunting account of his experiences treating Marines for the horrific injuries suffered in combat, under a workload that was endless and exhausting, in a facility surrounded by rice paddies that served as Viet Cong launching pads for grenades and rockets, where machine gun fire punctuated the nocturnal music of lizards and mosquitoes. Paul provides portraits of the men he served with, highlighting their fortitude, skill and heroism performing in an operating room under siege, and records their revelries and hijinks in their off-hours. He describes with exquisite precision and clinical detail the surgical procedures performed. Significantly, despite the grim setting, it is a memoir not without humor and not without romance.

Paul was assigned to Hootch 8, hootches being the wooden lodges that housed the officers of the First Medical Battalion Hospital. And so his book is titled *Hootch 8: A Combat Surgeon Remembers Vietnam*. It's a must-read. And I recommend that you purchase the book, as all proceeds are being donated to injured veteran charities.

Paul and his wife, Rochelle, also a physician, live in Rockland County, N.Y., where for 30 years Paul has maintained an orthopedic practice. Their four children, Andy, Joanna, James and Amanda, and grandchildren live nearby.

**Ira Jaffrey** has a new career and a full and active life. He writes, "I closed my clinical practice (Western Slope Oncology Associates), which I established here in Colorado in 1997. I am now full-time at The Calaway & Young Cancer Center in Glenwood Springs. This is my third incarnation as a medical oncologist. At 73, I am actively practicing and continuing clinical research. I lecture on neuroendocrine tumors as well as cancer genetics.

"I am on the board of directors of the Chabad Jewish Community Center in Aspen. We have broken ground for our temple, which should be completed in about 18 months.

"I bike all summer, ski all winter, fish and hunt. Last year I shot a cow elk to fill my freezer with lean, hormone- and additive-free meat for my grandchildren. I am going to Nicaragua to fish for Tarpon in-country. An avid fisher for salmon and trout, I have fished the Kola Peninsula (Ponoi River) in Russia, in Ballyhinch in Ireland, in Río Grande in the Patagonia region of Argentina and in the Miramichi River in Canada as well as count-



Left to right in forefront: Jack Kirik '61, '63E; Jim Ammeen '61, '62 Business; and William V. Campbell '62, '64 TC gathered at the opening of The Campbell Sports Center on October 20.

less places in Alaska, the Catskills and the West.

"Living some six miles from Sunlight Mountain Resort, I ski there regularly. **Bill Tanenbaum** comes to Vail in the summer and we get together when he is here. I am still in close contact with **Josh Pruzansky**, **Richard Friedlander** and **Harris Markhoff**.

"Social networking (e.g., Facebook) provides a steady stream of contacts from old friends seeking my opinion on a variety of malignancies. Thankfully, most of them have done well.

"Last summer I was in Bar Harbor, Maine, for the wedding of my oldest grandson and to visit all four of my East Coast grandchildren. The holiday season was spent with my oldest son and two of my six grandchildren, skiing in Mammoth, Calif.

"My middle son is a Ph.D. mathematician on the faculty of the University of Washington and rapidly becoming an authority on mathematical modeling of climate change.

"Having gone through two divorces, I am presently footloose and fancy-free."

**Peter Schweitzer** offers a recollection of our recently departed classmate, humorist **Nelson Lyon**. "I was not only a classmate of Nelson at Columbia but also at the Pingry School, located at the time in Hillside, N.J. We were part of the Class of 1956. Nelson was a brilliant writer even in prep school."

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**Bob Salman** was nominated for his third, four-year term as a member

of the New Jersey Democratic State committee and expects to be elected in the June primary, as there is no or only token opposition.

April 2013 marked Rabbi **Clifford B. Miller's** retirement from the pulpit of Temple Emanu-El in Bayonne, N.J., after 25 years with the congregation and after 65 years leading worship and teaching Jewish studies. He considers it semi-retirement, as he continues to catalog rabbinic literature in the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary more than 30 hours a week. Soon he hopes to announce his new address in Caldwell, N.J.

On May 2, **Marshall Berman** gave the 2013 Mumford Lecture at the Spitzer School of Architecture, CCNY, on the theme "Emerging from the Ruins."

After a 12-year relationship, **Doug Kendall** and **Sauddy** were married in Beverly Hills on March 7. They met in the building where Doug had his office with Morgan Stanley in Beverly Hills. She sometimes brought him pumpkin muffins (his favorite), which she made through her work at the Maple Drive Café.

**Allen Lowrie** works for the Navy in Mississippi. He says that many there are on pins and needles about furloughs because of the sequestration issue.

**Arnold Klipstein** sold his gastroenterology practice in July 2012. He still practices, though, and continues to do temporary physician work as an independent contractor (locum tenens). He finished a three-month stint with a nice group of physicians and staff in Spokane, Wash., in April. Arnold enjoys just concentrating on patient care. He looks forward to enjoying the summer at home in New England and then seeking another assignment in the fall.







appointed to chair the association's Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, known since its creation nearly a century ago as Committee A.

"AAUP was founded in 1915 by a group of leading American scholars, including such Columbia notables as John Dewey and Charles Beard. It has evolved through the years into a combination of a professional association and a union, known mainly for its vigorous defense of academic freedom. A bit more than three-fourths of our 48,000 members are in chapters with collective bargaining rights. Of course, state laws vary and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1980 that tenure-track and tenured faculty at private institutions are somehow 'managers' and not covered by the National Labor Relations Act, a ruling that seems at minimum hopelessly dated and under increasing challenge. Hence, I don't think there is much of a chapter, although I'm sure there must be individual members, at Columbia. If any Columbia faculty are reading this, I'd love to hear from you. In fact, I'd love to hear from any classmates or other alumni who are higher ed faculty, full- or part-time. ...

"AAUP work brings me often to Washington, D.C., as well as to quite a few other places across the country, but I'm also taking advantage of my non-teaching months for recreational travel. My wife, Susan, and I went to Turkey in September (I highly recommend a visit!) and plan other jaunts for the summer. The children are launched: Our son is a paralegal for a labor-side employment law firm in Oakland, Calif.; our daughter is a high school social studies teacher with Teach For America in inner-city New Orleans. Finally and thankfully, we all have our health."

From **Hart Perry**: "I am directing a documentary about Willie Mitchell and soul music in Memphis. I had the pleasure of meeting with **Greg Geller** about music videos and films for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

### What's Your Story?

Letting classmates know what's going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes!

ONLINE by clicking [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

I made two documentaries with Juan Gonzalez '58, about Haiti and migrant workers respectively. My wife is making a documentary on veteran suicides. My son, Nicholas, graduated from med school and has started his residency at Columbia. My son, Michael, is in 11th grade and can dunk basketballs."

**Bill Bonvillian** continues to direct the MIT Washington Office, working on innovation policy issues, particularly advanced manufacturing, in collaboration with the federal R&D agencies. He is at work on a book on barriers to innovation within established "legacy" economic sectors, and continues to teach science and technology policy courses at MIT, Georgetown and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Son Marco '14 spent his junior year at Oxford this year and son Rafe works in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Alan Sullivan** writes, "I've worked as a trial lawyer in Salt Lake City for the last 38 years, and I have no plans to stop anytime soon. I've been married to the same woman, Gayle Morris, for a little longer than that, and we have two remarkable sons, two generous daughters-in-law and two perfect grandchildren. On one of our first dates — this would have been in 1967 — Gayle lost an earring on the floor of the dining area at The Gold Rail, and I had to get down on my hands and knees to find it. I never found the earring and decided never to eat at The Gold Rail again. I want to publicly thank my freshman roommate, **Joe Materna**, for lending me the money to take her out on the town; I'm sure I paid him back.

"My best memories of Columbia mostly relate to the English department, in other words, to Lionel Trilling ['25, '38 GSAS], Fred Dupee, Kenneth Koch, Wallace Gray ['58 GSAS], Michael Rosenthal ['67 GSAS] and Homer Brown. They made a huge difference in my life because they taught me how to read."

**John Schuster** reports, "My long-awaited, very large (and obscure) book about the scientific career of Descartes in the context of the crucial generation of the Scientific Revolution has finally been published. Despite appearances — and to the chagrin of many philosophers and historians of philosophy of my acquaintance — the book is a work of history, by a historian, and aimed primarily at historians of science and early modern European intellectual history. Its title is *Descartes-agonistes: Physico-mathematics, Method and Corpuscular-Mechanism, 1618-1633*. Details can be found at the publisher website, [springer.com](http://springer.com). Just type my name into the search

engine. The hardcover version is prohibitively expensive, as such books are; but academics with suitable privileges at their institutional library can obtain cheap paperback copies, roughly \$30, provided their library also takes the relevant Springer Law, Social Sciences, and Humanities Series. In modern fashion, individual chapters can also be downloaded in digital form.

"The background is that I officially retired from the University of New South Wales in March 2011. My research, writing and publishing activities are now conducted in conjunction with the University of Sydney, as an honorary fellow of the Unit for the History and Philosophy of Science, and as a member of the history of early modern science research team in the Sydney Centre for the Foundations of Science. I was named an Honorary Fellow of Campion College, the only private liberal arts college in Australia (if the latter fact can be believed!). My retirement has proven very fruitful in research and publication terms, so far, as my website outlines."

**Joseph Contiguglia** is professor of clinical environmental health sciences, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and is on the teaching faculty of the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness & South Central Public Health Leadership Institute. He retired as an Air Force colonel after almost 30 years, having served as a surgeon and medical commander in many places around the world as well as serving as the International Health Specialist to the Surgeon General.

From **Lewis Wise**: "My post-Columbia condensed bio starts with my graduating from UConn School of Law with high honors, following which I served a two-year clerkship with the chief judge of the U.S. District Court in New Orleans. The clerkship was a terrific experience but, perhaps more importantly, I developed a lifelong love affair with the Big Easy. I return often to visit friends and to enjoy the food, music and general, unique ambience that make the place so special.

"My next stop was the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., where I worked for about eight years in the Civil Division as a trial attorney and branch director. The section I worked in was responsible for representing government agencies and officials in cases of national significance throughout the country. The work was invariably challenging and fascinating but with three kids to feed and educate, I left Justice for private practice in my hometown of Hartford, Conn., where I joined a medium-size general practice firm. I ultimately developed specialties in land use

law and employment (predominantly employer side) law.

"The three kids are all successfully launched. My oldest son, Will (UVa.; UConn Law), practices law in Boston and is the father of my two grandsons. My daughter, Aliza '02 (Stanford M.D.) spent the year in Kenya as the chief resident in a hospital in Naivasha. My youngest son, Rafe (GW; UConn Law), practices law in Hartford. The last few years have been particularly happy and satisfying for me. My second marriage, to Dr. Amy Ehrlich Charney, a clinical psychologist, has been a resounding success — who knew that marriage could be such fun? About nine years ago, I fulfilled a longstanding dream by building a beautiful house on a tidal marsh in Wellfleet, Mass., on Cape Cod. We spend as much time there as possible throughout the year.

"My best friend and roommate for several years at Columbia was **Jon Souweine**. We remained close until his untimely death about two years ago. He was a lawyer and community activist in Amherst, Mass., for many years. Sadly, he contracted leukemia and died from complications from a bone marrow transplant.

"One of my law partners is **Tom Divine**, whom I did not know until he joined our firm several years ago. I have stayed in touch with **Jory Berkwitz** and **Dick Wetzel** and recently reconnected with **Jeff Bush** and **Richard Steffenhagen**.

"Finally, a word about the effect Columbia had on me. I was raised in and attended a small prep school in West Hartford, Conn., which at the time was a small, insular, conservative, non-diverse suburb. Columbia had a profoundly broadening and liberalizing effect on me (not just politically although that, too). When I graduated I was a far more tolerant and intellectually and politically engaged person because of that experience, and I have always been truly grateful for it."

With the quarterly publication schedule of CCT, news items sent to me soon after your receipt of the current issue can appear in the following issue (in this case, Fall 2013). I am, once again, in need of personal news or reflections on how the College experience affected your life. I would especially like to hear from classmates who have not recently appeared in this column and from classmates for whom the University does not have email addresses.

Finally, here is the first notice of our 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014. Those wanting (or, should I say, willing) to join the Reunion Committee should let me know.

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**Fred P. White** '73L, dean and professor of law at Texas Wesleyan School of Law, has been honored by the Law School with the Distinguished Columbian in Teaching Award for excellence in teaching, scholarship, writing and achievement in his chosen field. The award was presented to him in January in conjunction with the Association of American Law Schools annual meeting in New Orleans. I have connected with Fred at various reunions and he is among the nicest and most sincere human beings I have encountered in the legal profession.

Congratulations, Fred!  
Not to be outdone by Mr. White, **Fred Kushner** writes, "This has been a busy year for the Kushner Columbia clan. My son Jared '06 is an intern in internal medicine at P&S. My son Adam '03 has been promoted to executive magazine editor of *National Journal* in Washington, D.C. I was vice chair of the 'heart attack guidelines' put out by the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology and presented them to our international convention in San Francisco this year. I am looking forward to transitioning to more of a teaching position."

**Len Lavine** noted, "I planned to be in New York City for my annual extended weekend around Dean's Day, June 1. I have a timeshare at the West 57th Street by Hilton Club hotel, the same block as Carnegie Hall. I'll spend one day at Columbia while taking in a couple of shows and museums. Recently, I've had a couple of emails from TEP brothers, one requesting historical information about our former fraternity at 627 W. 115th. I work for the Department of Defense and expect to be 'furloughed' for 20 percent of the time between May and June 2013."

Another distinguished classmate, **Albert Scardino**, reported from England: "Very good visit this week [March 21] from Dean James J. Valentini to meet London alumni, parents, students, prospects and friends. During a wide-ranging interview before an audience of 100 or so guests, we dwelt for a time on the relationship between the College and the University, particularly on the sometimes troubled engagement of the Dean's and President's offices. Dean Valentini discussed his relationship with President Lee C. Bollinger and declared that the place of the College has never been more assured or better supported



Trustee **Michael B. Rothfeld** '69, '71J, '71 SIPA, '71 Business (third from left) was honored at Community Impact's Gala Benefit Auction on March 7 with the "Making A Difference Service Award." The award recognizes people whose belief and investment in Community Impact's work helps the organization serve neighbors in need in Upper Manhattan. On hand to honor Rothfeld were (left to right) Trustee **Philip Milstein** '71, Trustee Emeritus and Columbia Alumni Association Chair **George Van Amson** '74, Rothfeld, Trustee **Mark Kingdon** '71, Community Impact Director **Sonya Reese** and Trustee **Lisa Carnoy** '89. To view an album of the event, go to [facebook.com/columbiacollege1754](http://facebook.com/columbiacollege1754).

PHOTO: MICHAEL DAMES

by the University. There were other topics covered but this was the most revealing about the future of the College. And about the dean: He seems not only willing to share his views but also eager to do so, and willing to listen, too.

"I've had a late-life conversion from the world of journalism to biotechnology. I chair a small public company in Canada, Immunovaccine, that has experienced a breakthrough in treatment of ovarian cancer. Early days yet, but the data is encouraging. I am married to Marjorie, and my two children, Adelaide '00 and Hal '08, are both back in London, pursuing careers in law and acting. Journalism is still a part of my life, indirectly, as I have been active in the effort to reform the British press after an era of wholesale criminality. Parliament recently passed a reform package proposed by our tiny charity [Media Standards Trust], so the spirit of revolution from our days on Morningside Heights is alive and well on this side of the pond."

I also caught up with good-hearted lawyer **Dan Feldman**, who reports: "In 2010 I switched from full-time government work and one-day-a-week academic work to full-time academic work and one-day-a-week government work. I am enjoying the new arrangement even more than I expected. Throughout most of my life, I thought I could only be satisfied by exercising some positive impact on the lives of masses of people as an elected official; and indeed, I continue to take satisfaction in my accomplishments in that regard. To my surprise, however, I now find at least as much satisfaction in helping what must be at most 150 students a year. I suppose it is

the direct interaction that makes the difference. I like my students at John Jay College of Criminal Justice very much. I teach in the M.P.A. program. The students are bright, hard-working and motivated. I am also happy to do my one-day-a-week legal work for my friend Tom DiNapoli, the New York State comptroller, one of the nicest people you could meet in government, or indeed anywhere.

"Oxford University Press' *The Oxford Handbook of New York State Government and Politics*, edited by Gerald Benjamin '70 GSAS, came out at the end of 2012 and included my chapter on the New York State Attorney General. SUNY Press is due to publish my next book, *The Art of the Watchdog: Fighting Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Corruption in Government*, co-authored with David Eichenenthal, in the fall. I am grateful to report that my wife and children are doing well. Warm regards to classmates."

**Lenard Davis** writes, "I'm a Distinguished Professor of English, Disability Studies and Medical Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I have a book coming out in the fall, *The End of Normal: Identity in a Biocultural Era*. I'm also working on a book about the Americans with Disabilities Act, set for publication on its 25th anniversary in 2015."

My friend and adviser in college, **Andy Kiorpes**, reported on the passing of his heroic father, Charles '45, '48E: "My dad passed away [suddenly] on March 22. He entered the College in 1941, but his education was interrupted by WWII. When he returned to Columbia, he transferred to the School of Engineering and was awarded a B.S. in 1948. He regularly attended CC '45 reunions."

**Juan Uranga** writes, "Working full-time as an attorney for farmworkers in the Salinas Valley of California. My wife, Anna Caballero, also an attorney, is on Gov. Jerry Brown's Cabinet as the Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency. I split my time between our home in Salinas and our home in Sacramento. Was looking forward to spending Easter vacation with three of our five grandchildren."

**Joseph Spivack** reported on a busy year: "Our older daughter continues her studies in early childhood and special education (double major) at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass. She is scheduled to finish in December 2015. Our younger daughter recently was accepted to Kenyon College in Ohio, which is well known for its writing program, among other strengths. She recently finished her appearance as Becky Two Shoes in her school's wonderful production of *Urinetown*. She took AP exams this spring and will graduate at the end of June. Unfortunately, our elderly Bichon Frisé passed away during the winter. Our cat has taken over his bed and appears to be thoroughly enjoying it!

"My wife is head of the advertising and public relations specialization at The City College of New York, where she has taught since 1993. They are getting ready to start a master's program in branding and integrated communications next fall, which is exciting but keeps her very busy. She enjoys helping her students get internships that can launch them into a professional career in PR. I work for a small bank consulting company in Manhattan. Our specialty is bank loan credit reviews

# Louis Rossetto '71 Goes from *Wired* to Chocolate

BY DINA CHENEY '99

The path from founding and overseeing *Wired* magazine to running the luxury chocolate maker TCHO may seem an unlikely one. Yet, for **Louis Rossetto '71, '73 Business**, it made sense: In both jobs, he was able to innovate.

Such a propensity toward change took root at Columbia where Rossetto, who grew up in Great Neck (Long Island), N.Y., studied political science. As a participant in the student protests that rocked Columbia (along with campuses nationwide) in the late 1960s, he saw firsthand how people could impact the course of events. Unsure what to do next, but with a sense that he should attend graduate school, Rossetto earned an M.B.A. and wrote a novel, *Take-Over* (1974).

Having settled on writing as a career, he decided to travel the world in search of stories. In Rome, Rossetto helped former Columbia Italian professor Pier-Nico Solinas write *Ultimate Porno: The Making of a Sex Colossal* (1981), about Tinto Brass' *Caligula*. In Amsterdam, he wrote for a political and economic newsletter; in Afghanistan, he covered the war against the Soviet Union. Returning to Amsterdam, he worked for a translation company that was launching a magazine focused on language technologies. With a "front row seat" to such innovation and an awareness of the burgeoning PC revolution in the United States, Rossetto came to believe that "those who were creating and using digital technologies were the most powerful people on the planet, driving more positive change than the priests, politicians, generals or pundits."

With his partner, Jane Metcalfe, Rossetto decided to start *Wired* magazine to tell the stories of the individuals, companies and ideas driving the digital revolution. The couple worked from 1988–93 to write a business plan, create a dummy

issue, raise funds and recruit editors and writers, moving to San Francisco in the process. The magazine launched in January 1993; the second issue covered the creation of the Internet in Geneva. "From there, it was a rocket ride," Rossetto says.



Louis Rossetto '71, '73 Business outside TCHO's factory at San Francisco's Pier 17.

PHOTO: MARK LEET

In 1994, the couple introduced Hotwired, which Rossetto asserts was the first online publication to include original content (rather than material repurposed from other media) and Fortune 500 advertising

(including banner ads). With both businesses having reached break-even and the magazine generating \$25 million in sales, Rossetto and Metcalfe sold the magazine to Condé Nast in 1998 and the web business to Lycos in 1999.

In his down time, Rossetto became an angel investor and spent time with his children, Orson, born in 1997, and Zoe, born in 1999. One of his investments was in a San Francisco-based chocolate business, Xocomaya (the name was later changed to TCHO, pronounced chō), founded by Timothy Childs, the housemate of an early *Wired* employee. "I never had a notion of becoming the next Willy Wonka," admits Rossetto, who became involved in the business in 2005. "It's just that Childs reminded me of myself when I started *Wired*. I wanted to help him realize his dream." Rossetto also wanted to show his children firsthand "what it takes to build a company."

Rossetto could not resist the call of innovation. He joined TCHO as CEO and creative director in 2007

and, with Childs (who left the company two years ago), has come up with new ways to source and process cacao beans and create and market high-quality chocolate. For one, Rossetto explains, larger choco-

late companies have tended to focus on the quantity, rather than the quality, of cocoa beans. "Cacao farming is a commodity business, with no incentive for farmers to focus on quality, as most chocolate made is milk chocolate. And milk chocolate is sold on the basis of the flavors of caramelized milk and sugar — the chocolate flavor is an afterthought."

Rossetto realized that TCHO needed to partner with farmers to help them yield the most flavorful raw material. The result: TCHOSource, a program through which the company partners with farmers in Peru, Ecuador and Ghana, helping them implement better bean fermentation and drying practices. The program also provides partner farmers with Flavor Labs (like the one TCHO uses in San Francisco), where they can make their own chocolate. "There, they can calibrate their palates with TCHO's," says Rossetto, and "for the first time in their lives taste the chocolate made from their own beans and understand how their efforts affect the result."

The company, which gives free daily tours of its 25,000-square-foot San Francisco waterfront facility, also innovates in its product development and marketing. According to Rossetto, dark chocolate has been marketed with language associated with other food and drink categories, such as wine and coffee. But terms such as "vintage" and "single origin" not only don't apply well to chocolate, they also confuse consumers and convey nothing about how the chocolate will taste. TCHO's solution: develop several chocolate bars, each with a different dominant flavor attribute, such as "Nutty," "Fruity," "Citrus," or "Chocolatey" (these flavor terms are also the products' names). A graphic on the packaging then does double duty by showing the complete flavor spectrum while also indicating which flavor infuses the

bar at hand.

"When Louis showed me TCHO headquarters, I remember thinking how perfect it was that he'd opened a chocolate factory: the ultimate expression of a dreamer's mentality," says James Truman, former editorial director of Condé Nast, who knows Rossetto through *Wired*. "Louis really does dream things into being."

"*Wired* might seem logical and prescient in retrospect," he adds, "but at the time, independently launching a highly complicated and expensive magazine about a then-marginal subject out of San Francisco seemed beyond reckless. But Louis isn't reckless, exactly. He's an inventor and a pioneer, and once he believes in something he won't stop until everyone else shares his belief. I'm always impressed not just by his brilliance but also by his determination, discipline and sheer stubbornness in the pursuit of what he sees as possible."

TCHO, which now has 40 employees and hundreds of consumer and professional products ranging from chocolate bars and drinking chocolate to cacao nibs and couverture disks for chefs, also runs an ongoing test program to engage its consumers in co-creating its bars. One recent result of this process: TCHO's first flavored bar, Mokaccino, made with Blue Bottle Coffee. This comes as no surprise for a company that — as Rossetto describes it — "marries Silicon Valley innovation to San Francisco food culture."

After all, he says, "The world does not need another chocolate company. It needs people who want to innovate and invent the future."

Dina Cheney '99 is the author of three books, including the recently released *Year-Round Slow Cooker: 100 Favorite Recipes for Every Season*. She also is the "Taste Test" columnist for *Everyday* with Rachael Ray magazine and is at work on a vegetarian cookbook slated for publication in 2014.

for community (i.e., smaller) banks around the country. It's kind of a credit audit function, which helps keep the banks healthier than they might otherwise be. I do bank stress testing, which is the regulatory flavor of the decade. I am finishing moving our stress testing program from Excel into Access (with the help of a consultant). I am in the process of learning more than I ever wanted to know about Access! Life is busy and good."

Larry Rosenwald says, "Not too much to report, except that a) our first granddaughter was born last June, adorable beyond words (so I won't even try), and that b) I seem to have become, without quite knowing how, a writer about Yiddish literature, publishing think pieces about translation and loving analyses of poems by Itzik Manger and Jacob Glatshteyn."

Finally, David Lehman gave me the following very complete report, which certainly warrants kudos: "As series editor of *The Best American Poetry*, the annual anthology that I initiated in 1988, I am happy to report that *The Best of the Best American Poetry: 25th Anniversary Edition* was published in April. Robert Pinsky, two-time U.S. Poet Laureate, made the selections for this commemorative volume celebrating our first 25 years. There were launch readings scheduled in Boston (April 4) and New York City (April 11).

"The regular volume in the series — *The Best American Poetry 2013*, with selections made by guest editor Denise Duhamel — will appear this September. Launch readings for the book will take place in Atlanta during Labor Day weekend and in New York City on Thursday, September 19.

"My other news is that Scribner will publish my *New and Selected Poems* in November. So this will be quite a year on the publications front. New poems of mine have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Poetry* magazine, *The American Poetry Review*, *Poetry London*, *The Common*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Boston Review*, *Slate* and *Virginia Quarterly Review*. I also have been writing essays, several of which have been published in *The American Scholar* and *Slate*. My translation of Guillaume Apollinaire's long poem *Zone*, on which I have worked on and off for decades, is finished and will appear in the next issue of *Virginia Quarterly Review*, along with a translator's note.

Finally, at the request of the Library of Congress, I have written a 5,000-word essay on 'Peace and War in American Poetry' for its website. It will be posted soon.

"Oh, one more thing. As a Kellett Fellow back in the day, I spent two

years at Clare College, Cambridge. I was asked to return to Clare to give a reading of my poems on April 23."

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Eli Rubenstein writes, "I have been practicing law since 1974 and have been at Goulston & Storrs since 1977. I alternate my time between the New York and Boston offices. Although we maintain homes in both cities, I still consider Boston home.

"My wife, Emily '72 Barnard, and I expect to celebrate our 42nd anniversary this June. Our two children are grown and busy establishing their own families. Our son, Isaac, lives in Boston and our daughter, Abigail '05, lives in New York.

"I am chair of the Board of Directors of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS). We raise more than \$200 million each year to combat MS and its effects on the lives of people affected by it. Assuming the chairmanship has caused me to wind down my practice somewhat but the work with the society, although sometimes very frustrating, is almost always immensely rewarding. If anyone in the class has reason to have any interest in NMSS, please be in touch."

Lloyd Emanuel, John Bleimaier, Dick Fuhrman and Richard Hsia, after dinner at Havana Central at The West End, were "among the throng packing Levien Gym to the rafters," Richard reports, as the Lions hosted Princeton on February 22. At the annual Burgers and Basketball event, the classmates especially "enjoyed the burgers and camaraderie." (The following night at Levien the Lions shot 2-for-20 in the second half, but during the game hit 22 of 26 from the free-throw line and six three-pointers, and beat Penn by 17.)

Three '71 friends have the Internet to thank for a December 2012 reunion. Lewis Rosenthal, an attorney in upstate New York, was reading the Huffington Post and found an article about the new iPad, written by Raymond Soneira. Lewis forwarded it to Robert Pu, a probate judge in Brattleboro, Vt., and wondered if it was their mutual friend with whom they both had lost contact many years ago. Of course it was.

Robert reports that Ray, now residing in Amherst, N.H., not far from Robert and Lewis, "is a theoretical physicist and cosmologist who now does advanced display technology and is the creative force behind DisplayMate Technologies

Corp., which is widely recognized as the worldwide leader in display optimization for smartphones, tablets, HDTVs and digital cinema.

"The three of us met in Amherst, visited a local winery, had lunch at a historic inn and throughout the day discussed our years on Morningside Heights. We pledged that it would be more like 40 days rather than 40 years before we get together again."

Alan Flashman: "I am happy to announce the [March 2013] publication of Martin Buber's classic *I and Thou* in my new translation from German to Hebrew. As I am expert in neither language, it was a long haul. I originally worked on it to make the work understandable in current Hebrew for social work students of family therapy.

"I see Buber as an important link between the individual and relationships. Buber's estate people found the translation in my course material and chose to bring it out — 6½ years ago. Time moves slowly around here. I hope that the young Israelis who filled the streets and tents of the Israeli protest of Summer 2011 (barely reported in the United States) will find support in this new/old work.

"I am even more happy to report the marriage of my daughter, Debbie, nearly two years ago; the birth of my first grandson, Yoni, seven months ago; and the marriage of my daughter, Miriam, in May. My son, Kobie, is making a career in photography, especially music videos, in Tel Aviv.

"My wife, Gilda, and I are in our 44th year of marriage, perhaps a class record, as we married at the start of junior year. We have been in Be'er Sheva for nearly three decades.

"I work privately in child, adolescent, adult and family psychiatry and teach in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv social work schools part-time. Gilda is a family therapist in a child guidance clinic and the Rabbinical Court. She has become a marvelous quilter. My avocations are hiking, doing the ancient Greek I missed at CC and reading the Foucault lectures as they come out. I also have attended some doctoral courses in philosophy.

"I am near completion of a professional autobiography looking back on what is to my mind the horrifying way that my profession has developed. Then I think I will run for cover (something we do in the South [of Israel] pretty regularly)."

Bennett Alan Weinberg, bestselling author of *The World of Caffèine*, is looking for an agent for several completed manuscripts. He describes the novels as: "*Simon Magus: The First Vampire*, a truly original, historically based story of a figure









# Michael Caruso '83 Shoots Down Bogeys at *Smithsonian* Magazine

BY JAMIE KATZ '72, '80 BUSINESS

As an editorial sapling at *Vanity Fair*, Michael Caruso '83 once looked Norman Mailer dead in the eye and asked him to rewrite a major feature story. Caruso knew he was committing literary *lèse-majesté*. It crossed his mind that the pugnacious Mailer might actually

walloped him. "It was one of the scariest moments of my professional career," Caruso says. "I was virtually hyperventilating."

Mailer had submitted a typically brilliant meditation on Bret Easton Ellis' blood-soaked *American Psycho*. But Caruso felt Mailer's piece could be more compelling, and he asked him to dig deeper, to make it tougher and more personal. "I wanted him to talk about violence in America, and about his own history of violence."

Mailer stared back and said nothing.

"He sort of knitted these massive brows that he had, and I waited and waited," Caruso says. "Finally he started nodding. 'OK,' he said. 'I think I know what you want.' And he went off and wrote it."

Since that memorable face-off more than 20 years ago, Caruso has led magazines as varied as *Details*, *Los Angeles*, *Men's Journal* and *Maximum Golf*, earning an industry-wide reputation as an editor who swings for the fences. "To be the boss you've got to get the best work out of people," says Caruso, 51. "Sometimes that involves being demanding and pushing them. And other times it involves hand-holding and late evenings over drinks."

Caruso now practices those skills at *Smithsonian* magazine, where he was

named editor-in-chief in 2011 following a stint as deputy editor of *WSJ. Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal's* lifestyle magazine. His current publication reflects the aspirations and scope of its parent, the Smithsonian Institution, which comprises 19 museums and galleries, nine research centers, the National Zoo and 177 affiliate museums. The magazine is a money-maker for the larger entity, which is about 70 percent federally funded, Caruso says. Though the publication is editorially independent, "we certainly have to be responsible to the institution," he adds. "So it's like so many things in life — you're navigating a situation that can be somewhat complicated." Notably, at a time when general interest magazines have been pummeled by the recession and the digital revolution, *Smithsonian* has increased its print circulation to more than 2 million. "Sometimes we feel as if we're the last man standing — and thriving," says Kathleen M. Burke, a senior editor at the magazine.

Caruso succeeded Carey Winfrey '63, '67J, whose version of *Smithsonian* was deemed America's "Most Interesting" magazine in a nationwide study conducted by the research firm Affinity in 2011. During the transition, Winfrey encouraged Caruso not to feel beholden to anything the magazine had been doing. "I told him I believed it was time for the magazine to be rethought," Winfrey says. Caruso has done just that, giving much of *Smithsonian* a fresh look while developing new departments, revamping existing ones and matching themed issues and topics with the best writers he can corral: Walter Isaacson on Steve Jobs as a design genius; Frank Deford on the little-known British roots of the modern Olympics; Ruth Reichl and Mimi Sheraton on food; Paul Theroux on travel.

"The ambition," Caruso says, "is to put *Smithsonian* on the same level as *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic* and the best magazines in the country."

Enterprise and creativity come naturally to Caruso, whose father, Jerome, is a renowned industrial engineer (his Sub-Zero refrigerator systems and Wolf cooking appliances set a standard of excellence in kitchen design). "I learned so much from him," Caruso says. "We do very much the same thing in different mediums. It's form and function at the same time."

Growing up in suburban Lake Forest, Ill., Caruso was a serious sports fan who watched the Chicago Bears train every year at their nearby practice facility and shared in the frustration of a century of Cubs fans. "It teaches you suffering," he says of his baseball loyalties. "It teaches you a Zen state of patience and incremental pleasure."

Lured by the cultural life of New York City, he came to Columbia and buried himself under an enormous courseload — possibly, he thinks, a record (33 credits in his peak semester) — and graduated summa cum laude. His favorite professors were Joseph Bauke '63 GSAS for Lit Hum; Wallace Gray '58 GSAS in English; and Karl-Ludwig Selig, with whom he took "five or six" interdisciplinary literature courses. "Everybody should have a professor like that — he was just off the charts," Caruso says of Selig.

"Michael was probably the smartest student I met at Columbia," says Caruso's college buddy, rock musician Dave Giffen '86, who now is executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City. "I remember having trouble in one of my English classes where we had to write poetry in the style of Ezra Pound. And that's just not my scene. I can

maybe squeeze out a dirty limerick. Meanwhile, Michael could crank out an Ezra Pound canto off the top of his head. He has an incredibly fast, facile mind. Let me point this out, though: I got a better grade than he did in music theory. That always pissed him off."

Caruso's first magazine job after college was at *The New Yorker*, where he was a messenger. Within a few years, he was executive editor of the *Village Voice*; at 29, he was recruited to *Vanity Fair* by Tina Brown, who hired him again when she launched her short-lived *Talk* magazine in 1999.

The *Smithsonian* opportunity was enticing enough to pry Caruso out of New York, at least for part of each week. He has been shuttling by train between Washington, D.C., and his Park Slope, Brooklyn, home (a weekly commute that may soon end if he finds the right place closer to work). His wife, Andrea Sheehan, is founder and CEO of Outthink, a digital education startup in partnership with the BBC. They have four children: daughters Asia ("my wife and I fell in love in Asia") and Jazz ("my favorite music"), and twin boys Dash and Jett (as in Jett Rink, the brooding antihero of *Giant*, played by James Dean).

Caruso is only the fourth editor in *Smithsonian's* 42-year history. His predecessors served for 10, 20 and 10 years, respectively. Whether or not Caruso hangs in that long, it's clear that he loves his work.

"As an editor-in-chief you feel like you're a fighter pilot and there are bogeys coming at you left and right. And if you're in a great groove, you're shooting 'em down left and right. You're solving problems, you're putting out fires, you're making it all work. This is a really cool job. I'm thrilled to have it."

Former CCT editor Jamie Katz '72, '80 Business is a former senior editor of *People* magazine and deputy editor of *Vibe* who has frequently contributed to *Smithsonian*.

sad news: "Jon Goldman passed away in March [at 50]. He had been teaching in NYC public schools and then at the Beacon School. He leaves behind an 11-year-old-son, Jake. An article remembering Jon, published online in *New York Press*, can be found here: [nypress.com/blackboard-awards-jonathan-goldman-beacon-students-remember-jon-their-inspirational-teacher/](http://nypress.com/blackboard-awards-jonathan-goldman-beacon-students-remember-jon-their-inspirational-teacher/)."

A few excerpts follow: "Mr. Goldman taught lasting lessons that stay with me some 10 years after graduation from high school," wrote one former student, nominating him for a Blackboard Award. "He was an amazing educator who opened our minds to so many things and really impacted the way I think to this day." ... "Goldman's mother, Isolde Goldman, said more than 100 students and former students attended his funeral, which was held in Long Island.

"He loved the students," she said. "I think that's why he liked it. It made him feel good to take a young person, who might not know or be exposed to different literature, and teach them about it. "One of his former students, now a teacher, was crushed and said she was a teacher today because of Jonathan's influence."

"Goldman grew up in Huntington, Long Island, and lived a few years in Israel as a child. Upon graduating from Huntington H.S., he moved to Manhattan to attend Columbia, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in comparative literature and later a master's degree in French literature.

"He also studied at Oxford University and worked with the National Shakespeare Institute at Stratford-upon-Avon.

"The Beacon School, a selective secondary school on West 61st Street, was created in 1993. Goldman was a part of the founding faculty and said that helping to establish the school was one of his biggest professional accomplishments. ...

"In addition to teaching English, Goldman was a fencing coach at Beacon. He was an avid and talented fencer, Isolde Goldman said, and was a member of the U.S. Junior Olympic Team when he was in high school.

"Shakespeare was always his big love," she said, remembering how much Goldman loved reading when he was growing up.

"Goldman has an 11-year-old son named Jake, who Isolde Goldman said was his 'best friend.'"

The Fall column will have a full report on Alumni Reunion Weekend 2013. In the meantime, this issue has a follow-up feature with photos, plus you can see our

class photo in the online version of that article at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

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**MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014**  
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First and foremost, apologies to Yossi Rabin for preempting his on-time contribution with our memorial column for Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig (Spring 2013).

Yossi and his wife, Kochava — aka, the couple with nine children — welcomed their second grandson, Yeeshy Shimone, on August 20, 2012, in Jerusalem. After more than 22 years in computer software development, Yossi successfully switched jobs in 2010 to become a real estate agent in Jerusalem running his own independent operation, Kochavim Real Estate.

Congratulations to Fred Fisher! He writes, "Our older daughter, Talia '13, graduated with a degree in psychology. As Talia prepares to enter the real world, our younger daughter, Rebecca '17, is excited about her matriculation in September. Her interest is history and political science. My wife, Mary '83 Barnard, '88L, and I could not be more proud of their continuing our family's Columbia tradition.

"Mary practices law in Cherry Hill, N.J., and I practice general and vascular surgery at Regional Surgical Associates in Voorhees, N.J."

Condolences to the family of Richard Anderson. During the course of his too-short life, he traveled worldwide, working in finance and then in the art world as a gallery owner. His passion in recent years, however, was the S.S. Columbia Project, his effort to rescue, repair and bring the oldest surviving American passenger steamship to the Hudson River Valley. Check out his work on [sscolumbia.org](http://sscolumbia.org).

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ASCAP Award-winning composer and music journalist Frank Oteri's musical works received their world

premieres in February at Tenri Cultural Institute in New York. Highlights of the concert included the first complete performance of his 1982 song cycle *the nurturing river* (based on the sonnets of James R. Murphy) and the world-premiere performance of his 2012 Stephen Crane song cycle, *Versions of the Truth* (Frank's first new vocal composition since 2003), which was commissioned by The ASCAP Foundation's Charles Kingsford Fund. Also on the program was *Setting the World at Five and Seven*. The concert was part of the fourth annual Composers Now Festival.

The program also included *Palindrome*, a piece for solo piano. It's a completely monophonic work containing only seven pitches that remain registrally, rhythmically and dynamically the same throughout the work in order to convey to listeners that the music is the same forward and backward. The piece was composed in 1984 while Frank was at the College.

Frank notes, "The music I wanted to write at the time was diametrically in opposition to the music my professors wanted me to write, or so we all thought at the time."

Ben DiLullo reports, "My best and proudest update is that my wife of 18 years, Stacey, and I have a son, Daniel. He is approaching 2 and is simply awesome! A very happy surprise in 2011.

"Stacey and I are blessed with three other terrific kids: Gabriella, Michael and Daniel. Gabriella began high school this year and, although college is a few years away, she is beginning to think about where to go. I reminisced about Columbia — how excited I was when I was accepted and the first few days of orientation. I am not sure where Gabriella will end up but I hope she is as excited and happy as I was. Michael is my 12-year-old stud, absorbing books and martial art training with equal gusto. He wants to go into law enforcement or medicine — maybe both.

"I am beginning my 23rd year at Pfizer. Although the pharmaceutical industry has gone through some tough times in the last few years, I am still proud to work for an organization that helps people heal and live longer.

"As I approach the big 5-0 I am happy about the last half-century but even more excited about the next 50 years. Bring it on! Best regards to all my classmates!"

Mark Rothman helped Democrat Eric Garcetti '92, '93 SIPA, the newly elected mayor of Los Angeles, reach out to the Los Angeles Jewish community during his campaign. Eric had won the most votes in the field of eight candidates



*Smithsonian* magazine Editor-in-Chief Michael Caruso '83 will do whatever it takes to get the best from his writers, whether it means pushing them beyond their comfort zones or holding their hands and nurturing them.

PHOTO: LONDON NORDEMAN





# Phyllis Fletcher '94 Connects the Dots To Career in Public Radio

BY ELENA HECHT '09 BARNARD

In 2002, jobless after the dot-com bust, **Phyllis Fletcher '94** went for a swim and emerged from the pool with a career epiphany. "I thought, 'Man, what if there was a radio I could listen to while I was swimming?' and [then] I thought, 'Wait a minute! I listen to this station [KUOW, a Seattle-based NPR founding member] all the time; if I'm so obsessed with it that I wish that the one hour that I can't listen to it I could listen to it, then maybe I should work there.'"

Now, more than a decade into her career as a radio journalist at KUOW and with a 2006 reporting fellowship on NPR's National Desk under her belt, it's clear that Fletcher's realization led her in the right direction. She has garnered numerous awards, including an RTDNA/UNITY Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association and UNITY: Journalists of Color, RTDNA's National Edward R. Murrow Award and an Alliance for Women in Media Foundation's Gracie, all in 2012, for her story "Secrets of a Blonde Bombshell." The broadcast detailed Fletcher's discovery that Ina Ray Hutton, the famed white leader of an all-female band from the 1930s-'50s, was actually a black woman who had passed as white for most of her life.

Listening to Fletcher's own story, it seems apparent that radio should have been an obvious destination from the get-go. A Seattle native, Fletcher was raised almost exclusively by her mother, a regular KUOW listener, and has described hearing the "Morning Edition" theme song as the signal that she was late for the school bus. Her sophomore year of college brought a love for New York radio that included Howard Stern (to whom she listens to this day), G. Gordon Liddy, Doug

"The Greaseman" Tracht, Rush Limbaugh and Ed Koch. Or, as Fletcher notes, "anyone who could rap on a mic."

Nonetheless, for Fletcher, "It took a really long time to connect the dots and say, 'Oh gee,

desire for a major with as few credit requirements as possible, allowing her the freedom to take classes from many academic areas. She interned as an undergraduate at the Schizophrenia Research Unit of NewYork



Phyllis Fletcher '94 is a news editor with KUOW in Seattle.

PHOTO: JOSH KNISELY

that's something I could do." A member of the John W. Kluge ['37] Scholars Program at Columbia, which pays full tuition while providing mentoring and special programming, Fletcher was a self-proclaimed "academic dilettante" — her choice to study psychology was born out of the

Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and the New York State Psychiatric Institute and, after graduating, spent one year working for Columbia psychology professor (now also executive vice dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences) Geraldine Downey, before being

employed for nearly six years as a software engineer in Seattle.

In October 2002, post-pool realization, Fletcher volunteered for a KUOW pledge drive, where she connected with a KUOW reporter. Less than two months later she began a news reporting internship at the station, which led to freelance work. But Fletcher credits the true launch of her radio career to her decision that same year to do something creative with the letters from a college correspondence with her estranged father, who was in prison at the time. Beginning her freshman year and lasting two years, their written connection temporarily rekindled their relationship. When he passed away in 1995, she tucked the letters away.

Years later, inspired by a conversation with friend Marc Maximov '94, Fletcher was motivated to use the letters in an artistic way. Thanks to the family of Dina Guttman '94, Fletcher discovered the nonprofit audio production studio Jack Straw Productions and, using the Guttman family's tape recorder, applied and was chosen to be an artist-in-residence in 2003. The resulting radio documentary, "Sweet Phil from Sugar Hill," was featured on the Peabody Award-winning website Transom.org in 2004. It wasn't long thereafter that KUOW offered Fletcher a full-time position filling in for a colleague while he studied at the Journalism School.

Fletcher began at the station as an education reporter — a position she helped develop — before being promoted to her current position as a news editor. Wayne Roth, president and general manager of KUOW, says of Fletcher, "The amount of responsibility in her work, her good work and what she brings to it are really quite remarkable for someone who's got a lot of years ahead of her in the

business."

Fletcher, who speaks candidly about growing up half-black and poor — what she describes as an "invisible minority" — is most interested in covering areas that are overlooked or not spoken of. "I was always listening for gaps, things that weren't being covered on KUOW at the time," says Fletcher of her post-college listening habits. "A lot of those things had to do with race, some of them had to do with poverty and I was always quite willing and able to walk headfirst into those types of stories. I felt like that was both my opportunity and my obligation."

Since her first piece as a KUOW intern about racism that happens over the phone, known as linguistic profiling, she has helped to expose the abuse of a state database of unemployed job seekers; researched a story on the school districts hit hardest by the recession; and, in a piece for the anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act, shared information about a little-known Washington State law that doubles maternity leave. "Anything where I can give information to help somebody," says Fletcher, "I love that."

In 2011, Fletcher earned a master's in communication with a focus in demography from the University of Washington — a track that once again offered her the freedom to take classes from many departments — and in May was preparing to edit a series on black life in Seattle. As for what the future brings, Fletcher is keeping an open mind. "I know exciting things will happen, but I have no plans," says Fletcher. "That's why whatever happens will be exciting!"

To listen to Fletcher's broadcasts, past and present, visit [phyl.com](http://phyl.com) or [KUOW.org/people/phyllis-fletcher](http://KUOW.org/people/phyllis-fletcher).

**Elena Hecht '09 Barnard**, editorial assistant at CCT, is a writer and a dancer based in New York.

Foundation awards for food and wine coverage, and twice been a Beard finalist for wine writing."

This November, Jon is publishing a book, *The New California Wine: A Guide to the Producers and Wines Behind a Revolution in Taste*, about the state's new generation of wines and winemakers. "What's happening now in California wine is as revolutionary as the 1970s work of people such as Robert Mondavi. It has been a good time to be on my beat," he writes.

If that wasn't enough to keep him busy, Jon also has taken his work global as a columnist for the United Kingdom's *Decanter* magazine. Despite his busy work schedule, he still gets to the East Coast regularly to visit his girlfriend in Brooklyn. He can be found on Twitter (@jbonne). "Hope to see some of the CC '94 posse as I start barnstorming this fall on behalf of the book," Jon adds.

**Jorge Salva** launched his own practice with his law partner, operating out of Rockefeller Center. Fietcher & Salva's mission is to handle the legal needs of entrepreneurs and small and developing businesses, taking care of everyday and unexpected legal issues and minimizing litigation risk. Jorge's venture comes after he and his partner spent almost a decade as associates in large New York-area firms. For more information, visit the firm's website: [fs-lawpartners.com](http://fs-lawpartners.com).

And finally, a bit of news from my own world here in Minneapolis: I'm happy to report that in February my husband, Patrick Trochilil, and I welcomed our new daughter, Rory Bennette. She joins our older daughter, Emery (6), who is thus far thoroughly enjoying her new role as big sister. We are all very happy, if sleep-deprived, and trying to remember how to take care of a newborn after six years. I'm on maternity leave but plan to return to my job in public relations at Optum, the health services arm of UnitedHealth Group, where I handle external communications about many of our health management and consumer services.

That's it for now. Thanks to everyone for the great updates! Until next time.

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Mazel tov to the former **Jessica Zimmerman**, who in February married Jonathan Graf, a rheumatologist. The ceremony took place in San Francisco, Jessica's hometown

and where they now live. The lovely story of how the couple met at a party was featured in the *New York Times* Weddings/Celebrations Section on February 17.

Jessica wrote that **Allyson Baker**, a friend since College orientation, signed the *ketubah*. Jessica is a rabbi who works for Next Dor, a research group that works with synagogues to bring in younger members.

I'm also happy to share an update from **Mark Kravitz**, who lives in Aventura, Fla. He has taken over his family's property investment and management company; his partner, Jon, works with him. The couple is raising son Hershel (6) and daughter Ava (2).

Mark also is involved in Jewish philanthropy. He sits on the boards of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, which recently gave him a young leadership award, and the Central Agency for Jewish Education. He joined the national board of Keshet, an organization focused on the full inclusion of LGBT Jews in Jewish life, and he began working with the Diller Foundation in California.

Mark and Jon hang out with Rabbi **Jon Berkun** and his family. Hershel will be in school next year with **Jen Glueck's** (née Ross) daughter, Tessa (6). Jen also has another daughter, Monika (8). Jen left the University of Miami in September and joined a private practice, Reproductive Health Physicians, which specializes in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

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Hello, my classmates! I am pleased to report that a large number of you responded to my desperate mass email, so thank you. To those who responded and whose notes don't appear in this column, please look for them next time around.

On to the news. **Steven Hong** is assistant professor of medicine and public health and community medicine at the Tufts University School of Medicine and an attending physician in the Division of Geographic Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Tufts Medical Center. He is an infectious disease trained physician and does international clinical research on HIV/AIDS in Namibia. The purpose of his research is to optimize delivery of antiretroviral therapy using the public health model of care.

**Yannis Macheras** earned a J.D. from Tulane's School of Law in 1999 and has since worked for American Tower Corp. in various leadership roles; currently he is a v.p., based in

Boston.

**David Miguel Gray** was married in April to Christina La Valley. Other CC '96ers in attendance were **David Nelson**, **David Kaufman**, **Mustafa Wahid**, **Michelle Kim**, **Patrick Hsieh** and **Michael Bell** as well as Joseph Hundley '97. David, who has been the Mellon Assistant Professor of Philosophy and assistant professor of psychiatry at Vanderbilt, recently accepted a job as assistant professor of philosophy at Colgate, so the newlyweds will move to Hamilton, N.Y., this fall.

**Branden Emmerson** lives in South Australia with his wife, Michelle, and their daughters, Alyssa (4) and Catherine (6 months). Branden works in the public hospitals as an anesthetist. He loves the relaxed lifestyle in Australia but misses good NYC bagels.

**Whitney Chiate** (née Berkholtz) lives in Tiburon, Calif., outside of San Francisco, with her husband, Greg Chiate, and their children, son Max (5) and daughter Benton (2). Following Columbia, Whitney worked in NYC in investment banking. After a couple of years, she moved to San Francisco and worked in technology for a few years before deciding to go back to NYC for culinary school. After graduating, she moved back to San Francisco to start a catering company, Cooking in Heels, which she ran for about six years before hanging up her heels for motherhood. She loves being at home with her kids and keeps busy by volunteering and getting involved with the Alumni Representative Committee interviewing College applicants.

**Marc Menendez** lives outside of Chicago in Naperville, Ill., with his wife, Susan, and sons, Alex (10) and Nikolas (7). Marc coaches all of his sons' travel sports teams (football, baseball and basketball) plus spends lots of time traveling and going on family adventures (locally and internationally). In 2012, he left Tesia Clearinghouse (the company he built in 2003 and sold in 2008, though he remained on as president through the transition) to formally lead as president and CEO of WorkCompEDI, a company Marc launched in 2006 that continues to be the largest workers' compensation/automobile/personal injury Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) clearinghouse in the country.

Marc also continues to lead ANDA Systems (dental adjudication system and Software as a Service [SaaS] vendor) as COO and managing partner; Image Management Systems as managing partner (enterprise doc management SaaS); and WCEDI Management Solutions as chairman (business process outsource and optical character









left New York City in favor of a job in Jakarta. A devoted basketball fan, he has been employed as the team operations coordinator for the ASEAN Basketball League. While based in Indonesia, Joe has been working for teams in Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. In addition to his main role, Joe has occasionally filled in as sideline reporter for several of their teams' games. He will return to the United States soon, hopefully in time for Triple Crown season.

**Heidi Bonilla '13 PH** writes, "Hello CC '10! I recently finished my master's in public health at Mailman, where I received my degree in health policy and management. I am an ambulatory care manager for Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn."

**Eric Bressman, Jonathan Feld, Michal Cohen '11, Miriam Wiseman '11 and Jordan Katz '11** shared a magical weekend getaway in the East Bronx, N.Y. They took time out of their busy lives to revisit old memories and catch up on where life has taken them these last few years, all the while rediscovering what made their time together at Columbia so special.

**Gabriella Ripoll** graduated from NYU Law this spring. She writes, "Apparently more than a few of my peers also decided to make the same terrible decision of going to law school, as I've run into **Nishi Kumar, Shana Knizhnik** and **Billy Freeland '09** taking classes at NYU Law. Assuming all goes to plan, I'll stay in NYC and work for a small law firm in Times Square. Meanwhile, I remain a hermit in my apartment except when I come out to sing and dance for NYU's *Law Revue* (it's like *The Varsity Show* but lawyerier). Also, congratulations to **Fran Bodomo**, who is presenting the short film she wrote and directed, *Boneshaker*, at film festivals all over the country, including Sundance. *Boneshaker* stars Quvenzhané Wallis of *Beasts of the Southern Wild* fame."

As always, some final words from **Chris Yim**: "In the past few weeks, I have quit my job, packed my bags and driven cross-country to begin a start-up accelerator in the Bay Area. I moved out here with a former roommate, Zak Ringelstein '08, to help him build his company United Classrooms (uclass.org). UClass is a Facebook-era platform that connects classrooms around the world, preparing the students of today for the globalized world that they will graduate into. Currently we are crashing in the bedroom of our other former roommate, Varun Gulati '10E, and he'll join the team as well. It's an exciting new start, picking up and leaving the city that I had grown to love. I will miss you,

New York, but it's only a 'see you later.'

"Memorable points on the cross-country trip were getting caught in a snowstorm in Southwestern Virginia/Tennessee and almost running out of gas in California."

"I am leaving my family behind, including my newborn son, but my father did a similar thing when he left his family behind in North Korea to pursue a better life in the South. I wonder if he thinks he should have stuck around to greet Dennis Rodman. Surprisingly, Father Yim supported my decision to move out west to pursue the dream. I am glad to be out here with friends, working together on something that we believe will impact the world for the better."

"California, I'm home. Sun, please greet me warmly and bless me with a tan similar to the one that I had gotten my senior year at Columbia. Mamba, out."

Thanks for the great updates. Keep them coming!

**11 Colin Sullivan**  
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I hope everyone has a terrific summer. Send a note and tell me about it! You can send updates to me at the above email address or via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Let's fill this column next time.

**12 Sarah Chai**  
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It's been a full year since we crossed the stage at South Lawn in those Columbia blue graduation robes — a year filled with exciting experiences like touring with a band, airing radio stories nationally and spending time abroad!

**Hannah D'Apice** is finishing her first year with Teach for America in Dallas, where she teaches sixth-grade world history. She is a corps member leader for TFA's regional programming and has become involved in local education reform as a volunteer and activist. She is teaching English in Indonesia this summer as part of a school partnership program.

**Peng Deng** spent the past year in New York working at Sive, Paget & Riesel, an environmental law firm, and OasesRE, a real

estate development and consulting firm. She returned to Columbia last fall as a TA for an urban development seminar. At the beginning of 2013, she legally changed her name to **Penelope Peng Yan**, in honor of her mother. Penelope is spending the summer at home in New Zealand and encourages all to take a trip Down Under. She plans to travel in Southeast Asia and Europe before heading to England in October to pursue an M.Phil. in environmental policy at the University of Cambridge.

**Kelicia Hollis** writes from Michigan: "I am really happy to be in consistent contact with many of my Columbia friends and mentors. I am also happy to say that I am two-thirds of the way through my graduate program at the University of Michigan: two degrees back to back! I'm blessed and I hope the same for all of my fellow Columbi-ans. I'm interning in Shanghai this summer after years of trying to get to China, so if you're in the area, let me know! Chase after peace and happiness; the rest will follow."

**Paul Hsiao**, who is rooming with **Eric Tang '12E** and **Eric Chung '12E** on the Upper East Side in the same building as **Lauren Kwok '12E**, says that living so close to fellow Columbi-ans "feels like EC again!"

Right after graduation, **Richard Lenz** performed in a six-date East Coast tour with his band, **Bob Crusoe**, along with **Chris Pitsiokos** and **Nat Flack '13**, opening for the Sediment Club. Later in the summer, he visited Germany and Texas before returning to New York, where he worked at Book Culture and other odd jobs. After injuring his arm, Richard went home to Baltimore to heal. While there, he took photographs during his walks, especially to and from physical therapy, later processing and printing his works in a friend's darkroom. The photographs have been compiled into a book, *Baltimore, Bound*, which will be out this year or next. In January, Richard returned to New York, staying with **Alex Calhoun '11** and **Alex's wife, Nora Nicholson Calhoun '10**, in Queens. He worked another textbook rush at Book Culture and installed the show *NYC 1993: Experimental, Jet Set, Trash and No Star* at the New Museum. Richard was in London as of this writing.

After traveling last summer, **Laura Ly** is back in New York City, working in the newsroom at CNN. She shares, "It's a fast-paced blur of writing, researching, calling sources, reporting stories and assisting with day-to-day television news production. I've been in the newsroom for stories such as snowstorm Nemo, New York Fashion Week, the presidential inauguration, even

the Newtown tragedy, which was hard, especially because I'm from Connecticut, but it's been a great learning experience. I was also there for Columbia stories such as that unusual Frontiers lecture, to which CNN sent a reporter to campus, and Nutella-gate, which got a mention on CNN's food blog. I've been back to campus a bunch of times to say hello to friends and ran into many classmates at Homecoming last year, which was awesome. I made the best friends of my life at Columbia and, though we're all scattered across the country now, we're planning our next reunion."

**Brenda Salinas** is "having a blast" as an NPR Kroc Fellow. As of this writing, she's had eight of her radio stories air nationally! She's proud to be among the WKCR alumni who have gone on to a career in public radio, including the host of *All Things Considered*, **Robert Siegel '68** [see June 2008 CCT].

Thanks for the awesome updates, Class of 2012, and keep them coming!

**13 Tala Akhavan**  
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Congratulations, Class of 2013! As the newest members of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA), we have earned our own column in *Columbia College Today*, where we can inform each other — and the rest of the Columbia family — of our post-college whereabouts and achievements. As we close our last chapter as undergraduates, may we reflect on our four years of study including the Core, countless hours in Butler and the hard-earned sunny afternoons on the lawns. Our appreciation of and connection to Columbia will remain in our memories, knowledge and relationships, and our involvement in the CCAA will provide us with an important community for years to come.

As your class correspondent, I am excited to share your news and stories through this column. Whether you are volunteering in a lesser-developed country, working into the night as a newly hired analyst or road-tripping across the United States, please let me know what you are up to! Send me a message by email or via CCT's easy-to-use webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note) so your updates may be shared with your classmates and friends.

Congratulations on this immense achievement and have a great summer, wherever it takes you!



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## Letters

(Continued from page 5)

### Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig

It was with deep sadness that I read of Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig's passing [Spring 2013, "Around the Quads"]. Like countless other students, I considered him my favorite professor. Moreover, he made me feel, as he did many others, as if I were his favorite student. I know and was forever grateful that he promoted my election to Phi Beta Kappa.

I had Professor Selig for my second semester of Lit Hum — his legendary course on Cervantes' *Don Quixote* — and an individual tutorial in which I read a different significant text each week. I was quite anxious one morning, running late for the tutorial, until I spotted him sitting across from me on the subway, equally late and fully enjoying a jelly doughnut. Professor Selig and my Viennese mother delighted in talking to each other in German, and he loved that they both were epics. Years later, Professor Selig joined us and another professor for dinner and discourse in my home, an evening that he dubbed

a literary salon. Professor Selig met my wife at this dinner as well. You could imagine my surprise one day as I was presenting the prosecution's case to a Manhattan grand jury to see that Professor Selig was seated among them. Of course, he could not vote in the case; I learned from colleagues that he was quite an inquisitive, analytical juror.

We would see or speak to each other from time to time in later years, and I attended the rowing team's first celebration in his honor. As Professor Selig's physical health declined, he expressed concern over the fate of his treasured books; I tried to reassure him. There came a time when I said that he could benefit from a hearing aid, and he got very upset. Our contact diminished. I greatly regret that — I blame myself. I so wish that Professor Selig could hear me now, for I would convey, once more, that he was the quintessential teacher whose influence on me is enduring and ever endearing.

Gary J. Galperin '77  
NEW YORK CITY

### Pride of the Lions

I enjoyed the coverage of Professor [Ronald] Breslow (Winter 2012–13). I had him for organic chemistry

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from 1966–67, my sophomore year. In those days at Columbia, there was applause at the end of the last class. In this case, it was a standing ovation. We had taken up a collection and bought him a gag gift, a chemistry set, and he said, "This is how it all started." We also presented him a bottle of Scotch, to which he replied, "And this is what it all led to."

I have since learned how famous his career was from an early age, and my chemistry department friend borrowed that issue from me with gratitude. I contacted Professor Breslow about a decade ago, and he replied that he remembered that year's class. With hindsight, finishing my 40th year as a professor myself, I only wish, as a student, I had come to know more of my Columbia professors as more than just my classroom teachers.

Bill Stark '69  
SR. LOUIS

### Norman Dorsen '50

It was good to read the article about Norman Dorsen '50 [Spring 2013]. I'd like to add a detail of his basketball prowess, a memory I've carried top-of-mind for 65 years.

We, the Columbia junior varsity, were playing an away game. On that unfamiliar court, Dorsen

took eight shots from the field and made them all. We won the game. Who makes *all* of that many shots in a game?

My visual memory is of Normie's distinctive driving, twisting, left-handed shooting.

David Berger '50  
MADISON, WIS.

### Tuskegee Experiment

A comment on the letter from my classmate Donald Marcus '55 [Spring 2013]. I believe he is referring to the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment when he talks about blacks purposely being given syphilis. In this study started in 1932, a group of rural black men with syphilis were being followed to study the natural history of the disease. The problem was that when penicillin was found to be an effective treatment in the late 1940s, it was not offered to the men and they continued untreated in the study until 1972. While this was not much better ethically, they were not given syphilis, as appears to be commonly believed. Wikipedia has a good account of the history.

Bill Mink '55  
NAPA, CALIF.



Alumni and their guests enjoy the waning hours of the Starlight Reception on the last night of Alumni Reunion Weekend 2013.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO



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