Good Chemistry

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Overtime with Football Coach Pete Mangurian
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Pete Mangurian is the 10th head football coach since I came to Columbia as a freshman in 1967. (Yes, we were “freshmen” then, not “first-years,” and we even wore beanie hats during Orientation — but that’s a story for another time.) Since then, Columbia has compiled exactly three winning records in 45 seasons of football.

So what makes Mangurian think he can succeed where Buff Do-nelli (with the 1961 championship team — alas, before my time — as a striking exception); Frank Navarro; Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC; Bob Naso; Jim Garrett; Larry McElreavy; Ray Teller; Bob Shoop; and Norries Wilson largely did not?

“I’ve been doing this for 33 years,” Mangurian said in August as he prepared for the start of his first season at Columbia. “I’ve been fortunate to be around some very successful programs. I’ve been to what people in the football world would consider the pinnacle, the Super Bowl, and I’ve worked in organizations that are arguably the best in football. Hopefully, I’ve picked some things up along the way.

“One of the biggest lessons you learn in this game is to evaluate the situation objectively, have a clear idea of where it is you actually want to go and what you want to accomplish, then use your experience and the experience of others to put together a road map to get there.”

Mangurian, a former assistant coach with five NFL teams and head coach at Cornell from 1998-2000, is not about to accept the status quo.

“I’m not a believer in ‘That’s just the way it is and it’s always going to be that way,’” he declared. “I’m not really interested in the pitfalls and the things that have come before. Believe me, every day I face, ‘Well, that won’t work’ or ‘That’s not the way it is’ or ‘Those people won’t cooperate with you.’ It’s myriad things every time we turn around. My answer to that at this point is, ‘Why?’ And I usually don’t get a very good answer, because the person I’m talking to wasn’t even around when that problem took place.”

One example, he said, is the misperception that the Columbia faculty does not support athletics.

“That’s not true,” he said. “The faculty is more than willing to help reach the objective, which is to make sure that these young men get the education they need and have experiences they need and still be successful at football. They have no problem with that. There’s no difference between going to practice and doing your homework — you’re practicing for the test. When you put things in that perspective, it’s easy to see.”

Mangurian, whose Cornell teams went from 1-6 in Ivy play in his first season to 5-2 in each of the next two years, values the journey as well as the destination.

“If there’s anything that really defines how I approach things, it would be this: It’s great to have a goal, everybody has them, but the real work is how you get there. A lot of times we focus so much on the goal, we don’t focus on how we are going to get there, the methods to achieve that goal. The goal will happen if you do the other things along the way.”

Still, there’s no substitute for the goal, what Mangurian calls the “W word.”

“The bottom line is winning,” he said. “I’m not going to mince words on that. It’s winning. That’s life. I have three kids and I’ve been through this ‘everybody gets a trophy’ deal. And I get it, to a certain extent. But the real world doesn’t work that way. It doesn’t work that way in business, it doesn’t work that way in the classroom. You get an A or you get a B, and it’s hard to get an A. A’s are special.

“It’s about winning. It’s about being successful. But what everybody has to understand is that if you do win, then you learned a lot and accomplished a lot along the journey. It wasn’t just the destination.”

The Lions began their journey with 12 days of spring practice, where Mangurian got to see returning players firsthand, and continued through preseason training camp, where he focused on the 32-member class of first-year players. His objective in both, rather than to install specific schemes or plays, he said, was to find out which players he can depend upon.

“We put a lot more emphasis on finding out who we could trust,” he said. “Who’s going to do the things we ask him to do when we ask him to do it? Who can we count on? We believe in putting more pressure on them in practice than they’ll probably have in a game. I guarantee you there will be a little bit of relief when these guys get to go out and play and we’re not standing right behind them, getting on them. But I think you have to harden them. You have to put them on the anvil and make them harder, so that when it gets tough they’ll be able to respond. It’s no different from a professor who teaches his or her class and makes them study. It’s no different.”

Columbia’s first exam, if you will, comes against Marist on September 15, with its first Ivy League test against Princeton on September 29, both at home. The offense figures to revolve around quarterback Sean Brackett ’13, the team’s leading rusher as well as passer last season. Mangurian is hoping some of his young players will bolster a defense that features linemen Seyi Adabayo ’13 and Josh Martin ’13 and linebacker Zach Olinger ’14, but which allowed 32.8 points per game last season.

The Lions were 1-9 last season, the lone victory being a 35-28 decision over Brown in two overtimes in their season finale.

“We’ll be better,” Mangurian said. The journey will determine how much better.

For more from CCT’s interview with Mangurian, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.
Letters to the Editor

The Obamas

I recognize the justifiable pride the College community and even the broader University community takes in the fact that President Obama is an alum [Class of 1983]. However, I am getting a bit tired of the obsessive articles on the President and the many College alums who participate in Democratic politics or “progressive” political activity. The item that put me over the edge was the [Summer 2012] cover story on The Obamas.

There seems to be an assumption on the part of the editor and contributing writers that the College community is composed wholly of political participants from one side of the spectrum. I am sure that one can find alums who participate and contribute meaningfully from the other side of the spectrum. And yes, I am a Republican. I know of such people.

The College and my education have been instructive to my past and current activities in politics and public policy work. I would think there would be others if one were inclined to try to find them.

Scott Miller ’82
Annapolis, Md.

Wally Broecker ’53

I was delighted with the Summer 2012 article by Timothy Cross ’98 GSAS about Wally Broecker ’53, ’58 GSAS. I was aware of his work, early on, not through Columbia but through my work in the Atomic Energy Commission, its short-lived successor the Energy Research and Development Administration and then the Department of Energy. Most of my years there I worked in the office supporting basic research in universities and our national laboratories.

I always wondered why I never ran into Wally in the College whenever I was reminded on paper that he was a member of my Class of ’53; I was delighted to learn why in the article. Professor [J. Laurence] Kulp and the registrar “did good” — but he should have had to pass the swimming test!

One of Wally’s important contributions beyond his research is his outstanding ability to communicate his work, its results and its significance to society. I suspect he often was faced with significant frustration in dealing with bureaucracies as well as with those who, even today, do not accept the facts.

What prompted this letter was the deserved recognition given to [Lands’ End founder] Gary Comer for his significant contribution to Columbia in support of Wally’s outstanding scientific work and continuing contribution to society.

While the deserved recognition for Wally’s work, the National Medal of Science, is properly highlighted, the significant sup-

PHOTO: COURTESY LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY
An Alumnus’ Thanks

On May 1, former dean of Barnard Dorothy Denburg and I were honored by the Columbia/Barnard Hillel and the Kraft Center at their annual dinner. During the course of my few words of appreciation in accepting the honor, I referenced my education at Columbia (Class of 1953) and it was suggested to me that I send you what I said about that education.

I owe so much to this great university for the wonderful education I received. The world of western civilization opened before me in the Contemporary Civilization and Humanities courses. Through them, I formed intellectual relationships with some of the greatest minds in human history. My Art Humanities course was a revelation to me, as I was a virtual ignoramus in that field. My Music Humanities course with Professor Jack Beeson, then just an instructor and not yet a famous composer, and my opera course with Professor Otto Leunig — I will never forget his long arms waving as a conductor in his discussions and dramatizations of opera — greatly enhanced my natural talent in, and love for, music, and gave me a deeper understanding of music that enriches my life to this day.

I had the opportunity to be taught by great faculty such as Professor Irwin Edelman (Class of 1916) in philosophy, Professor David Truman in government and, for me, the most wonderful of them all, Professor Henry Graff ‘49 GSAS in American history. Professor Graff is one of the few people who still calls me Hacky. We formed a lifelong friendship and association. He has been to my synagogue any number of times to discuss the presidency and, occasionally, a forthcoming election. It would have been worth coming to Columbia just to meet him.

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein ’53
NEW YORK CITY

Corrections


The Alumni Corner about Lou Gehrig ’25 in the same issue incorrectly listed the date of his famous “luckiest man on the face of the Earth” speech, due to an error in editing. The speech took place at a ceremony in Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939.

CCT regrets the errors.
Homecoming 2012 Pits Lions vs. Dartmouth

Baker Athletics Complex will be the site of Homecoming 2012 on Saturday, October 20, featuring the pregame picnic lunch under the Big Tent, the Columbia Homecoming Carnival and the Lions taking on the Big Green. An extra highlight this year will be the dedication of The Campbell Sports Center (see box at right).

The festivities start at 11 a.m. with a hearty barbecue buffet, open until 1:30 p.m. Picnic tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children under 12 if purchased online by Thursday, October 18: college.columbia.edu/alumni/homecoming. Picnic tickets also are available on site: $22 for adults and $12 for children. Each ticket includes an all-you-can-eat lunch, soft drinks and admittance to the Columbia Homecoming Carnival. Beer, wine and cocktails are available at an additional cost. There also will be limited cash-and-carry items. The Columbia Alumni Association will sponsor halftime refreshments under the Big Tent.

The Columbia Homecoming Carnival opens at 11 a.m. and stays open until 3 p.m. with face painting, balloon making, magic, games, prizes and interactive activities.

The Ivy League football matchup, the first Homecoming game for new Lions coach Pete Mangurian, kicks off at Robert K. Kraft Field at 1:30 p.m. To purchase football tickets, which are separate from picnic tickets, call 888-LIONS-11 or purchase online: gocolumbialions.com/tickets. Premium chairback seats are $25 and reserved bench seats are $15.

Columbia University Athletics will sponsor complimentary shuttle buses from the Morningside campus to and from Baker Athletics Complex beginning at 11 a.m. and returning immediately following the game. Campus pickup will be from the gates at West 116th Street and Broadway.

Fans also may use mass transit. The A and 1 subways as well as the M100, Bx20 and Bx7 buses stop near Baker. If traveling by Metro-North Railroad, the Marble Hill station is on the north shore of Spuyten Duyvil, just across the Broadway Bridge from the complex.

On-site preferred parking is available only to those making qualifying gifts to Columbia football. Single-game parking passes are not available. Fans without on-site preferred parking passes will be directed to public parking facilities.

For more information about game day, the picnic and parking, visit www.gocolumbialions.com/footballgameday.
Schiller To Be Presented 2012 Alexander Hamilton Medal

Jonathan Schiller '69, '73L will be presented the 2012 Alexander Hamilton Medal on Thursday, November 15, at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner, an annual black-tie event in Low Rotunda. The medal, the highest honor paid to a member of the Columbia College community, is awarded by the Columbia College Alumni Association to an alumnus/a or faculty member for distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor.

Schiller, a University trustee and a member of the Dean’s Council of the Law School, received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2006. He was a member of the 1967–68 Ivy League Championship basketball team and was inducted with that squad into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in February 2006.

The Jonathan D. Schiller Endowment in International Human Rights was created in 2006 at the Law School by the Schiller family and provides funding for summer fellowships in international human rights. Schiller’s most recent commitments to the College include establishing the Jonathan Schiller Scholarship Fund in June 2011.

As co-founder and managing partner of Boies, Schiller & Flexner, Schiller has more than 35 years of experience trying cases throughout the United States and is recognized as a leading practitioner in international arbitration. He was elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and appointed to the Milan Chamber of Commerce Club of Arbitrators. He also was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Supreme Court Historical Society in Washington, D.C.

Schiller was recognized by Who’s Who Legal as one of the most highly regarded individuals, “the real deal,” in its listing of the Top Ten International Commercial Litigators for 2011. He also was recently cited by Lawdragon as one of its “500 Leading Lawyers in America” for the sixth consecutive year. Chambers and Partners, a legal research organization that publishes annual peer-reviewed evaluations of the world’s leading law firms and lawyers, recognized Schiller “as a leading practitioner in the field of international arbitration,” and The US Legal 500 2010 Guide to the World’s Leading Lawyers named him as “one of the premier international arbitration attorneys in the world” and “a seasoned practitioner with an impressive reputation.” He also was named “Litigator of the Week” by American Lawyer earlier this year following Barclays’ successful trial defense against $13 billion in claims sought by Lehman Brothers bankruptcy estates.

Schiller is married to Marla Prather ’88 GSAS, who earned a master’s in art history. Their sons also are Columbia alumni: Zachary ’01, Joshua ’08L and Aaron ’06.

For more information on the dinner, contact Robin Vanderputten, associate director, College events and programs: robinv@columbia.edu or 212-851-7399.
Encyclopaedia Iranica Project Reaches Milestone

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

Ehsan Yarshater knows something about dedication. After four decades of work on the monumental Encyclopaedia Iranica, he announced the reference work has reached the midpoint of its completion: 15 published volumes, reaching into the letter K. Yarshater, the Hagop Kevorkian Professor Emeritus of Iranian Studies, also has been the project’s primary fundraiser, successfully lobbying individual donors and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as well as contributing art and rare books for sale from his personal collection. Most recently, with the economy down and funding becoming scarce, he let go of a prized Rodin sculpture to support the cause.

CCT first profiled Yarshater, who conceived the research and publishing project in 1972, in November 2003. At that time, the Encyclopaedia was at letter H and its editors had started publishing entries online, out of alphabetical order. Now, all previously published volumes have been digitized into a free, searchable online version of the encyclopedia (iranicaonline.org) with 6,500 entries, including more than 850 entries published digitally in advance of eventual inclusion in the print volumes.

“At a time when accurate information about Islam and Iran is overlooked by Americans in place of simplifications and sound bites, the editors of Encyclopaedia Iranica are performing a public service by making authoritative articles by eminent academics freely available,” a reviewer for NEH wrote last year. “The quality, clarity and detail of the articles is remarkable. It is, bar none, the most accurate and trustworthy online resource I know of for information on Islam.”

The Encyclopaedia covers not only Islam and the modern-day country of Iran but also the history, culture and science of all the lands that speak or once spoke any Iranian language. Another NEH reviewer called it “unequalled in the scholarly world for its depth, breadth and accessibility to academic and non-academic audiences alike.” At completion it will rival the length of some general encyclopedias, but its anticipated 32-35 volumes are unique in their dedication to one country and one culture.

The Encyclopaedia contains extensive essays on art, literature, religion, philosophy, geography, customs, architecture, flora and fauna. But even those labels are too broad: flora and fauna, for example, are considered not only in terms of botany and zoology but also in terms of the uses of plants and animals in folklore and popular medicine. More than 40 languages and dialects have been covered thus far, with explanations of their grammar and sample vocabularies. Various calendars and festivals are catalogued; the stars and constellations are explored as astronomy, astrology and folklore. Cloth- of Iranian scholars is declining by attrition — Yarshater says today’s students cannot go to Iran to study as readily under the Islamic government, so they turn to other areas of the world. “The Encyclopaedia Iranica is not repeatable, because a number of elements came together and made it possible,” says Yarshater, who founded the University’s Center for Iranian Studies in 1968 and was chair of the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures from 1968-73. He founded the project at Columbia (before the 1979 Iranian revolution) out of frustration that there was not an impartial and comprehensive pre-Islamic reference work in the field.

The Encyclopaedia is among the longest continually funded projects (33 years) supported by the NEH, and private donors once generously supported it as well. In the recent recession, however, NEH funding has been reduced to half what it once was (though the project receives the current maximum amount possible for its category, $300,000 for two years). Private donors have largely snapped their purses shut, and gala benefit dinners — which used to raise a half million dollars at a time — have been on hold since 2007.

Through the years, Yarshater’s own donations of books and art have been made via the Persian Heritage Foundation, which he formed in 1983 to support research on all aspects of the Iranian world. He’d resisted, however, when a representative of Christie’s auction house, who was visiting his apartment on Riverside Drive, asked if he would be interested in selling The Kiss, a Rodin sculpture he bought from a Rockefeller at a 1975 auction. But in 2009, Yarshater changed his mind: “We needed money to run our project. I thought, the time of the Rodin had come.”

The 34-inch-high sculpture has a lovely patina and is what Christie’s described as an “extremely rare bronze cast, known as the Milwaukee version, one of only five created during the artist’s lifetime from the plaster model of the classic sculpture.” The auction house catalogue estimated it would bring $1.5-$2 million.
Yarshater was working on the encyclopedia in his office when a Christie's representative called with news of the final hammer price: $6,354,500.

“Within a matter of weeks, the money was fed into our account, and our editors and other staff could be paid,” Yarshater says. “Rodin came to our rescue.”

The sale allowed the encyclopedia staff to expand by two editors; it now has eight. Yarshater, 92, works full-time as the project's volunteer general editor. In recent years he has also conceived and is general editor of another definitive reference project, the 20-volume *A History of Persian Literature*.

“I am hoping that with the help of my colleagues we can bring the *Encyclopaedia* project to the end of its first edition in 2020,” says Yarshater. “If we succeed, a great project, in fact the greatest academic project ever conceived and carried out in the field of Iranian studies — and one that contributes to a variety of fields in the humanities — will have been achieved.”

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Shira Boss '93, '97J, '98 SIPA is contributing writer to CCT and a graduate student at the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College.

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**Popkin, Yao To Receive Great Teachers Award**

Cathy Popkin, the Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities and professor of Russian, Department of Slavic Languages, and David Yao, professor of industrial engineering and operations research at Columbia Engineering, have been named the recipients of the 2012 Great Teachers Award. The awards will be presented at the Society of Columbia Graduates Awards Dinner in Low Rotunda on Wednesday, October 24.

Popkin joined Columbia’s Slavic department in 1986 and is a scholar of literary theory and 19th- and 20th-century Russian prose, specifically Chekhov. A mainstay of the Literature Humanities faculty, she is known for hosting reunions with her former Lit Hum students when they are graduating seniors. Described by one student as “one of Columbia’s prized jewels,” Popkin also is a recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Columbia Faculty Award.

Yao joined the Department of Industrial Engineering in 1983. After a three-year stay at Harvard, he returned to Columbia as a full professor in 1988. His teaching and research interests focus on the analysis, design and control of stochastic systems such as manufacturing systems, supply chains and communication networks. He has been the principal architect of several academic programs at Columbia Engineering, including the master’s program in financial engineering.

The Society of Columbia Graduates established the Great Teachers Award in 1949 to honor outstanding members of the faculty teaching in the College and Engineering. Recipients have included Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS; Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS; Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS; Kathy Eden; Alan Brinkley; Andrew Delbanco; and Mark Mazower.

For further information, contact Gerald Sherwin '55: 917-763-7061 or gs48l@juno.com; or Peter Basilevsky '67, '72L: 212-818-9200 or pbasilevsky@ssbb.com; or visit the society’s website (socg.com).

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Robert Y. Shapiro, who specializes in American politics, is a professor and former chair of the Department of Political Science. His most recent books include The Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media (edited with Lawrence R. Jacobs) and Selling Fear: Counterterrorism, the Media, and Public Opinion (with Columbia’s Brigitte L. Nacos and Yael Bloch-Elkon). Shapiro earned a B.S. from MIT and a Ph.D. from Chicago; he has worked at Columbia since 1982 and last sat for “5 Minutes with” in summer 2008.

You recently returned from Egypt. Tell me about that. I was invited to speak at the American University in Cairo by the president of the university, Lisa Anderson, who is a former dean of SIPA. She invited three of her successor department chairs, including myself, to run a 3 1/2-day workshop on research methods in political science for the purposes of, as I like to say, jumpstarting interest in quantitative approaches to political science and studying political issues relevant to the students and faculty.

How did it go? It went well; we got people’s attention. We talked about big-picture issues that were quite relevant to what’s been happening in Egypt — things like the relationship between democracy and economic development, the relationship between Islam and democratization, the relationship between Islam and oil, and the empowerment of women in the Middle East and elsewhere and then, also, the relationship between democratization and political conflict, civil wars and things like that.

Will you be involved with the U.S. presidential election this fall? As of now, I don’t have any plans to be. The last election I was involved in was doing exit poll analysis for ABC News, in 2008. But I do follow the data regularly and more so as the election nears.

What are you focusing on these days with regard to your own research? I recently worked with some undergraduates, looking at American public opinion trends toward the Mideast conflict, focusing on the Israelis and the Palestinians. And then I’m also working on a higher-priority book project with my recent collaborators, Nacos and Bloch-Elkon, looking at the Tea Party movement and the Occupy Wall Street movement — how they were covered by the media and how they, in turn, used the mass media and social media in their efforts. And what broader effects this has had on American politics.

Would you anticipate that the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street will continue to have as much influence moving forward? What movements are successful at, if not persuading people to adopt the opinions they adopt, is to make issues visible and more salient. With the Tea Party, things had settled down for a while — the party seemed to have lost some of its luster — but things are now heating up in the current election, and the Republican party is a stronger conservative party because of the Tea Party movement. As for the effect of Occupy, the big question is, had they not become active in the way they were, would the Democrats and Obama have used the issue of economic inequality the way they are in the current campaign? We can’t run the experiment, but I suspect they may have not.

What does your middle initial Y stand for? Yale. Has nothing to do with the university. It’s an Anglicized and greatly shortened Yiddish name.

Is there anything else you think we should talk about? I still like pizza. [laughs]

That’s right. You mentioned that the last time you sat with CCT. The funny part was, when my wife read the interview, she said she learned some things about me that she didn’t know. She didn’t really fully appreciate how much my favorite food is pizza.

Did she know about your dream of being shortstop for the Yankees? No, but anybody who knew me when I was young would understand that.

Interview: Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts
Photo: Eileen Barroso

For more conversation with Shapiro, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.
Virginia W. Cornish '91 Named Helena Rubinstein Professor

Virginia W. Cornish '91, the first College alumna to become a tenured professor at the University, has been named the Helena Rubinstein Professor of Chemistry.

The Helena Rubinstein Foundation created a $2 million endowed professorship in support of the advancement of women in science at Columbia, and Cornish was announced as the inaugural appointee of this chair on June 5 at the Northwest Corner Building, the site of her laboratory. Working at the interface of chemistry and biology, Cornish's lab brings together organic chemistry and DNA technology to expand the synthetic capabilities of living cells.

Trustees Chair Emerita G.G. Michelson '47L, longtime chair of the Helena Rubinstein Foundation, and Diane Moss, president of the foundation, were instrumental in working with Columbia to identify an appropriate and enduring recognition of Rubinstein's legacy. Rubinstein often said that her “fortune comes from women and should be used to benefit them and their children, to better their quality of life” and “to encourage women to undertake higher education and to pursue nontraditional careers.”

In an effort to reduce costs and be environmentally friendly, Columbia College Alumni Affairs and your class's Reunion Committee will communicate with you via email as much as possible. Be sure you don't miss out on reunion details! Update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate. Watch your mail and email for details.

Make plans now to return to New York City and the Columbia campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2013.

The weekend will feature:
- Class-specific activities, cocktail receptions and dinners planned by each class's Reunion Committee;
- "Back on Campus" sessions featuring Mini-Core Courses, Public Intellectual Lectures and more as part of Dean's Day on Saturday;
- New York City entertainment options including an art gallery crawl, Broadway shows and other cultural activities;
- All-class programs including the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception, with dancing, champagne and sweets on Low Plaza; and
- Camp Columbia for Kids, ages 3-12.

Questions? Please contact Fatima Yudeh, alumni affairs: fy2165@columbia.edu or 212-851-7834.

In an effort to reduce costs and be environmentally friendly, Columbia College Alumni Affairs and your class's Reunion Committee will communicate with you via email as much as possible. Be sure you don't miss out on reunion details! Update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate.

Watch your mail and email for details.
**ALUMNI IN THE NEWS**

- **Ronald Weich ’80**, former assistant attorney general for legislative affairs in the Department of Justice and former chief counsel to both Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), was named dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law in April. In a press release announcing Weich’s appointment, University of Baltimore President Robert L. Bogomolny said, “Ron Weich is the right person to continue the growth and transformation of the UB School of Law. During this time of considerable transition in legal education and the legal profession, it is important to have leadership with integrity and vision. Ron Weich embodies those qualities.”

- The Vatican hired Fox News correspondent **Greg Burke ’82, ’83J** as its senior communications adviser in June. His appointment comes in the wake of a series of public relations issues, including attacks by international media on the lack of transparency at the Vatican bank and the leak of classified documents, claiming corruption within the Vatican, by Pope Benedict XVI’s butler. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Burke compared his new role to that of the White House press secretary: “It’s a strategy job. It’s very simple to explain, not so easy to execute: to formulate the message and try to make sure everyone remains on message,” he said. The first communications expert hired outside the Roman Catholic media, Burke covered the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Benedict for Fox News, where he had worked since 2001.

- **ESPN** reported in August that entrepreneur **Randy Lerner ’84, ’87L** has reached an agreement to sell the NFL’s Cleveland Browns to truck-stop magnate Jimmy Haslam for more than $1 billion. He now will focus on another of his sports properties, the Aston Villa soccer team in England’s Premier League. Lerner inherited the Browns from his father, **Alfred Lerner ’55**, namesake of Columbia’s Alfred Lerner Hall student center, who died in 2002. Al Lerner purchased the then-inactive franchise from the NFL in 1998 for $350 million.

- A July *New York Times* article praised the unconventional self-promotional strategies of venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, co-founded by **Ben Horowitz ’88**. The article notes that while “most venture capitalists operated under levels of secrecy typically reserved for Swiss banks,” Andreessen Horowitz has worked to brand itself as a top firm, featured on the cover of *Fortune* and *Wired* magazines and in *Vanity Fair’s* 2011 “New Establishment” list of the year’s top influencers. The *Times* reports: “All that pitching seems to have paid off. In just three years, the firm has raised $2.7 billion — more than any other venture capital firm in that same time span.” Horowitz’s public persona includes a blog (bhorowitz.com) on which he presents business lessons alongside lyrics from hip-hop songs. The *Times* also reports that Horowitz was invited to speak at Harvard’s hip-hop archives and rapper Snoop Dogg, now known as Snoop Lion, has requested a meeting with him.

- The Radio Television Digital News Association presented **Phyllis Fletcher ’94** with a 2012 National Edward R. Murrow Award in Audio Feature Reporting for her story “Secrets of a Blonde Bombshell,” which originally aired in September 2011 on Studio 360 with Kurt Andersen. A reporter and editor for Seattle’s KUOW public radio station, Fletcher uncovered that the subject of her story, the “blonde bombshell bandleader” Ina Ray Hutton of 1930s swing band fame, was actually part black and had been passing as white since childhood. Hutton, who conducted, sang and tap danced in her all-female band the Melodears, died in 1984 having never acknowledged her black heritage. The story also received a Gracie Award for Outstanding Portrait/Biography from the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation. In a KUOW press release, Fletcher said, “I’m thrilled for the late Ms. Hutton and her family that this new telling of her life story has been acknowledged with a Gracie Award, and has shone new light on Hutton’s contribution to music history.”

- In June, *Institutional Investor* magazine named **Rick Nardis ’98** of UBS to its list of hedge fund rising stars. Nardis joined UBS in 2001 as a senior investment officer working at one of the company’s fund-of-hedge-funds businesses. From the time he came on board until 2008 when he was named co-CIO, the group’s assets grew from $900 million to $48 billion. Despite losing ground during the financial crisis, Nardis’ group has climbed back to $28.5 billion and went from being one of six fund-of-hedge-funds companies at UBS to its only remaining one. According to *Institutional Investor*, “Hedge fund managers and investors alike say they have the utmost respect for Nardis.”

- **Maggie Gyllenhaal ’99** stars alongside Viola Davis in the film *Won’t Back Down*, a drama in which two mothers stand up against a powerful bureaucracy to transform their children’s failing inner-city school in Pittsburgh. Inspired by true events, the film focuses on trigger laws — which currently exist in four states and are being considered in a dozen more — through which parents can demand changes to, or even a complete restructuring of, their children’s schools if a majority sign a petition. *USA Today* reported in August, “It’s rare that a Hollywood movie actually gets out in front of a social trend, but when *Won’t Back Down* premieres this September, it may well spawn reams of petitions from fed-up parents.”

Karen Iorio
Columbia College Fund Exceeds FY12 Goal, Raises $16.3 Million

The Columbia College Fund exceeded its $16 million Fiscal Year 2012 goal, raising $16,296,000, or $650,000 more than FY11. More than 11,350 alumni, parents, students and friends of the College contributed to the College Fund, which raises money for financial aid, the Core Curriculum, student services and summer internship stipends. The FY12 total includes donations received from July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012.

The College Fund comprises several sub-categories, each of which built on FY11’s successes.

The Parents Fund raised a record $2.86 million from almost 1,550 donors, representing a 30 percent increase in dollars and a 26 percent increase in donors as compared to FY11.

The reunion Class of 1962 presented a $1.13 million Class Gift to the College Fund — the largest reunion Class Gift ever given by a 50th-anniversary class. Also setting fundraising records for their respective reunions were the Classes of 1982, 1987 and 1992, and the Class of 1967 had the best fundraising year in its class history.

Recent alumni, representing the Classes of 1992–2001, raised more than $1.3 million, a 60 percent increase as compared to FY11. And the Young Alumni Fund, representing the Classes of 2002–2011, was well over its goal of $317,000 for the year, with almost $375,000 raised. This group also set a participation record with nearly 1,800 donors, an increase of about 370 from FY11.

Seniors, who are encouraged early to forge a connection with the College by giving back, showed their support as well. More than 750 participated in the Senior Fund — raising more than $17,000 — and 235 signed up for the Dean’s 3-2-1 Challenge, for which they agreed to give at least $20.12 for three years, to ask two friends to do the same and to have their gifts matched 1:1. (This year, Gene Davis ’75 matched the gifts.) By reaching its Senior Gift goal, the Senior Fund secured a $100,000 gift from Charles Santoro ’82 to the Columbia College Fund.

“The remarkable success of the College Fund is directly attributable to the outstanding leadership and generosity of alumni, parents, students and friends. Their dedication to alma mater helps make Columbia College the greatest undergraduate experience available in the world,” said Allen Rosso, executive director of the Columbia College Fund.

To make a gift to the Columbia College Fund in FY13, give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline or by calling 212-851-7488, or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

Hire Columbians

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

Travel with Columbia

EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE
MARCH 13–29, 2013

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Anthony da Costa ’13 Juggles Academics and Music Career

folksinger and songwriter Anthony da Costa ’13 was just 13 when he started frequenting open mics near his hometown of Pleasantville, N.Y., in Westchester. He had not yet reached his next birthday when he branched out to venues in New York City, including Columbia’s iconic Postcrypt Coffeehouse. And by the time he enrolled in the College itself, he’d performed around the country, recorded several albums and distinguished himself as the youngest winner of several prestigious folk competitions.

“He lives and breathes it,” says Fred Gillen Jr., a Hudson Valley-based folk artist who has produced three of da Costa’s albums. “He also is not afraid to try something new if it turns him on, whether it is commercially viable or not. This is important and he gets it. Some artists have success with one thing and they do it over and over and get stuck there. Anthony is constantly moving forward and changing.”

In April, da Costa released his ninth album and fifth studio production, Secret Handshake, which he calls his best assemblage of songs. “Every song I’ve ever written is a love song in some way, shape or form,” says da Costa, who describes his style as a blend of folk, rock, pop, country and Americana. “I get influences from my own life, my friends’ lives. Sometimes I’ll make something up completely.”

One of his older songs, “Poor Poor Pluto,” speaks of the former planet’s demotion. “But even that is a love song,” he says.

Da Costa credits his parents for exposing him to music. He attributes his passion for folk specifically to his mother, who encouraged him to join the local church choir at 5. He started taking guitar lessons when he was 10. “I never wanted to look at the book. I wanted to learn songs, so my teacher would just give up and teach me a new Beatles song every week,” he says. “Especially with folk music, I’ve learned more by doing and being out there and learning from other writers and actually playing for people.”

The late New York City disc jockey Pete Fornatele branded da Costa a “very young man with a very old soul,” yet as a teenager breaking into a musical style associated with a more mature crowd, da Costa had to dig deep to prove himself. “I was always a lot younger than most of the people I played shows with, people two or three times my age,” he says. (He was 16 when he won the Ker Ville Folk Festival New Folk and the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Emerging Artist competitions.) “It was easy to wonder, ‘What can this kid even write songs about?’ To that I’d say, ‘I’m a human being, too, and I’m still experiencing things.’”

In high school, da Costa learned to ward attending music conservatory for his next step. He switched tracks in part because a mentor, the late singer-songwriter Jack Hardy, encouraged him to seek a more comprehensive education. “He said, ‘Grasshopper, you’ve spent enough years putting stuff out there, it’s time to put some stuff back in,’” da Costa recalls. “It felt like the right thing to do. I can learn enough [about music] from traveling and playing.”

During the school year, da Costa plays shows off-campus every week, sometimes embarking on weekend-long trips. In the summertime, he performs across the country, as a solo act as well as part of the trio Elliot, Rose, da Costa. His 2012 tour included his first performances in Canada and a three-week tour of Denmark.

Since his first year in the College, da Costa also has devoted whatever spare time he has to helping run Postcrypt. Established in 1964, the acoustic-only, 30-seat venue in the basement of St. Paul’s Chapel features live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights during the academic year. Da Costa typically hosts one night a month, books talent, serves as emcee and is involved in planning the coffeehouse’s annual Folk Festival. “There’s nothing like it,” he says of Postcrypt. “The atmosphere is wonderful; it’s all student-run. The vibe has always been really nice.”

Da Costa is majoring in history with a focus on classical studies. Though his academic course load and performance schedule leave little time for sleep, da Costa has never considered a hiatus. “I want to get an education, but I can’t stop playing music,” he says. “I need to do it.”


Nathalie Alonso ’08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer of LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website.
Sreenivasan Named Chief Digital Officer

Sreenath Sreenivasan ’93J, former professor and dean of student affairs at the Journalism School, has been named the University’s first chief digital officer and started work in the new position in July.

As CDO, Sreenivasan will lead the University’s efforts in digital media and online education both on and off campus. “Sree’s portfolio will cover a broad range of issues at the intersection of technology, education and digital media,” Provost John Coatsworth said in announcing the appointment.

Technology increasingly has been incorporated into courses on campus, and Columbia has used elements of online education for some time at the Engineering School, Journalism School and School of Continuing Education, among others, and in departments that work with the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning, an innovator in the field. But looking ahead, Coatsworth said, “The goal is to ensure that we deploy new tools and technologies in interactive and distance learning to ensure the richest and most dynamic learning environment possible for Columbia’s students.”

There are at least three ways universities now are being affected by online education, Sreenivasan says: through open online classes, which make lectures available for free to the public; through hybrid classes, which combine days in a classroom with the rest of the time online; and through online education meant to enhance the classroom experience for existing students in residence.

“We’re studying all of them,” Sreenivasan says. “There’s a lot of buzz about this stuff — we haven’t decided what we’ll pursue.”

Sreenivasan has taught at the Journalism School since he graduated — his specialty has been new media and digital journalism, and more recently social media — and for the past seven years also has been a dean. He has led workshops in digital journalism and social media in newsrooms around the world, been an on-air tech commentator for local TV stations in New York and is a frequent guest speaker for journalism groups. He also has been an informal consultant on campus for developing platforms for online education, websites and using social media.

“Before, I’d get calls and be a sounding board or answer questions as a favor. Now it’s part of my job,” Sreenivasan says.

One of Sreenivasan’s mantras regarding technology is, “Be an early tester, a late adopter.” He plans to promote that philosophy University-wide. “We’re all trying to figure out what works. We want to be thoughtful and strategic about it and not jump into one thing right away. Across 250 years at Columbia we’ve figured out how to teach and how to learn really well. How do we use some of the new technologies and techniques to build on that, without affecting what’s been working so well? There’s no rush to announce anything big.”

Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA

Marching Band Exhibition

The history of Columbia’s marching, concertizing and pranking music-makers will be explored this fall in a special exhibition, "The Cleverest Band in the World: Marching and Playing for Columbia," at the Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St. (between Broadway and Riverside Drive).

The Columbia University Band Alumni Association has collected a range of memorabilia to tell the story of CU bands from 1904 to today. An accompanying video will highlight band activities from serious to zany, with a soundtrack that includes recorded music by the group not heard in decades, including pieces performed at Carnegie Hall in the 1960s. The exhibition will open at a pre-Homecoming reception for band alumni and current members on Friday, October 19, at the Center, and run through the end of the year.

The band alumni association still is accepting donations and loans of "bandiana" for the exhibition and for a permanent band history archive. To contribute items, contact J. Donald Smith ’65, former band head manager and coordinator of the exhibition: jdonaldsmith65@comcast.net.

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Roar, Lion, Roar

Runner Erison Hurtault '07 led Dominica’s delegation on July 27 in the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Olympics: One Gold Medal, Many Memories

Seven Columbia alumni, two students and two coaches represented the United States, Croatia, Dominica and Egypt in the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Three-time Olympian Caryn Davies ’13L, a member of the crew team that won a silver medal in 2004 and a gold medal in 2008, added another gold medal to her collection as part of the U.S. women’s eight that crossed the finish line in 6:10.59, more than a second ahead of runner-up Canada. The U.S. women are five-time world champions.

Erison Hurtault ’07 was the flag-bearer for his father’s native country, Dominica, in the opening ceremony. He competed in the 400 meters, and although he ran a season-best 46.05 seconds in the last qualifying heat, it was not fast enough for him to advance to the semifinals. He also ran for Dominica in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Lisa Stublic ’06 represented her father’s native country, Croatia, in the women’s marathon. She was just one second behind the leader at the halfway point before fading to finish 52nd out of 118 competitors with a time of 2:34.03.

Nzingha Prescod ’15, Nicole Ross ’11, James Williams ’07, ’09 GSAS and Jeff Spear ’10 competed for the U.S. fencing team. The women’s foil team with Prescod and Ross placed sixth and the men’s sabre team with Williams and Spear came in eighth. Meanwhile, Sherif Farrag ’09 competed for Egypt, where he was born, in men’s foil. The Egyptian squad lost to host Great Britain in the round of 16.

Nick LaCava ’09 rowed with the men’s lightweight four, which placed second in the B final behind France. LaCava’s boat won the repechage in 6:00.86 but was eliminated from medal contention when it finished fifth in the semifinals.

Michael Aufrichtig, Columbia’s head fencing coach, coached the fencing portion of the men’s modern pentathlon, which also includes horseback riding, swimming, shooting and running. And Caroline Nichols, an assistant field hockey coach, competed on the U.S. women’s field hockey team that placed 12th.

Finally, David Barry ’87 was the Greco-Roman Team Leader for USA Wrestling. Barry, who recently was named USA Wrestling’s Myron Roderick Man of the Year, has been the Greco-Roman Team Leader since 2009. The U.S. team did not win a medal.

Campbell Sports Center To Be Dedicated October 20

The Campbell Sports Center, which Columbia Athletics is hailing as “the cornerstone of a revitalized Baker Athletics Complex,” will be dedicated on Saturday, October 20, prior to the Homecoming football game against Dartmouth. All Homecoming attendees are invited to attend the ceremony, which will begin at 11:30 a.m.

The center, at 218th Street and Broadway, will serve as a year-round hub at Baker for student-athletes, coaches, staff and administrators. It’s Columbia’s first new athletics building since the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Physical Fitness Center was built in the mid-1970s. The center honors, and was made possible by, William V. Campbell ’62, ’64 TC, chair of the University trustees and captain of the 1961 Ivy League champion football team.

The Campbell Sports Center will provide student-athletes and coaches with a state-of-the-art facility featuring a theatre-style meeting room, conference rooms, a strength-and-conditioning center, a hospitality pavilion and coaches’ offices.

SCOREBOARD

219 Anticipated first-year Columbia student-athletes.


6 Home football games this season (out of 10 games overall).

FALL 2012
Kraft, LeFrak, Rohan Among Hall of Fame Class of 2012

New England Patriots chairman Robert K. Kraft ’63, distance runner Caroline Bierbaum LeFrak ’06, the late basketball coach Jack Rohan ’53, ’57 TC and the 1933 football team that won the Rose Bowl headline the Class of 2012 that will be inducted to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will occur in Low Library on Thursday, October 18. This is the fourth class to be inducted to the Hall of Fame.

Other members of the Class of 2012 include former major league pitcher Frank Seminara ’89, College Football Hall of Famers William Morley (Class of 1902) and Harold Weekes (Class of 1903), the 1988 NCAA champion men’s fencing team, four-time All-American fencer Emma Baratta ’06 and eight-time Ivy League 400-meter champion Erison Hurtault ’07, who ran for Dominica in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

The Hall of Fame Class of 2012 consists of 14 men, eight women and two teams representing 10 sports as well as an administrator and an alumnus (Kraft) being honored in a special category for individual achievement. Nominees were eligible from both the Heritage Era, spanning 1852-1957, and the Modern Era, 1957-present.

Kraft has turned the Patriots, whom he acquired in 1994, into one of the model franchises in all of professional sports, winning three Super Bowls along the way. LeFrak was a five-time All-American in cross-country and track and field in the mid-2000s. Rohan served two stints as men’s basketball coach, ranks as Columbia’s winningest basketball coach and led the Lions to the Ivy League championship in 1968.

The 1933 Columbia football team was 6-1 during the regular season, losing only to Princeton, then defeated Stanford 7-0 in the Rose Bowl on a rainy January 1, 1934. Al Barabas ’36 scored the game’s only touchdown on a 17-yard run in the second quarter, taking a handoff from Cliff Montgomery ’34 on a misdirection play called KF-79.

Intercollegiate athletics at Columbia can be traced to the mid-1800s, with some records indicating that the first intercollegiate sporting event in which Columbia participated was a rowing race in 1852. “The members of the Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2012 are among the brightest stars in the history of our athletics program,” says Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy. “Each of these tremendous individuals — and our celebrated teams — are truly deserving of induction.”

Tickets to the black-tie dinner and induction ceremony are available by calling Cathleen Clark, Athletics’ assistant director of development and alumni affairs: 212-851-9610.

2012 Hall of Fame Class

**Male Student-athletes, Heritage Era**
- Horace Davenport ’29, rowing
- William Morley (Class of 1902), football
- Robert Nielsen ’51, fencing
- Barry Pariser ’55, fencing

**Male Student-athletes, Modern Era**
- Neil Farber ’53, baseball/basketball
- Ted Gregory ’74, football
- Steve Hasenfus ’89, wrestling
- Erison Hurtault ’07, track and field
- Frank Seminara ’89, baseball
- Des Werthman ’93, football

**Female Student-athletes**
- Danicia Ambron ’94, swimming
- Nora Beck ’83 Barnard, ’89 Arts, ’93 GSAS basketball
- Emma Baratta ’06, fencing
- Caroline Bierbaum LeFrak ’06, cross country/track and field
- Monica Conley ’03, fencing
- Caitlin Hickin ’04, cross country/track and field
- Shannon Munoz ’07, soccer

**Team, Heritage Era**
- 1933 football team

**Team, Modern Era**
- 1988 men’s fencing team

**Coach, Heritage Era**
- James Murray, fencing, 1898–1948

**Coach, Modern Era**

**Athletics Administrator**
- Marion K. Phillips, former chair, physical education, Barnard

**Special Category for Individual Achievement**
- Robert K. Kraft ’63, chairman and CEO, New England Patriots, and owner and CEO, The Kraft Group
Good Chemistry

James J. Valentini Transitions from Longtime Professor to Dean of the College

Dean James J. Valentini is joined by (left to right) Michael Cadiz '14, James Ramseur '13 and Stephanie Grilo '13 in Van Am Quad.

PHOTO: LESLIE JEAN-BART '76, '77
James J. Valentini, a professor of chemistry at Columbia for more than two decades, was named the 16th Dean of the College and the second Vice President for Undergraduate Education on June 11, after serving in those roles on an interim basis for nine months. Valentini also now is the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor.

Valentini earned a B.S. from Pittsburgh, an M.S. from Chicago and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, all in chemistry. He worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory and taught at UC Irvine before joining the Columbia faculty in 1990. He was chair of the chemistry department and director of undergraduate studies for chemistry, has been a member of the University Senate and has sat on numerous University, College, and Arts and Sciences committees, including the College Committee on Instruction, the Committee on the Core Curriculum and the College Committee on Science Instruction.

He is married to Teodolinda Barolini, the Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian at Columbia, and has three sons.

Valentini’s term as interim dean proved popular with various constituencies, including students. “If there’s such a thing as a populist dean, James Valentini is it,” declared Spectator, citing among other examples his having personally matched gifts at the kickoff event for the Senior Fund, his support of the Student Wellness Project and his embrace of the student-coined nickname “Deantini.”

In July, Valentini sat down with CCT editor Alex Sachare ’71 to introduce himself to the global community of College alumni — or former students, as he prefers to call them — and to speak about some of his plans.

For the many Columbians who are just beginning to get to know you, what would you say are your strengths?

While I was interim dean for less than a year, I’ve been a professor at Columbia for almost 21½ years and I’ve been involved in the College in many different ways over almost that entire time. I think I’ve served on every College committee at least once, some of them multiple times. I was director of undergraduate studies in chemistry for many years before I became dean and I’ve taught literally thousands of students in chemistry and other science classes. So I have a lot of experience to bring to this. I think that can justifiably be considered a strength; it’s certainly an advantage.

I love the College, I love the students in it. I feel a great sense of responsibility and obligation to them, and a similar sense of obligation and responsibility to the faculty. The faculty and the students, they are the College. Without faculty and students there wouldn’t be a College. The dean’s role is to make sure that the experience that faculty and students have in interacting, which is the essence of college life, be as good as it can possibly be. I am thrilled to be involved with former students, current students, future students and the faculty who will be teaching them and the staff in the College who will be supporting them. Fundamentally, I like dealing with all the people I get to deal with, and that’s really the great thing about being able to be Deantini.

How do you feel about the Deantini nickname?

I read Bwog [an online student publication: bwog.com] for the first time on the day that the president asked me to be dean, because he and someone else said, “Don’t read Bwog.” And of course, being an adolescent at heart, the first thing I did was go read Bwog. So I stumbled upon this competition to nickname the dean. I found that they had nicknames for the president and other people, I saw the competition, I saw that the prize was a sandwich from Milano [a deli near campus]. This was 3 o’clock on a Sunday morning. I decided to post on Bwog and I said that this was far too important to me to let it have a mere prize of a sandwich from Milano, and that the winner of the competition could have his or her Milano sandwich with the dean in the Dean’s Office, we’d get a plaque with the dean’s nickname engraved on it and the winner would have his or her picture taken with the dean. Now maybe it was because it was 3 a.m. on a Sunday that I did that, but I thought it was really interesting that they had nicknames for people and I just kind of intuitively and instinctively got involved in it. It was rash in some ways because I hadn’t carefully read the Bwog page. Some suggested nicknames were listed on a bar at the right of the page, and some of them, you wouldn’t express that to your mother or your children. I should have realized that students here are sensible enough not to choose such a nickname, although they might suggest it. But I like Deantini. It’s a good nickname. I’m happy with it.

It seems to build a connection, to take away some of that “us vs. them” relationship that can exist between students and administrators.

Yes, you’re right. There is a distance between anyone who has an administrative title and faculty, and there is a distance between anyone who has an administrative title and students. So anything
you can do to diminish that and to personalize the person — to personalize the dean or personalize the president — so that they’re more than a title, I think is a really good thing. This isn’t just in the minds of students. My wife, whom I’ve known for 18 years and been married to for 11, said to me when I was asked to be dean, “Now you’re going to become one of them,” meaning you’re going to become an administrator and not a faculty member. Faculty members started talking to me differently. Even after 21 years and knowing lots of people and I had a reputation, when you become dean you’re a different person. The dean or the president can be seen as a somewhat distant figure, someone who sits in a fancy office and doesn’t have much to do with students or faculty. That’s not how I conceive of the job, and I think having a nickname is a good way of documenting that that’s not how I think of the job.

Having been a faculty member for more than 20 years, even though you were heavily involved in committee work, how much of what you just mentioned went into your thinking about this job? Did you ask yourself, “Is this something I really want to do?” That’s a good question. I had never actively sought positions like dean, vice president, president, provost, anything with a title, even though people had said to me, “You’d be really good at this.” Every job I’ve ever gotten was offered to me; someone came to me and said, “Would you like to do this?” That’s how things have worked out well for me. I was willing to become dean because the president asked me and people thought they needed me to be dean. Was I sure I wanted to be dean permanently? No, I wasn’t. So in some ways being interim dean was advantageous for me, because it gave me an opportunity to do something without having to make a long-term commitment.

I love the College. I love the students in it. I feel a great sense of responsibility and obligation to them, and a similar sense of responsibility and obligation to the faculty … Without faculty and students, there wouldn’t be a College.

To follow up on that, what were the advantages of spending nine months as interim dean?

Let me start by saying it had disadvantages, because any time you have a position where the word “interim” appears in your title, it diminishes people’s commitment to what you want to do because you’re temporary. That’s what interim means: We’re giving you this job temporarily. People aren’t going to be as committed to what you want to do. You can’t undertake anything that’s long-term, you can’t really guide things in a different direction, because in effect you’re temporary.

But you’re also not making the same commitment. It gives you an opportunity to try it out. It’s like when businesses hire temps — it gives them a chance to see whether they like the job you are doing and it gives you a chance to see whether you like them. I wasn’t thinking about any of that when I was asked to be dean; I did it out of a sense of duty and responsibility and loyalty to the University. That was the only reason I did it. They needed a dean, I was asked to be dean, they thought I could do it, I thought I could do it, so I said I would do it. I wasn’t thinking long-term at all.

I understand that you were the first in your family to graduate from college.

I was indeed, yes. My father didn’t even graduate from high school. My mother did. My grandparents didn’t finish grade school.

And now you’ve had a long and successful career in academia. Yes, and my brother’s a professor, too. It’s remarkable, not in the sense of trumpeting achievement, but to have two professors like that is pretty interesting from a family where no one really had an education.

What about academia was so attractive to you?

When I went to college, I really didn’t know much of anything. I grew up in a small town [Lafferty, Ohio] and didn’t know anyone who had gone to college, except for the nuns and priests who taught at my school. So I didn’t have a vision of what you go to college for. I did it because I had two choices: I could go to work in a coal mine or I could go to college. This was not a hard choice. People were killed in the mines, including people in my own family. Practically every adult male I knew who was over the age of 60 was suffering from black lung disease. The life prospects for this were not great. So this was not a hard choice.

In many ways I consider the life I had so disconnected from the life I have here, it’s hard to talk about it. Obviously as a kid I was a good student, but I didn’t really have any intellectual pretensions. I liked school and I worked hard at it because I knew that was the only way out of this town. And I wasn’t alone in that thinking; probably half my high school graduating class went to college, which for a backward, depressed area like that was pretty remarkable at that time. But it wasn’t until I got to college that I began to really enjoy learning stuff. I went to college with an interest in science and was taking all the courses needed for a chemistry major, but early on I took a philosophy course and thought I would be a philosophy major because I found philosophy really, really interesting. I took several more philosophy courses, then I got to this course on Kant and I couldn’t understand a word the guy was saying — it was impossible difficult — so I said to myself, you’re not smart enough to be a philosopher, choose something easier. I was doing well in my chemistry courses and I liked them, so I stayed with that. It was a good decision. I was valedictorian of my class.

I got interested in science in college, but I didn’t really decide to go to graduate school until I was about a junior. And I went to graduate school because I liked studying science. I didn’t have an intention of being a professor, I didn’t have an intention of being anything in particular except a scientist. In grad school I worked with Yuan Lee, a fantastically energetic and brilliant guy, who later won the Nobel Prize. I believed I could never be of that caliber, so I hesitated in becoming a professor myself. I became a professor because another Nobel Prize winner, Sherry Rowland, came to Los Alamos where I was working and he said to me, “Would you like to come to [UC] Irvine?” Well, I always wanted to live in Southern California so I thought, let’s check it out. So I went and I became a professor. It was not entirely by accident, but certainly it was not by design. And I’ve always liked being a professor. There are two things about it I’ve really liked. One is interacting with graduate students as well as undergraduates, which you don’t have when you work at a place like Los Alamos. It was a wonderful lab with many more scientists than exist at any university, but you didn’t work with students. And you didn’t teach. I really like teaching.
Columbia has always prided itself as being a place of opportunity for first-generation college students. How important is that to the nature of the College and, if it is important, how do you preserve that?

I think it's very important. I think a lot of other people think it's very important as well. Just having the dean think it's important isn't sufficient; there has to be a larger commitment to that. It speaks to what the role of the university is in the larger society and what our social obligation is. Part of that social obligation is to make available to everyone who is qualified this opportunity. I've said lots of times that the College should look like America. I don't mean visibly. I don't mean you line up all the students and then say, "Ah, that looks like America." I mean it represents what America is. And a large measure of what it represents is opportunity. I became Dean of the College from an unusual place; do deans of the College start that way? Probably not. But in America you can. It really is possible.

Providing opportunity to people is important, but first-generation students also contribute to the lives of everyone in the College. Students learn as much or more from one another as they do from professors. You don't want everyone in the College to be alike. You learn by being around people who have different points of view, different life experiences. It's why we try to get students from all over the United States, why we have international students, why we recruit scientists, athletes, writers, people interested in theatre. We want people with a wide range of backgrounds, interests and experiences contributing to the education of students in the College. Everyone benefits from that. And first-generation students bring a particular perspective.

The day I had a first discussion with the president about being dean was August 31, 2011, when we had the academic resources fair, where every department sets up a table in Roone Arledge Auditorium and students come and talk about studying in those departments. Because I was the director of undergraduate studies in chemistry, I was there for chemistry. A young woman comes up to me at the end, when all the other kids have left, and she clearly had some reluctance to talk to me, but she said, "You know, I'd like to be a chemistry major, but I grew up in a small town in Georgia where there were no research opportunities. Since I've been here I've talked to all these kids who have done all this research and have had all these experiences and I don't really think I can be a chem major." I said to her, "No, to be a chem major you just have to be really interested in chemistry and willing to work hard, and that's all that really matters. That previous experience doesn't matter, and besides, those other kids aren't as smart as they think they are." That day, I talked to the president about being dean and I talked to her, and I'm not exaggerating, talking to her was more important to me than talking to the president. I don't know if she was a first-generation student, but Columbia attracts students like that. We give students an opportunity. That's really important to me.

Did she become a chem major?

We don't know yet, because she's a rising sophomore and students don't declare majors until the second semester of their sophomore year. But I'm going to find out.

Financial aid is an important piece of the puzzle. Recently there has been a significant change in how financial aid is going to be administered at Columbia, taking the responsibility from Arts and Sciences and moving it to the Office of the Provost. What does that mean and how does that impact the College?

I'd like to put that slightly more broadly. For many months, starting around Christmastime, when there was discussion about administrative realignment within Arts and Sciences and the College, I argued that financial aid was an expression of the University fulfilling its sense of social responsibility and social obligation, and as such it was an institutional obligation. Therefore, it wasn't reasonable, given that it was an institutional obligation being expressed here, that the financial responsibility should be carried by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences or Faculty of Engineering. It should be carried by the University.

The undergraduate part of any institution is the most visible, the most public. When people say Columbia or Harvard or Berkeley or the University of Texas or Caltech or whatever, they're really thinking about undergraduates. All those places are famous for their graduate education and professional schools and research. But when people talk about a university in general conversation, they're talking about the undergraduate part of the institution because that's the part people are most concerned about. Because of that, when the University is expressing its sense of social obligation, which it does in part and in a very significant way through financial aid, that's an institutional responsibility. And that's why I argued that the financial sourcing should be matched to that, because it's viewed as a social responsibility. By having it effectively be a faculty responsibility, you're asking faculty to make really hard choices about how they deploy resources for teaching and scholarship as opposed to benefit-
Students learn as much or more from one another as they do from professors. You don’t want everyone in the College to be alike. You learn by being around people who have different points of view, different life experiences.

how you make decisions; it’s an administrative dichotomy that is not really a functional dichotomy.

And the deans of all the schools have reported to the vice president [of Arts and Sciences]; that’s what it says in the statutes of the University. That has certain complications. It inevitably leads to certain kinds of differences of opinion about what should be done and how things should be done, because there are different representations. The vice president represents a different set of interests from the deans of schools, so there are always going to be disagreements about what should be done. The structure didn’t allow for the most effective way to make decisions. So now we’ve created an Executive Committee of Arts and Sciences, which consists of the Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of Columbia College, who is also the Vice President for Undergraduate Education, and the Vice President of Arts and Sciences, who also is the Dean of the Faculty. In my view, that’s a much better way to make decisions because it combines representation of the three major constituencies in our enterprise. We have faculty interests, graduate student interests and undergraduate student interests — they’re not in opposition, but they’re not identical. So you put them all together and that group of three people has to come up with decisions about how to deploy resources, about faculty appointments, capital projects, budgets, development efforts — all the major things that you need to decide are now made by a group of people who can effectively represent all the points of view of all constituencies who make up this part of the University. That’s a much more effective way of making decisions.

It’s been functioning since mid-April, so we don’t know exactly how it will work out, but so far it’s worked out pretty well. It might be transitional, it might last only a short time or it might last well beyond my tenure as dean. Something else will replace it someday, something else always does. But I think this is much better than what we had.

It always struck me as odd that the Dean of the College couldn’t hire a teacher in the College ...

Yes, it is odd, isn’t it? Well, we started out with a college and then we added these other schools, and each of them had a faculty. Functionally, faculty were teaching different students but had an appointment in one school. That was kind of awkward, so we created this one overall faculty. And that was awkward, too. There were dichotomies that were artificial and we tried to correct those by having something else that’s slightly artificial. But you’re gradually trying to remove artificialities. I have a 170-year-old house in New Jersey that I’m working on all the time, trying to make it a more functional house. The challenge isn’t that it’s 170 years old, it’s that people have added things or changed things all along that weren’t always done so well, so you gradually try to go back and make it right. That’s essentially what we’re trying to do here.

One thing that’s lasted for a while, with changes and additions along the way, is the Core Curriculum. It’s the College’s signature academic sequence and a bond among alumni. What is your vision of the place of a core curriculum in a liberal arts education, and how do you see Columbia’s Core evolving?

I’ll answer the last part first. The Core, with a capital “C,” has existed for almost 100 years but it hasn’t existed for all 100 years in exactly the same form. When Contemporary Civilization started, it used a textbook, written by people at Columbia, which included parts that dealt with industry and agriculture. Today, we don’t teach anything about industry and agriculture in Contemporary Civilization, yet everyone views the Core as a permanent part of the Columbia educational experience. And it is. The idea that there is a certain intellectual experience that every undergraduate is going to have and it’s going to represent a collection of ideas that the faculty feel is really important. That’s the permanent part.

Exactly what those ideas are and what form that takes have been evolving. I mean, that CC textbook is really interesting. It has contemporary civilization of 1919; contemporary civilization of 2012 is a different thing. I think we ought to teach something about industry and agriculture, but that’s just my view because students don’t know anything about that and it’s still part of life. But the curriculum has evolved and it will continue to evolve. We try things; some don’t work and we replace them. The names get changed. There was Humanities A and B, this became Art Hum and Music Hum, this changed, that changed. There was Major Cultures and that led to the Global Core, Frontiers of Science was introduced, there was Logic & Rhetoric, now we have University Writing. Intellectual life moves forward, we learn new things and new things develop.

The Core, fundamentally, represents a commitment to an idea that at any one time there is a kind of collective intellectual experience and a body of knowledge, information, ideas, that we want
Professor at heart: Valentini chats with students outside Low Library this summer including (top, left to right) Annel Fernandez ’16, Xi Wang ’16 and Lorenzo Gibson ’16.

PHOTOS: LESLIE JEAN-BART ’76, ’77
all the students to be exposed to, to learn, to experience for two reasons. One, we view that as essential to being an educated person. That’s our expression as an institution, to say that to be an educated person we think you need to do this. But it’s also the way we build an intellectual community at Columbia. All students here have taken Lit Hum, CC, Art Hum, Music Hum — it is part of the common dialogue, the basis on which they can relate to each other whatever else they’ve done. It builds a community, an intellectual community, and it also builds a social community. And it has created a trans-generational community, uniting former students, current students and future students. [Trustee Emeritus] George Van Amson ’74 said that what we want is for our kids to read the books that we were supposed to read when we were undergraduates. Of course, he said that in jest, but even though the curriculum evolves, there are some commonalities that do persist over long periods. It’s not that it changes so much that it’s a completely different course than it was 20 years ago or 40 years ago. It is something that links people. There are certain ideas that we still believe are important for students to understand and be exposed to. We’ll add new things, we’ll modify things, but there will be some that we definitely will continue to consider as important.

It’s also an expression of what Columbia considers an appropriate undergraduate education. At the opposite end are some peer institutions that have little if any fixed required curriculum. That’s an expression of a different philosophy. I won’t say that one’s inferior, but we’ve made a decision that there are certain things everyone should do. I have always agreed with that. Even though I came here to be a chemistry professor and the Core wasn’t why I was recruited, I considered it valuable. I do think there are things everyone should be exposed to and that’s what the Core provides. I don’t care if everyone studies chemistry, I don’t think that’s important. I do think everyone should study statistics, and if I ruled the world I would have statistics as part of the Core Curriculum. But I don’t rule the world, and no one singlehandedly decides what goes into the Core.

The Core Curriculum represents a commitment to an idea that at any one time there is a kind of collective intellectual experience and a body of knowledge, information, ideas, that we want all the students to be exposed to, to learn, to experience.

What role should alumni play in the life of the College?
I prefer to call alumni former students because certain words acquire connotations that then become locked to them. Alumni is a term that implies a kind of distinction that’s greater than I think is really warranted. If you think of people as former students, you think of them as continuing on in a connection that’s different yet the same. My middle son is in the Marine Corps, and I’ve learned that there are no ex-Marines. They say once a Marine, always a Marine — that’s it. It’s a culture, a group of people. There are active duty Marines and inactive duty Marines but there are no ex-Marines. Once you are, you are. From my perspective, once you’ve been a Columbia student you’re always a Columbia student, you’re just in a different category.

This year at reunion we introduced a new event, an open house in the Richard E. Witten Center for the Core Curriculum, where alumni could see what is taught in the Core today and meet some of the Core chairs and faculty. The turnout was amazing. It was one of the weekend’s most popular events. It’s not just a fetish, either. It could be easy for some people from a distance to think this is some sort of talisman and it’s not really substantive. But they’re wrong. It is the thing that former students almost uniformly mention to me as the most important or one of the most important parts of their experience. It’s not that they just mention it, they actually explain to me why it was this valuable in their lives and how it informed their adult lives, and they speak very cogently about this. When I went to see Rob Speyer ’92, one thing he wanted to tell me about was Jim Mirollo teaching lit Hum. There was a segment of The Divine Comedy that they were reading, and he remembers it so well and how important that class was to him. He can tell you why it was important, why it had value in his life. I think it’s really important that current students talk to former students about the value of the Core, because it has a value in the lives of former students.

When I was director of undergraduate studies in chemistry, I would ask students who were about to graduate what was the best part about being at Columbia, what was the worst part, what was important, what wasn’t and what was the most important class they took. Now, I had actually taught most of these students and many of them still needed letters of recommendation, so you might think they would say, “Oh, Professor Valentini, your course was the most important.” But hardly anyone ever said my course, even though I’m a good teacher. More of them, in fact the overwhelming majority of them, would cite a Core course — and then they’d explain why that was important to being a scientist. It has real value, genuine value in students’ intellectual lives and in their subsequent professional lives. That’s not a small thing.

Meet the Dean
Not on campus but still want a chance to meet the new dean? Come join Dean James J. Valentini in the following cities this fall, with more to come in the spring.

September 20
New York City
October 4
Washington, D.C.
November 1
San Francisco
November 5
Los Angeles

For further information, log on to college.columbia.edu/alumni.
world. Who can tell us most effectively whether we’ve actually achieved that? The people who actually have been students and have gone out and done things. They can help current students visualize what lies ahead for them in a way that faculty and the dean can’t communicate to them, because the dean and faculty are just one small segment of society with limited experiences. Former students of the College have been involved in lots of different things, so they carry a lot of valuable information about what we’re doing well and what we’re not doing well.

They’re also this huge army of 46,000 people — even if only 10 percent of them are really committed to the College, that’s a lot of people who can work on behalf of the College and the University, at no cost to us. They may make financial contributions, that’s obviously important to us and to any institution, but they also commit their time and their energy to helping make the lives of current students better, to helping make the institution stronger by working on its behalf in many different ways. Former students participate in ARC [the Alumni Representative Committee] by interviewing prospective students. That in itself is a very important thing. Former students know as well or better than anyone what it’s like to be in the College and what kinds of students are going to do well in the College and can help applicants understand whether they really should be in the College. There’s no way for the College itself to do that. We couldn’t afford to hire enough people to do that. And that’s just one thing — there are a lot of valuable things former students can do for the College and the University, supporting everything that we do and contributing their time and effort to getting things done. They are a phenomenal resource.

Projecting five or 10 years ahead, how would you evaluate your success or failure as dean?

If former students, current students and faculty say, “The College is a better place now than it was five years ago or 10 years ago,” then I’ll consider it a success. I’d certainly consider it a success if I feel it’s a better place. But what does that really mean? Is there anyone who ends a term as something and doesn’t think it’s a better place, rightly or wrongly? Probably not.

There certainly are specific things we’d like to do, but they take a lot of explaining and don’t have the same kind of emotional impact. I’ll give you one example: I’d like us, both as a College and a University, to be financially more secure, by which I mean less dependent on tuition and revenue that we can bring in every year, so that we’re less sensitive to the vagaries of economic life. If we had an endowment big enough to pay for everything that we want to do, that would be really great. Is that an achievable goal? No. In the same way that when I say the goal for the Columbia College Alumni Association is 100 percent alumni engagement and everyone in development cringes because you can’t get to that — but we can work toward it. It’s a destination. But that’s technical, it doesn’t have an emotional component. I’d like there to be an opportunity for every student to have an internship or a summer research fellowship. But that too is kind of specific. There are a lot of things we can do, specific things, some of which will work, some of which won’t, some of which may work but won’t actually lead to people thinking it’s a better place, in which case they were interesting to do but not actually all that productive. So how would I judge it being a success? If former students, current students and faculty consider it a success, then I will, too.

One last question: What is one thing about you that would surprise our readers?

That’s interesting ... let me think about that. Last September, when we had an all-staff meeting, I said there are three things that are important in my life: my family, the College and cars, in that order. I don’t think people expect professors to be interested in cars. But if you turn around you can see what’s in my display case — six model cars, all of which were gifts from current students or former students who know how much I like cars. There are also two statues of Buddha. I like to think of the different ways we can express something important, to surprise people with the unexpected comparison or unanticipated analogy. The Buddha and cars provide an example. The Buddha is supposed to have said, “There is no way to happiness, happiness is the way.” I repeat that to myself each morning. Now there was for a while a poster in the entrance to the service area at the BMW dealer in Manhattan that said, “Happiness isn’t just around the comer, happiness is the corner.” It is the same thing. Any car guy would agree. And I tell chemistry students that the Second Noble Truth of Buddhism and the Second Law of Thermodynamics say essentially the same thing. I hope that surprises you, but you will have to wait for an explanation — or better yet, try to figure it out for yourself.
Joel Klein ’67 was 16 when he made the leap from William Cullen Bryant H.S. in Queens to the Columbia campus, just a 6-mile car ride from one borough to the next but a world away from the public housing apartment where he grew up.

In that first week, then-dean of the College David Truman sat Klein and his father down for an advising session and tried to dampen the freshman’s academic expectations. “My father was a postman, and it was a pretty daunting experience to meet with the dean,” says Klein. “Truman said to me that given my background, I could expect — if I did really well — to graduate in the middle of the class at Columbia.”

Such a prognosis didn’t sit too well with the younger Klein, who piped up with this rebuttal: “I said, ‘I don’t know where I’ll graduate, but my teachers at Bryant H.S. didn’t send me here to graduate at the middle of the class. They sent me to graduate at the top.’”

The brazenness took his father aback, and afterward he asked how Klein could say that to the dean.

“I said, ‘Well, Dad, that’s the truth.’ Anyhow, Truman and I became good friends.”
Joel Klein ’67, standing in front of P.S. 166 on the Upper West Side, says being NYC schools chancellor was the most exhilarating time of his professional career.

PHOTO: WILLIAM TALFIC
The year was 1963, and the ambitious teenager was just beginning to display the drive that later would empower him to challenge monoliths and monopolies, from mighty Microsoft to powerful teachers' unions.

That moment almost 50 years ago also exposed Klein's nascent appreciation for the transformative power of education. Decades later, as chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, the nation's largest school system, that appreciation gave rise to a conviction to champion kids — much like himself — whose only foothold out of tough circumstances could be found in a classroom. But education, while Klein's signature issue, represents only one facet of an extraordinary and somewhat dizzying career. He has morphed from Beltway Democratic insider, vetting a Supreme Court justice for the Clinton administration and taking on Bill Gates in a monumental anti-trust case, into one of the country's leading and most controversial educational reformers — only to vault early last year into the executive tower at the conservative-leaning media titan Rupert Murdoch.

"My resume looks like it kind of got mixed and matched from three or four people," the 65-year-old Klein says while taking a break over a cup of hot tea in his Midtown office at News Corporation headquarters.

He began with law, graduating from Harvard in 1971 and working as a law clerk, first for David Bazelon, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and then for Justice Lewis Powell of the U.S. Supreme Court. Following work at several law firms, in 1981 he co-founded a boutique D.C. firm, where he made his mark as a litigator: Klein argued 11 cases before the Supreme Court, and won nine of them.

When people talk about Klein, they describe a man who thrives amidst adversity, all the more when many eyes are trained on him. One of the people who worked in Klein's law firm in the 1980s was Peter Scheer, now the executive director of the First Amendment Coalition.

"What he's especially good at is being able to think very clearly in the midst of a crisis, where there's a lot of pressure and the world is watching," Scheer told Politico last year. "He's able to stay focused, and he's almost stimulated by all that pressure and media attention."

Those attributes are likely what caught the eye of President Bill Clinton in 1993 when he convinced Klein to become deputy White House counsel,tasking him with guiding the nomination process of Ruth Bader Ginsburg '59L to the Supreme Court. He also oversaw the Clinton White House's responses to the White-water inquiry.

Being tapped by Clinton caught Klein off-guard. "It struck me as strange because I'm not a political guy," he recalls. "There was a certain amount of apprehension. I mean, the White House is a very hothouse place and [the people there have] very sharp political elbows."

Klein's ability to more than hold his own in such a setting would come into play in his next posting, in 1995, to the Justice Department. Within two years he was named chief of the antitrust division, where he challenged Microsoft's monopoly in what Forbes magazine called "one of the largest and most dramatic antitrust battles in the nation's history."

In June 2000, after a federal judge ruled to break Microsoft into two parts, Klein sat with Jim Lehrer of PBS and reflected upon the victory. "I do think the notion that anything goes, even in the new high-tech economy, is a notion that is very corrosive and insidious," Klein said. "It will be harmful to our markets, harmful to our consumers and ultimately harmful to our economy. When you use economic power to coerce people to stay out of the market, to basically tie up distribution channels, when that occurs... you can count on the United States Department of Justice and I believe the federal courts [should] put a stop to it."

The victory was reversed on appeal, and by then the Bush administration had no interest in pursuing the case. But Klein's reputation as the guy who went toe-to-toe with a corporation then valued at $619 billion — more than Apple is today — never waned. In his four years at the head of antitrust, he established a record to stand on: Through 220 criminal price-fixing cases, 52 executives were sent to prison, corporations paid $1.7 billion in fines and individuals paid an additional $21 million. Klein also blocked or altered about 170 proposed mergers.

The Los Angeles Times dubbed Klein a "giant killer." And in assessing his legacy at the Justice Department, The New York Times heaped praise on him in a September 24, 2000, editorial: "Mr. Klein blocked a series of mergers — between Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, WorldCom and Sprint, and Northwest and Continental — that had the potential to harm consumers. He also broke up price-fixing cartels, notably between international vitamin companies. He has not forged bold new antitrust principles or direction. What he has done is take antitrust enforcement seriously. For that alone he warrants the nation's gratitude."

For many years while the high-powered lawyer was raking up legal victories toiling in Washington, he also played on a different court with the same tenacity. The basketball league at the Washington Y had a roster of lawyers that included Larry Lucchino, now CEO of the Boston Red Sox.

"We played in a serious league," says Klein, who stands 5-foot-6. "I'm lucky I didn't break a leg."

Between hoops and law, Klein kindled his passion for education, teaching at Georgetown Law School. Unlike most adjunct professors, Klein didn't opt for an evening seminar; he taught a daytime class in civil procedure to first-year students.

One of his students was Michael K. Powell, who later was chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and is the son of former Secretary of State Colin Powell. "Joel was an extraordinary teacher who had a mastery of complex subjects and the ability to make them simple," Powell told The New York Times in 2002.

Teaching was not new for Klein. When he was at Harvard in the late '60s, he had taken a short leave to take education classes at NYU and to teach math to sixth-graders at a public school in his old Queens neighborhood. But despite these leanings toward the classroom and a chalkboard, he says he was flustered when he answered a phone call in 2002 and heard the voice of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, asking him to consider tak-
ing the post of schools chancellor.

"I said, 'Mike, you must have the wrong name. You clearly got one name too few in your Rolodex.' He said, 'No, no, we were thinking of people outside the box,'" Klein recalls.

At 56, the former corporate lawyer and trustbuster found his calling: To take charge of a public school system of 1.1 million students and to grapple with the complex realities and controversies of urban education.

"He has the leadership skills," Bloomberg said at a news conference introducing Klein in summer 2002. "He has the intergovernmental skills. He has the feeling and compassion for people. He is incorruptible. He is a visionary. And I believe that he will deliver to this city what we promised, a quality education for all of our children."

Bloomberg handed Klein the reins of a school system beleaguered by low test scores, high dropout rates and a shortage of teachers — a tough assignment that struck a chord not only with Klein's politics but also with his own past.

"I still feel like America is falling down in education, particularly for the most challenged kids," Klein said recently, when asked to look back on his tenure as chancellor. "And this was a chance to really give back to the city and the school system that had given me so much. I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for what teachers in Astoria did for me." (Klein in fact credits his physics teacher, Sidney Harris, with changing the arc of his life: "In my junior year, he took me aside and said, 'You're doing fine, but you can do better. Why don't you stay after school and we'll study Einstein's theory of relativity, which will prove to you that you can play this game at a different level.'" Harris also pushed him to apply to the College rather than the obvious choice of CUNY's campus in nearby Flushing.)

As schools chancellor from 2002-10, Klein gave more power to principals and pushed for accountability, stamping schools with A-through-F grades in annual report cards, taking a stand against the widespread practice of social promotion of students up the grade levels and making city schools a model for data-driven teaching and policymaking. He also created more than 300 new small schools and charter schools for parents to choose from.

"I'm a big, big believer, whether it's for my children or anybody else's children, that people want choice," Klein says. "I used to ask people all the time, 'Of the 1,500 schools in New York City, how many would you send your own kids to?'"

Time and again, he hit on this point, allying himself with the schoolchildren and their parents' hopes and dreams for them. "Whose kids should go to the schools we wouldn't send our own kids to?" he asks. "Whatever community you live in, whatever your economic circumstances, you want your kid to have a shot. And education is one of those places where you can change lives.

The politics of Washington — those sharp elbows — served as the ideal boot camp for the intensity, unrelenting media scrutiny and controversy that came with leading a huge public school system. Not one to shy from confrontation, Klein attacked the city's...
"Being able to fight to change the world for kids is really for me personally as rewarding a thing as you can do."

What Bill Gates wrote about is fair," Klein says. "But I’ve talked to parents, and they think it’s valuable. They want to make sure their kids are getting the education they need. It enriches the discussion and empowers parents."

For Klein, who still writes op-ed essays and book reviews about education in newspapers such as The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, the records’ controversial release strikes at a core theme of his own reform gospel. "We need ways to fairly evaluate teachers," he says. "Ultimately, those who really perform at the top are seen as truly the heroes, and those who consistently underperform should be in another line of work. Nobody wants a teacher for his or her kid who isn’t up to the task."

Sizing up his years as chancellor, Klein conceded that some things he tried simply didn’t work or were rushed, but he takes solace in a quote from Teddy Roosevelt that he carries in his wallet, attesting to this reality for change-makers: "Not everything is going to fly."

"Those eight, nine years working with Mike and the city were really the most exhilarating and the most important professionally," Klein adds. "Arguing Supreme Court cases and teaching law school, those things rang my bell... But being able to fight to change the world for kids is really for me personally as rewarding a thing as you can do."

After nearly a decade as schools chancellor, Klein’s next act came as something of a shocker: In January 2011, he stepped into the corporate towers of Rupert Murdoch’s NewsCorp, an international media behemoth he had once taken a swing at in his antitrust days.

As surprised as some of Klein’s friends and followers may have been to see this Democrat begin working for the parent company of FOX News, there were ingredients from his experience as chancellor that shaped and informed this twist in his plot line. Education was the obvious link. Murdoch’s offer made Klein the e.v.p. in charge of NewsCorp’s fledgling educational technology division, appealing to his passion for metrics and data as levers to revolutionize teaching.

"In an organization like this, I don’t look through a political lens," he explains. "My friends said, ‘Why are you going to NewsCorp? You’re a lifelong Democrat.’ The answer was, Rupert gave me an opportunity and was willing to make a big bet on something I cared about. I’ve never had a discussion with him where I didn’t learn something."

While schools chancellor, Klein had learned a lesson in former foes becoming allies. He tells an anecdote from a day spent at a high school in the Bronx in 2003. Bloomberg was there, but more importantly, so was Gates, the man he targeted in the highly publicized antitrust case.

"It was the first time I had seen Bill after the litigation," Klein says. "I was very nervous and apprehensive ... and the event..."
goes as well as it could have gone. Bill gave us $51 million that
day, and I get off the stage really breathing a sigh of relief. One of
my principals tug at me and says, 'Chancellor, $51 million, that's a
really good day's work. Think of what Bill Gates would have
given you if you hadn't sued him.'

Speaking as the educational reformer, Klein says that most
schools are not intelligently using computer technology. "I think
you can reduce education to two fundamental concepts: how
good is the incoming and how much of it a kid absorbs. If the
incoming is mediocre, even if a kid absorbs it all, you haven't
achieved much. And if the incoming is terrific and a kid doesn't
absorb it, you haven't achieved much, either."

Klein notes that a program to teach the Gettysburg Address
can be customized to individual students, asking provocative
questions, engaging them with games, social networks and re-
wards, and measuring their responses. "Why should we have
every teacher try to figure out those questions?" Klein asks.

NewsCorp formally unveiled its education business, called
Amplify, in July along with plans, in collaboration with AT&T, to
introduce tablet-based programs for teachers and students starting
this fall. The company's stated mission is to reimagine K-12 edu-
cation by creating products and services that empower teachers,
students and parents in new ways. "I know that some are skeptical
that a private company can bring needed change to public educa-
tion," Klein, who now is Amplify's CEO, wrote in a blog post on
its newly launched website. "But if we are going to see the kind of
transformation that our teachers, students and parents deserve, I
believe strongly that there is a much-needed role for private sector
partners and providers to help place the big bets."

Prior to the launch of Amplify, however, much of Klein's at-
tention was shifted from education to the company's main fo-
cus — newsgathering, and specifically a phone-hacking scandal
that had erupted at its tabloid newspapers in Britain. Murdoch
turned to Klein to oversee the company's internal investigation
into illegal activities by executives, editors and reporters at the
newspapers.

Klein made it clear that he wouldn't
answer questions for this story about
the scandal or NewsCorp's manage-
ment and standards committee, which
he led up until June, but he did say
that part of his job during that period
was an early start to his day — 6 a.m.
— so he could communicate with peo-
ple in London about the investigation.

Among those who know Klein and
watched him shoulder this new and
unexpected role as Murdoch's de-
defender, confidante and strategist in
the midst of a headline-grabbing scandal
was Howard Wolfson, one of Bloom-
berg's deputy mayors.

"Joel is a wartime consigliere. He's
very tough," Wolfson told Politico. "He
would be somebody you would want
in a foxhole."

While Klein demurs when asked
about the scandal, he eagerly engages
on the topic of the news media, his
dealings with the press and some of
his frustrations during his time as
schools chancellor.

"I woke up every morning feeling so blessed to fight for kids,
and then I'd sit down and read the papers, you know," he said,
laughing and shaking his head. "I don't miss that."

He once raised the issue with a New York Times reporter.

"I was complaining to him, 'We tried a few things that worked
really well, and now you want to keep writing about this thing
that didn't work as well as we had hoped. Why would you do
that?" Klein recalls. "He said, 'In our business, we don't write
about the planes that land.' But I said that in K-12 education, it's
the planes that land that are the news and not the planes that
crash, because we've crashed for so long."

That's the eternal questioner inside Klein, and it's almost
ironic to picture this skeptic of the media occupying the highest
echelons of the NewsCorp empire.

"I am more sympathetic to the subjects of the story just be-
cause I've been the subject of a lot of stories. You get used to
thinking maybe there's more to this story than you thought," says
the man who's been in the crosshairs of so many headlines
and news reports. "It always bothers me that people think what
you read in the paper is accurate. It doesn't mean that it's inac-
curate, but there is a kind of belief and so I always say to people
when they read a story,'Maybe.'"

Overall, though, Klein seems content with the path he's fol-
lowed, and with the direction toward which it is leading as CEO
of Amplify.

"Finding a new hill to climb, an opportunity to do something
new and exciting, always appealed to me," he says. "And for-
lunately for me, in no small measure because of the education I got
at Columbia, I've had those opportunities."

Chris Burrell is a freelance journalist and illustrator based in East Bos-
ton, Mass. He has contributed stories to The New York Times, The
Washington Post, Boston, PRI's The World and WBUR-Boston. His
illustrations have appeared in The New York Times, The Washing-
ton Post and CCT.
The Open Mind of Richard Heffner '46

Veteran PBS interviewer provides forum for guests to examine, question, disagree

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, '86J, '90 GSAS

It was quite a celebratory lunch. Here were NYU President John Sexton and his one-time counterpart at Brown, Vartan Gregorian. There were past New York State Chief Judges Sol Wachtler and Judith Kaye '58 Barnard. The New York Times Book Review editor Sam Tanenhaus mingled with former Nation editor Victor Navasky. Joan Ganz Cooney of the Children’s Television Workshop and prolific producer Norman Lear were on hand, too. So were three-term New York City Mayor Ed Koch, legendary Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, famed First Amendment attorney Floyd Abrams, journalist Bill Moyers ....

(Opposite) An Open Mind staff member prepares the set for Richard D. Heffner '46, '47 GSAS to interview Dr. Peter Bach, director of the Center for Health and Policy Outcomes at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

PHOTOS: RANDY MONCEAUX
Then, too, circulating through the crowd, quietly accepting congratulations, was the courtly, slightly stooped, silver-haired fellow who had interviewed them all — and hundreds of others.

The celebration at the Mutual of America building in midtown Manhattan on June 30, 2011, marked the 55th anniversary of the weekly, half-hour PBS talk show Open Mind, the unique legacy of Richard D. Heffner '46, '47 GSAS. From its debut on May 7, 1956, Open Mind has been a forum where guests, as the opening narration once put it, are "free to examine, to question, to disagree."

For Heffner, that philosophy has animated him across two professional generations and multiple media identities: communications consultant, broadcasting expert, network executive, public affairs adviser. At his core, however, he is one thing. "I'm a teacher," he says. "I'm a talker. I'm a speaker. I'm a preacher. That's who I am."

His Subaru station wagon even sports a license plate reading OPENMIND.

"He is one of the most intelligent, sensitive interviewers I have ever had in my life," says Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, who has logged nearly 30 Open Mind appearances. "On every subject that he chooses — war, politics, literature — he manages to humanize it and bring it up, rather than bring it down. He's the Grand Inquisitor in the best sense."

Heffner likes to tease Abrams — whose 35 appearances on Open Mind make him his most frequent guest — that he is "a First Amendment voluptuary" because he is so passionate about free speech. And Abrams is happy to tease Heffner right back.

"Like Inspector Clouseau and Cato, Dick and I have sparred so often that we have no tricks left with which to surprise each other," he says. "He thinks, I do not know why, that I'm some sort of knee-jerk First Amendment absolutist. I think — and I know why — that he's too prepared to sacrifice core First Amendment principles to accommodate his social/political predilections. What I'm sure of is that I can't imagine anyone I'd rather argue with, and that we are all in his debt for his extraordinary contributions to public thoughtfulness."

Heffner is more modest: "I'm a person of rather limited talents. I don't dance, I don't sing." He refers wryly to the "37 people who are watching the program." One of them, a cab driver, once deliberately barreled down on him on Fifth Avenue.

"I thought the end was near — assassination by taxi!" he remembers. "Instead, a wonderfully smiling youngish driver thrust a wildly waving arm out his open window, hollering, 'Open Mind! Open Mind!' Was I ever grateful for a viewer."

I t is taping day in the small studio at the CUNY Graduate Center on Fifth Avenue and East 35th Street. Beneath a blaze of overhead lights is Open Mind's intellectual battleground: a polished, round wooden table and two chairs. In the green room, amid a plate of cookies and a big-screen TV, Heffner reviews notes and consults with Daphne Doelger-Dwyer, his associate producer of more than 30 years. ("I've often thought Dick is the reason they invented Boss Appreciation Day," she says. "Just the same, I wish he would stop asking me to try to find articles he wrote during the Kennedy administration or yet another elusive piece on the National News Council.")

Today, Heffner will record four segments. First up is NYU professor Kim Phillips-Fein '05 GSAS, discussing her new book Invisible Hands: The Businessmen's Crusade Against the New Deal: a polished, round wooden table and two chairs. In the green room, amid a plate of cookies and a big-screen TV, Heffner reviews notes and consults with Daphne Doelger-Dwyer, his associate producer of more than 30 years. ("I've often thought Dick is the reason they invented Boss Appreciation Day," she says. "Just the same, I wish he would stop asking me to try to find articles he wrote during the Kennedy administration or yet another elusive piece on the National News Council.")

Today, Heffner will record four segments. First up is NYU professor Kim Phillips-Fein '05 GSAS, discussing her new book Invisible Hands: The Businessmen's Crusade Against the New Deal. Then he will greet Dr. Peter Bach of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, whose subject will be caring for the dying. Next comes Heffner's youngest guest ever, his grandson, budding journalist Alexander, a 22-year-old Harvard senior whose topic is
America’s young electorate.

Finally, there is Frances Hesselbein, former president of Girl Scouts of the USA and president and CEO of the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute (formerly the Leader to Leader Institute). Attractively accoutered in black jacket and gold and black Hermes scarf, she also has brought along a jacket with bold tan and black stripes, which she shows to her host.

“I didn’t know if you wanted something more like this,” she says.

“You look gorgeous,” Heffner replies.

She smiles and says, “I may never go home.”

An hour later, after the taping, Hesselbein will engage in a few minutes of small talk. “I loved all your questions,” she tells her host. “There wasn’t one superficial one.”

That’s no accident. “There are comparatively few subjects on Open Mind that are likely to throw me because I don’t choose subjects that I know I don’t know enough about,” says Heffner. “I owe it to my viewers, and I owe it to my guests, not to be dumb.”

Heffner has been playing smart ever since he was a child suffering from rheumatic fever of the heart. “It was in defense that I became bookish,” he told The New York Times in 2003. “I was sickly, so I wasn’t allowed to play sports.” (Perhaps presaging his role as a moderator in a number of capacities, he was, however, permitted to umpire baseball games.)

The boy who buried himself in books was the son of a man who made book: Al Heffner was a prosperous New York City race-track tout who lost everything during the Depression. “His very wealthy customers were big bettors. They would bet $100,000 on a race. And when they were gone, my father went broke.”

After attending DeWitt Clinton H.S. in the Bronx (“greatest high school in America”) with Paddy Chayefsky, Richard Avedon and James Baldwin, Heffner became a devotee of historian Dwight Miner ’26, ’40 GSAS; literary critic Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 GSAS; and philosopher Ernest Nagel ’31 GSAS at the College. Outside of class he was one of the earliest on-air voices for the fledgling Columbia University Radio Club, delivering a weekly current events report while future University Professor Fritz Stern ’46, ’53 GSAS made faces at him through the studio window (something Stern has consistently denied).

As chairman of the College War Relief Drive, Heffner also successfully approached University President Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) in his Low Library office to ask him to address a bond rally. Heffner recalls, “He was a large man sitting at a large desk, raised on a large platform at the end of the room as one approached. I learned later that that was what Mussolini did.”

Heffner, who majored in history, earned an M.A. in the subject in 1947 under Richard Hofstadter ’42 GSAS but stopped short of a Ph.D., considering himself “a teacher, not a scholar.” And teach he did, at Sarah Lawrence, UC Berkeley, Rutgers, The New School and his alma mater, where from 1950–52 he taught Contemporary Civilization. But he craved a larger audience. In 1952, as Heffner began editing A Documentary History of the United States, a still-popular paperback collection of vital documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address, he knew he wanted to discuss human events in a broader context.

“I believe history is the synthetic subject,” he reflects. “I think it is the historian who embraces everything. The story of the past is the story of the present.”

The chance to explore that link came in 1953, when Heffner decided to create a radio documentary marking the eighth anniversary of the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. “I went to every station in New York and they all said, ‘Who are you? You’re a professor. You’ve got this book but that doesn’t make you a broadcaster.’”

Finally, WMCA consented. The highlight was an interview with FDR’s widow, Eleanor, in her stone cottage at Val-Kill. Disaster
nearly struck when an engineer accidentally wiped the tape but Heffner was able to sit down with her again, this time at the Park Central Hotel in Manhattan. “Instead of hearing the chimes of the clock in the background and the fireplace, you heard cars going from first gear into second and then third, 17 stories below.”

Street noise notwithstanding, the effort went well and WMCA gave Heffner a syndicated weekly half-hour program, History in the News. Even before the show had finished its run though, toward the end of 1954, Heffner was looking ahead. Through California Gov. Earl Warren — the father of one of his students at Berkeley — he met Edward R. Murrow, whose signature sign-off, “Good night and good luck,” Heffner still uses to conclude Open Mind.

“Murrow liked me. He immediately called Stuart Novins, the head of CBS radio news. Novins offered me a job as a producer at CBS News. And I said — here is the ham in me — ‘Can I be on the air, also?’ And he said no. And I said, ‘Thanks, but I want to be on the air.’ Maybe it was stupid. Maybe I would be president of CBS News today.”

In the end, he got his way. WRCA-TV, the predecessor to NBC, gave him Man of the Year, a public affairs show, in 1955. That led to All About Men—All About Women and Of Men and Ideas, as well as radio stints with Listen, Listen, Listen and Collector’s Item. But The Open Mind, which originally aired on WRCA, remains the sine qua non of Heffner’s broadcast life, the product of a fundamental realization.

“We’re talking about 1956,” Heffner says. “America had real problems. But they were laid over with cash and comfort of the wonderful suburban ‘50s. I had the feeling that there were comparatively few places where Americans were confronted with important exchanges about important challenges that faced us, and that’s what I wanted to do being.”

Soon enough, Open Mind was delving into such hot-button areas as alcoholism, integration, homosexuality, anti-Semitism and black-listing — so much so that a 1956 Newsday column was headlined “Open Mind Moderator Denies Show Seeks Sensational Topics.”

But if the subjects were controversial, the guests were stellar. In the decades that followed, they have included Margaret Mead ‘23 Barnard, ’29 GSAS; Joseph Heller; Martin Luther King Jr.; Max Frankel ’52, ’53 GSAS; Robert Redford; Max Lerner; Isaac Asimov ’39, ’41 GSAS; Gloria Steinem; Rod Serling; Norman Cousins ’37 TC; Eli Wallach; Ruth Westheimer ’70 TC; and Malcolm X.

In 1959, CBS chairman William S. Paley appointed Heffner secretary of the network’s editorial board, “whipping the owned-and-operated CBS television and radio stations into doing editorials on a local level,” as Heffner says. Though his power to set guidelines and write the editorials made him “very, very unpopular” among station managers, he did not suffer their displeasure for long. Within a year he became a special consultant to the National Educational Television and Radio Center, which led to his being named general manager of New York’s first public television station, WNDT, the forerunner of today’s WNET.

For NETRC, the easy part about organizing the nascent station was raising the necessary $6.2 million in seed money. Rather more difficult was actually getting on the air. At the time, all seven coveted VHF stations in the New York area were already in use. So with the approval of the Federal Communications Commission, NETRC purchased station WNTA, Channel 13, in Newark — much to the consternation of New Jersey Gov. Robert Meyner, who sued in federal court to block the takeover.

“Meyner was a strange man,” Heffner recalls. “He said, ‘You are raping the sovereign state of New Jersey. You are taking its only VHF station.’ And it was perfectly true. But it was a bankrupt station. It was a distress sale, because it owed so much money.”

Once the sale cleared, and the purchasers incorporated as the Educational Broadcasting Corp. (EBC), Heffner began a “pretty goddamned busy, pretty goddammed exciting” phase of his life as WNDT went on the air on September 16, 1962. Often working from 6 a.m. until midnight, Heffner dealt with staff issues, logistics, budgets, programming and the occasional emergency — like when hordes of parents howled after he canceled a festival of previously unaired Charlie Chaplin films in favor of coverage of the Cuban missile crisis.

Not surprisingly, he was shattered when EBC fired him the following April amid conflicts over policy and the very nature of what was then called “educational television.” Heffner favored a wide range of programming, especially expensive cultural fare; EBC, led by president Sam Gould, envisioned WNDT as a cheaper classroom of the air, specializing in instructional programs. The New York Times covered the developing drama on its front page; some 50 non-union WNDT staff members offered to take a 10 percent pay cut to retain their boss.

“I’m a teacher. I’m a talker. I’m a speaker. I’m a preacher. That’s who I am.”

As WNET prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary this fall, the memory still stings. “As you can imagine, having spent those years in making a reality of something that had been a dream of mine. … How did I feel when suddenly the ground was pulled out from under me? Godawful.”

But the morning after he was sacked, Rutgers president Mason Gross called and offered him a tenured faculty position; today, he is the University Professor of Communications and Public Policy. A few days later, pollster Elmo Roper provided him with a secretary, an office and an appointment with AT&T.

“He said, ‘You have lunch with them, respond to their questions, and be yourself.’ I went down, had a very nice — though institutional — lunch and gave them some advice on communications matters they thought terribly pressing. I came back, went into Elmo’s office and said, ‘OK, Elmo, what do I do now?’ And Elmo said, ‘Send them an invoice for $10,000.’”

It was the beginning of the consulting firm Richard Heffner Associates, whose clients came to include Time, American Airlines and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Heffner often quotes John Milton’s Areopagitica: “Who ever knew Truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter?” But having spent decades in the trenches, Heffner also knows how the world works. A good example occurred in 1987, when Judge Wachtler asked him to chair a commission to determine whether cameras should be permitted in New York state courtrooms. Years before the spectacle of Court TV and the O.J. Simpson trial, Heffner said no, concluding that networks would simply pluck juicy bits out of context.

“They were eager to put on the air attractive, sensational materials from trials. They were not eager to teach lessons.”
In 1974, he got an even more bracing lesson in media reality, when he was named chairman of the Classification and Ratings Administration (CARA) of the Motion Picture Association of America at the personal request of its president, Jack Valenti. Before long, he had become what the Los Angeles Times called “the least known, most powerful man in Hollywood.” As such, he was at the center of major ratings controversies over the violence in such movies as Cruising and Scarface (directed by Brian De Palma ’62); at one point he clashed with United Artists chairman Arthur Krim ’30, ’32L about Rollerball. Heffner felt it should be rated “X,” prompting Krim to thunder, “This man’s predecessor was a fanatic about sex; this man is a fanatic about violence!”

Heffner enjoyed many aspects of the job, though. As he told film critic Charles Champlin in an exhaustive series of interviews for the Columbia Center for Oral History, “There were times when the picture was over and I would say to my colleagues, ‘You know, this really makes it all worthwhile.’ And I meant it.”

But there was also endless wrangling with Valenti and industry professionals who often cajoled, persuaded or pressured Heffner and his board to assign a family-friendly “PG,” rather than an “R” or a dreaded “X.” Almost weekly, Heffner commuted to and from California to screen movies and meet with the board, refusing to move there because he feared that constant socializing with actors and directors would corrupt his integrity.

Not long after he was appointed, Heffner began to suggest to Valenti — “always with the utmost politeness” — ways of improving the system. He especially wanted to provide better ratings explanations and more fully fleshed out guidelines to distinguish between younger and older teenagers. At one point, he pushed for an “RR” category between “R” and “X,” signaling that the content was, as he put it, “really rough.” In the end, “PG-13” was added in 1984 and “NC-17” supplanted “X” in 1990.

By the time he stepped down in 1994, Heffner had grave doubts about the effectiveness of the self-imposed system. Immediately upon leaving CARA, he became a senior fellow at the Freedom Forum, at that time located on campus at the Journalism School. In the year that followed, Heffner attempted to sort out and put on paper the lessons he had learned in Hollywood (or, as he put it, “in GaGaLand”). He remains conflicted about voluntary ratings for films and, by extension, for TV shows, recordings and video games.

But he is convinced of one thing at least, probably much to the distress of his friend Abrams: “In a society so largely based upon free speech and free thought, and in a society that is as much based upon the almighty dollar as ours is, a larger degree of regulation is necessary.”

Every Saturday at noon — except during pledge weeks — viewers can tune to Channel 13 and be greeted by the sight of two simple, intersecting human profiles with brain-shaped holes cut in them, slowly revolving amid the eerie strains of World Without Time by the Sauter [as in Edward Sauter ’36]-Finegan Orchestra. Although graphic designer Lee Moss designed Open Mind’s iconic logo, it was Heffner who chose the accompanying theme, which he describes as “mental health music.”

How much longer will it continue? At 87, Heffner is hardly unaware of his mortality; he has even spoken with Alexander, his grandson, about taking over the program. Open Mind, however, is not just another venue for talking heads; its roster of guests and topics, its low-key, probing, intellectual give-and-take, constitutes a personal expression of the host himself.

Indeed, from 1959–67, when Heffner was busy with various ventures and put the Princeton historian Eric Goldman in the moderator’s chair in his stead, he was unhappy with the result. He felt that Goldman, a cultural adviser to the White House, was pushing a political agenda with the show. “He used his invitations to feather the nest of the Johnson administration. As far as I was concerned, they weren’t The Open Mind. That’s why, now, I’m much more honest about it. I call it Richard Heffner’s Open Mind. It’s not anyone else’s.

“How long I’ll be able to keep doing it, or how long my voice or my mind will last — who knows?” he says, lounging in the book-crammed study in his Riverside Drive apartment, his dog Cassie resting on the couch. “Would I like to continue? Yes. I’d like to continue to the point at which I know I’m no longer doing what I did and others also feel that way. Then I hope I have the good grace to say, ‘Good night and good luck’ a final time.

“Sure, maybe somebody can do Bill Moyers’ Open Mind, or Alexander Heffner’s Open Mind, or whatever. But nobody’s going to do what I did. I am who I am. And that’s all that I am. I’m Popeye the sailor man.”

He smiles and looks semi-serious. “Remember that.”

Former Columbia College Today acting editor Thomas Vinciguerra ’85, ’86J, ’90 GSAS is executive editor of This Week From Indian Country Today, a regular contributor to The New York Times and the editor of Backward Ran Sentences: The Best of Wollcott Gibbs from The New Yorker.
Ai-jen Poo ’96 co-founded Domestic Workers United and now is director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance. She identifies with the tiger, her Chinese zodiac sign, and draws upon what she calls her “inner tiger” for courage as she works to better conditions and benefits for nannies, housekeepers and caregivers.

PHOTO: MAX VADUKUL
Ai-jen Poo ’96 spent her formative years as a Columbia Lion, but as an advocate for domestic workers she identifies more closely with the tiger, her Chinese zodiac sign. So much, in fact, that she had its likeness tattooed on her right arm when she was in her mid-20s.

Baring no teeth, Poo’s tiger sports a penetrating stare that conveys inner strength rather than ferociousness. The unexpected image mirrors the stalwart yet heartfelt approach with which Poo, one of Time magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world for 2012, has procured legal protections for nannies, housekeepers and caregivers to the elderly. This overwhelmingly female workforce has historically been excluded from labor rights laws, making its members — most of them immigrants, legal and illegal — vulnerable to underpayment, inhumane working conditions, exploitation and harassment.

“The women who do domestic work — whether they are nannies or caregivers for the elderly — really take pride in the work that they do. They love the people they take care of,” says Poo, who in 2000 started Domestic Workers United (DWU, domesticworkersunited.org), an organization that mobilizes immigrant domestic workers in New York City, and now is director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA, domesticworkers.org). “We believe it’s their work that makes all other work possible. And so it’s really important that it be recognized and respected as dignified, professional work.”
Organizing for Social Justice

“Fear often gets in the way of our taking risks necessary to make real change in the world,” Poo adds. “The tattoo is a reminder to draw upon my inner tiger and to be courageous in the face of uncertainty in the service of a vision for a better world.”

Po realized the power of grassroots activism as a College student. She was arrested in April 1995 for blocking the Manhattan Bridge as part of a city-wide protest against police brutality. She also was among the students who occupied Low Rotunda and Hamilton Hall during the 1996 protests that called for more culturally diverse course offerings. Three years later, Columbia’s Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race was established.

“We were all working together with one really strong message to push the University to recognize this piece of intellectual work that is so important to how this country has unfolded,” Poo recalls. “We wanted to send a message of how important it was for students to have access to that information.

“Students really worked together across communities. That was one of the things that was so powerful about it. It was a really exciting time. It informed how I understood how change happens and gave me a sense of the potential of organizing.”

Born in Pittsburgh to Chinese immigrants, Poo transferred to the College after a year at Washington University in St. Louis, where she had enrolled with plans to become a potter. “I missed reading books, literature in particular,” says Poo, whose father, Mu-ming Poo, was a pro-democracy activist in Taiwan and taught in Columbia’s Department of Biological Sciences from 1988-95; her mother is an oncologist.

For more than five years after Assemblyman Keith Wright (D-Manhattan) and Sen. Diane Savino (D-Brooklyn/Staten Island) introduced the bill into the state legislature in 2004, DWU staffers drove workers to Albany to lobby. Poo estimates that she made upward of 50 trips herself. Among those who shared their stories with lawmakers, she notes, was a Colombian woman in her 60s who cared for a disabled child in order to afford insulin for her own son. She worked more than 100 hours a week for about $3 an hour, cooking, cleaning, washing and ironing for the family of six, only to retire at day’s end to a basement with an overflowing sewage system. She was fired suddenly without severance pay. Other workers testified to humiliations and sexual harassment by male employers.

“I’ve been fortunate to be a part of many collective efforts that involved sacrifice, spirit, heart and commitment on the part of a lot of domestic workers,” says Poo of DWU’s work. “It was never me alone.”

Domestic workers are excluded from the National Labor Relations Act, which protects the rights of most other private workers to form unions, strike and bargain collectively. Nonetheless, DWU has close to 7,000 members who pay $5 a month in dues. There are an estimated 200,000 domestic workers in the New York metropolitan area, according to DWU. California’s state legislature is considering a similar bill.

“It was a breakthrough moment,” Poo says. “We forced the state of New York to recognize domestic work as real work that deserves inclusion and protection, and reversed a legacy of exclusion and discrimination.”

Po makes the possibility for radical change palpable.
She not only believes in the basic goodness of all people but also that we all inherently want fairness and equality to prevail.”

“I was excited about having New York City as a place to learn and grow,” she adds.

Within a year of her arrival, Poo shifted her focus from art to women’s studies. “I’ve been really passionate about women’s issues since high school,” she says. “When I got to Columbia, the women’s studies department offered the opportunity to explore the intellectual work that had been done around women’s rights and how gender has shaped our world and our history.”

“There are a lot of strong women in my family tradition,” adds Poo, whose family includes sister Ting Poo ’00, a post-production film editor. “My grandparents and my mom are very important role models for me.”

Soon after arriving in New York, Poo began staffing a hotline as a volunteer at the New York Asian Women’s Center, a domestic violence shelter for Asian immigrant women, where she got her first taste of women’s activism. She later became involved with the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, where she was promoted to paid staff member upon graduation. Poo co-founded DWU with colleagues from CAAAV, where she had spearheaded an initiative that sought to empower Asian immigrant women employed in low-wage service industries.

Poo met her husband, attorney Tony Lu, while recruiting volunteers for CAAAV at NYU Law School, where Lu earned a J.D. Lu now works for Pro Bono Net, a nonprofit that uses web technology to increase access to justice for people who cannot afford lawyers. The couple lives in Queens.

Poo now heads the NDWA, a coalition she helped establish in 2007. It encompasses more than 30 member organizations nationwide that seek respect and fair labor standards for domestic workers. Though based in New York, Poo travels frequently to meetings and public speaking engagements.

The NDWA celebrated in June when delegates to the International Labour Conference — the annual meeting of the member states of the U.N.’s International Labour Organization — adopted the Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. The
international treaty for the first time entitles domestic workers to fundamental labor rights and is binding for the states that ratify it. Though the United States has not done so, the NDWA worked with the Department of Labor to draft the federal government’s response. (The NDWA also had sent a domestic worker to the conference as a voting delegate.)

In 2011, Poo’s groundbreaking work earned her the American Express NGen Leadership Award bestowed by Independent Sector, a leadership network for charities and foundations. The award recognizes nonprofit leaders under 40 who have had a significant impact on a societal need. The $3,000 grant has gone toward training and capacity building for domestic worker leaders.

“Ai-jen is a leader of the present and future,” says Mikaela Seligman, Independent Sector’s v.p. of nonprofit and philanthropic leadership and practice. “The way she sees leadership is that her role is not to be out in front publicly or privately, somehow leading the charge, which is really a model of the past. Her role is fundamentally to mobilize resources to achieve a goal. She does that ably, she does that graciously and she does it with love.”

In 2009, the Center for Social Inclusion awarded Poo the $25,000 Alston-Bannerman Fellowship for Organizers of Color, which allowed her to take a four-month sabbatical, part of which she spent re-energizing in Hawai‘i, a logical destination once she mentions her affinity for the outdoors and “places where mountains and ocean meet.” Poo’s husband and a few friends accompanied her for part of the trip, but she also spent time alone practicing yoga and sleeping at least eight hours each night, which she rarely gets to do. Moreover, she used the time off to convene a national meeting of female organizers. That same year, Crain’s New York Business named her one of its “40 Under 40” rising stars. Then came Time’s “100 Most Influential People in the World” list this spring.

Ever-humble, Poo is quick to attribute such accolades to her cause rather than her aptitude. “It’s really recognition of both the importance of domestic work in society today and the significance of domestic workers organizing, advocacy and leadership in the social change arena,” she says. “I feel proud to be a part of a movement that inspires so many people.”

To view videos of Poo, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Nathalie Alonso ’08 is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer of LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website. She also writes Student Spotlight for CCT.
Andrew Delbanco, the Mendelson Family Professor of American Studies and the Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities, was named “America’s Best Social Critic” by Time magazine in 2001. The director of American studies at Columbia and the 2011 recipient of the National Humanities Medal, Delbanco also has won accolades for his teaching, most notably the 2006 Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates. His wide-ranging writings include numerous articles in The New York Review of Books and The New Republic, and books that span much of American history, from the early age (The Puritan Ordeal) to our own (Required Reading: Why Our American Classics Matter Now).

The following essay is taken from Delbanco’s newest book, College: What It Was, Is, and Should Be (Princeton University Press, $24.95), a reflection on college and the important role it should play in these challenging times.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard
Teaching at its best can be a generative act, one of the ways by which human beings try to cheat death.

... working that person as thoroughly and creatively as possible before moving on to another.” One Chicago alumnus, Lee Shulman, former president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, recalls that sitting in Schwab’s class “fostered clammy hands, damp foreheads” and, to put it mildly, “an ever-attentive demeanor.” This figure of the “tough love” teacher — think of Annie Sullivan in _The Miracle Worker_ or Professor Kingsfield in _The Paper Chase_ — has become a cliché of our culture, and like all clichés, it contains some truth, though doubtless simplified and unduly generalized. It also seems less and less pertinent to the present. At most colleges today, a student experiencing such anxiety would likely drop the class for fear of a poor grade (compulsory courses of the sort that Schwab taught have become rare), and the teacher would risk a poor score on the end-of-semester evaluations.

Whatever the style or technique, teaching at its best can be a generative act, one of the ways by which human beings try to cheat death — by giving witness to the next generation so that what we have learned in our own lives won’t die with us. Consider what today we would call the original “mission statement” of America’s oldest college. The first fund-raising appeal in our history, it was a frank request by the founders of Harvard for financial help from fellow Puritans who had stayed home in England rather than make the journey to New England. Despite their mercenary purpose, the words are still moving almost four hundred years after they were written:

After God had carried us safe to New England, and we had built our houses, provided necessaries for our livelihood, reared convenient places for God’s worship, and settled the civil government, one of the next things we longed for and looked after was to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches, when our present ministers shall lie in the dust.

These mixed sentiments of faith and dread have always been at the heart of the college idea. They are evident at every college commencement in the eyes of parents who watch, through a screen of memories of their own receding youth, as their children advance into life. College is our American pastoral. We imagine it as a verdant world where the harshest sounds are the reciprocal thump of tennis balls or the clatter of cleats as young bodies trot up and down the fieldhouse steps. Yet bright with hope as it may be, every college is shadowed by the specter of mortality — a place where, in that uniquely American season of “fall and football weather and the new term,” the air is redolent with the “Octoberish smell of cured leaves.”

But what, exactly, is supposed to happen in this bittersweet place — beyond sunbathing and body-toning and the competitive exertions, athletic and otherwise, for which these are just the preliminaries? First of all, it should be said that the pastoral image of college has little to do with what most college students experience today. A few years ago, Michael S. McPherson, president of the Spencer Foundation and former president of Macalester College, and Morton O. Schapiro, former president of Williams College (now of Northwestern University), pointed out that “the nation’s liberal arts college students would almost certainly fit easily inside a Big Ten football stadium: fewer than one hundred thousand students out of more than fourteen million.”

Since then, the number of undergraduates has grown by nearly a third, to around eighteen million, while the number in liberal arts colleges — by which McPherson and Schapiro meant a four-year residential college that is not part of a big university, and where most students study subjects that are not narrowly vocational such as nursing or computer programming — remains about the same. Many college students today, of whom a growing number are older than traditional college age, attend commuter or online institutions focused mainly on vocational training. Often, they work and go to school at the same time, and take more than four years to complete their degree, if they complete it at all. Five years from now, undergraduate students in the United States are projected to exceed twenty million, and President
Obama wants to accelerate the growth. But only a small fraction will attend college in anything like the traditional sense of the word.

Whatever the context, the question remains: what’s the point? My colleague Mark Lilla put the matter well not long ago when he spoke to the freshmen of Columbia College near the end of their first college year. He was talking, of course, to students in a college commonly described as “elite.” Divided roughly equally between young men and women, these students were more racially diverse than would have been the case even a few years ago. About one in ten was born abroad or has some other claim, such as a parent with a foreign passport, to be an “international” student; and, though it’s hard to tell the financial means of the students from their universal uniform of tee shirts and jeans, roughly one in seven (a somewhat higher rate than at other Ivy League colleges) is eligible for a Pell grant, a form of federal financial aid that goes to children of low-income families.

As they filed into the lecture room, they gave each other the public hugs that signify new friendships, or, in some cases, the mutually averted eyes that tell of recent breakups. They seemed simultaneously fatigued and at ease. Once they had settled into their seats, out came the iPhones and laptops, some of which stayed aglow for the whole hour, though mostly they listened, rapt. And when Lilla made the following surmise about how and why they had come to college, they reacted with the kind of quiet laughter that meant they knew he was telling the truth:

You figured, correctly, that to be admitted you had to exude confidence about what Americans, and only Americans, call their “life goals”; and you had to demonstrate that you have a precise plan for achieving them. It was all bullshit; you know that, and I know that. The real reason you were excited about college was because you had questions, buckets of questions, not life plans and PowerPoint presentations. My students have convinced me that they are far less interested in getting what they want than in figuring out just what it is that’s worth wanting.

No college teacher should presume to answer this question on behalf of the students, though, too often, he or she will try. (Requiring discipleship has always been a hazard of the teaching profession.) Instead, the job of the teacher and, collectively, of the college, is to help students in the arduous work of answering it for themselves.

To be sure, students at a college like mine have many advantages. Elite institutions confer on their students enormous benefits in the competition for positions of leadership in business, government, and higher education itself. As soon as they are admitted, even those without the prior advantage of money have already gotten a boost toward getting what they want — though not necessarily toward figuring out what’s worth wanting. In fact, for some, the difficulty of that question rises in proportion to the number of choices they have. Many college students are away from their parents for the first time, although in our age of FaceBook and Skype and Google Chat and the like, they are never really away. Their choices may seem limitless, but powerful forces constrain them, including what their parents want them to want. Students under financial pressure face special problems, but students from privileged families have problems too.

College is supposed to be a time when such differences recede if not vanish. The notion of shared self-discovery for all students is, of course, a staple of exhortations to freshmen just coming in and valedictions to seniors about to go out — an idea invoked so often that it, too, has become a cliché. In other cultures, however, it would be an oddity. The American college has always differed fundamentally from the European university, where students are expected to know what they want (and what they are capable of) before they arrive. That is true even at the ancient English colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, to which students apply around age seventeen to “read” this or that subject, and once arrived, rarely venture outside their chosen field of formal study. By contrast, in America — in part because of our prosperity, which still exceeds that of most of the rest of the world — we try to extend the time for second chances and to defer the day when determinative choices must be made. In 1890, when Herman Melville, whose formal schooling ended at age seventeen, wrote that “a whaleship was my Yale College and my Harvard,” he used the word “college” as the name of the place where (to use our modern formulation) he “found himself.”

The American college has always differed fundamentally from the European university.

A few years ago, I came across a manuscript diary — also, as it happens, from 1850 — kept by a student at a small Methodist college, Emory and Henry, in southwest Virginia. One spring evening, after attending a sermon by the college president that left him troubled and apprehensive, he made the following entry in his journal: “Oh that the Lord would show me how to think and how to choose” — of what a college is supposed to be a time when such differences recede if not vanish. The notion of shared self-discovery for all students is, of course, a staple of exhortations to freshmen just coming in and valedictions to seniors about to go out — an idea invoked so often that it, too, has become a cliché. In other cultures, however, it would be an oddity. The American college has always differed fundamentally from the European university, where students are expected to know what they want (and what they are capable of) before they arrive. That is true even at the ancient English colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, to which students apply around age seventeen to “read” this or that subject, and once arrived, rarely venture outside their chosen field of formal study. By contrast, in America — in part because of our prosperity, which still exceeds that of most of the rest of the world — we try to extend the time for second chances and to defer the day when determinative choices must be made. In 1890, when Herman Melville, whose formal schooling ended at age seventeen, wrote that “a whaleship was my Yale College and my Harvard,” he used the word “college” as the name of the place where (to use our modern formulation) he “found himself.”

This 1902 poster was drawn by John E. Sheridan, who created covers for The Saturday Evening Post and other magazines, and produced by Deutz Lithograph Co. in New York.

South Field in 1897, when it was still farmland.

PHOTO: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
CCASIP Enjoys Success in Inaugural Summer

Each fall brings the promise that comes with the start of a new school year. The Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors is particularly energized for the Dean Valentini era. The board was busy this summer planning for the current year and brainstorming how we can help improve the Columbia experience for all students, current and former.

Columbia College students were hard at work this summer as well, expanding their intellectual horizons or applying some of their new skills in the workplace. The CCAA is proud to have played a part in facilitating this opportunity for the 27 students who participated in the first year of the Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Internship Program (CCASIP), which was developed in response to students’ desire to interact more with alumni and with CCAA’s conviction that the alumni network is one of Columbia’s strongest assets.

This joint Center for Career Education (CCE) and CCAA board program was spearheaded by CCAA’s Career Education Committee and its then-co-chair, Michael Behringer ’89. A group of alumni leaders reached out to fellow alumni to ask them to host a student intern for the summer. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Through every step of the process—from the high numbers of students who applied for the positions to the enthusiastic feedback from the interns, their employers and their mentors—it was clear that the students relished the engagement and commitment of College alumni. Thank you to everyone who participated. We look forward to expanding this program for summer 2013.

Another committee initiative inaugurated this past year is the Alumni Dinner Series, in which an alumnus/a hosts a dinner with 10–25 students to speak about his or her career and life track. John MacPhee ’89, Dan Futterman ’89 and Jared Hecht ’09 spoke to students about careers in medicine/pharmaceuticals, the arts and entrepreneurship, respectively. Students were grateful for the opportunity to learn directly from alumni about their careers, and expressed hope for continued engagement with alumni.

Alumni interested in hosting a student in the workplace next summer or hosting students at a career-focused dinner should contact Kavita Sharma, CCE dean: ks2173@columbia.edu or 212-854-3561.

The 2012–14 Career Education Committee is co-chaired by Sherry Pancer Wolf ’90 and Eric Mendelson ’87, ’89 Business. The committee works with CCE and the Alumni Office to develop, advise on and promote career programming and to facilitate opportunities for interactions between alumni and students. The committee meets regularly to review programs, to identify alumni for programs and to support CCE. The committee welcomes non-board participation.

Wolf has been a member of the CCAA board since 2000 and a committee co-chair since 2011. She was a member of her 20th Reunion Committee and the Dean’s Alumnae Leadership Task Force, and a Columbia College Women mentor. She is a member of the New England Regional Columbia Club and has been a member of the Alumni Representative Committee since 1996. Wolf brings to the committee more than 15 years of experience with start-ups in a variety of financial and operational roles. She is the CFO at JOOS, a rapidly growing nutrition and wellness business. Wolf lives in Boston with her husband, Doug Wolf ’88, and their three children.

Mendelson lives in Miami Beach with his wife, Kimberly, and their three children. A member of the CCAA board since 2008, Eric, his brother, Victor ’89, and father, Laurans ’60, ’61 Business, and their families recently endowed the Mendelson Family Professor of American Studies. Mendelson is co-president of HEICO Corp. (NYSE:HEI) and has been an employee of the aerospace company since 1990.

Although neither lives in the tri-state area, both Sherri and Eric have a meaningful impact on the Columbia community, with the CCAA board and on Columbia students. Columbia’s reach is growing around the world and we encourage all alumni to be an active part of the Columbia family. This summer, alumni hosted students in locations ranging from Beijing, China, to Chelsea, NYC. I encourage each of you to join us this year in advancing career opportunities for the next generation of Columbia graduates.
Bookshelf

The Napoleonic Image in Hardy and Tolstoy: A Dual Repudiation of the “Great Man” Theory of History by Raymond Marcus ’39. Marcus, a former high school English and journalism teacher, examines the impact of Napoleon Bonaparte’s legacy on the works of Thomas Hardy and Leo Tolstoy (Vantage Press, $28.95).

Epigenetics in the Age of Twitter: Pop Culture and Modern Science by Gerald Weissman ’50. Weissman considers modern social media through the lens of epigenetics, a branch of science that attempts to explain how our genes respond to our environments (Bellevue Literary Press, $18.95).

Understanding Social Networks: Theories, Concepts, and Findings by Thomas Kadushin. Kadushin examines the impact of Napoleon Bonaparte’s legacy on the works of Thomas Hardy and Leo Tolstoy through the lens of epigenetics, a branch of science that attempts to explain how our genes respond to our environments (Bellevue Literary Press, $18.95).

The Other Side of the World by Jay Neugeboren ’59. From the rainforests of Borneo to the streets of Brooklyn, Neugeboren’s novel follows adventurer Charlie Eisner and provocative writer Seana O’Sullivan on an epic journey in memory of Charlie’s late friend Nick (Two Dollar Radio, $17).

Treacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, the Woman Behind Benedict Arnold’s Plot to Betray America by Mark Jacob and Stephen H. Case ’64. In their biography of Arnold’s wife, Jacob and Case reveal her pivotal role in the treasonous plot that nearly sabotaged the American Revolution (Lyons Press, $24.95).

Torture and Impunity: The U.S. Doctrine of Coercive Interrogation by Alfred W. McCoy ’68. McCoy, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, writes a history of torture tactics used by the U.S. government and details how torture affects our culture, morality and laws (University of Wisconsin Press, $24.95).

Whole Notes: A Piano Masterclass by Armen Donelian ’72. A holistic approach to instrumental study — including advice on physical, mental and psychological challenges that need attention — from an internationally respected jazz pianist, composer and educator (Advance Music, $32.50).

The People’s Pension: The Struggle to Defend Social Security Since Reagan by Eric Laursen ’82. In this history of Social Security, Laursen, a financial and political journalist, explains how the program’s existence has been threatened by both political parties and lays out a strategy to protect it (AK Press, $27).


The State of the Jews: A Critical Appraisal by Edward Alexander ’57. Alexander, a professor emeritus of English at the University of Washington, describes the threat Jewish people face from contemporary anti-Semitism and hostility toward Israel (Transaction Publishers, $34.95).


Hypertension: A Companion to Braunwald’s Heart Disease, 2nd Edition by Dr. Henry R. Black ’63 and William J. Elliott. An update to the authors’ cardiology reference book, this edition provides doctors with the most up-to-date clinical tools to treat hypertension (Saunders, $169).

The Good, the Bad, and the Economy: Does Human Nature Rule Out a Better World? by Louis Putnam ’76. The author grapples with the conflict between self-interest and social cooperation as he seeks to address the reasons we’ve been unable to build a more equal and nurturing world (Langdon Street Press, $17.95).

Black Tulips: The Selected Poems of José María Hinojosa by José María Hinojosa, translated by Mark Statman ’80. Spanish poet Hinojosa’s surrealist work — translated into English for the first time since his 1936 assassination — celebrates love amidst war and suffering (Uno Press, $18.95).


The Storied Life: The Biography of Arnold Gingrich by Francis J. Sypher Jr. ’64. Sypher chronicles the famous MorningSide Heights cathedral as well as the club’s contributions to its construction from the 1920s through the 1990s (The Laymen’s Club of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, $35).

The Story of the Laymen’s Club of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine.

The Napoleonic Image in Hardy and Tolstoy: A Dual Repudiation of the “Great Man” Theory of History by Raymond Marcus ’39. Marcus, a former high school English and journalism teacher, examines the impact of Napoleon Bonaparte’s legacy on the works of Thomas Hardy and Leo Tolstoy (Vantage Press, $28.95).

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Barack Obama ’83: The Story by David Maraniss. The author, an associate editor at The Washington Post, draws on hundreds of interviews to uncover the influences on the personal and political life of President...
The Secret War Between Downloading and Uploading: Tales of the Computer as Culture Machine by Peter Lunenfeld '84. The author analyzes our digital culture, warning that passive consumption, instead of active creation, has become the main way we use technology (The MIT Press, $21.95).

New Classicists: Richard Manion [84] Architecture by Stacie Stukin. This vivid portfolio of work by Richard Manion '84 features projects from around the world including signature homes inspired by English country houses, French châteaux and Italian villas (Images Publishing, $90).

Race and America's Immigrant Press: How the Slovaks Were Taught to Think Like White People by Robert M. Zecker '84. Zecker, associate professor of history at Saint Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, studies how immigrant newspapers covered American racial issues in the 19th and 20th centuries (Continuum, $130).

The Shape of Green: Aesthetics, Ecology, and Design by Lance Hosey '87. Architect and designer Hosey outlines principles of design for products, cars, buildings and cities that incorporate sustainability (Island Press, $30).

Sexual Types: Embodiment, Agency, and Dramatic Character from Shakespeare to Shirley by Mario DiGangi '88. Building on feminist and queer scholarship, DiGangi demonstrates how sexual types such as the bawd, the sodomite and the citizen wife can be vilified but also serve as dynamic, resourceful characters who upend the limitations of their archetypes (University of Pennsylvania Press, $65).


The House of Velvet and Glass by Katherine Howe '99. The bestselling novelist’s latest blends romance, the supernatural and a family’s secrets during the tumultuous period spanning the sinking of the Titanic and WWI (Voice, $25.99).

Sovereign Wealth Funds and Long-Term Investing edited by Patrick Bolton, the Barbara and David Zalaznick Professor of Business, Frederic Sanger, and Joseph E. Stiglitz, University Professor. This collection of essays explains and examines the implications of sovereign wealth funds, state-owned investment funds with combined asset holdings that are approaching $4 trillion (Columbia University Press, $20).

Storable Votes: Protecting the Minority Voice by Alessandra Casella, professor of economics. Casella brings the tools of economics to politics, presenting a system in which citizens can budget their votes, casting multiple votes when they consider a decision more important (Oxford University Press, $29.95).

College: What It Was, Is, and Should Be by Andrew Delbanco, the Mendelson Family Professor of American Studies and the Julian Clairve Levi Professor in the Humanities. Delbanco traces the evolution of higher education in America from early Puritan colleges to modern research universities and calls for a return to a broad, humanistic undergraduate education (see Columbia Forum in this issue for an excerpt) (Princeton University Press, $24.95).

Ignorance: How It Drives Science by Stuart Firestein, professor of neuroscience and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. Firestein applies the concept of ignorance to our era of constant U.S. warfare and examines the implications of humanity beyond provincial loyalties (Oxford University Press, $21.95).

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The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Viennese 1900 to the Present by Eric R. Kandel, University Professor of Science and the Kavli Professor of Brain Science in Neuroscience. Nobel Prize Winner Kandel traces an intellectual revolution in psychology, brain science, literature and art to the cultural epicenter of Vienna in 1900 (Random House, $40).

Democracy, Islam, & Secularism in Turkey edited by Ahmet T. Kuru and Alfred Stepan, the Wallace S. Sayre Professor of Government. In this collection of essays, a range of experts explore the historical, social and religious factors that inform Turkey’s politics (Columbia University Press, $27.50).

Refiguring the Spiritual: Beuys, Barney, Turrell, Goldsworthy by Mark C. Taylor, professor of religion. Through a critique of four contemporary artists, Taylor reveals the spiritual dimensions in their work that often are overlooked in the commercialized art market (Columbia University Press, $27.50).

Benjamin Gittelson '15 and Karen Iorio
Leo Rangell, 83

Leo Rangell, psychoanalyst and emeritus clinical professor of psychiatry, Los Angeles, on May 28, 2011. Rangell was born on October 1, 1927, in New York. He earned a scholarship to Columbia and studied medicine at Chicago, graduating in 1949. Rangell practiced psychiatry and neurology in New York until WWII, then spent the war years as a psychiatrist in the Army Air Forces. After the war, he moved to Santa Monica and studied at the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Institute. He became a leading psychoanalyst who argued forcefully that theoretical fads and factions threatened to erode consumer confidence in the field. Rangell was a clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA and UCSF, wrote more than 450 published papers as well as several books and was president of the American Psychoanalytic Association and the International Psychoanalytic Association. Rangell was seeing patients until shortly before his death. His chief contribution to the field was championing a comprehensive theory of psychoanalysis to counter the waves of new schools of thought that emphasized one approach over all others. Rangell was preceded by his wife of 58 years, Anita, and a son, Richard. He is survived by his daughters, Judith Alley and Susan Harris; son, Paul; sister, Sydelle Levitan; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

1940

Herman W. “Hy” Farwell Jr., retired speech professor, Pueblo, Colo., on April 6, 2011. Farwell was born in Oklahoma City, Okla. He moved to Pueblo, Colo., in 1941 and entered the Air Force in 1944. He retired from military service in 1946, taught Air Force ROTC and earned a master’s from the University of Colorado. He moved to Pueblo to begin a second career as a professor in speech at what was then Southern Colorado State College, retiring in 1984 as professor emeritus from the Department of Speech Communication at USC. He continued to write and speak to many organizations throughout his retirement. Farwell was well known for his work in parliamentary procedure, about which he published several books. He was a member of a number of local organizations. Farwell is survived by his wife, Noreen; his two siblings and one grandson. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Martha; son Gardner and his wife, Cindy; daughter Linda and her husband, Rick Hammer; daughter-in-law, Margie; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

1944

Martin S. James, professor emeritus of art history, Ann Arbor, Mich., on October 11, 2011. James was born in London, England, on July 7, 1920, and raised in Paris, France, where he attended Lycée Janson de Sailly. He honed his passion for modern art both at Columbia under Professor Meyer Schapiro ’24, ’35 CSAS and as an artist and translator to artists and architects including Kurt Seligmann and Le Corbusier. He earned an M.A. (1962) and Ph.D. (1973) from CSAS. Subjects of scholarship included Ad Reinhardt ’35, Fernand Leger and Sigfried Giedion, with a special emphasis on Piet Mondrian, about whom James wrote several books and articles. While teaching at Brooklyn College from 1949–85, James created one of the first collegiate programs in urbanism with Professor Charles Ascher ’18, ’21L as well as other interdisciplinary programs in indigenous and public art. James also fought to make urban renewal adopt what he called a “human scale” throughout New York City. James was married twice and was preceded by both wives, the former Betty Barra “64 Barnard and Jan Henry, and is survived by his children, Elisabeth and Stephen; stepdaughter, Deborah; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation (parkinson.org).

1944

Martin S. James ’43

Martin S. James, professor emeritus of art history, Ann Arbor, Mich., on October 11, 2011. James was born in London, England, on July 7, 1920, and raised in Paris, France, where he attended Lycée Janson de Sailly. He honed his passion for modern art both at Columbia under Professor Meyer Schapiro ’24, ’35 CSAS and as an artist and translator to artists and architects including Kurt Seligmann and Le Corbusier. He earned an M.A. (1962) and Ph.D. (1973) from CSAS. Subjects of scholarship included Ad Reinhardt ’35, Fernand Leger and Sigfried Giedion, with a special emphasis on Piet Mondrian, about whom James wrote several books and articles. While teaching at Brooklyn College from 1949–85, James created one of the first collegiate programs in urbanism with Professor Charles Ascher ’18, ’21L as well as other interdisciplinary programs in indigenous and public art. James also fought to make urban renewal adopt what he called a “human scale” throughout New York City. James was married twice and was preceded by both wives, the former Betty Barra “64 Barnard and Jan Henry, and is survived by his children, Elisabeth and Stephen; stepdaughter, Deborah; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation (parkinson.org).

1933

Leo Rangell "33

Leo Rangell, psychoanalyst and emeritus clinical professor of psychiatry, Los Angeles, on May 28, 2011. Rangell was born on October 1, 1927, in New York. He earned a scholarship to Columbia and studied medicine at Chicago, graduating in 1949. Rangell practiced psychiatry and neurology in New York until WWII, then spent the war years as a psychiatrist in the Army Air Forces. After the war, he moved to Santa Monica and studied at the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Institute. He became a leading psychoanalyst who argued forcefully that theoretical fads and factions threatened to erode consumer confidence in the field. Rangell was a clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA and UCSF, wrote more than 450 published papers as well as several books and was president of the American Psychoanalytic Association and the International Psychoanalytic Association. Rangell was seeing patients until shortly before his death. His chief contribution to the field was championing a comprehensive theory of psychoanalysis to counter the waves of new schools of thought that emphasized one approach over all others. Rangell was preceded by his wife of 58 years, Anita, and a son, Richard. He is survived by his daughters, Judith Alley and Susan Harris; son, Paul; sister, Sydelle Levitan; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

1940

Hermon W. “Hy” Farwell Jr., retired speech professor, Pueblo, Colo., on April 6, 2011. Farwell was born in Oklahoma City, Okla. He moved to Pueblo, Colo., in 1941 and entered the Air Force in 1944. He retired from military service in 1946, taught Air Force ROTC and earned a master’s from the University of Colorado. He moved to Pueblo to begin a second career as a professor in speech at what was then Southern Colorado State College, retiring in 1984 as professor emeritus from the Department of Speech Communication at USC. He continued to write and speak to many organizations throughout his retirement. Farwell was well known for his work in parliamentary procedure, about which he published several books. He was a member of a number of local organizations. Farwell is survived by his wife, Noreen; his two siblings and one grandson. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Martha; son Gardner and his wife, Cindy; daughter Linda and her husband, Rick Hammer; daughter-in-law, Margie; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

1944

Martin S. James, professor emeritus of art history, Ann Arbor, Mich., on October 11, 2011. James was born in London, England, on July 7, 1920, and raised in Paris, France, where he attended Lycée Janson de Sailly. He honed his passion for modern art both at Columbia under Professor Meyer Schapiro ’24, ’35 CSAS and as an artist and translator to artists and architects including Kurt Seligmann and Le Corbusier. He earned an M.A. (1962) and Ph.D. (1973) from CSAS. Subjects of scholarship included Ad Reinhardt ’35, Fernand Leger and Sigfried Giedion, with a special emphasis on Piet Mondrian, about whom James wrote several books and articles. While teaching at Brooklyn College from 1949-85, James created one of the first collegiate programs in urbanism with Professor Charles Ascher ’18, ’21L as well as other interdisciplinary programs in indigenous and public art. James also fought to make urban renewal adopt what he called a “human scale” throughout New York City. James was married twice and was preceded by both wives, the former Betty Barra “64 Barnard and Jan Henry, and is survived by his children, Elisabeth and Stephen; stepdaughter, Deborah; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation (parkinson.org).
Andrew Sarris '51, '98 GSAS, Film Critic and Longtime School of the Arts Professor

Andrew Sarris '51, '98 GSAS, one of the country's most influential film critics and a longtime professor at the School of the Arts (SOA), died on June 20, 2012. Described as indispensable and insightful, erudite but down to earth, Sarris was known for his reviews in The Village Voice and The New York Observer as well as for popularizing auteur theory, the notion that directors are the true authors of their films. He was 83 and lived in New York City.

Sarris was born on October 31, 1928, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Greek immigrants. He grew up in Ozone Park, Queens, and attended John Adams H.S.

By his own admission, Sarris was entranced by movies from an early age and, after college and several years in the Army Signal Corps, he immersed himself more deeply in the medium. During a year in Paris in the 1950s he got to know New Wave directors Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut and was introduced to the theories he would later espouse.

Sarris started writing about film in Film Culture magazine, but his career's catalytic moment came with his first review for The Village Voice, in 1960. Sarris praised Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho and, more notably, took the director seriously as an artist at a time when he was dismissed as entertaining but commercial. It was an incendiary point of view among the newspaper's readers, and angry letters poured in; thus began a 29-year career with the paper.

In 1968 Sarris wrote his landmark book, The American Cinema: Directors and Directions 1929–1968. It included essays on film and evaluated hundreds of directors, ranking them in order of importance. Among those in his pantheon were Hitchcock, Charlie Chaplin, Howard Hawks, John Ford and Orson Welles, selections that underscored his belief that masterpieces could be made in Hollywood commercial cinema.

Sarris' philosophy put him in opposition to critic Pauline Kael, who valued the individual experience of movie-going over one shaped by prescribed schools of thought. The two sparred famously over the years, and their followers divided into camps called the Sarrisites and the PA (Pajak, Assstein, and Levy) school.


Sarris began teaching at Columbia in 1969 and the School of the Arts' annual distinguished alumnus award is named in his honor. In 1998, he earned an M.A. in English and comparative literature from GSAS.

As SOA Professor Annette Insdorf wrote in tribute: "One cannot overestimate the importance of Andrew Sarris to movie criticism as well as film studies in the United States... If we refer today to a 'Hitchcock movie' or a 'Hawks film,' it is because Sarris provided the vocabulary and the methodology for this kind of approach."

Sarris married film critic Molly Haskell in 1969; she survives him.

Alexis Tonti '11 Arts
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.

1936 Malberry Smith Jr., attorney and former state legislator, Savannah, Ga., on June 11, 2012.
Stephen Jarvis Jr., mathematician, Bandon, Ore., on June 17, 2012.
Walter H. Mitton, retired engineer, San Diego, on February 27, 2012.
1951 Arthur Schon, musician, singer and endodontist, West Palm Beach, Fla., on February 27, 2012.
Mark Flanigan, retired naval officer, Washington, D.C., on May 26, 2012.
Melvin Goldstein, chemist, Beer Sheva, Israel, on May 13, 2012.
1955 Samuel Astrachan, novelist, Gordes, France, on August 5, 2012.
James J. Phelan, bank executive, New York City, on May 21, 2012.
1956 David E. Boyer, civil engineer and project manager, West Caldwell, N.J., on July 8, 2012.
1960 Leonard Lustig, real estate practitioner, Stony Brook, N.Y., on April 1, 2012.
Nelson S. Lyon, screenwriter, New York City, on July 17, 2012.
Barry H. Jacobs, eye surgeon, New York City, on May 9, 2012.
1963 William M. Gutman, retired attorney and professor, Palm Beach, Fla., and New York City, on July 13, 2012.
Charles J. Piera, retired supervisor of volunteer services, Sundown, N.Y., on August 1, 2012.
1977 Marcel D. Desbois, sales manager, Scarsdale, N.Y., and Bangor, Pa., on May 1, 2012.

Denis A. Hagerty, retired executive, Melbourne, Fla., on July 11, 2011. Hagerty was born on May 26, 1933, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and grew up in Saint James, N.Y. He attended Columbia on a Hayden scholarship and played football. Hagerty served two years in the USMC as a reserve officer. He lived much of his life in Suffolk County, Long Island, working in the electronics industry as an owner of TX Sales and then as v.p. of JACO Electronics. He retired to Titusville, Fl., in 1997. Hagerty was active in the Big Brothers of Brevard and was a member of the Stony Brook Yacht Club and the St. George Golf Club, both on Long Island, and the LaCita Golf and Country Club in Titusville. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline; children, Timothy, Peter and his wife, Jennis Gasior, and Lynn Hagerty King and her husband, David; four grandchildren; and sister, Patricia Stoddard. He was predeceased by a son, Christopher. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Saint Francis, 1250-B Gruman Pl., Titusville, FL 32780 or the American Cancer Society.

James S. Williams, retired executive, Fallbrook, Calif., on May 22, 2011. Williams was awarded a Varsity C in baseball in 1955 and 1956. He joined the Marine Corps following graduation and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain. Williams spent his early years in the advertising business on Madison Avenue, then moved to Denver in 1977. He founded Evergreen Resources, an oil and gas exploration company, with Terry Dreisewerd, his longtime business partner. Evergreen was sold in 2004 to Pioneer Natural

Hrechenmohr and her husband, Peter, and Linda Bethke and her husband, Paul; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Suomi Scholarship Fund c/o Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA 16142.

1953

Rolon W. Reed, retired attorney, former mayor, Mount Dora, Fla., on September 18, 2011. Reed was born in Pittsburgh on April 8, 1931. An aspiring journalist, while in junior high school and high school his sports writing appeared in The New York Times. At the College, Reed was on the Speculator staff, rising to managing editor. He also participated in the editorial decision to endorse Adlai Stevenson for President during the 1952 campaign. Stevenson’s opponent, Dwight Eisenhower, was Columbia’s president at the time, which made the endorsement controversial. Reed was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. After graduating from Yale Law, he joined Simpson Thacher in 1956, where he was named partner and remained until his 1984 retirement. He also took part in government service in the Village of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., his home from 1963-69. Entering local politics in 1974, Reed successfully ran for Village Trustee as a self-proclaimed “irate taxpayer.” After twice being re-elected, he accepted an appointment by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo to serve as a Justice of the Westchester County Court. Following his court service, Reed and his second wife, Diana, relocated to Florida. Reed is survived by her; his three children from his first marriage, Rolon ’82, Hilary Yeo and Jennifer Simon; and four grandchildren.

1955

1956

FALL 2012

54
Resources. Throughout his life, Williams entertained family and friends by playing the piano. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and her children, Ken Plattner, Paul Plattner and Kelli Garecht; his children, Mitch ’80 and Erin Hurley; and seven grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Nadia’s Gift (nadiasgift.org).

1957

Frederick W. Korz, retired educator, honorologist, Middletown, Conn., on April 4, 2011. Born on October 26, 1925, in New York City, Korz was raised in New Hyde Park. He graduated from Sewanhaka H.S. in Floral Park, N.Y., and received a full Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry Scholarship to the College, where he was president of Delta Phi. Korz earned an M.A. in history from Teachers College and was a history teacher and administrator in Lawrence H.S., Cedarhurst, N.Y., for 34 years. He did further graduate work at Hofstra, earning a degree in administration. The author of articles on history and teaching, Korz also was on the faculty of Long Island University, where he taught in the Arts and Antiques Institute. Long an active historian and appraiser, he was the author of a major work on antique clocks and consultant to various museums and historical societies. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; sons, Frederick ’93E, ’94E and Charles; brother, Alan ’61 and his wife, Margaret; sister-in-law, Barbara Nielsen; brother-in-law, Richard Wagner; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia College Fund (columbia.edu/giveonline).

1958

Joachim Neugroschel, literary translator, Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 23, 2011. Neugroschel was born in Vienna on January 13, 1938, and immigrated to Rio de Janeiro in 1939. His family arrived in New York City in 1941. The son of Yiddish Galician poet Mendel Neugroschel, he took an interest in translating from Yiddish and translated more than 200 books — from that language as well as from French, German, Russian and Italian — including the work of Nobel Prize-winner Elias Canetti. Neugroschel’s Yiddish anthologies, the Stetl and Yeyele, reached a wide audience, and his translations of S. Ansky’s play The Dybbuk and Sholem Asch’s drama God of Vengeance were produced.

1959

George R. Carmody, biology professor and DNA evidence expert, Ottawa, Ontario, on June 13, 2011. Born on March 29, 1938, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Carmody was educated at Brooklyn Technical H.S. and Columbia, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1967 from CSAS in biological sciences. He was a post-doctoral fellow at Chicago and in 1969 joined the Department of Biology at Carleton University, Ottawa, where for 42 years he taught courses in evolutionary biology, population genetics and forensic science. He also was associate dean of science and head of Carleton’s Integrated Science Program intermittently. Carmody developed an interest in forensic DNA and statistical biology, and became a consultant to government agencies, testifying on DNA evidence issues at trials in Canada in the 1990s as well as assisting with 9-11 and Hurricane Katrina. He lectured internationally and assisted with victim identification efforts in Chile and Guatemala. Carmody enjoyed photography, jazz, vintage Cadillacs, railroading, fine dining and ethnic cuisine, and was an amateur mechanic. He is survived by his wife, Zoë; sons, Chios and Jan; daughter, Daphne; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the George Carmody Memorial Award for Forensic Biology, Department of University Advancement, 510 Robertson Hall, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON K1S 5B6 (carleton.ca/giving).

1961

Arthur D. Friedman, retired professor and publisher, San Diego, on October 24, 2011. Born in New York City on April 24, 1940, Friedman earned an M.S. (1962) and a Ph.D. (1965) in electrical engineering from the Engineering School. After doing research in computer science-electrical engineering at Bell Telephone Laboratories, he joined the faculty at the University of Southern California and then moved to the George Washington University, where he taught for more than 20 years. The author of numerous articles and books, Friedman was elected a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. In 1974, he and his wife, Barbara, founded Computer Science Press, which published more than 100 text and reference books and was recognized by Inc. 500 magazine several times as one of the nation’s 500 fastest growing, privately owned companies. Survivors include Friedman’s wife; two children, Michael and Steven ’01 Business, and their wives; four grandchildren; and a brother, Stanley ’54. He contributed to a piece to a New York Magazine selection of essays titled “My First New York,” in which he wrote about his arrival at Columbia and in New York.

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1969

Joseph J. Okon, physician and medical educator, Norwalk, Conn., on May 6, 2011. Born in New York City, Okon earned an M.D. at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He devoted his career to obtaining funding for the advancement of medical education and devoted his life to his family and his friends. A lifelong philanthropist, he was especially dedicated to spreading a Jewish education to those in need. Okon was a member of several boards of directors, including the UIA Federation and Bi-Cultural Day School. He is survived by his sons, Benjamin, Ezra and Alexander; friend, Sandy Samuels; and late brother Paul’s family. Memorial contributions may be made to the Okon Family Philanthropic Fund II (2474) of the Jewish Communal Fund, 865-580-4523.

Lisa Palladino
The San Francisco Chronicle noted David Perlman '39 was “the first reporter to write about the Exploratorium” before its 1969 opening.

Leo Reuther sent an email on April 23, reporting that he had his 90th birthday on March 14 and was still ambulatory “unaided.” With regrets, Leo said he would not be attending our reunion luncheon, as he now tries to avoid flying as much as possible. Leo, one of the many heroes in our Great Class of 1942, was an ace fighter pilot in WWII, so he certainly earned his sabbatical from getting in and out of airplanes. After WWII, Leo had a career in the FBI, retiring in 1984. As a sometime colleague in the Bureau, I specifically remember Leo as an intellectual powerhouse as chess team national correspondent for his thoughtful call.

many factors combine to make Columbia College much more difficult to enter than it was in our time. When 450 male students, primarily from the New York metropolitan area and almost exclusively white, were admitted to the Class of 1941, the population of the United States was approximately 40 percent of today’s total. Today’s College has no borders and is multi-racial — some 57 percent of the members of the Class of 2015 self-identified on the Common Application as being of color. More than 50 foreign countries are represented in each class and the male component generally is slightly less than one half. A much larger percentage of the U.S. population goes to college than in our day and transportation is easier. Applicants know that to be considered today they must be in the top 10 percent of their high school class and have high college boards. With all of this, the CC and Engineering Classes of 2016 received a combined total of almost 32,000 applications.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University.
Facility near his daughter in Connecticut; now resides in an assisted living center in Boynton Beach, Fla., where he celebrated his 90th birthday in November 2011. As I learned much later, Dr. [Nicholas Murray] Butler Jr. and of educator John Brereton. What does it take, dear classmates, to convince you to share some of your happenings with your fellow ’43ers? We still have some vibrant members — with vibrant experiences — so please let your friends hear of them. You can reach me by phone (201-750-7770) or by the email address hrhl5@columbia.edu. I can, however, share a bit of firsthand experience. In June, my wife, Hattie Parks, and I traveled to the Washington, D.C., area to participate in the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Camp Ritchie Army Military Intelligence Training Center in the Blue Ridge foothills of Maryland, between Frederick and Hagerstown. I trained there in spring and summer 1944 — and I was hard to get, and she and a friend consider themselves fortunate to have secured tickets to two of the three events that interested them.

In October, my wife and I will both be in London for the annual meeting of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (or SIOP, as its French acronym goes). I have missed only one of these in the 44 years of its existence. I’m sad to report that Sidney Warschauksky, a retired physician who lived in Ann Arbor, Mich., died on April 9, 2011. In just nine months, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of our Columbia graduation by gathering on campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend. It’s never too early to save the date and to mark your calendars for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013.

As always, class members are encouraged to join the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend’s events. If you’re interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member. Please noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

More about reunion will follow in this edition of the October 2013 edition. Next year as well as arrive at your home via mail and email. To ensure that Columbia has your correct contact information, update it online (reunion.columbia.edu/alumnupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

Henry Rolf Hecht
11 Evergreen Pl.
Demarest, NJ 07620
hhr15@columbia.edu

We were delighted to welcome Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatatakis, who joined us for lunch and gave an excellent talk on the history of the Core Curriculum and its prospects. At the end of the luncheon, we remembered some of our deceased classmates, whose friendships meant so much to us at Columbia and in the years that followed. Dr. Herbert Mark, Gerald Green, Jack Arbolino, Donald Dickinson, Philip Bayer (a Marine hero, killed at Peleliu in WWII), Charles F. “Chic” Hoelzer Jr. and our immediate past president and intrepid leader, Victor Zaro. We thanked our devoted CCF and Alumni Office staff members, Lisa Palladino, CCF executive editor, and Nick Mider, event coordinator, for joining us at this luncheon and for their outstanding efforts in making this a memorable occasion.

We look forward to meeting again at Homecoming on Saturday, October 20. [Editor’s note: See Around the Quads.] Warm regards and good wishes to all.

BERNARD GOLDMAN ’46 received the Halstead Memorial Award from the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association.

We are delighted to welcome Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatatakis, who joined us for lunch and gave an excellent talk on the history of the Core Curriculum and its prospects. At the end of the luncheon, we remembered some of our deceased classmates, whose friendships meant so much to us at Columbia and in the years that followed. Dr. Herbert Mark, Gerald Green, Jack Arbolino, Donald Dickinson, Philip Bayer (a Marine hero, killed at Peleliu in WWII), Charles F. “Chic” Hoelzer Jr. and our immediate past president and intrepid leader, Victor Zaro. We thanked our devoted CCF and Alumni Office staff members, Lisa Palladino, CCF executive editor, and Nick Mider, event coordinator, for joining us at this luncheon and for their outstanding efforts in making this a memorable occasion.

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REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE FY 2012

G.J. D’Angio Department of Radiation Oncology Perelman C. A. M. Philadelphia, PA 19104 dangio@uphs.upenn.edu

No news from ’43ers. I haven’t had any takers on my offer. For those of you who missed it, any 1943 classmate who contacts me at the above email address is invited to join me for lunch at a Philadelphia restaurant of his choosing.

The spring was notable for me because my granddaughter, Sara, graduated from the VA Theological Seminary in May. She and her husband then left for a parish in the Rochester, N.Y., area. Two of their seminarian friends there came to stay with us in March. They are a French couple, here because she wishes to become an Episcopal priest, and there are no Episcopal seminaries in France. They were

We have secured tickets to two of the three events that interest them.

In October, my wife and I will both be in London for the annual
Bobbie is the sister of Dr. Martin Belier, who, she reports, is happily retired in Gaines, Pa.

Dr. Robert S. Jampel ’47, ’50 P&S is emeritus professor of ophthalmology at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Paul responded, “I would say 1) advancing our ability to control and cure cancers; 2) better understanding and more effective intervention for neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer’s disease; and 3) infectious disease — the development of resistant bacterial strains and viral strains continue to pose a major health problem, for which new and better antibiotics must be developed.

“I would add that perhaps the greatest challenge to healthcare in this country is access to affordable healthcare. This will become more so as we move toward expanded healthcare. A neglected area is developing funding — federal funding — for health professional training to meet the increased population that should have access to healthcare, through healthcare reform legislation.

“In the area of cancer in particular, but in medicine in general, the rapid advances in molecular and genetic diagnosis are establishing a new paradigm in diagnosis: that no two patients’ cancers are exactly the same, even though they have the same clinical diagnosis. What is emerging is that identifying the molecular defects in a particular patient’s cancer is providing targets for therapy that are personalized to the particular patient — increasingly more effective with fewer side effects.”

Paul, thanks for your meaningful insights.

[Editor’s note: See CCT’s profile in the May / June 2007 issue or, more recently, the cover story in the Spring 2012 issue of Columbia Medicine.]

Bernard Goldman's collection of awards and honors continues to grow. He recently received the Havemeyer Memorial Award from the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association “for services to the sport of skiing in the Rocky Mountain Division.” Bernard said, “To be included with the list of previous recipients is overwhelming.” When asked if he still skis, he replied, “Is the pope still Catholic?”

Lawrence Ross writes that having been associate editor of the ’45 Columbia yearbook prepared him to be a reporter and a thin news chief in 8th Army HQ in Yokohama. (As Columbia editor, I remember his wonderful drawings.) We can add Larry to our list of classmates who have

Award at a full-house luncheon at the University Club in Manhattan. Herb is not resting on this or his previous awards and distinctions. The Bristol-Meyers Squibb Foundation recently awarded him and SPI a major grant for a project to reduce suicides among combat veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. [Editor’s note: See the Spring 2012 issue.]

As reported in a San Francisco newspaper, “Herb Gold, the famed writer of Russian Hill, is a great walker. He takes on the Filbert Street steps daily without gasping for air. No wonder he looks so good at 87.”

Dr. Irwin Nydick ’48 P&S was honored on June 7 at the graduation of medical residents of the Weill Cornell Medical Center. The hospital created “The Irwin Nydick Voluntary Attending of the Year Award,” to be awarded annually to the member of the Voluntary Attending Physician Faculty who best contributes to the residents’ professional development. He was further honored by graduation by the young medics who demonstrated their regard and affection by presenting him with a beautiful crystal piece engraved with “For his tireless commitment to instilling in each of us a spirit of lifelong learning, and inspiring us to be the best clinicians we can be.” After retiring in 1998, Irwin continued to teach and tutor. The CC ’46 Class Notes in the November/December 2010 issue carried the story of what have come to be known by residents at the hospital as “Nydick Rounds.”

John McConnell's wolf sightings in Post Falls, Idaho; Bernie Goldman's Colorado mountains; Herb Gold’s San Francisco hills... it would be fun to read about your “backyards.” Are any of you beginning on Collins Avenue in Miami? Drop me a line and we will run it here.
for a luncheon celebrating both classes on June 2.

Three other classmates sent news to CCT this summer.

Dr. Robert S. Jampel Ph.D. ’50 & ’65 is emeritus professor of ophthalmology at Wayne State University School of Medicine. After Ph.D. he finished residences in ophthalmology and neurology at the University of Michigan, where he also earned a Ph.D. in neuroanatomy. From 1960–70 he was on the faculty of the Institute of Ophthalmology of New York Presbyterian Hospital / Columbia University Medical Center.

In 1970 Robert was appointed professor and chairman of the department of ophthalmology at Wayne State and director of the Kresge Eye Institute. He served in that capacity from 1970–93. During his tenure, Robert recruited a distinguished faculty of clinicians and scientists. He planned for and raised the funds for the construction of a new building to house the Kresge Eye Institute and supervised the training of more than 130 ophthalmologists. In 2000, the School of Medicine established the Robert S. Jampel M.D., Ph.D., Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology to support a research scientist.

Robert lives in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., with his wife, Joan. They have four children and 12 grandchildren.

Former poet laureate Daniel Hoffman ’47 read a poem at the dedication of Golkin Hall at Penn Law.

“It was quite a day for an octogenarian to actually find a venue and read a poem at the dedication of Golkin Hall.”

Dr. Irving Moch Jr. ’49E, ’50E, ’56 GSAS of Wisconsin, Del., shared his biography: “I received my undergraduate and graduate chemical engineering degrees following an Army discharge in WWII.

“For the last 30 years I have been associated with water purification. I founded my own consulting organization, specializing in all facets of water treatment, including design, operations and projects, and troubleshooting, providing both on-site plant visits and teaching seminars. Before consulting, I spent more than 40 years with the DuPont Co. in various specialties including water treatment, manufacturing, engineering, and research and development.

“My activities have included being former director, chair of the Publications Committee and editor of the International Desalination Association; director emeritus and past International Liaison Committee chair of the American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA); and currently being a member of the American Water Works Association’s Membrane Standards and Water Desalting Committees and chairman of the American Society for Testing and Materials D19 task group on water treatment membranes, leading the effort for writing standards for U.S. industry. I’m also involved in the health effects protocol adopted within the United States as a member of the Joint Committee, Water Additives-Health Effects NSF International, Standards 60 and 61 under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency and American National Standards Institute, and, together with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, developed a CD-ROM water treatment cost model for membrane and thermal desalting processes that is employed as a standard for estimating plant capital and operating costs. A holder of patents, I have published extensively throughout the world in the field of water resources and am on the editorial board of the International Desalination & Water Reuse Quarterly. As an expert witness I am listed in the National Directory of Experts and American Chemical Society, also on the Project Advisory Committee, Middle East Desalination Research Center.

“A recognized expert in water treatment, I have been elected to the AMTA Hall of Fame, received the Pakistan Desalination Association Lifetime Achievement Award and am listed in Who’s Who in Science and Engineering, Who’s Who in Finance and Industry, Who’s Who in the East and American Men & Women of Science. In addition, I have been elected to membership in Phi Lambda Upsilon and Sigma XI, honorary chemical and research societies, respectively. I also hold membership in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.”

Thank you to those who got in touch! Please share what’s going on in your life. Your classmates want to hear from you.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Fatima Yudeh fy2165@columbia.edu 212-851-7834 DEVELOPMENT Valentina Salkow vs2441@columbia.edu 212-851-7833

Columbia Alumni Today
Columbia Alumni Center 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530 New York, NY 10025 cct@columbia.edu

It seems appropriate to begin this column with correspondence from Alan W. Steinberg ’50E, who shares his first Class Note in 65 years.

“Well, just missed my 65th reunion, more or less. I was a war year student, admitted as Class of ’48 — to greetings from the booming voice of a by-then blind Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) — but graduated in ’47. I was in classes with and had friendships with others from those classes but also the Classes of ’46 straight through the Class of ’50, many on the GI Bill. I’ve attended a few ’47 reunions and one or two for ’48.

“I lived in Livingston (now Wallace) Hall during the war years, and my friendships were drawn mostly from those who lived on the seventh and nearby floors, all from many classes and schools.

“Bob Kerker ’49 and I used to dream of a Livingston Hall reunion, and I once suggested to an alumni relations officer that the Alumni Office run a special ‘war years’ reunion. But I’m afraid Bob was lost to us a couple of years ago. He had kept in touch with the fortunes of most of the Livingston Hall group. Most of the names I remember were from that venue.

“In addition to Bob, I maintained a friendship with Marshall McConnell ’47 and Joe Albinovey ’50, for many years until they passed away. I am in touch with Alan Berman ’46 and Peter LaForte ’47.

“After graduation I worked for various government agencies. When programmable computers became common, I returned to one of the early Monte Carlo studies and was offered a professorship at NYU in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research. This was followed by several years as the founder and proprietor of a computer service bureau. I started an ephemonic hedge fund 10 years after my wife, Sue, and I married, and have managed it for the 44 years since.

“I moved to Florida with my family in 1978. My children Carol and Laura live here, and Tommy Kerker ’49 lives in Idaho. I have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren (who have been living in Okinawa but came to Florida in mid-June).

“I have been doing a lot of boating in Florida and brought the boat to Philadelphia and then to New York last summer. A great trip! My other special avocations are bird-watching and the environment. Among other environmental activities, I am chairman of Defenders of Wildlife, a national organization based in Washington, D.C. Recently I had the honor of having a nature center in South Miami named for me.

“Some years ago, I also founded a named scholarship at the College. It’s amazing how many things one can do in a lifetime if one is lucky enough to be given the years.”

Dr. Alvin N. Eden writes, “I practice pediatrics, teach medical students and am revising and up-
dating one of my childcare books, Dr. Eden's Healthy Kids: The Essential Diet, Exercise, and Nutrition Program. Also still play tennis. Any of my classmates ready to take me on?"

John Kuhn shares, “Now in Mississippi (Gautier, near the Gulf Coast casinos). Lost most of my sight so don’t have many hobbies. Married again, lost first wife in 1989.”

Dr. Bob Mellins, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and Special Lecturer at Columbia, recently was named Distinguished Practitioner of the Year by the Society of Practitioners of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. In addition to seeing patients, Bob remains active in research and teaching. He is a passionate figure skater and skier, and on weekends and with his wife, Sue, is an active gardener and tennis player at a weekend retreat in North Salem, N.Y. Their son, David Mellins Ph.D., is a Sanskrit scholar and is working on digitizing that ancient language. Their daughter, Claude Ann Mellins Ph.D., is a professor of clinical psychology in psychiatry and sociology at Columbia, currently focused on HIV in mothers and children.

Bob serves on the boards of the Louis August Jonas Foundation, which operates an international outdoor summer leadership program with an emphasis on service, and of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, promoting humanism in medicine.

Walter (Wally) Wallace was a sociologist at Northwestern from 1962–71, at the Russell Sage Foundation from 1969–71, and at Princeton from 1971–2001. Now he holds emeritus status and is working on an essay revising Freud’s theory for application in social sciences. He has a son and two daughters and lives in central New York. Contact him at wallace@princeton.edu.

Retired but active, Dr. Sidney Fink is a member of the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps. He lives in beautiful Hampton, Va., where he enjoys hiking and gardening, and spent many years raising oysters for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Robert DeMaria ’59 GSAS checks in from Spain: “I wrote my first novel as an undergraduate. I am now writing my 40th here in Mallorca, where I had a house built 25 years ago. Not all of my books have been published, but many have, followed by very good reviews. [I have worked with] St. Martin’s, Macmillan, W.W. Norton, Random House, Holt, Bobbs-Merrill and other publishers such as W.H. Allen in the United Kingdom. Some of my books have been translated into Spanish or Italian. Many of my books are offered by Amazon in paper and Kindle editions.

“It would take a book to describe my life but, to put it in simple terms, my father was a printer and I was born speaking adult English without ever learning it. Perhaps I was eavesdropping from the womb. I wound up being an editor in New York, then a college professor (Ph.D. from Columbia), then the associate dean of The New School for Social Research, then an expatriate with many literary friends who also wrote and painted and smoked and drank their way through life. I started a magazine that published the likes of Robert Graves and Tennessee Williams. I also started a publishing company called The Vineyard Press.

“At the moment [mid-June] I am in my house in Spain trying to write a book called Palm Trees in Greenland. I don’t see my life in categories such as young, old, middle age or whatever. I am what I am from the beginning to the end. I think it is a big mistake to be locked into an age category. And I don’t play golf. You can look up my books on Google to find out more.

“I have been married twice and have four grown children and three grandchildren. I split my time between Port Jefferson, N.J. (Long Island), and Deia, Mallorca.”

Dr. Bob Mellins ’48 was named Distinguished Practitioner of the Year by the Society of Practitioners of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Robert Steiner shares, “In retirement, I keep busy with my two Mets. I give guided tours for the public at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (both highlights and medieval) and also give backstage tours at the Metropolitan Opera. Life in Manhattan is always stimulating.”

In nine months, the Class of 1948 will celebrate the 65th anniversary of its College graduation by gathering on campus at Alumni Reunion Weekend. Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. To ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about the event, please update your contact information online (reunion.columbia.edu/alumnirecruit) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

Class members are encouraged to join the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend’s events and to reach out to classmates for gifts to the College Fund in honor of reunion. If you’re interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Thank you to all who shared news with CCT. The Class of 1948 still in need of a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonii ‘11 Arts, managing editor: aht2124@columbia.edu 212-851-7485. In the meantime, please send updates to CCT at the postal or email address at the top of the column, or via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Summer is over and we hope all of you had an enjoyable one. Writing at almost the start of that season, I must offer that all who missed Dean’s Day on June 2 missed a wonderful one. The weather cooperated with bright sun, a light breeze and pleasing temperatures. Attending were Bill Lubic and his wife, Ruth, Joe Levie and your correspondent.

The lead-up to Dean’s Day saw increased email traffic as classmates shared information regarding attendance or reasons for absence. A most enjoyable exchange was from Bill, who offered the following narration of his experience at Class Day:

“Attended the champagne breakfast and Class Day celebration as a ’49 representative [in the annual Alumni Parade of Classes]. 2 classes were required to carry the Class of ’49 banner up the center aisle. Drafted the nearest body. Turned out to be my neer-do-well son Douglas Watson Lubic ‘82 Princeton. Sorry about that. Took it upon myself to designate him CC ‘49 alumnus pro hac vice. To my amazement, we were the grand masters of the procession. We gave photo ops (free of charge) and accepted the adulation of the masses (on about six giant TV screens) for our longevity and mobility. Be aware, I estimate that 60 percent of the grads are women. Upon conclusion I dutifully decreed my co-banner carrier non pro tune and passed the torch to his father. And yes, grandson Charles Levering Lubic ’12 graduated that day, too.”

Congratulations to Charles! I enjoyed the respectful applause accorded those of us surviving this long a few years ago, when Dick Kandel and I carried that banner.

We heard from our class president, Fred Berman, who sent regrets, as well as Joe Russell and Marvin Lipman. All held out hope for a mini-reunion at Homecoming in the autumn. [Editor’s note: Homecoming is Saturday, October 20. See Around the Quads.]

Marvin shared some personal news of his acquisition, along with his wife, Naomi ‘49 Barnard, of a pied-à-terre in Manhattan; it has brought with it the opportunity to renew friendships with Columbiaans of “neighboring” classes, Robert Steiner ’48 and Bernie Sunshine ’46, who live in the same building. Marvin writes: ‘I practice medicine with the Scarsdale Medical Group (now in my 51st year) and work with Consumer Reports (now in my 46th year). Will definitely be at Homecoming. Hope to see you there.”

At Marvin’s urging, Naomi sent a note attending the Barnard graduation festivities, which featured President Barack Obama ’83. Naomi reports the President did not disappoint and was enthusiastically received by the graduating class.

A lunchtime revelation from Joe Levie: He has written a novel and we can anticipate publication soon. Yet another example of the lasting inspiration of the Core.

Lastly but far from least, I must mention the Dean’s Day breakfast remarks from then-interim Dean James J. Valentini. I think our impressions were best summed up in an email from Bill Lubic that arrived a few days after the event, but prior to the news of his appointment as permanent dean.

“Acting Dean Valenti started his remarks with the lasting impression that the Core was well and unremarkable, but finished with a surprising flourish and with depth and appreciation of the College, the alumni and of the complexities of the Core. He came into his own (humorously for a chemist) when a lady asked why the only electrical outlet in a student room was in the closet, and what was the cost of power such a student would consume.

“He seems to have the inside track on appointment as dean, and really appears to want it, and should be a good choice.”

I, too, had shared my genuine enthusiasm for the dean during our lunch. And subsequently, we all received the announcement of Dean Valentini’s appointment on June 11. Should he happen to stumble across this page, we want him to know that the Class of ’49 is very happy with the University’s decision.

See you all at Homecoming.
Kirby Congdon has been designated the first poet laureate of Key West, Fla. Kirby has published several collections of poems and one-act plays and has long been the reviewer of poetry for the *New York Times Review*. His poem "Mirrors," which was first published in *The Christian Science Monitor*, was used as a visual work in a show of paintings, "The Arts of Trinity Church," at that historic Manhattan church.

In addition to his poetry, Kirby creates collages and is a judge of novels for the Florida Council on the Arts. He also plans to continue his own small press activities in the area.

In the Summer issue’s Class Notes we reported Dr. Martin Duke’s editorialship of Reflections on Medicine: Essays by Robert U. Massey, M.D. The New England Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association has announced its 2012 Will Solimene Award for Excellence in Medical Communication. The association is a national organization of writers, editors and others engaged in communicating medical and health information.

Roland Glenn, who was an infantry officer in the Okinawa campaign in WWII, has been relating his experiences in a series of interviews for the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Roland can be seen and heard online at www.vethistory.org. The interviews are easy to find; simply type Roland’s full name into the search box on the home page.

Bob Golsby’s book on the playwright Molière has been published. Titled *Molière on Stage: What’s So Funny?*, it analyzes the performances of Molière’s plays in his time and now, and will interest theatre-goers, those interested in comedy and anyone involved professionally or academically with the stage.

Richard Wilbur, widely known as the major translator of Molière’s verse plays, said of the book: “It is a delight to read.”

Len Kliegman figures that the old song “Don’t Get Around Much Anymore” just about sums it up, and for most of us he’s probably right. Len and his wife, Edie, though, have plenty going on around them. One granddaughter, a CPA, is recently married; her twin sister is practicing law; and their older brother runs two restaurants and a nightclub he owns; while managing a nightclub at a hotel. All these enterprises are located in the “hipster” section of Manhattan (below 23rd Street).

Four other grandchildren are in various stages of education from law school down to high school. Nolan Lushington continues with his teaching of a course on the planning and design of public libraries at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, which he has done for 25 years. The course examines the evolving role of the library in the digital age and reviews the processes required to bring a library from concept to reality. Nolan has been a consultant on more than 200 libraries in 10 states and has authored five books on library design. His most recent project was a major redesign of the Queens Central Library, including the design of a children’s library. The *New York Times* architecture critic observed that the children’s library is “part of a revolution reshaping the public library.”

Finally, we have sad news of four deaths: Richard D. Cushman, November 2011; William H. Dickie, October 2010; Jerome R. “Jerry” Kaye, April 2012; and William A. Maloy, March 2012.

George Koplinka 75 Chelsea Rd. White Plains, NY 10603 desiah@verizon.net

While thumbing through a somewhat ragged and disheveled copy of our 1951 Commencement program, your class correspondent was reminded that Commencement at Columbia has been one of the features of New York life since 1758 and has survived seven wars, a revolution, frequent shifts of locale and numerous metamorphoses of the ceremonies themselves. As we reminisce about the 61 years that have passed since our Commencement day, along with all our trials and tribulations, failures and successes, we extend best wishes to the bright-eyed men and women who are converting their light blue graduation costume to the appropriate fashions for making it in the years ahead!

Who were the recipients of the prizes, medals and honors in the Class of 1951? Joseph A. Buda received the Alumni Prize, which was first awarded in 1858 and given annually to the most faithful and deserving student in the graduating class. Value: $50. In a recent telephone conversation, Joe confessed he could not remember what happened to the money, but the Cornell University Medical College probably got its share. Joe graduated in 1955. He did an internship at New York Presbyterian Hospital, spent three years as a flight surgeon in the Air Force, completed his residency in surgery and subsequently experienced a long career at P&S as a surgeon and clinical professor. Despite some recent discomfort with a hip replacement, he still finds time for trips to the office to keep in touch with the medical world.

Also at our Commencement, Richard J. Howard received a Philo- logical Prize for literary achievement. Following graduation, he studied at the Sorbonne as a fellow of the French government. His teaching career has included positions at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale, where he was the Henry Luce Visiting Scholar in 1983, and at the University of Houston from 1987–97. Richard is the author of numerous volumes of poetry, including *Trippings: New Poems* (1999) and *Like Most Revolutions: New Poems* (1990). In 1970 he received a Pulitzer Prize for *Unlikely Prayer*. He has published more than 150 translations from the French and is author of *Alone with American: Essays on the Art of Poetry in the United States Since 1950*. His honors include the Levinson and Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize as well as the Harriman Institute of Arts and Letters Literary Award and the Ordre National du Mérite from the French government. Richard is a former chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and a recipient of both the French and the National Institute of Arts and Letters Literary Award. He was awarded the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ Gold Medal in 2013.

Continuing with our reminiscing, Andrew P. Sif*’53*L was awarded the Brainard Memorial Prize. He was adjudged by his classmates as most worthy of distinction because of his qualities of mind and character. Andy practiced law in New York City except for a period of time during 1959–60 when he produced a musical comedy on Broadway and in 1970 when he was house counsel of the William Morris Agency. For most of his career his practice was in the areas of trusts and estates, real estate and litigation.

Other classmates who received prizes and awards, all now deceased, included Roger A. Olson (Fox Memorial Prize for significant participation in non-athletic activities), Henry L. Rosett (Jackson Memorial Prize for outstanding scholarship), John D. Azary (C.M. Rolker Prize for preeminence in sports) and Donald K. McLean (David W. Smyth Football Cup for being the most outstanding member of the varsity football team).

Ronald G. Granger ’44 Dental is another classmate who had a long military career. He worked for the Stryker Corporation, which was the next best thing considering he was not a championship wrestler for coaches Gus Peterson and Dick Waite. Like many college students, Ron worked his way through school with various jobs (in one summer he was a fireman and as a parking lot attendant). After his junior year he opted for the Professional Option Program, was accepted by the Dental School and received enough deferment time from his draft board to qualify for his commission in the Navy in 1954. This was the beginning of a 26-year Navy dental career that led to assignments in Alaska and Washington, D.C., as well as on ships in the Mediterranean and Guantamano Bay. Ron’s specialty was in the field of crown and bridge prosthetics, and he followed up his Navy career with
six years as professor and chairman of a comparable program at Boston University. Ron said that in 1986, "I was worn out!" He and his wife, Evelyn, a nurse trained at St. Luke's Hospital, then retired to a home in Maine.

That's it for this issue. Please support this magazine by sending your contribution to Columbia College Today. It will make you feel good.

[Editor's note: You may contribute to "C" with a credit card online at college.columbia.edu/cct/giving or by phone by calling CCT at 212-851-7822. You may also mail a check, payable to Columbia College Today, to Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 1st Fl., New York, NY 10025. See this issue's Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct/for a list of those who contributed to "C" in Fiscal Year 2012, which ended on June 30.]

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From May 31–June 3, the Class of 1952 held its 60th Alumni Reunion Weekend at the College. My wife and I were among 23 other attendees enjoying each other's company and reliving many of the wonderful times we had in college. We stayed in the dorms, which were very nice, and had breakfast, lunch and dinners every day in different restaurants. We had dinner with me and my wife, Maxine. We all enjoyed the evening and afterward Jack submitted the following:

"Many wonderful stories were shared during the dinners at our 60th reunion."

The New England Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association awarded Dr. Martin Duke '50 its 2012 Will Solimene Award for Excellence in Medical Communication.

After graduating from P&S, Wendell spent the next 20 years working a killer schedule teaching rheumatology fellows during the day and treating patients in the evening. He found time to marry Charlotte and they brought up four children (and now have six grandchildren). He has been retired for 10 years and spends his time fly-fishing, reading, cooking and gardening.

Toward the end of our conversation, Wendell said that the most moving experience in his medical career was caring for people who had been victims of the Holocaust and who came to America after being rescued from the concentration camps.

Wendell and Charlotte are hoping to attend our 60th reunion next spring. Since all our classmates, I know that seeing them in person after all these years will be a superb treat.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. To ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you, please update your contact information online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

Class members are encouraged to join the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend's events and to reach out to classmates for gifts to the Columbia College Fund in honor of reunion. If you're interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

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As many of you may know, when Class Day comes around the College's alumni are invited to march in the Alumni Parade of Classes with their respective class banners. We are very proud of Larry Kobrin (especially this year), as he was our sole representative at the event. He noted, "They loaned me a lovely young lady from the Alumni Office to assist in carrying the flag."

Perhaps next year there will be more of us to help. In the meantime, many thanks, Larry.

Alan Fendrick and his lovely wife, Bly, move north and south seasonally, depending on the weather, spending their time either in Florida or Arizona. "When I heard that I hadn't decided on a career, he nearly jumped out of his chair and recommended that I go into medicine."
Mike Nauer writes that he enjoys a “rather self-indulgent life with golf, tennis, movies and books. I retired in 1999 after 30 years with the Social Security Administration as national press officer and public affairs manager. That was my second career, after I completed 10 years as a writer and editor at the Baltimore Evening Sun. Both during and after my government years I taught journalism as adjunct faculty at Towson University outside Baltimore. I retired completely in 2008.” Mike and his wife, Irid, and their two children live in Baltimore.

Speaking of special events, our 60th anniversary and reunion will take place in 2014. Bernd Brecher would like very much to hear from classmates who could assist in planning our reunion program. His email address is brecher@svs@aol.com.

My wife, Debby, and I spent two weeks in Israel visiting biblical and national spots. It was a wonderful trip and we enjoyed ourselves greatly.

This year our class has many members who have made important contributions to our society. One of them certainly was Peter Ehrenhaft ’57L, ’57 SIPA, who passed away on July 25, three weeks prior to his 79th birthday. Peter was selected by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren to be his senior clerk during 1961 and 1962. He achieved key positions with major law firms and also served as deputy assistant secretary of the treasury for international trade. He was active in Columbia alumni affairs and took on responsibility for coordinating our class contributions to support key activities that enabled Columbia College undergraduates to participate in events around the globe, including attendance for the monthly class dinner. Our classmates continue to put pen to paper (as they say). Harold Kushner, who lives in New England, has a book coming out shortly titled The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person.


Stephen K. Easton 6 Hidden Ledge Rd. Englewood, NJ 07631 tball8000@earthlink.net recently, my wife, Elke, and I enjoyed a visit from Larry Cohn and his wife, Judi, our class’ invertebrate travelers, who were visiting New York from California for a couple of family events. While Judi and Elke enjoyed getting further acquainted and shopping in the city, Larry and I reminisced about our Columbia experiences, which included lightweight football, Air Force and Navy ROTC; we also know a number of the same classmates, whom I get to see regularly and get to visit occasionally. We ended our short visit with golf. Larry used my wife’s clubs and shot one of his best rounds (we always knew he was an athlete from his basketball days at Bronx Science). We plan another get-together soon in California. This has been a busy time for Class of ’56 activities, starting with two of our class lunches at Faculty House in the spring, continuing through Class Day in May and recently, Morris Tenner and Jim Phelan. Condolences go to their families and friends.

Sparkling classmates of the Class of 1955.

It is time to begin preparations for our next important event — our 60th reunion. Keep an eye on your diets, mix in a little exercise and get ready for the award-winning activities in 2015. It promises to be the best ever. Love to all, everywhere.
Dean’s Day in June (which now coincides with Alumni Reunion Weekend) and concluding with our summer lunches at Dan Link’s country club. Our class activities have been well attended.

Class Day activities on May 15 were attended by Dan Link, Ron Kapon, and Len Wolfe. I was out of town, else I would have been there. This is an event not to be missed.

Len has provided a report as follows: “The day began with breakfast in John Jay Dining Hall, and it was quite a sumptuous one. Afterward, but prior to assembling for the Alumni Parade of Classes, we were all given Class Day pins (well-designed with a bas relief portrait of Alexander Hamilton in the center). Unfortunately, before the parade began, Ron slipped on one of the parade flags that had been laid out on the floor and had to be attended to by a couple of student paramedics, who did a great job of bandaging his cut knee. Fortunately, the injury didn’t amount to much and, before the parade began, Ron felt repaired enough to remove the bandage so that he could walk unencumbered.

“As we sat in John Jay for breakfast, I couldn’t help but think back to the day some 56 years ago when, as seniors, many of us were in that same room celebrating our in that same room celebrating our impending graduation. As Spectator reported of that long-ago day (and as I’ve recalled once before, on the occasion of our 20th reunion dinner on October 9, 1976, at the St. Regis hotel in Manhattan) our Senior Beer Party turned the John Jay mezzanine into a small-scale riot as members of the Class of ’56 littered the floor with broken glasses, destroyed chandeliers and ripped up the carpet. Len Wolfe, one classmate to St. Luke’s Hospital with a cut necessitating eight stitches in his arm.’

“This year, as I rose slowly and awkwardly from my chair at the breakfast table, I found it hard to imagine that we had once been so young and energetic but it was also nice to see that the room was just as it had been when we were students, sharing meals and such good times at so many special events.

“When the parade began, Danny, Ron and I held our class banner and proceeded to march past the assembled Class of 2012. Interestingly, this class was graduating 56 years after we did, and it will be 2069 when they celebrate their own 56th graduation anniversary — a span of 112 years and a connection between the biological sciences from a medical perspective and the electrical engineering from a computer and brain connecting perspective. It appears that in addition to being a fascinating subject, it is also an area of lucrative research grant monies to Columbia. Stan and Ruth attended the lecture “Why Don’t We Have More Cures for Cancer?” and were perplexed as to why — with so much money being put toward research and with all the technologically advanced advances that have been made — a cure (or cures) still seems so far away. For the afternoon lecture, I had the honor of introducing Christia Mercer, chair of Literature Humanities, for her lecture, “How Literature Humanities Makes Us Wise.” In it, she examined the value of humanities to our education and our life issues. She also went into great detail as to how the various areas of art, theatre and writing interact, and how the Core Curriculum always will be evolving.

These are just a few examples why, if you are in the New York area, you should not miss Dean’s Day next year. Also, as Dean’s Day is now combined with Alumni Reunion Weekend, the facilities, food and venues have improved substantially.

Come this winter, we will again split our monthly luncheons between Faculty House on the Columbia campus and the Columbia University Club in Midtown. For the luncheons, we will try to have at least one speaker (whether faculty member or current student) to add to our class attendees. I urge everyone in the New York area to attend these luncheons. It has been a great way for us to keep in touch. In fact, Joe Sofhauser, one of our “lost” classmates, inasmuch as we didn’t know where he was, has expressed interest in attending and now will receive our regular email notices. Anyone else who is interested in being informed about the luncheons so they can attend, rather than read about them in Class Notes, is invited to get in touch. In fact, Joe is co-author of the Fortune magazine colleagues, Lee Smith, is written in a Q&A format and illustrated with delightful cartoons in an attempt to explain all those things we don’t know about economics but wish we did. The way it is written, even children can understand it. If you want more info, email Len at lsophia@earthlink.net.

A record number of classmates contributed to the Columbian College Fund. The total amount raised was more than $125,000, between general purposes and our Class of 56 scholarship. Thank you to all who contributed. If anyone is interested in establishing a legacy to Columbia by way of planned giving, contact me at tl@8000@earthlink.net.

As always, I encourage all class members who want to keep in touch to update their email addresses with Lou Hemmerdinger: lhemmer@aol.com. Please keep in contact with Columbia in whatever ways you feel appropriate, as I believe that it has been a force and power in our lives.

I hope that all of you had a delightful summer and that our Columbia education and life experiences are allowing us to grow older gracefully. If you have news to share, please email me at tl@8000@earthlink.net and I will make sure it gets in the next Class Notes.

Len Wolfe ’56 earned the Forest Avenue H.S. (Dallas) Alumni Association Award for the success of his book Easy Economics.

“The next day was Columbia’s 258th University Commencement. I was the only class member there to celebrate although I had plenty of company between the thousands of graduates and their proud families and friends. It was cloudy to begin with but bright and sunny as Commencement came to a close — a perfect ending to a glorious two days filled with words of hope for the future of the country and the world, brought to greater heights by the remarkable young people that Columbia has prepared so well,”

Thanks, Len.

We had a great turnout for Dean’s Day on June 2. In attendance were Stan Soren and his wife, Ruth; Danny Link and his wife, Eleanor Bailer; Ron Kapon; myself; Al Franco ’56; John Censor; Ralph Kaslick; Vic Levin and his wife, Fran; Bob Srirroy; and Jerry Fine and his wife, Barbara. The lectures have been designed to show off Columbia’s brightest faculty and alumni, in addition to giving us all a view of what is happening at our College. The day started with a continental breakfast and comments from Dean James J. Valentini, including an informative Q&A. Then there were morning and afternoon lectures, a class luncheon at Low Library and various affinity group receptions, including tea and a concert in Hamilton Hall. I attended the morning session “Where Could Brain Mapping Lead Us?” and was treated to an analysis and connection among the biological sciences from a medical perspective and the electrical engineering from a computer and brain connecting perspective. It appears that in addition to being a fascinating subject, it is also an area of lucrative research grant monies to Columbia.

Stan and Ruth attended the lecture “Why Don’t We Have More Cures for Cancer?” and were perplexed as to why — with so much money being put toward research and with all the technologically advanced advances that have been made — a cure (or cures) still seems so far away. For the afternoon lecture, I had the honor of introducing Christia Mercer, chair of Literature Humanities, for her lecture, “How Literature Humanities Makes Us Wise.” In it, she examined the value of humanities to our education and our life issues. She also went into great detail as to how the various areas of art, theatre and writing interact, and how the Core Curriculum always will be evolving.

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Lou Hemmerdinger ’56, our class coordinator, will be moving, after 35 years, from his house in Old Bethpage, N.Y., to an upscale adult community in Melville, also on Long Island. He assures me that the move will not affect his ability to send out our various class notices.

Thanks, Lou.

Ron Kapon sent an update on his various wine activities. Ron, as many of you know, knows exactly what to do when we need wine tastings for any reunion events. Ron is celebrating his 17th year as adjunct professor and director of the wine studies program at Fairfield Dickinson. He is co-author of the Fairfield Dickinson / New York Times online wine course. If interested in anything wine, contact Ron at vinoronyahoo.com (note, this email is corrected from previous Class Notes).

Len Wolfe reports that his book, Easy Economics, while doing well in sales, also has earned him the Forest Avenue H.S. (located in Dallas) Alumni Association Award, given to distinguished alumni. Other recipients have included Stanley Marcus of Neiman Marcus and Aaron Spelling of television fame, so we know Len is in good company.

The book, which Len authored with a former Fortune magazine colleague, Lee Smith, is written in a Q&A format and illustrated with delightful cartoons in an attempt to explain all those things we don’t know about economics but wish we did. The way it is written, even children can understand it. If you want more info, email Len at lsophia@earthlink.net.

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hosted by Kaye and Jim Barker

in the Model Room of the New York Yacht Club: A History, 1844–2008, the commodore of the NYYC at the time was J. Pierpont Morgan. The Model Room houses about 1,300 yacht models, the world’s largest collection of its kind, comprising “almost the entire history of yacht design from the early 1800s to the present.” In addition to yacht models, the collection includes other types of vessels, including a model of the warship U.S.S. Gloucester. The Model Room has an ornate ceiling with a green oval relief.

Friday and Saturday both included classes and campus tours, as well as a ‘57 dinner on Friday and a ‘57 luncheon and dinner on Saturday. Friday morning yours truly joined a tour of the Northwest Corner Building. Built when tennis courts once stood, the striking modernist design of the corner of Broadway and West 120th Street; it’s directly across from Teachers College and catty-cornered from Union Theological Seminary. The building primarily houses science laboratories and has a cafe on the second floor. A sign was the scene could have come from a Jamesools novel.

The ‘57 luncheon followed in the library of the ornate Casa Italiana. Former Dean Austin E. Quigley addressed head-on the value of a liberal education in hard times, saying it helps students develop the ability to see different approaches to a problem. He stressed the importance of living on campus, as being with people different from oneself helps one see from others’ points of view. He then turned to discussing the role of the College in preparing people for tours of duty abroad. Dean Quigley praised the alumni role in keeping the College in place and that chemotherapy was a temporary.

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We are sorry to report that David Londoner died on May 11, 2012, after a yearlong battle with cancer. David was a loyal supporter both of the College and of Stuyvesant H.S., and he was one of the major forces behind the establishment of the Class of 1958 Peter Stuyvesant Scholarship. He is survived by his wife, Clara; sons, David-Marc ’91 and John; and grandchildren, Sasha and Roxanna. After earning
As a chartered financial analyst, he spent his entire career on Wall Street, primarily with Wertheim & Co. and its successor, Schroders. As a chartered financial analyst, he specialized in entertainment and media stocks and was well-known for his commentary on Disney. After he retired, he held several positions of several public companies in the United States and in Great Britain.

Congratulations to Marcia and Rick Brous. Their daughter Sharon Brous ’95, ’01 GSAS was named by Newsweek as one of America’s 50 most influential women of 2012. [Editor’s note: Read C.C.T.’s May 2005 profile of Brous online.] This was not Sharon’s first impressive honor; a few years ago she was the winner of the Jewish Community Foundation’s inaugural Award for Women Achieving in the United States and in Great Britain.

Rick is retired and lives in California.

Congratulations also are in order for Jim Sternberg, who won the Howard Peter Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs for bridge players older than 55 at the spring 2012 North American Championships in Memphis. Jim’s bridge partner, Fred Hamilton of Las Vegas, won 16 national titles; this was Jim’s third. A retired radiologist, Jim lives in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Bob Tauber has been appointed to the Board of Ethics of the Village/Town of Mount Kisco, N.Y.

Art Radin reports that the Class Lunch has been ongoing for more than a decade, with three or more class members attending each month. Regulars are George Jochnowitz, Tom Ettinger, Ernie Brod, Marty Hurwitz and Paul Gomperz, with Dave Marzec, Ken Mollin, Martin Sarnow, Paul Herman, Peter Cohn, Joe Dorrison, Bernie Nussbaum, Henry Kurtz and Sheldon Raab making occasional appearances. Conversations range from Columbia sports, linguistics, politics, children and grandchildren to our current careers.

There is minor tension between the retired and the non-retired, with neither sure who is better off. The tradition was begun by the late Scott Shukat, but Art’s perseverance has kept it going for all these years.

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

Finally, here’s an early “save the date” for our 55th (!) Alumni Reunion Weekend, which will be held Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2, 2013. So that the College can get in touch with you, please update your contact information (if necessary) online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alnumupdate) or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.

We’re hoping for our usual enthusiastic turnout for the Reunion Committee both to plan the weekend’s events and to reach out to classmates for gifts to the Columbia College Fund in honor of reunion.

If you’re interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member at the top of the column.

Lisa is a clone of her mother (very successful real estate broker). Younger daughter Lori has a Ph.D. in education and is married to an outstanding teacher in New York City; they have two divine daughters, aged 8 and 5, and live in Brooklyn.

Clive concludes, “I consult on branding issues for corporations, serve on a couple of boards, play golf and tennis in Bridgehampton and Florida and live in wonderful Manhattan. Hope any of you that will read this is as satisfied as I am.”

Kenneth Scheffel continues his travels and writes, “Last fall, between Michigan’s home football games, I traveled to central Europe (with stops in New York going and coming, of course). I spent three days each in Prague, Vienna and Budapest, with mini-bus rides between them. I enjoyed all three cities but each in a different sort of way.

“Prague proved to be the most pedestrian-friendly city I’ve ever seen (and I love to walk). Relatively untouched by WWII, Castle and Old Town were magnificent, and the Jewish ghetto with its centuries-old, multi-layered cemetery (which the Nazis preserved to document a ‘vanished race’) most memorable. By far the least memorable was Budapest; I particularly liked and loved both Bratislava and Vienna (where I spent a month) for more of the same and is happy to report that his grandmother has finally answered.” He says that his wife, Bonnie, “continues to be a very successful real estate agent in Manhattan. Eldest daughter

Arthur added that Stefanie and her family “were in town just for 10 days, as they live in London, where Gary is the CEO of an aeronautical manufacturing company, Hybrid Air Vehicles, which sells surveillance aircraft to the U.S. government.”

Clive Chajet “continues to pray for world peace” and to avoid the hassle of flying to Paris and then to the Celestine Center at Pech Merle.

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we go to Venice for the last month. This will be our fifth year in Venice, which has become a second home. We hope to revisit old haunts and soak up the lovely art and architecture, as well as the extraordinary Venetian food.”

Since his initial writing, David has provided an update on his trip but space limitations prevent me from including it now.

**Ed Boylan** brings us up to date: “After graduation, I went to Princeton, where I received my Ph.D. in mathematics in 1962. Following brief stints as a Peace Corps volunteer in New Brunswick and Hunter College, I came to Rutgers-Newark in September 1968. I am on leave this semester with retirement officially starting in July.

“In addition to mathematics, for several years I was a consultant on Middle East and nuclear strategy issues at Hudson Institute, back when it was actually located in Croton-on-Hudson and headed by Herman Kahn.

“My wife and I have three children: two daughters living in Israel and a son living in Flatbush. We also have seven grandchildren, the oldest of whom is now in the Israeli army. For more than 40 years we have been living in Englewood, N.J. Any classmate who wants to see the Jewish community of Englewood is like is welcome to give me a call. (We are in the phone book.)”

**Richard Tyler** writes, “My good friend Raphael ‘Ray’ Osheroff passed in his sleep on March 18. Graveside services were held on March 21 at Beth Israel Cemetery in Woodbridge, N.J.

“Following graduation from the College, Ray received his medical diploma from the Creighton University School of Medicine. He practiced internal medicine in Woodington, D.C., area for many years.

“Ray was a musical genius who was able to play any instrument: percussion, strings, reeds and other horns. During our college days and early during his professional life, he would be invited to gigs, where he filled in on whatever instrument was needed. It was my pleasure to accompany him to many of those engagements. Watching him switch from instrument to instrument with alacrity and verve was a mesmerizing experience.

“Ray was a wonderful and dear friend whom I shall miss.”

**Joseph Ramos** writes, “Six years ago I lost my first wife. But 1½ years later I married a wonderful widow, Gloria Baexa. I am still going strong at age 90. My experience in Chile. Last year, I was chosen by the students as the best professor in the economics department. It goes to prove that life isn’t over till it’s over!”

We hear from **Herbert M. Dean:**

“I am an oncology consultant for an insurance company and find it intellectually stimulating, as it provides me the opportunity to review files from the major cancer centers and also allows me to remain current with this rapidly changing discipline without the responsibilities that accompany a clinical practice. I have written a section on cancer chemotherapy for the sixth edition of a textbook on diseases of the colon and rectum that will be published in September and enjoyed the challenge, especially when it was finished.

“My wife and I celebrated our seventh anniversary (we were both widowed) and travel between our home in Worcester and our apartment in New York City. I am trying to focuse as a consultant occasionally in Cape Cod; if anyone is interested, do I have a deal for you! I like to think I work in Worcester, play in New York and rest at the Cape.

“My joints limit my ability to play tennis, but I continue to walk, especially in NYC, where I like to think I am a part of a little of Celebrex. Reading is a delight, especially since you can pick and choose your subject, put it down if you find it not appealing, and don’t have to write a term paper or take an exam. A wonderful full time job! I also like the history and current status of cancer but reads like a novel, which I can recommend, is The Emperor of All Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee (also a professor at P&S).

“We look forward to our next class reunion.”

**David N. Horowitz** writes, “I’m not sure everyone will remember there is more than one David Horowitz in our class. David J. Horowitz is the famous advocate of academic humility. David N. Horowitz, widely, is a history and current status of cancer but reads like a novel, which I can recommend, is The Emperor of All Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee (also a professor at P&S).

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“Why an FBI agent would be waiting outside his door — although perhaps I should not have been surprised, as rumors abounded that FBI agents were everywhere and many an unadorned wall bore the graffiti warning, ‘FBI in the Library,’ without ever explicitly saying whether in Butler, Low Memorial or the 42nd Street Public — I asked Harvey if he was surprised, as rumors abounded that FBI agents were everywhere and many an unadorned wall bore the graffiti warning, ‘FBI in the Library,’ without ever explicitly saying whether in Butler, Low Memorial or the 42nd Street Public — I asked Harvey if he was surprised, as rumors abounded that FBI agents were everywhere and many an unadorned wall bore the graffiti warning, ‘FBI in the Library,’ without ever explicitly saying whether in Butler, Low Memorial or the 42nd Street Public — I asked Harvey if he was surprised, as rumors abounded that FBI agents were everywhere and many an unadorned wall bore the graffiti warning, ‘FBI in the Library,’ without ever explicitly saying whether in Butler, Low Memorial or the 42nd Street Public — I asked Harvey if he was surprised, as rumors abounded that FBI agents were everywhere and many an unadorned wall bore the graffiti warning, ‘FBI in the Library,’ without ever explicitly saying whether in Butler, Low Memorial or the 42nd Street Public — I asked Harvey if he was surprised, as rumors abounded that FBI agents were everywhere and many an unadorned wall bore the graffiti warning, ‘FALL 2012
dwarfs within the range covered by such stars. This includes the visibility of the stars, their size, distance, color, who discovered them and how they were discovered, and observations on the chances for life on the planets around them.

Big thanks go to the 125 donors who contributed gifts to the College this past fiscal year. As of June 30, the Class of 1960 had raised more than $700,000. Congratulations, all.

And finally, a sad note. Josh Pruzansky advises that Lenny Lustig ’67 passed away on April 1, 2012, a month after being diagnosed with liver cancer. Lenny was a distinguished real estate practitioner in Suffolk County. He is survived by his wife, Susan; daughter, Caren; and son, Craig.

The class sends its deepest condolences to Lenny’s family.

Michael Hausig
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Tom Lippman traveled to San Antonio, Richmond, Va., Hartford, Conn., and other cities this spring promoting his latest book, Saudi Arabia on the Edge, and had the pleasure of dining with classmates at one of Tony Adler’s monthly lunches in New York. In June he made his annual visit to Saudi Arabia to interview government officials, business people and academics for a new writing project based at The George Washington University.

Richard Mace recently realized a lifelong goal of being the pianist of a foursome performing the Mozart Piano Quartet in G minor, K.478, for a joyous audience of aficionados, relatives, classmates and friends; the concert took place June 5 at the 92nd St. Y in Manhattan. He looks forward to expanding his chamber music repertoire this fall as a participant in similar programs featuring like-minded amateur musicians. He is also pleased to report that his son, Richard Riurik Mace, recently returned from a 15-day tour of the Holy Lands (Kuwait, Jordan and Israel) during which time he educated potential converts to Evangelical worship via weekend workshops of instruction and example. Meanwhile, daughter Michelle Margaret Logan completed her third year as the office manager for a spectacularly successful (1,400 patients) children’s dentistry practice in Cumming, Ga. Both children enjoy spending weekends cruising Lake Lanier in their respective power boats, relaxing away from the crowded agendas of their weekday pursuits.

Phil Cotton’s oldest granddaughter, Megan, graduated from Villanova Law in May and her brother, Ryan, who recently completed his freshman year at the University of Miami, now has transferred to Columbia. That will make the third generation of Cotton-Lions, including Phil; his oldest son, Anthony ’80; and now Ryan ’15. Phil works full-time as an active national mediator and arbitrator specializing in real estate, securities and lawyer-represented commercial cases for the American Arbitration Association, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Counselors of Real Estate.

Morris Dickstein gave the Lionel Trilling lecture at Columbia on May 2. The subject was how movies gradually took over some of the territory of fiction in the media age, and the war, which led writers to worry about the death of the novel.

Bob Rennick ’64E wrote that he and Mark Franklin ’64E, Mickey Greenblatt ’62E and Hillel Hoffman ’62E, who were on the 3-2-problem-solving Columbia University School of Engineering (now called the School of Engineering and Applied Science) attended Engineering’s Class of ’62 50th reunion in June and were inducted into the Golden Lion Society.

Phil Cotton attended the early evening class luncheon in Tom Gochberg’s conference room, where Ina Hayes gave his annual book report. Our classmates are voracious readers with impressive recall. During their visit, Bob and his wife, Lisa, spent time with some cast members of The Best Man, including James Earl Jones.

Gene Milone, professor emeritus and the Rotman Astrophysical Observatory director emeritus, University of Calgary, cleaned out his office at the university 18 months ago, with the conclusion of his second term as faculty professor, and now works at home. He is awaiting a partial corneal transplant and, should it be successful, will travel to Beijing in August for the International Astronomical Union meeting, where as president of the IAU’s Commission on Astronomical Photometry and Polarimetry and chair of its Infrared Astronomy Working Group he will chair a few sessions. He also plans to present a paper illustrating a new distance determination method for eclipsing binaries in star clusters. He is working also on several biographies of astronomers for the second edition of the Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers, including that of professor emeritus and chairman of Columbia’s Astronomy Department when we were students. Finally, with a Calgary colleague, he is working on the second edition of their two-volume work, Solar System Astrophysics, a daunting task right now, with the burgeoning population of known extrasolar planets.

We conclude with some sad news.

Dr. Barry Jacobs passed away in Pano, Texas, in May. Barry served as a doctor in the Navy during Vietnam and then specialized as an ophthalmologist, practicing in Boston for most of his career. He semi-retired to New Hampshire but ended his practice with the onset of the illness that took his life a decade later. A few years ago, he and his wife, Barbara, moved to Pano, north of Dallas, to be near their daughter Alison, son-in-law Michael and grandchildren Graham and Ariel. Throughout his long illness, Barry was stoic, dignified and courageous.

Jack Samet’s wife, Helen, passed away, a victim of ovarian cancer. Jack wrote on his Facebook page that “words are insufficient to describe the force of the grief I am experiencing and the power of the loving memory she leaves behind.” The funeral service was held at Mt. Sinai Chapel, Mt. Sinai Memorial Park and Mortuary, Los Angeles, on May 2.

Larry Kline passed away March 26. He leaves his wife, Bonnie; three daughters: a son and several grandchildren. He had suffered a stroke some years ago and had not been in good health since then. Larry was a prominent psychiatrist in Maryland for decades. Larry Rubinstein ’60 officiated at the services.

Arthur D. Friedman, a computer science researcher, professor and author who lived in San Diego, passed away on October 24, 2011.

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Alumni Reunion Weekend was gorgeous, merry, moving. The campus sparkled — red brick, white granite, smooth marble. Gone were the nicotine-stained walls of Hamilton Hall, replaced with clean Columbia blue! Your classmates were warm, relaxed, generous, interested and interesting. About 100 attended, and during our days together a sense of commonality and equality spread among us. Seldom have I felt as good, and I expect everyone else did as well. Wish we had more 50ths to anticipate.

At registration, the College presented each of us with a Class of ’62 mug, printed in color with Michael Stone’s delightful drawing, “Still Amazing After All These Years,” celebrating our path from blazers and ties to jeans, flannel shirts and an extra 12 lbs. (See the top of the column.)

Formal events began with an elegant reception at President Lee C. Bollinger’s home. A great moment of the University’s growth northward to Manhattanville, its success raising money for this expansion and the planned opening of several “global centers” in major cities abroad, where undergraduates will simultaneously pursue Columbia courses and foreign studies. In Ed Pressman’s words: “Bollinger’s comments clearly reflected his pride in being part of the Columbia family.”

During the weekend, I asked nearly everyone to email me 25-50 words about the reunion. Here are some excerpts:

Tobias Robison: “My first reunion, mostly people I’d failed to meet or remember. Trepidation! But oh, did we all have something in common. Made friends, heard fascinating life stories, enjoyed enjoyable events. Looking forward to 55.”

Phil Lebovitz: “The instant sense of an intellectual commonality was poignant and warm. Having integrated the experience of a Columbia education, with our shared concepts and ideas and stimulating conversations.”

Bill Campbell: “I cannot think of when I had a more wonderful time. A great ‘reunion’ of people who really cared about each other. I was touched, and blown away.”

Charlie Freifeld: “I was particularly glad to see that so many of my classmates had lived rich lives and done really powerful things, yet were not self-important.”

Michael Stone: “What a reunion should be: enjoyed [time with] old friends and made new ones. But thought a lot about the classmates who weren’t with us anymore and missed the ones who didn’t come.”

Larry Loewinger: “It was a fun, informative and, ultimately, a rather touching event.”

Bernie Patten: “A thousand thanks to the many people who spent time, energy and money making the 50th the success that
Richard Mace '61 played piano in a foursome performing Mozart's Piano Quartet in G-minor, K.478, in a concert held at the 92nd St. Y in Manhattan.

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Robert Shlaer ’63 Recreates History Through Daguerreotype

By Justin DeFreitas

Though he was born and educated on the East Coast, Robert Shlaer ’63, ’66 GSAS is a westerner at heart. Sure, he looks the part, with his thick beard, flannel shirt and suspenders, but it runs deeper than that. Shlaer is a westerner in that older, more romantic sense of the word: He’s an individualist, determined to carve out his own path wherever it may lead.

And sometimes it leads to someone else’s path. For nearly two decades, Shlaer has been exploring America’s western landscape with a camera in tow, retracing the steps of the great explorers of centuries past. He has sought both to recreate and expand on the work of the pioneering artists and daguerreotype photographers who documented those 19th-century expeditions, capturing the same vistas that were once framed in the viewfinders of his predecessors.

Shlaer considers daguerreotype — the silvery images that reigned from 1839-60 as the first commercially viable form of photography — to be “the most beautiful of all forms of photography.” But it’s hardly the most reliable. “My first and greatest love remains the landscape,” he says, “so with a process as given to failure as daguerreotypy, it is comforting to know that the subject will be there tomorrow for another try.”

Shlaer was born in Manhattan and raised in New Mexico, where his father, Simon Shlaer ’24, ’37 GSAS, was an engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory. By Shlaer’s own admission, his academic career was an exercise in expediency. Though his family put a premium on education, Shlaer applied to the College more because it made its admissions decisions earlier than other schools. “I figured that if I got accepted, I wouldn’t have to put any effort into applying elsewhere,” he says.

He started out studying physics but became disenchanted and made a late switch to art history, primarily because it was the only degree that could be completed in two years. Later, he pursued a master’s in experimental psychology at Columbia in part, he says, as a means of avoiding the draft, then moved on to thesis work in neurophysiology at Rochester before earning a Ph.D. in neurophysiology and sensory psychology from Chicago in 1971.

For a few years Shlaer continued in academia, working as a researcher and lecturer in the Department of Neurosurgery at Northwestern University Medical School, but he struggled with the desire for a different career. It was an “escapist fantasy” that had crystallized during his tenure at Columbia, when he had seen an exhibit of works by Ansel Adams at the Museum of Modern Art. Adams’ imagery invoked a longing in Shlaer to wander and document the western landscape. In the mid-1970s, newly inspired by a quote from Adams in which he declared the daguerreotype the benchmark against which he measured his own creations, Shlaer decided to take up the moribund medium.

Shlaer immersed himself in the craft, embarking on a project of self-education. He ordered customized plates from a commercial manufacturer and hand-built the necessary equipment for preparing and developing them and for handling the toxic chemicals the process requires. (In daguerreotypy, an image is captured on a polished and chemically treated...
preparing a museum exhibition that traveled the country for five years. "It was the culmination of my career," Shlaer says. But he's not finished. His current project has him photographing another western trek, that of topographic sketch artist Richard Kern, who created the first visual documentation of the Rocky Mountains as part of the Gunnison Expedition, which also took place in 1853. Shlaer is using conventional photography this time, and the result will be another book, this one due in 2013. "When asked my occupation, I now call myself a 'visual historian of western exploration,'" Shlaer says. "And if pressed further I add, 'specializing in the year 1853.'"

To see more photographs by Shlaer, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer, editor and cartoonist.
Center. Wearing hard hats, we were hoisted to the 39th floor, where we gazed over a panorama of the scene and its surroundings. We then toured the 9/11 Memorial, in particular the two impressive pools of moving water, which are surrounded by the names of all who perished in the disaster.

The Reunion Committee, consisting of George Abodeely, Paul Alter, Lester Hoffman, Richard Krobir, Burt Lehman, Stan Luppin, Ed Pressman, Leo Swergold, Peter Vitrakis and myself, clearly outliers itself.

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**

**ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS**

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Our 50th reunion is only nine months away! If you haven’t already marked your calendar for Wednesday, May 29–Saturday, June 2, 2013, do it now. This is the big one and none of us should miss it. Columbia and the Reunion Committee are planning a memorable weekend. If you want to join the committee or have suggestions for our program, please contact me or the appropriate staff member, noted at the top of the column.

On Class Day, May 15, Henry Black, Doron Gopstein, Harvey Cantor and Lee Lowenshwein joined me for the annual Parade of Classes and helped carry the Class of 1963 banner (Don Margolis, who has joined me in past years, had to cancel at the last minute). Harvey’s youngest daughter, Elizabeth ’12, graduated that day. Congratulations to both! This event is great fun, a wonderful opportunity to join graduates and their families at one of the most joyful days of their lives. Join us next year.

Larry Neuman and Herb Soroca joined me at the annual crew reunion and lunch at Coulé Remer Boathouse for oarsmen from the ’50s and ’60s. It was great to see so many guys from the early ’60s. Next year, let’s get all the rowers from ’63 to come out on the Friday of reunion week. If you want to join the committee or have suggestions for our program, please contact me or the appropriate staff member, noted at the top of the column.

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from the address at packlb@aol.com
With my local draft board breathing down my neck I joined the U.S. Public Health Service, was trained in epidemiology and assigned to the New York City Health Department as a venereal disease investigator (no kidding) working in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. While interesting, that assignment was not the career I envisioned, and so less than a year later I transferred to the Surgeon General’s office in Washington, where I began my lifelong career in public policy.

“Three months after arriving in Washington, I was sent up to the Senate Commerce Committee to help with a set of hearings the committee was planning on research since the passage of the 1965 cigarette labeling act. During the next three years, I worked with the committee in developing the act that banned cigarette advertising, produced several anti-smoking commercials for the Public Health Service, dealt with broadcast network standards and practices, wrote speeches, publicized new research and did battle with the Tobacco Institute.

“Following the 1970 election, I was hired by the Senate Commerce Committee, where I initially staffed the consumer subcommittee through which much of the landmark consumer legislation of the 1970s passed. Contrary to today’s Congress, even with a Republican in the White House and a Democratic Congress, the presence of old bulls who had been elected during the Depression, WWII or the Korean War created an environment where partisan rancor was minimized in favor of a collective, conscientious effort to solve problems.

“In 1977 I became staff director of what was then the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and, a year later, chief of staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where the Appropriations Committee Chairman died and the seniority system worked its will, resulting in my being both Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman and a member of the Judiciary Committee when he became chairman in 1979.

“With a decade of senate staff experience behind me and the Senate turning over to a Republican majority, I did what any self-respecting Hill staff would want: I went downtown to K Street. At different times during the next 30-plus years I have run government affairs and communications for four major trade associations in the grocery products, cable television, airlines and telecom industries, and worked as a public policy or public relations consultant to a number of companies and trade associations, which I still do.

“There was also a two-year respite from Washington when we moved to the Chicago area in the late ’80s; I ran a division of Telocator, a wholly owned J.C. Penney development company that built a pre-Internet interactive cable programming network. Unfortunately, we folded after spending more than $100 million.

“I have worked on a wide array of issues with legislators and public figures whose contributions stretch from WWI to the present day. I have worked with people who developed the strategy to pass the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, with people who serve on the Supreme Court and with people who played cards with President Roosevelt during the depths of WWII. I have been more than an eyewitness to history, and I consider myself to be very fortunate.

“Eric Marcus ’65 has been reappointed to a second, five-year term as director of Columbia’s Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research.

“There are also a number of alumni with whom I had some great working experiences. Among them are Richard Merrill ’59, former chief counsel of the FDA (and brother of Stephen Merrill, with whom I also worked); David Heymsfeld ’59, former staff director of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; Hon. Nicholas Garaufis ’69, former chief counsel of the FAA (before being confirmed as a U.S. District Court Judge in the Eastern District of New York); David Cavicke ’84, former chief staff, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; and Margaret Kim ’91, who was a colleague at the Air Transport Association.

“You can reach Ed at edmerlis@edmerlis.com.

“Chris Morren reports, “I am an internist, now semi-retired, with a lot of the daily stress gone. I trained in the Bronx and would see Noah Robbins at Montefiore Medical Center. Al Steene taught me lots about Lyme Disease. I stay in touch with Joe Beckman, Bill Wertheim and Fred Colligno. Pete Manley worked at my hospital in administration (Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, Conn.) for a few years but has left. I plan to see LeRoy Euvrard in France in November. Sadly, my brother George ’60 died in September 2011. This has left a big hole in our family. My wife, Edie ’74 Nunn-Weinstein ’66 when he came to town in June for a medical lecture, but I visited with Dave Blanchard ’67 when he was in town for a wedding in May.

“In addition to the law practice, I stay busy at my church, Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal), where I recently completed a term as Senior Warden of the Vestry and am on the search committee for a new dean. Finally, our art interests (I am an internist, now semi-retired, still having a big hole in our family. My wife, Edie ’74 Nunn-Weinstein ’66 when he came to town in June for a medical lecture, but I visited with Dave Blanchard ’67 when he was in town for a wedding in May.

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Rich Forzani sent the following update earlier this year: "I abandoned my retirement last year to become a consultant for Intel, and then promote a sales/marketing role for a human capital management software firm. My wife, Kathy, is overjoyed to have me out of the house again. However, my advice to all of you contemplating retirement is this: It's pretty enjoyable. Never underestimate the pleasure of having nothing to do." "My youngest son, Richard, graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers in May (also Phi Beta Kappa) and is attending the University of Richmond School of Law. His classmate news and views, please contact Alexis Tonti '11 Arts, managing editor: al2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, please send updates to CCT at the postal or email address at the top of the column, or via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_notes.

Albert Zonana 425 Arundel Rd. Goleta, CA 93117 az164@columbia.edu

News about the 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend of the Cleverest Classes, held May 31–June 3, poured in.

Mark Nussbaum writes, "I was surprised to see that many members of our class seemed to have aged, unlike me. (Actually, Dean Ringel must have a picture in the attic because he's aged not at all.) Most of us were accompanied by spouses or significant others who were far more attractive than we deserved. While a relatively small proportion of the class was in attendance, the aggregate weight of the attendees offset the number of participants, so that the aggregate avoirdupois probably equaled the total poundage of the class in 1967."

Mark Minton reports, "Reunion was memorable. Probably the high points were Saturday's class luncheon in Kent Hall (C.V. Starr East Asian Library), where we were addressed by Dean James J. Valentini and had an exchange with a panel of College students, assembled and introduced by Roger Lehecka, and the final class dinner on Saturday, which was held in a beautiful, floor-to-ceiling-windowed dining area in the new Northwest Corner Building on campus. True to our reputation for cleverness (or more accurately, feistiness), our dinner speaker, former New York City schools chancellor Joel J. Klein, set off a lively discussion — almost a debate — about American education. [Editor's note: See feature in Spectator.]"

"The lectures during Dean's Day and the other social events also were memorable. Everyone who attended very much enjoyed our kickoff event on Thursday evening, an opening reception hosted by Robert Rosenberg and his wife, Pamela, in their beautiful townhouse on East 61st Street."

"On a more personal note, Marty Andrucki, Chris Hartzell, Leigh Dolin, Dean Ringel and I — all Spectator board members of 1967 — got together for a reunion dinner on Friday."

"And about that dinner, Leigh wrote: 'I thought I'd give you my version. Hartzell and I ran into each other at a Friday afternoon lecture and, at his suggestion, headed to the Spectator office to see if we could check out what our favorite newspaper looks like in 2012. The office now is on Broadway near 112th and initially we couldn't get in but then we followed two students through the otherwise locked door; they turned out to be the editor-in-chief and the sports editor. We had the grand tour, and Chris and I did our best old-guy routines (‘Back in our day, we used linotype machines,’ etc.). Dinner was at an Italian restaurant north of 120th and over very good food and perhaps too many carafes of house wine, Mark, Chris, Marty, Dean and I discussed the problems of the world, including abortion, political correctness, the existence of God, the importance of faith, Syria, Iran, Obama, health care, poetry, Lyndon Johnson and, of course, Spectator. We would have followed up with a series of editorials but unfortunately we no longer have a newspaper in which to publish them."

Gordon Klein also attended reunion; he writes, "My old roommate, Bob Rudy, appeared for the first time since I had known (as to his reunions). He has retired from the Hennepin County Attorney's Office and now travels and cruises. Ken Haydock was there trying to recall Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. He carried a big sign throughout that read "Recall Walker." Some of us thought he had changed his name."

"I have retired from being a pediatric gastroenterologist and have taken a position as clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery, still at the University of Texas, where I lecture, write, consult and do research."

Marty Andrucki reports, "I reconnected with Larry Besserman during the Chelsea art gallery crawl on Friday night and again at lunch in Ken's office on Saturday. He is now professor emeritus at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and also teaches summer school at Columbia. Had a good time schmoozing with Dick Jupa and Ken Haydock at the Core Curriculum open house [in Hamilton Hall] on Saturday. The latter was wearing a 'Recall Walker' plaque around his neck and, I swear, for a long moment I thought it meant he was an official of the reunion tasked with walking around and helping alums recall the good old days."

The apparently ageless Dean Ringel writes, "What follows are some random observations. I am out of practice as a journalist, and lawyer-like pablum has replaced whatever freedom of expression I once could muster. But I will give it a try."

"Pamela and Bob Rosenberg's East Side townhouse was what we all thought/hoped we might one day inhabit. Few of us have realized that vision but it was fun to
share for the night. The recurring subject at the party and throughout the weekend was retirement — Have you? Are you? Must you? And then what? I guess we are of the age. There was no clear consensus, with folks divided among those who felt it time to retire, those who were looking forward to having to retire and those who vowed never to consider the concept.

“The cocktail party at Faculty House was great. The physical impressiveness of the bar itself and its tactile appeal made me regret not having pursued an academic career. Saturday’s class lunch was held in the strikingly beautiful C.V. Starr East Asian Library; a panel of current College students discussed how the College had changed since we Neanderthals roamed the campus. As much as anything else, I think we were stunned to hear members of our class describe the primitive ‘telecommunications facilities’ (a shared phone in the hall). Interestingly, for all the updated technology, the generation gap proved to be that these days, after freshman year, students are relatively cut off from one another. The current students were quite taken with the difference in tuition costs between then and now.”

Bill Heinbach says, “Reunion reminded me of what I always thought about many, if not most Columbia people: they are just good people, in addition to being brilliant.”

From Richard Frances: “Especially enjoyed meeting Robert Kalter, an eminent pathologist; Allen Spiegel, who is dean at Albert Einstein College of Medicine; David Dell, an innovative consultant and businessperson, and a woman I met who has had a distinguished career in the State Department, including ambassadorial posts in Vietnam.

“I have three children, five grandchildren and my wife is Marsha Frances. I founded the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry and was the president and medical director of Silver Hill Hospital. I now am in the private practice of psychiatry in Manhattan.”

Ken Haydock took time out from his efforts to recall Walker to say, “Among those with whom I was able to compare notes, however briefly — or at least, those whom the quantity of chardonnay I consumed that weekend failed to befog — were Carlton Carl, Bob Costa, Bill Herrick, Richard Japs, Gordon Klein, Jonathan Lazo, David Lipson, Marty Nussbaum, Steve Rice, Bob Rudy, Jenik Radon, David Shaw and Rich Strassberg. I didn’t, however, make it to the dinner dance [Starlight Reception] that resulted in, among other things, a class photo almost as impressive as the ‘official’ one that shows Marty Nussbaum, a Stuyvesant classmate of mine, and Bob Rosenberg, a sophomore-year roommate of mine, standing in front of our rather ramped Class of 1967 flag.”

Larry Besserman: “The main event, of course, was seeing classmates after 45 years — more of a treat than I ever imagined it would be.

“Jack Harris had some observation on faculty at Columbia that is outstanding. Having spent my professional life trying to figure out how to engage college students in academic work, I have great appreciation for the talent and efforts of faculty who find a path of connection to the area of their life’s study for beginners.

“The members of our class are accomplished and smart but also surprisingly gentle and, in many cases, anyway, modest. I met scientists, teachers, government employees and people who have重要作用 but remain curious and friendly. It really is too bad that more of our class can’t come to reunions. I know a fewclassmates who have had distinguished careers who would add enormously to our conversations.

“Columbia was clean. I can’t think of a larger contrast to when we lived there. The venues were attractive, and the technology all worked.”

Tom Werman ’69 Business updated us on his adventures. “I’m pretty certain that Dean Irv DeKoff helped to ease my way into the Business School in our senior year, and fortunately the protests of ’68 forced the administration to institute a pass-fail program for the first time. Without this, I surely would have had a D on my transcript in operations research. After a briefing year at Grey Advertising, I succumbed to my passion for rock ’n’ roll, fled across town and started a 12-year career at CBS Records.

“My wife, Suky, and I raised our three children in Los Angeles, where I went independent and managed to collect more than 20 gold and platinum albums while producing about 30 hard rock records. It was far easier to do this than, as the music business was robust and growing. Unfortunately it imploded about 10 years ago, although my son is actually making a living in it today. My timing was fortunate. By 2001 I had burned out, and we headed back east to the Berkshires in order to establish an all-suites luxury B&B on 10 acres, just down the road from Tanglewood. It turned out to be a successful concept, and we’ve been operating here for the past decade, hosting guests largely from New York City and enjoying a lifestyle even better than the one we had in L.A. (which I had considered to be as good as you could get). “I spent about five years interviewing L.A. Columbia applicants for the Alumni Representative Committee, and when we returned to Massachusetts I enjoyed attending the Sachems dinners that Roger Lehecka generously put together for us in the city; sometimes my Carmine sophomore roommate David Zapp would attend, too. I spoke at one of these dinners some years back about my first career and about the decision to move east and initiate an entirely different life. Our three kids live and work in the city, and we drive in to see them frequently. At this age, the great pleasure I get from a Manhattan visit is pretty dependent on the knowledge that I’ll be returning home to the country. With plenty of weekdays off in the winter, I’m writing a book about my life in the music business. It’s something I’ve always wanted to do, and I’m loving the process.”

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013
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Columbia College has a new dean, James J. Valentini (see my story). I have heard great things about him and wish him well.

I hope everyone is planning to be at our 45th reunion next year. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. I am told by Bob Costa ’67 that his reunion this past June was good; things were well planned and Dean’s Day now is held that Saturday, meaning that additional programming is available. He and his wife, Joan, had a great time.

To ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about Alumni Reunion Weekend, update your contact information online (reunion. college.columbia.edu/alumnirup date) or call the Alumni Office (212- 851-7488).

Class members are encouraged to join the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend’s events and to reach out to classmates for gifts to the Columbia College Fund in honor of reunion. If you’re interested in participating, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Paul de Bary and others organized a Core-themed wine tasting several months ago at the Columbia University Club of New York. I wasn’t able to attend so I hope Paul will do a similar session at reunion. Paul wrote to me before the event, however, and described the plan: “We’ve been working on this for several weeks ago at the Columbia University Club of New York. I wasn’t able to attend so I hope Paul will do a similar session at reunion. Paul wrote to me before the event, however, and described the plan: “We’ve been working on this for several weeks ago at the Columbia University Club of New York. I wasn’t able to attend so I hope Paul will do a similar session at reunion. Paul wrote to me before the event, however, and described the plan:

The first wine will be a Greek Roditis, a delicious wine, presented with examples from Horner, Greek tragedy and Plato’s tri-partite soul to evoke thoughts about the basic structure of wine. The second will be an Italian [wine] made from the ancient Roman Fiano variety, presented with examples from Virgil, Cicero, St. Paul and St. Augustine to evoke discussion of the natural laws of wine and the concept of territor. That of course leads right into the discussion of a Burgundian St. Véran, presented with Medieval and Renaissance thinking to show the virtues of single varietal wines and the effects of restrained use of wood.

“We then move on to red wines with a Priorat and introduce tannins and blending paired with ideas from the Reformation, before moving on to the Enlightenment, pairing Cabernet Sauvignon with Spinoza, Locke, Newton, Adam Smith and others before ending up with a scientific analysis of the major acids in wine and what they bring to its taste, brought to you by Bacon, Boyle, Nietzsche and others. All in all, it should be a pretty thorough evening.”

A good refresher on the Core, all in less than two hours, followed by a little feast for the graduates.”

Reid Feldman, who may know something about wine, reports, “The euro crisis makes practicing law in Paris ever so interesting.”

Peter Gross sent a brief update: “My wife, Susan, and I have been married for 44 years. Have a daughter, a retina specialist in NYC, who has identical twin girls and a son. Have another two daughters and a son, none married. Susan retired as the chair of world languages at Harvard (Pa.) H.S. I am still doing the same things, just a lot older.”

We are all a little older, but 65 (or so) is the new 45.

Phil Mandelker ’71L was in the city recently. He is devoted more time to travel and reading and was expansive about his son, who is a researcher in physics and astronomy and is studying galaxy formulation. Afterward, Phil sent a note:
Michael Oberman
Krafi Levin Naftalis & Frankl
1177 Avenue of the Americas
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moberman@kramerlevin.com

Once again, I participated in the Alumni Parade of Classes, this time for Class Day 2012 on May 15, carrying our class’ banner to the applause of the graduates and their families. And once again, Irv Ruderman joined me, and Rod Reed ‘69E granted special privileges to march with us, as his son Daniel ‘12 was among the graduates.

Congratulations to Jonathan Schiller, who was selected as this year’s recipient of the Alexander Hamilton Award. See Around the Quad.

From Bob Robins: “While not much has changed in my situation, my children have made some remarkable progress. Oldest son, Joseph, and his wife, Kirsten, are in the third year of post-docs in math at Harvard, where they met in freshman advanced calculus. It looks like they’ll be heading to Atlanta in 18 months for tenure-track positions. Joseph recently turned 31, which is a Meserene prime, for those of you who care, and the last one he’s likely to see unless he outlivens the Biblical 120 (the next Meserene prime is 127).”

“The triplets are 28 (a perfect number, equal to the sum of its divisors — we’re having a big math party this year). And Daniel is in the second year of a Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Toronto. Eva also is in a Ph.D. program in philosophy, though at Boston College; she is hoping to finish the fifth and final year by the end of this school year.

There’s an R.N. and works labor and delivery at the base hospital at Fort Sill, Okla., where her husband, Erik (captain, USMC), is stationed. On June 20 I had my first grandchild, Nathaniel Dale Wilkerson, in Philadelphia. They’ll be moving to New York in the fall, about 60 miles south of Iowa City and 50 miles west of the Mississip-pi. My main purpose here is to take care of my friend Marie, who is im-mobile from the neck down with chronic-progressive MS. Thanks to the Web, I can get her things online, and she’s as connected to the world of good things, too. I am supposed to have lunch with Andy Herz soon, and I see John Slattery once in a while — all of which is for another time.

Write me with your updates!

See Around the Quad.

Submit Your Photo

Submit a photo for Class Notes is easier than ever!

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

MAIL by sending the photo and accompanying caption information to Class Notes Editor, Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, New York, NY 10025.

Mike Schell writes: “Forty-seven years ago this September, we all gathered on Morningside Heights for a four-year run that was event-ful if nothing else. But of course, it was lots else in the bargain. And now, that number 65 is relevant again. In the blink of an eye most all of us (excepting the young geniuses who finished high school at 12 or whatever) are celebrating our 65th birthdays. Truly hard to believe.”

Paul Brosnan. I’m afraid I can’t find it now to quote directly, but he is a liberal human being, and he seems to me to be thinking about all the right things and issues (of which there are likely more than a few). But being well-connected and comfortable among — and perhaps even inspirational to — the students, and these are good things. I hope to have the opportunity to chat with him from time to time.

Which leads to my immediate circumstances. I no longer have a full-time job at which I am required to punch in every morning by 8 or 9 a.m. I am still engaged in a number of endeavors but I don’t collect a paycheck for any of them. Not bad, Chief among them is my role as Chair of the National Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprises. We are 25 business and other NGO leaders formulating recommenda-

Weathersfield is our special corner of the planet, home to friends from our youthful days in New England (Ellen went to Bennington College and, after Columbia, I was at Dartmouth School of Medicine for two years).”

I last sat with Nigel a couple of years ago on a flight from Detroit to Lansing, Mich. It was great to hear from him.

Finally, I received a note from Paul Brosnan. I’m afraid I can’t find it now to quote directly, but he was the substance was that his daughter has graduated from Barnard. She was an outstanding student, and of course he was pleased to report that she had enjoyed her academic experiences and had lots of good times, too.

I apologize to Paul for misplacing the note. I get these great notes from people who are participating in current affairs and politics. He sends a cartoon once in a while, too. In any event, congratulations to him on his daughter’s graduation; I am sure there will be more reports about her.

As I write, my daughter is planning her future and thinking about current affairs and politics. She sends a cartoon once in a while, too. In any event, congratulations to him on his daughter’s graduation; I am sure there will be more reports about her.

I am supposed to have lunch with Andy Herz soon, and I see John Slattery once in a while — all of which is for another time.

Write me with your updates!

Fall 2012
tions to the Secretary of Commerce and ultimately the President for developing and promoting minority businesses in America. It has been an engaging, challenging and interesting effort, and I am hopeful we will achieve an immediate and substantial positive impact.

"Columbia played a rather major role in my life these past couple of years in yet another respect. I have been the extraordinarily fortunate university Medical Center. It's a part of years in yet another respect. I have been a theoretical astrophysicist at UC Berkeley for many years. Those interested in broadening their perspective a bit might enjoy my book, "The Formation of Stars." Michael Braun had a lengthy update: "I became a grandfather to a second granddaughter on February 14, Effie Mae Miller. She joins Paikaeya ("Paiky") named after the girl who was the whale rider in the New Zealand movie of the same name about a girl trying to compete in a misogynistic Maori tribe. Paiky turned 2 on April 28. Their mother (my daughter), Keetch, creates silk-screen clothes with her own design. She recently signed a license agreement to sell stuff with her illustrations in Japan and China."

"My son, Jake '09, has finished his second year as a junior high basketball coach and English teacher under the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. He is a writer and wrote an incredible piece about the Japanese attitude after the earthquake and tsunami last year. He will return to the United States to look for a job after he travels around Southeast Asia. Unlike our days, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are tourist destinations and there are still places of unspoiled beauty, though you need to be careful with the unexplored land mines in Cambodia; kids still lose their arms and legs playing in the rice fields. I went to North Vietnam three years ago and loved it and want to go back."

"practice law at Morrison &"
— feel free to send me a response to this informal poll.

Joel Mintz reports, “I live in South Florida with my wife, Meri-Jane Rochelson ’71 Barnard, whom I met when I was a senior at the College and she was a junior at Barnard. I recently finished my 30th year as a law professor, and I still enjoy (most days, at least), I have gotten together each of the last several years for long and relaxing spring weekends with David Sokolow, Ted Wirecki and Doug Sabrin — always a treat! On the professional front, my ninth book, Environmental Law and Policy, was published in April. The book jacket (written by editors at the press) describes the book this way: ‘Based on 190 personal interviews with present and former enforcement officials, the U.S. Department of Justice and key congressional staff members — along with extensive research among EPA documents and secondary sources — the book vividly recounts the often tumultuous history of EPA’s enforcement programs.’ It also analyzes some important questions regarding EPA’s institutional relationships and the agency’s working environment.”

Ralph Allemano says: “I am alive and well and live in Swansea, South Wales (U.K.) with my wife, Catherine; son, Joseph; and Alice are trying to make their marks in the theatre world of Los Angeles and New York City, respectively; son Alexander is taking up a Ph.D. in theoretical physics at Durham University; and youngest daughter, Laura, can’t decide whether to go to Harvard or Edinburgh University! I travel a lot for my business and run on the beach near home. Catherine works in ‘e-learning,’ advising Welsh colleges and universities. She and I are longtime friends and Rey, a cardiologist at NYU; Jamie Koslow, a writer for The New Yorker; and now a freelance, often for Smithsonian Magazine; and Dowell Myers, a professor of urban planning in Los Angeles at USC. Rick Kurnit told me how his legal practice has evolved to include a major focus on advising clients on structuring the next phase of their careers.

Friday was full of options for attendees, including talks by professors and a “crawling” through the art galleries of Chelsea. I joined the class tour of the paintings and sculpture galleries in the new American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, led by a staff member who commented extensively on the selection of works we saw. Steve Belovin, for many years at Bell Labs but now a professor of computer science at Columbia, reminded me that we’ve known each other for 50 years, having met when we started junior high. Of course he was right, though I’ll confess to having been unsettled by the number, the impact of which wasn’t mitigated until I met someone who was back for his 60th reunion; then I realized how young I really am.

Later that evening I missed the cocktail reception for our class hosted by Rick Kurnit at his law firm, but did get to the College/Engaging/Bird watching party at the Kraft Center, the Hillel building that didn’t exist in our time. I sat with Allan Schuster and his wife, Cindy Sherman, both physicians.

Rick Kurnit ’72’s legal practice has evolved to include a major focus on advising clients on structuring the next phase of their careers.

Ron Bass reports, “Jersey Petrolkum’s song ‘As The Vessel Burns’ appears on the recently released compilation album Magick, Music and Ritual 3. Jersey Petroleum consists of John Stanford, Ford and Rey, a cardiologist at NYU; Jamie Koslow, a writer for The New Yorker; and now a freelance, often for Smithsonian Magazine; and Dowell Myers, a professor of urban planning in Los Angeles at USC. Rick Kurnit told me how his legal practice has evolved to include a major focus on advising clients on structuring the next phase of their careers.

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were in high school together, as well as fellow pre-meds at Columbia, so we had a lot of catching up to do. There were talks to choose from on Saturday morning as part of Dean’s Day, but our class events began with a luncheon in the 15th-floor conference center of SIPA. The last time I’d been there was a little more than 38 years ago on my wedding day. My wife, Dede, and I had chosen the conference center with the great view of the New York skyline in the then-new SIPA building as the site for our wedding.

Gene Ross came to the luncheon in his Army Medical Corps uniform. After serving as the only ENT doctor in Iraq in 2005–06, Gene returned to practice in Westchester, though he still serves in the Army Reserve. We talked about some of his experiences in Iraq, where he treated everything from shrapnel wounds to soldiers with fish bones stuck in their throats, and about being on-call round the clock as the only ENT in the country.

Lunch was followed by a class discussion in Alfred Lerner Hall (for those of you who didn’t know, Ferris Booth is long gone, replaced by glass-fronted Lerner with its endless ramps). The discussion, led by Rick Kunitz, was about second careers at 60. I should not have been surprised that it quickly felt like we were back in CC, with some classmates challenging the premise that we necessarily need to think about something different with the rest of our lives; others saw the problem as residing in a system that discards good people after they have contributed to their organizations for so many years.

Neil Jernberg told of his decision to move to New York, where he is the director of the Marshall Islands' situation, as he said in his understated way, raises “novel legal issues.” [Editor’s note: Read CTC’s May 16, 2011 feature about Gerard online.]

Richard Mack said, who wasn’t able to attend, nonetheless wrote to say that he’s now a grandfather. “My daughter Jennifer Duques delivered James Michael late in March. By the way, does any of our famous doctors have a for-sure cure for acid reflux in a baby?”

Other classmates who registered for the weekend (I’m not relying on my memory to tell you who else was there) included Stuart Bernsen, Emeritus; David Carmillo, Peter; Dennis Greene, Tarig Hassan, Steven Howitt, Harlan Lachman, Joseph Lewis, Keith Lief, Jeffrey Matloff, Eugene Nathanson, Gerard Papa, Allan Reiss, Joseph Smith, Gary Szakmaiy, Harold Veeser and Robert Wollman. My apologies to those who were there and whom I missed, and for failing to do justice to the many wonderful conversations I had with so many classmates during the weekend. I hope many more of you will join us for our 45th — just five years away.

Next year is our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend. Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 2, 2013. If you’re interested in being part of the Reunion Committee (planning the weekend’s events) or the Class Gift Committee (fund-raising for the Columbia College Fund), contact the alumni office at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumnidate, or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.

Hey, that’s all I got. Shake off those PCs and keep us informed; no news is bad news.

FALL 2012
Jeffrey Kessler ’75 recently led 70 fellow former partners of Dewey & LeBoeuf to Winston & Strawn, where Kessler now is on the executive committee.

Will’s latest adventure was a real surprise for two reasons. First, he received a huge contract to put 65-foot micro-wind turbines on 400 Wal-Mart stores. Then he began working with Brad Higgins (managing partner of the U.S. investments at private equity firm SOVentures on the funding of the turbines. When I asked Will how the two hooked up, he replied, “We connected on LinkedIn. After we talked, we found we had similar business interests and investment requirements.”

There is more to this social media revolution than many of us give it credit for. There you have it. Classmates featured on TV and in newspapers and magazines for their amazing achievements. Other classmates pursuing their passions in a variety of fields. For a class of only 600 guys, we have a lot to be proud of — not least of which is that no one has had to declare, “I am not a crook!”

Randy Nichols
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Not one to skip a reason to celebrate (and taking some time to themselves now that they are empty-nesters), Yasmin and Jim Dolan were in France in early summer. Jim proposed to Yasmin in Paris.

Known to many of us for his high profile in sports labor negotiations, Jeffrey Kessler recently led 70 other former partners of Dewey & LeBoeuf to Winston & Strawn, where Jeff now is on the executive committees. Joe Tato, also formerly of Dewey, has joined other former Dewey partners at DLA Piper. Both rainmakers will continue to represent their portfolios.

Classmates gathered with other Columbians at Dean’s Day on June 2. Lou Dalaveris and Ira Malin spent some time chatting. Bob Schneider and his wife, Regine, gave Andy Mullally’s 75th Barnard party on the site of the new Manhattanville campus. Floyd Warren had registered but no one saw him, and I wasn’t able to contact him before these Notes were due, which was shortly after Dean’s Day.

A couple of weeks back, I got an email from Bob Sclafani asking if I knew how he could get our yearbook. I told him I didn’t know who loaned me mine. I sent it off, with the condition that when he got (and returned it), he also would send me stuff for Notes. Look for news in the next CCT.

I have just spent the most amazing weekend here in my hometown of Baltimore — remember, I’m writing this in June — taking part in its Star-Spangled Sailabration, which is the official kickoff to the nation’s celebration of the 200th anniversary of the “Star-Spangled Banner.” Those of you elsewhere on the East Coast may have experienced it as OpSail 2012. Sailings, tall ships, small and medium. Ditto for naval, marine, Coast Guard and other Grey ships, all from around the world. There were air shows, including the Blue Angels, which I swear I could have reached up and grabbed as they flew over my roof deck.

I did more than 24 hours of volunteering, walking the promenades of the harbor as a Sailabration ambassador, during the last four days, but that also put me in the middle of enjoying it. Now, I’m gonna collapse and recover. From all the standing and walking, my body may have experienced it as OpSail 2012.

Our class held its 35th Alumni Reunion Weekend from May 31 - June 3. Although I wasn’t there, I received a number of enthusiastic reports that things tended to cobble together, hopefully not too inaccurately. (They make this kind of thing look so easy on the CSI shows.)

Lou DeStefano says that Karen, his wife of two years, was impressed by her first view of the campus; she saw much of it but not all. A night in Carman was “not so bad as an inexpensive hotel,” but when Lou wanted to show her John Jay lounge, he was stopped by campus security. Lou was pleased to see Peter Buxbaum, a first-timer at a Columbia reunion.

Tom Wagner and his wife, Miriam Furey ’77 Barnard, had dinner on reunion Thursday with his fraternity brothers from Beta Theta Pi, including James Camparo (with his wife, Lori ’77 Barnard), Jim Mullin (plus his wife, Linda) and Kevin Roach ’77E; this was followed by a show, The Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess. Tom reports that he “sees the Mullins at most Homecomings, since they are local, but the Camparos live out West and we had not seen them in many years, making for a wonderful reunion.” Tom and Miriam also went on the Chelsea art gallery crawl tour the next day, followed by lunch on Tenth Avenue — and, alas, an early departure due to other commitments. They missed a class reception held by Bill Gray in his office.

Among those who made it to Bill’s was John Hallacy, who

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enjoyed the spread as well as the view of the Empire State Building, lit in blue and white. Of the reunion overall, John adds, "The events were very well organized this year. The lectures were truly stimulating. I attended several sessions, each of which was viewed from a multidisciplinary perspective. The Wine Tasting was great because Barnard alumnae were present, including my wife, Mary Ann Lofrumento '77 Barnard, and you could mingle with the broader reunion crowd. As is predictable, we talked about surviving the 1970s and classes and professors that we appreciated a great deal. The food was generally excellent but did not surpass the discourse and the weather. The recent grads also appeared to be very enthusiastic."

Someone else at Bill’s reception was Mike Aroney, who seems to have kept up a frenetic pace during the weekend; he brought his wife, Kathy; daughter, Brittany; son, Kell; and daughter-in-law, Amy. As Kell is a recent graduate of the business school at Southern Methodist University and Brittany had just graduated (with honors, yet) from the University of South Carolina’s College of Nursing, “the trip, in part, was a graduation present, and I acted as tour guide for most of the time. We stayed in Tribeca and saw just about everything, and it seems we walked the younger folks to the point of crying ‘uncle.’ We sent the kids off to see War Horse, so they had to humor Dad with a trip to MoMA, an art gallery crawl in Chelsea and lunch at the Boathouse on Friday,” followed by Bill’s event. “I gave the kids a tour of campus and talked some stories. Kell wanted to see the B-school and Brittany wanted to know about the medical school. The kids attended our class dinner with Kathy and me, but left early from the champagne and dancing to go back to the hotel. I do believe they were in bed by 10, while Kathy and I made a fair job of the dancing and champagne conversation.

“Funny story: our daughter is an attractive, 6-foot tall, 22-year-old blonde. When we arrived at the dinner for cocktails, my wife went over to the bar to gather some refreshments while I greeted classmates. Kathy came back and was standing next to me and eventually when it was clear she was a daughter, a few classmates confessed they were relieved to learn she wasn’t a trophy wife!"

Also at reunion were (with apologies to anyone I left out — or put in — by mistake): Craig Brod, Leslie Cohen, Mark Goldberg, Michael Katzman, Bob Kent, Marty Kutscher, Jon Lukonnik, Peter Nagyker, Dan Sang, John Santamaria, Jim Shapiro, Michael Sherman, David Stanton, Christopher Sten, Robert Werner and George Whipple. Among attendees I heard from, there was agreement on the fine weather, the good work of the reunion staff and (unfortunately) the relatively low turnout of our class. Here’s to a bigger 40th.

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**

**ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS**

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I continue to be amazed and humbled at the achievements and broad ranges of our class this year. It has been wonderful as we approach our 35th reunion if we are closer to half our allotted time as Columbia grads, or two-thirds done. It’s beginning to make a difference. . . .

**John Nastuk,** also ’78E, writes, “The news from Danvers, Mass., is that I’m a senior engineer with GE Aviation but bigger news is that our daughter, a few classmates and Brittany wanted to know about the medical school. The kids and I are very proud of the Class of 1977 Barnard, and I are very proud of each.”

Midwestern refugee Robert Blank sends this from Madison, Wis: “Scary how time flies. Nothing fun or exciting to report. Sorry to say the recall was a disaster here, and [Gov.] Scott Walker is truly evil.”

Henry Aronson has been busy as always, “My wife, Calin Hefferman, and I were selected for the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat for this summer; [at this writing in June we planned to go] for a week in August to continue working on our new musical, Loveless Texas. I do some orchestrating for the Rocktopia symphony/rock fusion ensemble, kicking off with the Youngstown (Ohio) Symphony in September; I’ll be playing keyboards in the concert, too. Meanwhile, I’m still music director/conductor of Rock of Ages on Broadway!”

Jeffrey Moerdler looks down on Gotham from his perch at Mintz Levin, telling us, “My oldest son, Scott, graduated from Mount Sinai School of Medicine and is starting his residency in pediatrics at Mount Sinai Medical Center (he got his first-choice match) and plans to specialize in pediatric oncology. He is getting married in October. My twins are both at NYU, Jonathan in the Stern School of Business and Eric in the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in architecture and urban planning. Jonathan [was scheduled to] get married in August.

“I’m busy in my real estate legal practice and in particular in my specialty in data center and telecom real estate. I also spend lots of my time on my rock fusion ensemble, part-time jobs. For starters, I’m commissioner of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (yes, the recent toll increases are my fault); I’m very involved in all of its major real estate projects, in particular the World Trade Center. I’m also an EMT on my local volunteer ambulance service and co-president of my chapter in Riverdale as well as president of my co-op apartment building.”

Stu Kricun may hold the record for appearances in this column (what Joan Rivers was to Johnny): “I have worked at Disney since 2005, after spending 12 years at Playhouse. Talk about 180-degree changes in the subject matter. If any of our classmates’ kids are fans of Coal, Lodge or College, those are two of the shows for which I am production counsel. My kids are in the prime demographic right now for Disney. My daughter, Arianna, is 7 and my son, Jordan, is 5 (yes, I did start really late compared to some of the rest of you).”

“I find myself reminiscing every so often about the good old days at Columbia. Hard to believe it’s been almost 35 years. One of these days, I need to take a trip with the entire family and show my little ones where dad went to college.”

Gary Pickholz gets the award for ecletic activities. “My new book, for background context, is my nonfiction project at Stanford’s Writer’s Studio, which has been a truly marvelous and eye-opening experience of my career.”
experience,” he writes. “I have been blessed with many sharp colleagues in many universities and firms worldwide, across a number of disciplines, in my career; but this is by far the most fascinating group of colleagues I have ever enjoyed spending time with. “My wife, Marian ‘77 Barnard, is teaching in Washington, D.C.” “I now have an appointment in Kabul, Afghanistan. I will be in charge of building New York City’s first totally new subway line — the Second Avenue subway, first proposed in the 1920s, partially dug before the 1970s fiscal crisis that nearly bankrupted the city and now on time and on budget.” “Lastly, our daughter, Beth, accomplished a personal triple crown, having all in one day made her bat mitzvah, received our Little League’s most prestigious memorial award (known as the Chris Giangrasso Award) for her fairness and respect for others, and, with her team, won the championship with a come-from-behind effort in the bottom of the last inning. It was in true storybook fashion, with two outs and the bases loaded!”

Eric Granderon ’80 has been named in-house lobbyist for New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.
Ronald Weich recently was named dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law. He previously served as chief counsel to Yahoo.com.

I look forward to seeing you all at Homecoming [on Saturday, October 20; see Around the Quad] and supporting our team! Drop me a line at mbceu80@yahoo.com.

Kevin Fay
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Dr. Paul J. Maddon Ph.D. announced his retirement in March as chief science officer of Progenics Pharmaceuticals, a company he founded in 1986. Having served as chairman of the board, CEO and chief science officer, Paul will continue to be a member and vice chair of the Progenics Board of Directors. Progenics, a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to developing innovative medicines to treat diseases, with a focus on cancer and related conditions, is based in Tarrytown, N.Y. Paul intends to stay active in retirement, as he serves on a number of boards and committees of nonprofit and commercial organizations, including as a University Trustee at Columbia. In addition, he plans to spend a lot more time with his family, Alex (12), Hanna (11) and Sophie (9).

Paul, I have no advice on how to run a biopharmaceutical company, but can provide a little insight on raising daughters, if you’re interested.

From one doctor to another: Michael E. Schatman Ph.D. sends an update from Seattle, where he enjoys recreational pursuits both in the mountains and on water. Michael is executive director of the nonprofit Foundation for Ethics in Pain Care and is very involved in pain medicine as a clinician, writer, editor of four journals and related conditions, is based in Tarrytown, N.Y. Paul intends to stay active in retirement, as he serves on a number of boards and committees of nonprofit and commercial organizations, including as a University Trustee at Columbia. In addition, he plans to spend a lot more time with his family, Alex (12), Hanna (11) and Sophie (9).

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Eric Laursen ’82 is an independent journalist who has covered political and financial news for more than 25 years.

"I’ve been working in banking for nearly 30 years, primarily with BankBoston (now Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Morgan Stanley and BofA) in corporate and international banking. I then started a New England wholesale banking team for Huntington Bank from Columbus, Ohio, in 2010. It’s been very entrepreneurial and a lot of fun. The best part is I’ve also managed to turn less commuting time into some exercise time."

Finally, though many of you have already heard this news, it is with great sadness that we note the passing of Richard M. Ruzika on May 8 from complications arising from knee surgery. Richard was a star on the football team, so good he was drafted into the NFL (Dallas Cowboys). He decided to bypass a career in football, instead joining Goldman Sachs, where he worked in executive positions and ultimately became head of commodities. He spent almost 30 years at Goldman and was preparing to start a new hedge fund, Dublin Hill Capital, based in Greenwich, Conn.

Richard was very loyal to Columbia and was recognized with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2006. He is survived by his wife, Ruthanne, and two teenage children. Our deep condolences go out to the Ruzika family.

―[Editor’s note: See Summer 2012 Obituaries—]―

Andrew Weisman
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Greetings, gentlemen: I trust this note finds you all in good spirits. As I put single digit to iPad, one of the hottest沖冬期 on record is blazing. Obamacare has been upheld (or defined as a tax, depending on your political persuasion) and the European bond markets are in disarray, playing mumbletye-peg with my 401K.

On a positive note, I recently encountered one of our more esteemed College professors on a flight to Newark from Denver (where I reside four days a week, so if anyone’s in the vicinity, look me up and I’ll spring for dinner). The professor: Arnold Eisen. Some of you may remember him in CC; if I recall correctly John Malcolm, Wally Wentink and John Levy were in class with me. Professor Eisen now is chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary. He was rather taken aback that I remembered him after 30 years. The reality is that he did a fantastic job teaching the class and I’d be surprised if any of us forgot the experience.

Writing in this period is the selfless and adventurous Karl Olson. A member of the Foreign Service, Karl spent the spring studying Pashto and growing a beard in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan (a commitment that also kept him from attending reunion). On behalf of the entire class, I thank Karl for his efforts.

On special assignment this period, our roving reunion reporter, Dave Filosa, sends this account of the weekend’s events: “The 30th reunion was a great success. High point was the tri-college cocktail party on the Hamilton Steps before our class dinner in Butler. Everyone was happy for the opportunity to see classmates from Engineering and Barnard.”

―[Editor’s note: See Summer 2012 Obituaries—]―

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“Have established a Columbia-Barnard-Engineering Class of 1982 Reunion Group on Facebook that has pictures from the weekend and that we encourage everyone to join. Check it out at facebook.com/119926315313157.”

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## Alumni Sons and Daughters

Seventy-one members of the College Class of 2016 and five members of the Engineering Class of 2016 are sons or daughters of College alumni. This list is alphabetical by the parent’s last name.

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<tr>
<th>STUDENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Ackerman</td>
<td>Stephen K. Ackerman ’79</td>
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<td>Poughkeepsie, N.Y. • Arlington H.S.</td>
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<td>Olivia Alex</td>
<td>John Alex ’89</td>
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<td>Middletown, N.J. • Leonia H.S.</td>
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<td>Stephen Atiaman</td>
<td>Jean-Marie L. Atiaman ’81</td>
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<td>New York City • The Dalton School</td>
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<td>Stephen Babendreier</td>
<td>Gerard M. Babendreier ’84</td>
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<td>Rockville, Md. • The Heights School</td>
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<td>Theresa Babendreier</td>
<td>Gerard M. Babendreier ’84</td>
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<td>Aram Bailey</td>
<td>Nairi Cheekosky Bailey ’88</td>
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<td>White Plains, N.Y. • White Plains H.S.</td>
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<td>Roberta Barnett</td>
<td>Richard L. Barnett ’75</td>
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<td>Cian Barron</td>
<td>Joaquin Barron ’94</td>
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<td>Peregrine Beckman ’84</td>
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<td>Los Angeles • The Archer School for Girls</td>
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<td>Brett B. Bernstein ’84</td>
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<td>Jeff Bogursky ’80</td>
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<td>Mikhail Browman ’81</td>
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<td>Ernesto J. Carames ’85</td>
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<td>St. Augustine, Fla. • St. Joseph Academy</td>
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<td>John C. Connell ’76</td>
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<td>Edward W. Daw ’86</td>
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<td>Robert Desresiwicz ’79</td>
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<td>Etienne Desbois</td>
<td>Marcel P. Desbois ’77</td>
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<td>Alia Dhingra ’91</td>
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<td>Burton F. Dickey ’76</td>
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<td>Houston • St. John’s School</td>
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<td>Daniel N. Duncan ’85</td>
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<td>Austin, Texas • Westlake H.S.</td>
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<td>Elliot Finkelstein</td>
<td>Joshua S. Finkelstein ’82</td>
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Security — the most successful anti-piracy program in U.S. history — from this kind of politics.

“Researching and writing the book took more than a decade, and I supported it with freelance financial writing and journalism, the field I’ve worked in since Columbia. I was fortunate, too, that I found a wonderful independent publisher, AK Press, that was willing to take on a long, serious book about an important topic. I have a couple more intriguing book projects that I’ve already started to write. But first I want to see if The People’s Pension can make a difference!”

Very exciting! I’m looking forward to reading this one.

In the news this period, it was announced on June 25 that Greg Burke was selected as a senior communications adviser to the Vatican’s secretariat of state, in the Vatican. In an AP interview Greg said, “I’m a bit nervous but very excited. Let’s just say it’s a challenge.” Greg will be leaving his role as the FOX News Vatican correspondent but then return to assume this new and demanding role. [See Alumni in the News.]

Congratulations!

Looking forward to hearing from all of you. Cheers!

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**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**

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Greetings, classmates. My wife and I hosted a fundraiser at our home for my friend and trusted confidante of nearly 30 years: pragmatic, progressive, Democrat Marc Landis. Marc is running for New York City Council on the Upper West Side. He is a tireless and dedicated public servant, and is a person of outstanding character and compassion. Marc’s wife is Judy Landis ’85 Barnard, ’82 SIPA, John Luisi ’81 was one of many Columbia graduates in attendance. Other Columbia supporters included Stephen Jacobs ’75, Jim Weinstein ’84, Ken Chin, Jon Ross ’83 and Dennis Klaiberg ’84.

Eddy wrote an article about this year’s Fuzzy Tulip for the Columbia Daily Spectator. It begins: “From an eclectic dais that ranged from Matt Lauer, Liza Minnelli, and Dick Cavett, to Dominic ‘Uncle Junior’ Chianese, to The Office’s Oscar Nuñez, to former New York [Knicks] star John Starks, to [former boxer] boxing great Ray ‘Boom Boom’ Mancini, to Best Picture The Artist’s Uggie the dog, the event was up to its usual biting and merciless humor, poking fun at the guest of honor’s age and sexual proclivity.

“Barbara Walters served as Roastmaster, marking the first time in Friars history that women were both host and subject. Yesterday, I was talking to the President of the University, ‘Oh!’ Walters said, referring to Barack Obama’s appearance on The View; ‘and today I am with second-rate comedians and a dog’.

Jon Ross ’83 is the founder and program manager for MicroAid International.

“Walters kicked off the festivities by skewering her longtime friend: ‘What has been said about Betty White that hasn’t been said about Betty White? That was her contemporary: Moses, John the Baptist and General Custer… Betty was the first woman banned by the TSA for requesting too many pat downs, the first person to try to send a text from a land line, and the first woman to do Shakespeare at The Globe Theatre. Literally, she did him in the balcony.’”

“Regis Philbin, Abe Vigoda, Larry King… what is this, a roast or are we sitting shiva? Walter’s co-host, Joy Behar, said about her elderly dais companions. ‘Larry King’s latest wife is not only compatible romantically; she is also a compatible donor… When Katie Couric had her last colonoscopy televised, they found Sarah Palin’s high school diploma… Betty White recalled her first sitcom was ‘Hot for Grover Cleveland.’”

“You can read the rest at cinema retro.com.”

**Jon Ross ’83 is the founder and program manager for MicroAid International.**

“Very exciting! I’m looking for¬

[See Alumni in the News.]
I'm looking forward to helping organize our 30th reunion. Any classmates interested in participating in the planning or fundraising should contact me or the appropriate Alumni Office representative at the top of the column. It's still early enough that you can help in the planning by joining the Reunion Committee. And of course put the dates on your calendar, Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2, 2013.

Dennis Klainberg
Berklay Cargo Worldwide
14 Bond St., Ste 233
Great Neck, NY 11021
dennis@berklay.com

Yours truly and Louis Vlahos had the distinction of holding high our class banner during the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day on May 15. As reported over the years, this is an amazing experience where, after a sumptuous catered feast in John Jay Dining Hall (yes, it is possible to wash down the asides to the applause and adulation of the graduating class. Makes one feel like a rock star, and truly gives a great sense of pride in the College.
Louis was doubly blessed as his daughter, MaryAnn ’12, was one of those graduates.

Good luck at Columbia Dental School, MaryAnn!

And speaking of legacies, Eleanor, daughter of Peregrine Beckman, will join the Class of 2016 this fall and live in Carman. He writes, “We attended the Days on Campus event in April just to get her primed; she’s very excited. I also got to see my old roommate and great friend Gregory Lynch, who’s still in textbook publishing. I’m editing my fifth episode of Deadliest Catch right now and will soon shoot a pilot of Food Chain Gold, all for Discovery channel. I still listen to WKCR’s jazz programming every day and love having it online.”

From the Republic of Texas, Dr. Langham Gleason rides again! “Practicing neurosurgery with an emphasis on minimally invasive, image-guided techniques in WichiTa Falls, Texas. I’m very excited that my second-oldest daughter, Kylie, is moving to NYC from Cambridge, Mass., to work for Bain & Co. I plan to visit her as often as I can! Just hope one of my other four, younger kids pick Columbia for undergraduate studies.”

Saul Hansell watched too much TV as a kid, and look what happened: He started Sii.TV, a company that will offer video news over the Internet. The many beautiful islands, it was like we had seen each other last week. Aside from scuba diving and sailing, we discussed our families, goals and current events, like we were in a humanities class. The Core Curriculum experience was alive and well, and we’re looking to go on another trip in two years.”

David Stafford reports, “I was named general counsel of McGraw-Hill Education, which as publicly reported will be separated via spin-off or sale from The McGraw-Hill Companies later in 2012. I’ve spent the last 20 years as an attorney at The McGraw-Hill Companies. I’m in the process of transitioning to the new role. My wife, Caryn ’85 Barnard, and I live in Scarsdale with our three children. My son Daniel graduated from high school this spring and will be heading to the University of Arizona in the fall. My son Andrew finished ninth grade and my daughter, Allison, fifth grade.”

Who knew David Terhune was such a sentimentalist? Listen to this slew of shows. “The musical revue in which I’m involved (guitar, sing), The Lover’s Lounge, performed at Lincoln Center’s Midsummer Night Swing series on July 12. This was our third time doing the series, and we created songs from the Prince and Michael Jackson catalogs. We also played at Celebrate Brooklyn in the Prospect Park Bandshell on July 28. Did songs from the original Muppet Movie before a screening of that movie. Our shows at Joe’s Pub continue as well: we did a Sunny and Cher tribute June 21–23.”

Adding a bit of historical gravitas to the mix is Adam Van Doren: “I was pleased to return to campus last month to attend the annual Mark Twain Award Reception, now in its 51st year, held in the penthouse of Faculty House. It was a great experience and the organizers could not have been more welcoming, especially Rose Razaghian ’02 GSAS, who works in the Office of the Vice President for Arts and Sciences. A large, lively crowd attended, and it was wonderful to see the recipient, philosophy professor Christia Mercer, give such an impassioned and eloquent acceptance speech. I remember when my widowed grandmother, Dorothy, would be picked up by limousine each year from her house in northwest Connecticut to attend the event in NYC. I am pleased to report that the enthusiasm and energy at this year’s ceremony is reflective of how relevant the award still is, and it bodes well for future such occasions. I urge as many alumni and current students as possible to come next year (the Lionel Trilling Award also is given
these teachers are to be celebrated.

And now a message from Karl Citek (quite the driven educator!): “I have been teaching at Pacific University College of Optometry for more than 17 years, I started as an assistant professor and was promoted up to full professor in 2006. On April 18, I was honored to receive a Target Zero Award in the area of impaired driving from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. I have been involved for more than 10 years in helping teach law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges about the effects of intoxication on eye movements and how police officers can detect impaired drivers. I have participated in similar teaching and training seminars in other states through the years. Bottom line, don’t drink or do drugs and drive; cab fare will always cost less, by every possible measure.”

Michael James reports that he left the Justice Department five years ago and is in-house counsel at GF Capital, where he does litigation and investigations.

Gridiron reunion: John Witkowski says, “I was the featured speaker at the Columbia Gold Football Dinner in March, which gave me the opportunity to see many of my teammates and classmates who came to (I think) support me. It was also a great evening for the seniors, their parents, coaches and alumni. I thank Joe Bossolina, Bill Reggio, Lester Brafman, John Magner, Tom Samuelson, Mike Bozzo, Larry Silo and Pat Conroy — it’s been five years since coming, including a larger contingent of the Kingsmen from the ’80s, in the next year or two.

For my personal update, the coffee business continues to evolve. Our company has grown significantly in the retail space, adding a variety of retail licenses to our portfolio, which has enabled us to offer our products in multiple club stores, major mass merchants and a wide range of supermarkets throughout the country.

On the home front, our son, Isaac ’14, worked again at CCIT this summer, doing website design and completion. While he had lived on campus last summer, we were pleased that this year he chose the life of a suburban commuter. (When here, he dedicated time in the batting cage. If only...)

Dr. Adam Cohen ’86 was named the forthcoming editor of Gesta, the only journal in English dedicated to the study of medieval art and architecture.
who also is a medieval art historian, he recently was named the forthcoming editor of Gesta, the only journal in English dedicated to the study of medieval art and architecture (published by the International Center of Medieval Art, based at The Cloisters). Of more interest to Columbians will be his position as new co-chair of the Ontario, Canada, chapter of the Alumni Representative Committee. He says, “I look forward to working with Karen Madorsky ’92 to help steer great students to Columbia.”

87 Sarah A. Kass
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Our 25th reunion! Words fail me. Do we start by talking about all the wondrous events and opportunities for reconnection and connection, like the amazing parties at Kyra Tirana Barry and Dave Barry’s house and at Columbia Standard, New York? Or do we do a traditional linear narrative, starting with Thursday evening with the Barrys and continuing Friday with a report of some of the most amazing lectures I have heard in a long time — since school days, probably — including Carol Rovane’s lecture on Plato and Rousseau and Katharina Volk’s on happiness in Hellenistic philosophy? Or do we simply jump around and talk about reliving the old days by doing things like sitting on the Steps, hanging out with Gerri Gold and Judy Kim on Saturday afternoon? Since there is no ideal way (unless you believe unquestioningly in Plato), I thought I’d let some of the reunion speakers speak for themselves.

Cathy Webster writes, “Thursday night at the Barry’s house — what a gorgeous event! And a beautiful evening all the way around. A highlight was catching up with two of my freshman roommates, Stavros Zomopoulos and Jane Bolgatz, and reminiscing about the close bonds of our little corner of 6 McBain. Also enjoyed chatting with Bruce Furukawa, one of only a few of our lot who has actually set foot in Oklahoma.

“On Friday, I had a wonderful and extended evening that started at The Standard, New York, and ended at the Dream Hotel with dancing and partying into the wee hours. Loved catching up, if briefly, with Elizabeth Schwartz Cohen, who has held more or less the same professional position for 21 years with CNN, and with Anne Cartwright, with whom I exchanged iPhone photo albums of our kids. George Stone and I talked at length about the value of French education, which was an unlikely conversation for both of us! Ellen Sullivan Crovatto bought me dinner. It was wust, but really not bad.

“After lunch on Saturday with my BFF Sarah Kass, the Marching Band reception featured Lee Ilan and Margaret McCarthy; both with their partners, but Lee also had her gorgeous babe in tow. It was good to sit down and catch up for an extended stretch with them both.

“And at dinner, Dick Dawson and his wife, Katy Tkach Dawson, with whom I took freshman comp, were wonderful table companions. We talked a lot about food — Dick has become a chef in Cambridge, Mass. — and about our extended families and our kids.

“I ended the night with Glee Club members including Shelley Friedland, Laurie Gershon, Farah Chandu and more. We sang all the school songs we could remember, including all three official verses of ‘Sins Sinct’ and a couple of the naughty ones. My feet were too tired to dance under the stars, unfortunately, but I loved taking the 1 train late on a Saturday night. Some things still feel the same, all these years later.

“I also had warm chats with Jon Nelson, also 6 McBain, and Michelle Estilo Kaiser before and after dinner on Saturday night. Not to mention the engineers with whom I was so very happy to dine! Overall turnout was incredible, really.

“Plus, I went to Elaine Sisman’s talk on Don Giovanni. She is just as I remembered her: dynamic and vibrant and so incredibly smart. I was completely flattered that she remembered me by name.”

Farah Chandu writes: “Great idea to have joint CC and SEAS events! My husband, Paul Carbone ’86E, and I had a wonderful time with dear friends from both schools. Especially fun was gathering at the Sundial with other Glee Clubbers to sing official and decidedly non-official school songs. Amazing how many verses we remembered from 25 years ago! Thanks to all who helped arrange it — this felt more like a party for our real life, far-flung friends than it did a school reunion.”

“Thoughts from Christine Jangchian Koobatai: ‘I had a great time at our 25th reunion. I remember going to my dad’s [Peter Jangchian ’63 GS] 25th Columbia reunion the spring before I started at Columbia and thinking to myself that everyone was sooooooo old. Somehow we don’t seem nearly as old as they did, although the college kids would probably disagree’.

“I spent time with four of my five college roommates: Teresa Saputo Creend, Michelle Estilo Kaiser, Lauren Alter Baumann and Donna Paccca. We missed Kerry Russell Hutson ’87E but are planning our own reunion with her this fall. It was so good to see everyone. Teresa and I were sitting on the Steps and talking about how much Columbia feels like home to us. I’ll always feel that way. I live in Connecticut now with my husband and four kids, yet whenever we’re in the city we have to go past alma mater. I hope to make it back for Homecoming [Saturday, October 20; see Around the Quads] and other alumni events in the near future.”

Bruce Furukawa reported, “I had an amazing few days hanging out with my friends from college. While our appearances were different, the hearts and souls of the people I saw there were the same, and that was all that mattered. My only regret when I left was that I did not take advantage of the time when I was at school to get to know people I just met at the reunion.”

Ron Burton said, “Great reconnecting with old friends and, believe it or not, making new ones. Old enough to regale each other with stories of our kids’ accomplishments, but still young enough not to be sporting seersucker suits and straw hats. In short, the echoes were awakened!”

Here’s Madeleine Villanueva’s recap: “I, along with Juliet (Roger) Kaba ’87E and Chris Kane, were part of outreach for Carman 6. The whole process for that was exciting — trolling the web for contact info, getting the Alumni Office to provide a floor plan and enlisting the help of an ever-growing circle to track — in my case more like hunt — everyone down. Dan Wery, for example, responded: ‘Wow! Hi Madeleine! What a flash from the past. I can still hear you say ‘Papi!’’” Deidre (Facendola) Allocco ’87E said, ‘I received a message from one of my co-workers at Con Ed that the Class of ’87 is looking for me for the reunion. In fact, I was reconnecting long before the reunion.’

“It was touching that Demetria Gallegos, although busy with family obligations, came by campus to visit. We took advantage of the Columbia Alumni Center to chat comfortably while enjoying the coffee and muffins. Aida Santiago ’87E also maneuvered her schedule to join us. We’d reconnected in the past couple of years, but we hadn’t actually seen each other in 27! Diane Ridley-White ’88 crashed just to catch up with some of the old crew.

“I danced a good portion of the night away with Rina Teran. There also was the opportunity to make new connections. Friday night I received a text from Jennifer Durnan ’97, saying ‘I met someone from our class.’ Apparently, Joongi Kim had opted to hang with the ‘young folk,’ so on Saturday night we sought each other out. We recalled memories of John Pennywell, taken from
us way too early.

"Yet one of the most treasured moments from this weekend didn’t occur on campus. It was my trip with Bill Hicks to visit Kevin Davis ’87E, who could not join us due to health concerns. During virtually all four years at Columbia, we were a pretty tight-knit duo. Kevin and I even rented a two-bedroom in Park Slope together after graduation. Yet, this was the first time in roughly 15 years that all three of us were together. The bond and love forged at Columbia has transcended time, distance and even lapses in communication. It was truly a surreal experience.”

Christina Musrey said, "I had never been to a Columbia reunion and am so happy I went to this one! I came because my dear roommate, whom I love and am connected to, and her lovely, assertive husband would not let me stay home. I am speaking of Ellen (Sullivan) Crovatto and Chris Crovatto. I also came to see Gwen Duniafi, whom I want to see whenever I can. "When I arrived at LGA at 6 a.m., I heard, ‘Oh there she is!’ It was Bill Hicks and Kevin Greber. So, the reunion began a little early. The surprise was how many other friends I felt strongly about after the weekend ended. I spent time with Ellen and her beautiful wife; Kyle Kietrys ’89 and his incredible wife, Jane Bolzgat; Cathy Webster; and Luis De Los Santos ’87E. I danced the night away with Ellen, Stavros Zomopoulos, Jose Calvo and Rina Teran. Also with Sandy Asirvatham, who, along with her husband, Kevin, I and many others spent quality time with at all the events. I even visited their room in Carman Hall! That was a memory … I am sure I am forgetting some names and faces. I am grateful of a chance at fun and youth, recollection and new beginnings. It was wonderful.”

Richard Simonds wrote, “I found our 25th reunion to be a surprisingly profound experience, not just reconnecting with classmates but also with the school itself. Other than the class dinner, the highlight was the presentation on Lit Hum by Christina Mercer, which brought back wonderful memories of the Core, and I’m happy to say that the intellectual philosophy of the Core is still going strong. It was good to see many of my Glee Club friends show up and to spend time with people whom I hadn’t known as well.”

Highlights of the reunion for Joe Feuer: “Reminiscing with Bill Hicks about our days in the City with John Pennywell; touring the High Line and catching up over dinner with Divya Singh and Sarah Kass, who gave us frequent updates of the first Mets no-hitter; hearing amusing stories over lunch about Judy Kim’s latest European adventures; having a mini-reunion with Hartley suitemates Luis De Los Santos ’87E and George Stone; making new friends with Sandy Asirvatham and her husband, Kevin, over wine and cheese; going to cool lectures on brain mapping and on the ancient philosophies of Epicureanism and Stoicism; giving a tour of the neighborhood and the campus to my girlfriend, capped off by a visit to my freshman dorm room in Carman for the first time in 25 years.”

From Lee Ilan: “I had a great time remembering and catching up with so many people. I’m continually impressed with what an interesting, diverse, funny group we are, and being good-looking and talented!

“My husband, Peter Engel, our daughter, Mavis, and I spent much time with Laura Ting, my Carman 13 (yay) roommate, and her husband, Kevin McGrattan ’87E, who was a big hit at the campus dinner. We were happy that so many College and Engineering friends attended and brought spouses/partners/kids. I didn’t attend any lectures, as I knew I’d want to spend the time yakking with classmates. My enthusiasm for them is no less. I loudly sang College songs at the Sundial with fellow Glee Clubbers on Saturday night — thereby ruining my voice for the conferences I had to speak at later in the week.”

Lee also noted the Mets jersey I wore to the day events on Saturday in honor of Johan Santana’s no-hitter the night before. Lee told me, “It brought back memories of the street party on 114th when the Mets won the ’86 World Series.

Since I know there are even more memories than can be recounted in this small space at one time, I leave the door open to all of you to continue to send reflections as they occur. And of course, keep sending regular updates, too!”

classmates I never got to know back in Morningside Heights. Having learned that Giuliana Dunham Irving and I worked just a few blocks from each other in downtown Washington, D.C., I met her for lunch in her building, at the famously cosmopolitan World Bank cafeteria. In Giuliana’s own words, “After NYU Law School (J.D. ’92), I practiced law in New York City for six years (private practice) before moving to D.C. I spent eight years as a federal prosecutor, with both Main Justice (Criminal Division, Fraud Unit) and the United States Attorney’s Office. In 2006, I moved to the World Bank, where I am senior counsel for institutional administration. My husband, Michael, and I live in the District with our daughter Michela (6).”

After Richards Heller’s first Class Notes update comes from the Pacific Northwest: “I figured after 24 years, I should participate!” she said. “I traded in the hustle and bustle of New York City for the tranquility of central Oregon, where I am the community development director for a town nestled in the Cascade Mountains. World-class skiing, fly-fishing and rafting entertain me now. I am also the proud mother of two, Hadleigh (7) and Sam (9), who saw Columbia University in the first time we went to the Javits Center and sometimes I’m lucky enough to cross paths with Patrick a calm person in the midst of the trade convention frenzy.”

Patrick has worked in book publishing for many years and last April he was named v.p., editor-in-chief and associate publisher of Penguin Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA). For the past 12 years, Patrick has been the director of trade paperback sales contributing to the success of such bestsellers as Eat, Pray, Love; The Memory Keeper’s Daughter; The Omnivore’s Dilemma; The Secret Life of Bees; The Kite Runner; and The Help. The long list of bestsellers he’s worked on also includes hardcovers from Charlotte Harris, Laurell K. Hamilton and J.R. Ward. Patrick, who earned a graduate degree from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, started his publishing career as a fiction buyer for World Book. She now lives in Boston. Prior to joining Penguin he worked at Houghton Mifflin and Hyperion/Disney.

Also at Book Expo in New York, I ran into prolific children’s book author Laura Dower ’89 is finishing up another book series for Hyperion/Disney.

I was so excited to note that Nancy McDoo passed away on January 15, 2011, in Medford, Mass. Nancy had been living in the Boston area since graduation. Most recently she worked for Management Sciences for Health, a Cambridge-based international nonprofit organization, as its communications/knowledge exchange content manager. Nancy had a love of music and the performing arts; she danced and played three instruments. She also had an abiding interest in social justice, women’s rights and the environment that pervaded her personal and professional life. Nancy was 44.

Thanks for your updates and please keep sending them. Don’t forget that 2013 is our 25th reunion year, so start planning your trips. The dates are Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2. In the meantime, to ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about it, please update your contact information online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-851-7488). Also, if you’re interested in joining the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend’s events, contact the appropriate Alumni Office staff member noted at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

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I ran into Patrick Nolan at Book Expo America in New York in June. It’s always great to see a familiar face in the crowd at the Javits Center and sometimes I’m lucky enough to cross paths with Patrick a calm person in the midst of the trade convention frenzy.”

Patrick has worked in book publishing for many years and last April he was named v.p., editor-in-chief and associate publisher of Penguin Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA). For the past 12 years, Patrick has been the director of trade paperback sales contributing to the success of such bestsellers as Eat, Pray, Love; The Memory Keeper’s Daughter; The Omnivore’s Dilemma; The Secret Life of Bees; The Kite Runner; and The Help. The long list of bestsellers he’s worked on also includes hardcovers from Charlotte Harris, Laurell K. Hamilton and J.R. Ward. Patrick, who earned a graduate degree from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, started his publishing career as a fiction buyer for World Book. She now lives in Boston. Prior to joining Penguin he worked at Houghton Mifflin and Hyperion/Disney.

Also at Book Expo in New York, I ran into prolific children’s book author and mom of three Laura Dower, who is finishing up another book series for Hyperion/Disney. We exchanged working-mom tales of love and woes, with an emphasis on the shared “Who ever thought we’d be this harried?” feeling, though Laura looks as poised as ever and still wears her glamorous smile. She is the author of more than 70 books for young adults, including the series From The Files of Madison Finn and the book Rentak. Laura lives in New York with her husband and children. If you have school-age kids who love to read, check out her website, lauradower.com.

Robert B. Kaplan, formerly chief of the asset management unit of the
Macky Alston '87 Fights for Equality Through Film

BY YELENA SHUSTER '09

Filmmaker Macky Alston '87 spent the past four years shooting at locations around the world, sleeping on the floors of friends of friends and Skyping with his husband and two children while working 12-hour production days during month-long absences. Despite raising $1 million for his project, he hasn’t been paid a cent. Yet he’s smiling.

Alston’s satisfaction is due to the documentary he spent almost half a decade directing, Love Free or Die, which chronicles the struggles of New Hampshire’s Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the Anglican Church, as he seeks acceptance in the face of worldwide controversy and death threats. From scenes of Robinson’s invocation at President Barack Obama ‘83’s inauguration to decorating the Christmas tree at home with his husband, the film offers a full picture of the trailblazing man behind the robe.

Alston’s steady camera follows Robinson’s attempts to advance LGBT acceptance from America’s small-town churches to England’s 2008 Lambeth Conference (from which Robinson was banned). In a particularly dramatic scene, the bishop’s preaching is interrupted by a heckler screaming “heretic” over and over until the congregation begins singing hymns to drown him out.

“Making this film will be something I’ll be able to tell my grandchildren about,” Alston says as we sit in the bustling Caffe Reggio, a few blocks from his sunny West Village apartment. “The only reason I’ll even have grandchildren is because of historic people like Gene who stood up and fought for my liberation.”

Critics agree about the film’s impact. Love Free or Die won the Documentary Special Jury Prize for an Agent of Change when it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

Alston, an animated storyteller who would not be miscast in front of the lens, is no stranger to accolades. He received Emmy nominations for his earlier films, The Killer Within, Hard Road Home and Family Name; the last also scored him appearances on The Oprah Winfrey Show and The Today Show.

Like many artists unsure of their calling, Alston spent his post-college years trying out different canvases. He worked first as a museum researcher, then made collage art, taking photos wherever he went and selling his work on the street (and in one lucky break, to Newsday). At 25, he got a low-paying job as a production assistant for a documentary and has been creating art through film ever since.

Alston notes the impact of the Core Curriculum on his career. “Being a documentary filmmaker means I’m a journalist and a generalist. I rely on the liberal arts education that I got at Columbia every day of work,” he says. In fact, Alston applied early: It was love at first campus tour. “Walking into campus was like walking into Shangri-La,” he explains. “It was a thrill to think my story could play out in such a beautiful, epic context.”

Even with the accolades, the work of documentary filmmaking can feel endless. In addition to festivals around the world, Alston plans to show Love Free or Die at 500 community-based screenings before its national broadcast on PBS in November.

The long hours, however, don’t bother him: “To be screening this in the states where there are ballot measures this year, I feel like I made something that can not only depict history but also impact history.”

To view the trailer, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cc/t.

Yelesha Shuster ’09 is a freelance writer whose work has been featured on Cosmopolitan.com, Refinery29.com and in New York magazine.
Matt reported that Amy Weinreich Rinzler, her husband, Brad, and their two children recently visited him and his family; they live in New York.

Rachel Cowan Jacobs 313 Lexington Dr Silver Spring, MD 20901
youngache@hotmail.com

In the “most remote location” category, Gemma Tarlach wrote from Antarctica. “As I type this, I am 4,000 miles from my family, who are living at the bottom of the world. Plaguewalker (shameless plug: available at Amazon and also at BN.com for Nook readers) is set in 14th-century Bavaria and told from the point of view of its protagonist, an amoral executioner. Things go from bad to worse for Marcus when a little thing called the Black Death arrives in town. It is not a romantic comedy. It will never be made into a movie starring Julia Roberts. That said, it’s been getting reviews from total strangers, perhaps too high to make me blush. You can read the first chapter at plaguewalker.com. For anyone who says it’s too dark, I say: spend six months with me here in Antarctica without sunlight and then we’ll talk about what’s too dark.”

“After my 14 months in 2010–11 on the ice, I had to leave (National Science Foundation rules: you can’t stay here on ice planet Hoth more than 14 months at a time), so I ended up hiking around Tasmania, Australia, with a dog, an ice-axe, and my camera. Single. Day. I had leeches in my tent, my clothes and my hair. That said, it was a beautiful place and I got to meet lots of Tasmanian devils (love them!), wallabies, kangaroos and wombats. I even held a juvenile wombat; it was like cuddling with a furry sandbag.

“The other highlight of my office time was meeting New Zealand All Blacks rugby star Brad Thorn at a fan event in Christchurch just after the All Blacks won the Webb Ellis Cup. He said, ‘Do you want to touch the cup?’ (He was holding it.) And I replied, ‘Can I touch you instead?’ He was gracious about it, though I suspect he was ready to call security when I wouldn’t let go. I love Kiwis.

“As for what’s next, I have a few irons in the fire, as always. I have two more novels in the publishing queue, for starters, and some ideas about what to do when I leave the ice later this year, but nothing definitive. To quote David Bowie: ‘I don’t know where I’m going from here, but I promise it won’t be boring.’”

Gemma, I assure you on behalf of our class that your updates are never boring! Directly from Tenders Info’s May newsletter (because it said it better than I could): “GAMCO Investors awarded the Graham & Dodd, Murray, Greenwald Prize for Value Investing to William von Mueffling [95 Business], managing partner and chief investment officer at Cantillon Capital Management, during its 27th annual client conference in New York. Known as the Gabelli Prize, the annual prize honors an individual, student or practitioner who has made an outstanding contribution to enlarge the field of value investing.

Ame Manges ’90 is an associate professor in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia.

“William is founder and CEO of Cantillon, where he manages more than $1 billion in long-only assets. Prior to founding Cantillon in 2003, he was a managing director for hedge funds at Lazar Asset Management, where he managed their European opportunities and worldwide opportunities hedge funds. Before joining Lazar, he was with Deutsche Bank in Germany and France. William is also a special adviser at Industry Capital Management, a member of the Board of Overseers of the Business School and a trustee at French American Cultural Exchange.

“Bruce C.N. Greenwald, who heads the Heilbrunn Graham & Dodd Research Center at the Business School and who leads the Gabelli Prize selection committee, said, ‘William’s contribution as chair of the executive advisory board of the Heilbrunn Center has been immeasurable, and his investment skills and his consistent application of Graham & Dodd’s principles to the investment process have enabled him to make countless contributions to the program.’

“And now, back to me. William, congratulations on this impressive award.

It was great to get email from Erika Rogers Marino, who reports, “My husband, Nick Marino, and I and our beautiful girls live happily in Stanford, Conn. Melissa Eva turns 7 in September and Rachel Alexis is 4. A recently retired federal agent and a guitar player and singer since the age of 12, my husband now spends a lot of time playing. I am not only his agent, publicist and manager, booking him at gigs, but I also handle these same tasks for another local musician. My husband recently performed with my cousin and bluegrass performer extraordinary Roger Sprung. I was on the sailing team at Columbia but with little kids have found it easier to take up boating in Long Island Sound, which we do as often as the weather permits. See everyone at our next reunion, if not sooner.”

I am thinking that Dr. Wei-Nehn Lee might have more letters after his name than anyone else in our class. If I am wrong, let me know so I can correct the record. In June, Wei-Nehn added Ph.D. to the M.D. and M.P.H. that follow “Lee.” He also added California resident to his resume in 2007 when, after eight years of practicing and teaching internal medicine at New York Medical College and itching to try something new, he packed up his wife and child and moved to Palo Alto to start Stanford’s Biomedical Informatics doctoral program. In these intervening five years, he also added a second child to his family. Don’t go looking for Wei-Nehn in a lecture hall, though. Instead, you’ll find him at Hewlett Packard Labs (also in Palo Alto) as a senior research scientist, continuing his work in big data analysis in medicine and medical decision support systems.

Ame Manges is another West Coast transplant. She has been a professor in infectious disease epidemiology at McGill since 2004 but recently made the move to the University of British Columbia as associate professor in the School of Population and Public Health. She and her husband have three boys: Oakley (9), Jasper (4) and Tilden (1). Ame would love to reconnect with classmates, so please look her up.

“Does everyone remember David Masur, member of the varsity fencing team? It appears he got hit by the 40-something-year itch and has become a ruler. He recently completed his first 10-mile race and is training for the Philadelphia Marathon in November. Maybe the marathon route goes past his office at Penn. In July, David became the director of the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research in the Department of Psychiatry. Most of his research is on improving quality of care for people with autism. He also is an associate professor of psychiatry at Penn, where he has the pleasure of teaching undergrads and mentoring doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows.

Melissa Michelson; husband, Christopher Gardner; and sons, Joshua (6) and Zachary (4); live in Palo Alto with their three cats, two dogs and five chickens. Melissa is a political science professor at Menlo College and has co-authored a book, Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electronic Through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns, which came out this summer. She also knits a lot.

Up until recently, in my job as an admissions officer at Johns Hopkins, my professional life was starting to intersect with our classmates’ personal lives, as some of you are beginning the college search process with your children. Take Beth Kissileff, for example. On a spring college trip with her rising senior daughter, she realized just how much life has changed since we were heading to college. As an undergraduate I listened to my first CD in Music Hall freshman year and now they barely exist.) Beth, her husband and three daughters relocated to Pittsburgh in August 2010 after many years of teaching at Smith, Mt. Holyoke, UMass Amherst and Carleton. Her first book will be published in 2013 by Continuum. Per Beth, “It is an anthology of academic writers using some aspect of their professional expertise to write on the Biblical book of Genesis. Dr. Ruth Wesheimer is writing on ‘it is not good for man to be alone...’ — you get the idea. I am also working on an Exodus volume.”

Beth primarily works as a freelance writer these days. She has a piece about her urban Pittsburgh neighborhood that was published on the online blog nytimes.com. She also has completed a novel, and once that is published, we might find her back in the classroom.

It was 13 years ago that Josh Masur moved to the Bay Area to practice intellectual property law; he now is a partner with Turner Boyd, a patent litigation boutique in Mountain View, Calif. He and his wife, Shelly, have three children, Julia (15) and twins Jacob and Noah (12). Shelly is running for county supervisor for San Mateo County, and their kids are competitive skiers. When I learned that Josh is a ski patrol at Alpine Meadows and legal advisor to the Eastern Sierra Region of the National Ski Patrol, I marveled at the power of genetics. (Or is it nurture? Discuss.) He said that after more than 20 years, he finally got to see and ski with Gabriel Kra this past season. I wonder if these guys know
what Marc Levin is up to. He wrote to say, "Quite a bit has been happening with me during the past 22 years. With the exception of one year away for graduate school, I've been living in the ski resort town of Vail, Colo. At first I was a classic ski town resident who lived to ski, but during the past two decades I've evolved into a husband, father and business owner. My wife, Maria, and I met in Vail in 1992. We have two daughters, Marin (10) and Silvia (8). Our whole family enjoys skiing and living next to the wilder parts of the high Rockies. In 2006, my brother-in-law and I opened an art gallery in Vail Village, the Vail International Gallery (vallgallery.com). I'd been working in the gallery business first as a salesperson and later as a gallery director, so it was a natural step to open our own and, as they say, so far so good.

"I enjoy keeping up with some friends from the swim team and Phi Ep. Two years ago I travelled to Seattle to visit with Phi Ep friends Brian O'Connor and his wife, Maria, and Dan Miron to celebrate the successful sale of John and Brian's success. Anyone visiting Vail is welcome to drop by and say hello.

In the future Columbian department, a hearty "congratulations" goes to Lara Honkawa on the March 1 birth of her daughter, Mika McConnell. Mika's parents and brother, Yoshii, are most pleased with their addition.

Rounding up this lengthy column — and thank you to everyone who submitted an update! — is a word about Miriam Lefkowitz, who wrote from New Jersey, her home since 2002. She has arranged her life in such a way that she can spend significant time with her husband, Marc Heimowitz, and their children, ages 12, 10 and 8, while also working part-time as general counsel for an asset manager in Manhattan. She has a financial services compliance consulting practice on the side, too.

Now that this column is complete, tell me if you noticed any themes. Whoever contacts me first with the correct answer(s) wins a prize. (Note my new email address, at the top of the column.) Happy fall and back to school to all.
in the financial services practice group of O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles. Amy recently became an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, Calif., where she teaches electronic discovery practice. Amy’s husband, Steve Pescosolido, is head of post-production for Zillo Group in Santa Monica, Calif., where he has been working on the TV show Raising an Olympian, airing in conjunction with the London 2012 Olympics. Amy and Steve have two sons, Leo and Renzi, who are 4 and almost 3, respectively, and attend preschool in Santa Monica.

I heard from Jeff Kelly, who lives in Georgia with his wife and four children. Jeff is a consumer bankruptcy attorney and recently attended the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys convention in San Antonio, where he reconnected with Alfredo Avelos ’96L, who owns a construction business in that city. Jeff writes, “We had a great time talking about our days on the Columbia cross-country and track teams.”

Gary Heidt, who was the station manager of WKCR our senior year, has been busy since we graduated. Gary wrote that he’s “releasing a line of soon-to-be-classic novels as e-books for sale on the Dirty Books platform. DIRT e-books can be found at dirtebooks.wordpress.com. Our initial six novels are dirt cheap, priced under $4.” Gary has spent the last seven years as a literary agent with Signature Literary Agency, representing clients such as Charles Yu ’01L and the Church of the SubGenius. Since graduation Gary also has performed extensively on the improvised music scene with Daniel Carter and Sabir Mateen, his plays have been performed in 17 annual installations of a 67-year performance piece and he recently directed a play about Margaret Mead ’23 Barnard, ’28 GSAS in Leipzig, Germany.

Wow. And good luck with your new endeavor, Gary.

Congratulations to Kevin Connolly and his wife, Laura, who welcomed their first child, Clarabel (2 Vi), and have him meet and play with other classmates at our 15th reunion, which I ran into another Columbia alum at the Upper West Side.

I urge you all to send in more notes. Your classmates love to read about fellow ’96ers, so please keep the news flowing! I leave you with this for now:

“It requires less mental effort to condemn than to think.”

— Emma Goldman

I had a wonderful time catching up with classmates at our 15th reunion, among them J.D. Altman, Laura Chittick, Luisa Cruz, Raji Kalra, Zaharah Markoe, Joshua Meyers, Maggie Osdoby Katz, Kristina Rumbaitis del Rio, Eva Subotnik and Andrew Wu. It was so much fun to be one of the few who made the whole day with my son, Micah (2 Vi), and have him meet and play with other classmates’ children, and then to come back to the evening and join everyone for cocktails, dinner and...
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conversation. What a lovely time! Raji Kalra took the plunge and bought an apartment in NYC, so she finally owns a piece of Manhattan.

Kerri (Bauchner) Stone writes: “On June 20, my husband, Josh, and I became the proud parents of Dylan Jacob, the love of our lives. I also recently found out that I received tenure; I am now a tenured law professor at the Florida International University College of Law.”

Rachel (Adame) Anderson writes, “I missed the reunion because I had a baby. My husband, Cuyler, and I welcomed Maxwell Mark on April 13. Sister Madeline likes him pretty well.”

Boris Kachka and Jamie Elizabeth Ehrlich were married in April and moved to Israel. Their son, Samiyah Ali, are learning the languages and Cultures at GSAS.

I live on Capitol Hill with my think tank in Washington, D.C. Lower School, also in NYC.

Rebecca Braverman and her husband, Ryan Olson, welcomed a son, Ari Benjamin, in August 2011. Happy belated first birthday, Ari!

Joshua Schank writes, “I am president and CEO of the Eno Center for Transportation, a 90-year-old nonprofit transportation policy think tank in Washington, D.C. I live on Capitol Hill with my wife, Lindsey, and sons, Max (4), and Jonah (2). I recently saw Paul Tuchman and Ben Greenbaum on a trip to New York and was reminded, as I often am, of fond memories of Columbia.”

Josh Ross returns to Columbia this fall to pursue a master’s in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at GSAS.

Nina Covalesky ’97 starred in a short film, The Plan, which premiered in this year’s Cannes Film Festival’s Short Film Corner.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013

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Hello, Class of ’98. I hope that all of you will consider joining me at our 15th reunion next spring. Please save the date for Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. Hope to see many of you back in Morningside Heights!

If you’re interested in being part of the Reunion Committee (planning the weekend’s events) or the Class Gift Committee (founding for the Columbia College Fund), contact the appropriate staff member at the top of the column. You need not be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Columbia will send materials by email and postal mail as the date grows closer. If needed, update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniregisse, or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.

Now, news from classmates: Joshua Ratner wrote with news of an exciting career transition: “I have quit the law (for now) and have spent the past few years studying to become a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC.” Josh was ordained in May. He and his wife, Elena (Salkovsky) ’98 Barnard, live in Connecticut.

The Plan, which premiered in this year’s Cannes Film Festival’s Short Film Corner.

Amol Sarva reports that his daughter, Pascale (5), is attending the Queens Paideia School, a progressive independent school in Long Island City founded by Francis Mechner ’52, 57 GSAS. Amol and his wife Ursula (2), and their younger daughter, Lila, is 2. One of our class’ most successful entrepreneurs, Amol, who founded the tech company Peek, just raised its latest big round of VC funds led by Softbank, Bhati Enterprises and RRE Ventures. Also a real estate developer, Amol completed his Long Island City building, East of East, in 2010; it was called “the most important new building in the borough” of Queens by The New York Daily News. In more business news, Amol started a seed fund focused on Columbia, called (appropriately) Cfund.

Lastly, according to SEC filings, Ronald G. Lehman, managing director of investment banking at Bruderman Brothers, has been appointed as a member of his company’s board of directors. The announcement says that Ronald “specializes in advising healthcare services companies.” Congratulations to Ronald on his appointment.

Laurent Vasilescu

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Solid updates to share with you this go-round. Eli Sanders, who was editor-in-chief of Spectator our senior year, recently won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing. He lives in Seattle and works for a local paper, The Stranger. A great write-up on Eli’s accomplishment can be found if you type his name into Spectator online.

I recently had brunch with Sameer Shamsi and Wendy Liu, with whom I was happy to reconnect. Wendy graduated with an M.B.A. from the Wharton School in 2010 and now works at a private equity fund that invests in healthcare royalties. She is happily married to Adam and they live on the Upper West Side not too far from campus.

The CCM office gave me the good word that Rohit Bansal recently joined the investment bank Jefferies as a managing director and head of distressed and special situations trading. Prior to working at Jefferies, Rohit was a managing director at Citigroup, where he spent four years running a high-yield debt trading desk.

Jess (Wendover) Zimbabwe welcomed a daughter on May 31, Martha, who joins sister Celia, or C.J. (2). Jess lives with her husband, Sam, in Washington, D.C., where
she is an executive director at the Urban Land Institute. Meghan Taira also lives in Washington, D.C., and has been calling our nation’s capital home for the past 10 years. For the past five, she has kept her ties to New York by reporting to Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) She is now his senior legislative assistant for health and education. These are all the updates for this edition. Don’t hesitate to drop me a line and let me know how you are doing.

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According to Crain’s New York Business, Jeffrey D. Rotenberg ’00L was promoted to partner in the litigation practice of the law firm DLA Piper. He previously was a senior associate.

Michael Glynn is a co-author of a recent publication of the University of Texas Press, Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America. It was edited by Henry Cisneros, former Secretary of HUD under President Bill Clinton. Tom King’s debut novel, A Once Crowded Sky, was released this past summer. According to Simon & Schuster, it “fuses the sensibility of bombastic, comic-book-style storytelling with modern literary fiction to bring to life a universe of supermen stripped of their powers, newly mortal men forced to confront danger in a world without heroes.” Tom worked for the counterterrorism center at the CIA following the events of 9/11. While at Columbia, he interned for DC Comics and Marvel. Tom King lives in D.C. with his wife, Colleen, and children, Charlie and Claire.

If you were at our 10-year reunion in 2010, you may have noticed Brendan Colthurst and Bryan Carmel following Vikram Gandhi with video cameras. Turns out, they were filming for their documentary feature film, Kumare, released in theaters in June through Kino Lorber, a distributor founded by Richard Rothman (’67, ’71L). Winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature Documentary at SXSW 2011 (South by Southwest), Kumare documents the time Vikram impersonated a wise Indian guru and built a following of real people in Phoenix. On the success of its opening in New York at the IFC Center, the film expanded to more cities, including Denver, Chicago and Seattle, and as of this writing was set to open in Los Angeles on August 3. Produced by Brendan and Bryan and directed by Gandhi, Kumare is their first feature, made through their production company, Disposable Television. Go see it on the big screen! Tell all your friends! You also can visit kumaremovie.com.

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For some reason, communications from classmates this summer were sparse. Hopefully everyone was off exploring the world, commencing from grad school and getting married, and you’ll write in with great updates in the coming weeks. I will await them! Meanwhile, here is the news I have.

Vasantha Rao writes, “I have been in touch with many CC alumni lately, as I got married last year to Joel Dowling; the wedding took place in Shrewsbury, N.J., on June 19, 2011. In attendance were Michael Bilbrough, Apeksala Kumar ’01E, Jonathan Ferrantelli, Andrea Villanti, Christopher Brady, Claudia DeSimio ’99, Annemarie DeSimio ’02, Courtney Strate ’02, Hannah Warren ’01 Barrnard and Jessica Beck ’01 Barnard. It was a wonderful time.

“The biggest news lately is that my husband and I moved to Rabat, Morocco, in May. I work for the Department of Justice, and I represent DOJ as the resident legal adviser to the U.S. Embassy in Morocco. We are both really excited for this big adventure and hope that if there are any CC alums in the area, they will get in touch!”

In other wedding news, Patrick Durkan married Amy Pettibone on June 16 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York. Patrick is a partner at Madison Financial Concepts, a corporate consulting and financial planning firm in the city. He also is the head saber-fencing coach at the New York Athletic Club.

My former classmate and friend Karl Ward will attend the Interactive Telecommunications Program at NYU Tisch starting in September.

As always, please keep in touch!

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It was amazing to see everyone at reunion after 10 long years. I’m including updates I received both at reunion and otherwise.

After graduating, Kussha Boutov was a trader for seven years in New York, first at Morgan Stanley and then at a hedge fund. She earned an M.B.A. from Wharton in 2011 and since graduating has been working at Goldman Sachs in private wealth management. Last fall, she married Sean McCormick ’02 Princeton. Among the Columbia in attendance were Courtney Renniche ’07 TC, Brynwyn Redmond, Anya Boutov ’05, Oana Cornis-Pop ’03, Josh Flagg, Lena Kazakina ’99 TC, Emily Erstling, Scott Statland ’04, Jeff Stedman ’05, Cody Upton ’05, Laura Stedman ’06 (née Schmaitid), Laurel Eisenach ’06, Ed Combs ’66, Vernell Walker (professor, the Architecture School) and Malwina Lys-Dobradin ’05. Kussha writes, “It’s been a fabulous 10 years, and I would love to reconnect with any of my classmates who have been wondering how I’m doing”.

Sara Hsu Young had a great time seeing all the familiar faces at reunion, especially her fellow John Jay 9ers. Sarah and her husband, James Hu’Young ’01, made the big cross-country move to Los Angeles in July. Their son Nathan is 19 months. She writes, “We’re looking forward to re-connecting with fellow Columbiaans on the West Coast!”

Kimberly Blumenthal started a fellowship in allergy and immunology at Massachusetts General Hospital in July. She and her husband, Daniel Blumenthal, also a physician at Mass General, welcomed their first child, Nachon Martin, on February 1. They live in Cambridge and would love to meet up with any CU grads in the area.

Lynn Juang has spent the 10 years since graduation in New York and working in the creative industry. She started in fashion advertising at Laird+Partners and then, in 2006, began working at Advertising Week, where she handled marketing, graphic design and marketing projects. Just as she left the firm, she met her now-husband, chef Seamus Mullen. She helped him open Tertulia, a Spanish restaurant in the West Village, in August 2011. This past March, Lynn left her day job at a small ad agency and began working full-time with Seamus as director of marketing and development of their fledgling restaurant group, overseeing all new projects and communications.

The couple was married on July 14 at the Brooklyn Winery in Williamsburg. A sizable Columbia contingency was in attendance, including Purdy Tran and Akiko Kurematsu ’03 Barnard, who were in the bridal party. Also on hand was Seamus’s former classmate Paul Choi, Franklin Amoo, Albert Lee ’02E, Melissa Tominac, Matt Hill ’01, Emeka Ofodile ’01, Jan Chee ’01, Linye Yuan, Yoon Lee ’01, Miryam Seid and Natalie Fung ’02 Barnard and her husband, Ethan Farbman.

Liz Matory is in Washington, D.C., fundraising for nonprofits. She is two credits away from finishing her core requirements at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at Maryland, where she’s pursuing an M.B.A., part-time.

Avi Fernandez graduated from INSEAD in July 2010 and joined Morgan Stanley in San Francisco. In January, however, his team spun out of M.S. and formed an independent firm, Iconiq Capital (global multi-family office based in San Francisco).

Jeffrey Seth Cohen lives in San Francisco and works at Zynga in digital advertising.

Ronit Gurtman lives on Long Island with her husband, Brian Gurtman, and children, Elizabeth and Micah (3) and Ruthie (6 months). She’s an employment lawyer at Littler Mendelson’s NYC office.

Genevieve (Vivi) Ko had a busy 2011. She graduated from Yale (Ph.D. program in biology and biomedical sciences), started a new job as a digital advertising scientist consultant in Boston and was married to Bayan Takizawa at The Boston Harbor Hotel on October 9 (see nearby photo).

On October 1, Purdy Tran married Joshua and Tani Thomas at Natirar in Far Hills, N.J. Alumni in attendance included Albert J. Lee ’02E, Emeka Ofodile ’01, Matt Hill ’01, Lynn Juang ’02, Yoon Lee ’01 and Ian Chee ’01.

She writes, “It was nice to be back in the Northeast to celebrate with friends and family. In summer 2010, Josh and I moved from NYC to Miami Beach, where I am the director of membership and club development for Casa Tua, Miami, a private membership club. Although we miss the city, we love being able to surf and run on the beach before hitting the office in the mornings.”

From 2008–11, Andy Cheung and his wife, Karen Corrie, lived in The Hague, Netherlands. Karen left a job as an ADA with the New York County District Attorney’s Office to work for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, where she held several positions, including that of associate trial lawyer. From The Hague, Andy started Sensobi, a U.S.-based software company, with a childhood friend. Sensobi was acquired in 2011 by GroupMe, a New York-based startup, which in turn was acquired by Skype.

The couple moved back to New York in 2012. Karen has begun a litigation fellowship at the Open Society Justice Initiative, where she is pursuing international human rights litigation. Andy continues to work at GroupMe, alongside other CC alumni including Jared Hecht.
'09, Neil Sarkar '07E and Chris Connolly '04.
Santosh Sekar '02E lives in Mid-town and works for AMEX. He recently celebrated his five-year anniversary with his wife, Jyoti.
Luba Kagan lives on the Upper West Side after a stint in Argentina and two years in Philadelphia for business school. She would be happy to meet fellow N.Y.-area Columbia alums.
Lisa Genn lives in Park Slope and was married on June 30 to Mark Snyder. She works at the Brennan Center for Justice.
Sheethal (Rao) Shobowale lives in Brooklyn and works for Google. She recently had a son, Hudson, who was the youngest attendee at reunion!
Leslie Papa lives in New York with her hubby, Salvatore. She does publicity for Broadway Show.
Evelyn Addo-Wallace is a women's nurse practitioner.
Adrienne Moran is an assistant U.S. attorney in Washington, D.C. She's the youngest attendee at Brennan Center for Justice.
Raquel Aragon is practicing law in the West Village.
Kevin Espy has a baby, Jaylon Rainn Thomas on April 11. She lives with her husband, Chun-Min (Tony) Kao '68; the bride; Alice Lu '02; and Lu's husband, Maximilian Lee '02, '06 P&S.

Genevieve (Vivi) Ko '02 and Bayan Takizawa were married on October 9 at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Left to right: Hironobu Katoh '02E, Henry Wong '02, Camy Chu '02E, Christopher Wong '02, the bride's father, Chun-Min (Tony) Kao '68; the bride; Alice Lu '02; and Lu's husband, Maximilian Lee '02, '06 P&S.
speciality food company. Fiano a Fiano (fianoafiano.com) makes sweet-savory cookies, such as biscotti al pesto, inspired by the reader in my time in Italy. Last spring I was pleasantly shocked to run into Simone Sebastian at a farmers’ market — she’s a reporter at The Houston Chronicle. We get together every now and again to complain about the humidity and how much we miss NYC. Dan and I expect to be down here through next summer, so hello if you find yourself in the Bay Area City.”

Chelsea (Walsh) Benser writes, “I recently joined Montage Legal Group as the lead attorney for New York and am responsible for Montage’s expansion to New York. Montage Legal Group is a nationwide network of experienced freelance attorneys who work for law firms on a project basis. I live on the Upper West Side with my husband and son, Jacob Robert, who was born on October 26.”

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With fall under way, I hope that all the members of the Class of 2004 are enjoying the season. Please send your latest updates to me at the email or postal address at the top of the column. It’s a great way to stay connected.

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It’s always nice to get first-time submissions from classmates. Mike Vary writes, “My wife, Jaclyn Matayoshi ‘06, and I have never submitted a Class Note, so I figured it’s time. We’ve been back in my hometown of Cleveland for three years. Jackie graduated Case Western Reserve Law School and took the bar in July. All this with a 2-year-old, Lucas. We are truly blessed and busy! I work at UBS in Cleveland and Jackie is starting a boutique estate planning law firm this fall.”

Anil Kumar and Tanvi Desai were married on February 25 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They were wed under sun-drenched skies in a traditional but humorous Hindu wedding, after a raucous baraat involving dancing groomsmen and a gun-shy white horse. Columbiaans in attendance included Fareed Ahmad, Harmony Davis, Liz Down, Mike Camacho, David Kim ’06, Nishant Dixit ’07 and Suma Pratypah Tumuluri ’06. Meredith “Merry” Boak married Joshua Biber in June in Vermont at the Round Barn Farm. Joining her was Keri Wachter as her maid of honor. Jackson Shafer as areferer at the ceremony and Paul Wright, who stole the show (as usual) as the fabulous emcee at the reception. Eva Rosen ’05 Barnard and Justin Ill ‘06 also shared the special day. Merry, Keri, Jackson, Eva and Justin were all part of Notes and Keys a cappella during their time at Columbia and relished the reunion, singing and dancing the night away. Cary D’Allo Place earned a master’s of architecture from Rice in 2008 after which she took some time to be a Teach for America corps member north of Baton Rouge, La. She now is a designer with Odell Associates in Richmond, Va.

Katie Henderson Adams writes: “Since graduation I’ve been working in book publishing while obtaining my master’s in English literature from NYU. I was married in September to Benjamin Adams in my hometown of Exeter, N.H., with many Columbia and Barnard alums in attendance (Conor McNamara ’03, Christina Norris McNamara ’05 Barnard, Frank Angones, Peter Mende-Seidel’07, Lee Havlick ’09 Barnard, Sarah Matteucci, Ali Rohs ’07, Pat Higginston ’06, Meredith Fuhrman, Rami Raff ’05 GSAS, Sandy London ’02, Amanda McCroskey ’06 and Tanya Franklin). I’m an editor at Liveright, a newly relaunched imprint of W.W. Norton, and I love both married life and my new job.”

Lots of congratulations to go around for our newborns, new parents and new grad students. Thanks for the updates, and we look forward to hearing more!

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I hope everyone had a great summer! Here are some exciting updates from our classmates.

Thessaly La Force is in her second year at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where she is working on a novel and short story collection. She recently finished working on an illustrated book, My Ideal Bookshelf, with artist Jane Mount; it will be published in November.

Emily Ross ’12 SIPA writes, “After spending two wonderful years back on Columbia’s campus, I graduated from SIPA in May with a master’s. Since then, I have returned to Washington, D.C., and work for the political consulting firm GMMB. Next time anyone is in D.C., be sure to let me know!”

Stephanie Simon earned an M.B.A. and master of urban planning degree from Michigan in July. In June, she joined GE Capital.

Kathleen Adams writes, “My husband, Ford, and I and our son, Wells (3), have moved to New Delhi, Indial! Looking forward to seeing all classmates who are here for work or pleasure.”

Justin Ill writes, “The Young Alumni Party, held during Alumni Reunion Weekend aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid, was bigger and better than ever, with almost 2,000 people! It was great to see many 2006 family and other young alumni. The following weekend I had the pleasure of attending the wedding of Merry Boak ’05 and Joshua Biber. I had an amazing time with our fellow Notes and Keys a cappella family including Eva Rosen ’05 Barnard, Jackson Shafer ’05, Keri Wachter ’05 and Paul Wright ’05.

Lastly, it has been my amazing honor to serve as the president of Columbia College Young Alumni for the last two years. I hope I was able to make young alumni programming just a bit better, and I know Calvin Sun ’08 will do an amazing job! On to the next one!”

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It was amazing seeing so many of our classmates at Alumni Reunion Weekend in June. The Class of 2007 had a record 264 alumni in attendance and 340 overall attendees. Thank you to everyone who came out for it.

Classmates came from far and wide to join in the festivities, including Nishant Dixit from his global travels, Keith Hernandez from China, Marco Zappacosta and Jessica Isokawa from California and Tammi Lee and Isaac Schwartz from Cleveland.

Ngozi Okoh writes, “Hey everyone! It was great seeing you in June. I’m back in New York City after moving from Philadelphia and so hoping to reconnect with many of you, so find me on FB and let me know when you’re available!”

Geo Karapetyan had a “great time reconnecting with so many CC ’07ers at reunion in June!” Immediately afterward, Geo boarded a plane and moved to Los Angeles for the summer to work at Walt Disney Studios in feature animation finance. He has since returned to New York and is completing an M.B.A. at NYU Stern.

Jessica Wong Zen shares, “Shortly after attending reunion, I received an M.B.A. from MIT’s Sloan School of Management and then promptly moved with my husband from Boston to Seattle. As I write, I’m planning to start my new job with Amazon in August — in the meantime, I am getting situated in my new city and my time is mostly occupied with the fun and games (and headache) that come with being a new homeowner.”

Isaac Schwartz was happy to see everyone at the reunion before heading to Peru. He helped organize and carry out a monthlong medical mission in the Sacred Valley region with hospital residents and nurses from Cleveland.

Joshua Davis and his wife, Naomi, were sorry they missed the reunion but had a great reason: They welcomed their son, Samson Rex, to the world on May 30 in Washington, D.C. Joshua says, “It was so caught up in the magic of the night that she ‘completely for¬
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Alexandra Epstein ’07 starts every workday by moving methodically through the secret passageways of Las Vegas’ El Cortez Hotel & Casino. She traverses the kitchens and the unmarked hallways, greeting the cocktail waitresses and bartenders as well as the “back of house” staff. It is definitely the scenic route, but it’s one she takes religiously.

Why the long walk? In the service industry, your company is only as good as the people who make it hum and happen — and Epstein knows this.

“I’m a perfectionist,” she admits. “And I don’t try to direct things without having an idea of what I’m speaking about.”

Granted, the El Cortez — Las Vegas’ oldest continually operating casino (built in 1941) — isn’t Epstein’s company, but it may be one day. The 27-year-old’s father, Kenny Epstein, now the CEO and chairman, has helped run the 366-room complex since the 1960s. His daughter is the e.v.p., appointed by then-Mayor Oscar Goodman to help the commission with placement of new public art, from the new Las Vegas City Hall to outdoor parks.

“She is absolutely the personification of energy when it comes to the redevelopment of downtown Las Vegas,” says Goodman, who has worked with Epstein on efforts to bring life to a newly designated entertainment district surrounding the intersection of 6th and Fremont Streets, north of the busiest part of the Strip. “She single-handedly transformed the El Cortez and the Cabana Suites into places that locals and tourists now flock to. Her taste is impeccable. That’s why I appointed her to the arts commission.”

As a Columbia student, Epstein fell in love with New York’s bounty of museums and galleries; but she first fell in love with the idea of a community built around shared knowledge.

“I was really drawn to the Core Curriculum,” she says. “I loved the idea that I would have this connection with the past, with people who had been coming to Columbia for decades.”

Gathering community around shared knowledge and ideas can be seen in the vibrant Emergency Arts building, an old medical center on Fremont Street, owned by the El Cortez, which since spring 2010 boasts a new creative collective. With 42 tenant businesses, from galleries to web design and photo studios to a bustling coffee shop, Emergency Arts — its name a nod to the building’s former use — is another example of Epstein’s tenacity in turning good ideas into practical realities. Put together by Epstein and directors Michael and Jennifer Cornthwaite, the collective has been a shining example of revitalization, and how cheap real estate for artists can bring new commerce into downtown.

“It’s an awesome concept, and she’s made it a reality,” says Heather Hyte, owner of the Rad Kisser photography gallery on the collective’s second floor. “It’s nice to get a lot of people with ideas to contribute to a common goal. To focus on something like that out of passion, even though it’s not going to be a major payout, that says a lot about a person. Already, she’s done a lot for this city.”

Ben Johnson is a writer living in Brooklyn and working at Slate Magazine, where he is an editorial supervisor for Slate’s video department, Slate TV.
the determinants of neighborhood satisfaction in urban regeneration zones. I've also made a full-time job of trying to find a literary agent for my first novel; I highly recommend doing this if you like pain.”

Liz Ferguson practiced, practiced, practiced. She got to Carnegie Hall and then applied for a job in community programs at its Weill Music Institute, where she's been for the last three years. Her highlights from reunion include the radio hits aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid [at the Young Alumni Party on June 1] and crashing the '02 tent with Jessica Isokawa, Alana Weiss and Jerone Hsu, “where we saw Laura Taranto [at the Young Alumni Party on June 1] and crashing the '02 tent with Jessica Isokawa, Alana Weiss and Jerone Hsu, “where we saw Laura Taranto dancing forward to my last year at the Business School.” Marrianna will be joined by fellow CC '07ers David Chait, Yael Silverstein, Christian Capasso, Ben Baker and Jake Olson, among others.

James Mahon entered the political economy and government Ph.D. program at Harvard three years ago. He moved to Washington, D.C., this past summer to continue his dissertation research at the U.S. Treasury Department. James writes, “Drop me a line if you're in the neighborhood!”

Alison Desir completed her first marathon with The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training. On June 3, she ran the San Diego Rock ’n’ Roll Marathon in four hours and 29 minutes and raised nearly $4,000 to benefit LLS in finding cures and better treatments for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma.

Lauren Arnold started medical school at P&S in August. beforehand, she visited her Peace Corps village in Cambodia, where she’d served, for a few weeks.

Carmen Jo Ponce is fully settled in her new home in Houston, where she moved to take a job as an associate attorney with Baker Botts. It’s also an exciting time for her, as she got married on July 7.

In other wedding news, Andrew Ness was married on June 16 to Alicia Bonner ’08 Barnard at Memorial Chapel in Gill, Mass. The reception that followed was held at the Lord Jeffery Inn in Amherst. Attending was Melody Chou ’08E, Chris O’Conor ’08E, Katharine Head, Adrienne Nickerson, Stephen LaPerla, Robert Deiches, Christopher Tortorillo, Danielle Gilbert ’07 Barnard, Laura Stoffel ’08 Barnard, Kelly Garone ’08 Barnard and Ryan Beveridge ’07C. Andrew and Alicia spent their honeymoon in the Greek Isles and on the western coast of Turkey.

Finally, believe it or not, next year is our first Alumni Reunion Weekend! We’ll be celebrating five years since graduation! Mark your calendars now for Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2, 2013. If you’re interested in being part of the Reunion Committee (planning the weekend’s events) or the Class Gift Committee (fundraising for the Columbia College Fund), get in touch with the appropriate staff member at the top of the column. You don’t have to be in the New York area and can participate in meetings via conference call.

Columbia will send materials by email and postal mail as the date grows closer. If needed, update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate, or call the Alumni Office: 212-851-7488.
Darius Dehnad ‘08E and Kara Worsley ‘08 were married on April 28, with both ceremony and reception held at the Central Park Boathouse in Manhattan. Top row, left to right: Angela Hendry ‘08, Kendall (Murphy) Severson ‘07, Sayuri Shimoda ‘10, Sherwin Shahraray ‘10E, Philip Hadley ‘09, Omar Ahmed ‘10E, the groom, the bride, Lauren Casty ‘08, Chris Hunter ‘08, Brittny Carfora ‘08, Sydney Murray ‘09, Sean Thomas ‘08, Dasha (Leonyuk) DeWald ‘07, Elizabeth de Berardinis ‘08, Christina Kim ‘07, Jennifer Aster ‘08 Barnard, Lauren Shearer ‘09, Michael Accordini ‘07 and Sina Peyrovian ‘03E; bottom row, left to right: Stephen Searles, John Hessler ‘06, Roxanna Dehnad ‘10E, Maya Wedemeyer ‘10 and Alise Green ‘10.

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After spending two years as a consultant in Washington, D.C., Dov Friedman moved to Ankara, Turkey, to work for the SETA Foundation. The organization is a Turkish think-tank broadly aligned with the ruling AK Party; Dov is on the foreign policy desk, covering issues relating to the United States and Israel. In May, Dov made an all-too-brief visit back to New York City at which time he proposed, and now is engaged. The happy couple is spending the coming year and now is engaged. The happy couple is spending the coming year and hopes to continue pursuing those interests. He would love to hear from any fellow Columbians in central Virginia.

After majoring in economics, Maya Koenig-Dzialowski decided to switch gears and pursue medicine. She joined Columbia’s postbac program and concurrently worked at Mount Sinai Hospital in HIV-related kidney disease research. She completed her postbac in 2011 and started working at Bellevue Hospital Center on a project in primary care and psychiatry that screens for depression in New York’s Latino community. This fall, after three months of backpacking through Asia, Maya is excited to return to Columbia, this time for medical school.

Ernest Herrera graduated in May from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He plans to begin his legal career in Albuquerque, where he hopes to join the New Mexico Public Defender’s office.

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Thanks for sending in all of your wonderful updates. Between engagements, marriage, graduate school and world travels, our classmates have been leading exciting, busy lives.

Nishi Kumar writes, “I have spent the last two years teaching middle school math in a charter school in New Orleans through Teach for America — a truly eye-opening experience. I made a career move for the fall and am starting law school at NYU. I’m looking forward to returning to New York!”

On May 5, Nora Nicholson Calhoun married Alexander Calhoun ‘11 at Corpus Christi Church on West 121st Street. On May 30, Nora began studies to become a nurse-midwife, this time at Columbia’s med campus.

Derek Hou proposed to Esther Chan during Memorial Day Weekend on the Santa Monica Pier. The couple held an engagement party in Boston that was attended by many Columbia alumni, including Victor Chiang ‘09E, Edward Kim ‘10E and Jungsuk Cho ‘10 Barnard. Giselle Marie Obregon will attend Boston University this fall as a student in the master of public health program. She writes, “I’ll be pursuing a concentration in international health with an emphasis in health program management. After two years in the working world, I welcome the opportunity to continue my education and to connect with Columbia alumni in the Boston area.”

James Bogner got engaged to Cameron Rollins in April. As James works in financial aid at Columbia, the couple moved to a larger brownstone apartment near campus.

Natalie Gossett has decided that the law is not for her, so she is changing programs and pursuing a master’s in mental health counseling, to be followed by a doctorate in psychology. Before moving to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Natalie attended a great Park Slope party hosted by Emily Wilson. Sean Marzug-McCarty and her former suitemates, Alyson Cohen and Chiara Arcidy, also were in attendance.

Nicole Ellis writes, “I attempted and survived (more or less) the 9-to-5 lifestyle just long enough to save for a trip around the world, so I’m doing it! I recently launched a travel blog to document my journey through time zones: navigatingnikki.com. I successfully summited Mt. Kilimanjaro’s highest point, Uhuru peak in Tanzania, and have plans...”
but it's tough not being able to communicate with them about what I'm going through. What does one do?

Last but not least, our quarterly publication dealing with art and culture from the Middle East, Bidoun, magazine, is out with its fifth installment from Chris Yim: "The Opposite of Loneliness," which was distributed last week.

Congratulations to both of them! Congratulations to both of them! Congratulations to both of them!

Lastly, although Dean Valentini is not an official member of the Class of 2012, we were Dean's first graduating class, so it seems only fitting to include here that Dean Valentini has officially been appointed dean of Columbia College and v.p. for undergraduate education.

Now that we don't have the luxury of living in close proximity to one another in East Campus, Hogan, Watt, Woodbridge or Broadway, I hope these Class Notes will make it easier for us to stay connected! Please don't hesitate to reach out to sarahbchai@gmail.com with updates on your life. I hope you enjoyed your first post-grad summer, Class of 2012!
Alumni Corner

(Continued from page 104)

cops. Not a lot of people spend time in the stacks anymore. (Ex-cept, as Ms. Green pointed out, around the graphic-novel section.) It’s not the current nature of finding information. Doing it the inefficient way, you use the senses. You look at a row of spines, imprinted with butch, ultra-legible white or black type; your eye takes in more at any time than can be contained on a computer screen. You hold the books in your hand and feel the weight and size; the typography and the paper talk to you about time. A lot of libraries smell nice, but the smell of the Butler stacks is a song of organic matter, changing as temperatures do through the reaches of a pond. Get yourself near Goffredo Casalis’s life’s work on the duchy of Savoy, the Dizionario Geografico-Storico-Statistico-Commerciale, published in 27 volumes from 1833 to 1854, and breathe in. A fantastic, pre-acidic-paper smell: burned caramel, basically. Nobody there but you. There are 15 floors of stacks with 64 rows of books per floor, running about 25 feet each; 6 or 7 shelves in each row. Can you actually browse there, find books on your own, faced with the dark phalanxes? You can, once you get subject areas in your head. Having made enough spot searches, you grasp the logic of each floor. There are no signs to help you, only dia-grams with codes and numbers. You can also create luck in any given spot: You turn your head to the opposing row of books. A different subject area can arise, perhaps only partly to do with your areas of interest. This is non-link-based browsing. You can discover, instead of being endlessly sought.

I’ve already gone back this year: Above 90 degrees was my cue. I realize that I am lucky to do this free. If you have no affiliation with the school, it will cost you $55 a month. You’d pay more to go to the gym. I think it’s a good deal.

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Butler Stacks Offer a World Apart

By Ben Ratliff ’90

This article was first published in June for “Still Life,” a series of New York Times articles in which Times writers sketched their favorite summer images.

The heat comes quickly in the summer. By early June, working at home with no air-conditioning, I have no concentration. Everything feels close and impolite and loud.

So I go to Butler Library, on the southern end of Columbia’s campus in Morningside Heights. What began as a diversion has become a self-preserving summer thing: not just Butler, but the Butler stacks, the stillness capital of my imagination.

My job as a music critic depends on listening in crowds and writing in solitude. It also involves gathering facts and context, of which there is exponentially more every day. I think by writing, and I write on a computer; the computer also contains the Internet, which manufactures express-service context as well as overstatement, sociopathy and lameness. In my hot office I was starting to look at it abstractly, as a hot thing blowing exhaust. I needed to renegotiate my relationship with space and sound and information.

Butler is a 1930s neo-Classical hulk. At the front, above 14 columns, runs a list of writers and thinkers; the last is Vergil, and I like that someone long ago took a stand and chose to spell it in the Anglicization closer to his real name, not the more common “Virgil.” It announces: nonsense not spoken here.

In the late ’80s, I’d been there a lot, studying and working as a summer employee. When I turned up at the Library Information office last year, there was much clucking about how I’d graduated so very long ago that they needed a whole other database to find my information. But that’s cool; I am from another time. Pre-air-conditioning.

I had come to work but also to tune myself up. So I split the day. Some for my bosses, some for me. After I met my deadline, writing in the reference room, I walked behind the main desk into the stacks. The Columbia library system owns over 10 million volumes; 1.5 million, humanities and history, live here. I moved around for a few hours in the stillness, looking things up, standing up or crouching the whole time, purely and almost dopily happy.

I’d forgotten. The Butler stacks are in a different sensory category, starting from the threshold: If you’re tall, you bow your head as you pass through the low door frame. They form an enclosed rectangular prism at the center of Butler — no windows, a bit cooler than the rest of the building. Two or three levels of the inner stacks can correspond to one floor of the outer library. All this reinforces the feeling that the stacks are something special: a separate province or a vital inner organ.

Inside there is the deep quiet of protection and near-abandonment. You hear the hum of the lights, turned on as needed; that’s it. There’s a phone to make outgoing calls on the fifth floor. To me the stacks are the most sacred space in the library, yet here nobody’s telling you not to talk. You’re on your own. It’s a situation for adults.

Unlike the stacks at some other university libraries, Butler’s were not built for public consumption. They opened to patrons gradually, much later; originally/Butler had a call desk, where you’d put in your requests and wait for your numbers to come up.

“That’s why they’re not pretty stacks,” said Karen Green, Butler’s librarian for ancient and medieval history and for religion and graphic novels. She said it with empathy. Both she and I know that they are very beautiful.

I spent a few weeks there in the worst of last June and July, grazing around, letting the shelves make the connections for me, writing down notes for a book whose thesis grew obscure and finally implausible: I was looking up works on plague, fire and the Egyptian desert fathers. I learned well, but I felt even better. I took in great amounts of information without ever becoming fried or irritable. All that organization and nobody around — it seemed like trespassing in the history of Western learning, with no fear of (Continued on page 103)
So You Think You Know
Your Former Deans?

With the recent naming of James J. Valentini as Dean of the College, we thought this would be an opportune time to test your familiarity with some of the people who have held that office.

1. Which Dean of the College (hint: he was a mathematician) served longer than any other?

2. How many deans has Columbia College had?

3. Which dean, who once described himself as "a good dirt farmer who never should have left Saratoga County," is the only one to have a campus building named after him?

4. Which dean, who now teaches as the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature, has a campus theatre named after him?

5. Who was the first Dean of the College?

6. True or False: A majority of the College's deans graduated from Columbia College.

7. What is the street address of Hamilton Hall, where the Office of the Dean is located?

8. What dean argued Brown v. Board of Education, the case that declared "separate but equal" unconstitutional, before the Supreme Court in 1954, and co-authored the cookbook Dean Cuisine?

9. Which dean, who later became president of Mount Holyoke College, recounted the "nightmarish experience of witnessing, of experiencing, what can properly be described as the disintegration of a great university" in his book Reflections on the Columbia Disorders of 1968?

10. Which dean became president of Amherst College and authored the novel Rules for Old Men Waiting, which won the McKitterick Prize in 2006?

Bonus: Which dean is the founder and director of the Center for the Study of Science and Religion at Columbia?

Answers on page 103.
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Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS in his own words.
The word “university” is derived from the Latin universitas magistrorum et scholarum, which means a “community of teachers and scholars.” A “college,” from the Latin collegium, or “a body of persons associated for a common purpose,” is the part of that community specifically devoted to the education of undergraduate scholars. Columbia College is a prime example — a community of faculty teachers and scholars within Columbia University guiding undergraduate students through their academic experience.

_Columbia College Today_ always has been focused on our alumni community, on Columbia College’s former student scholars. But it is a publication for everyone who cares about the College — all our scholars: past, present and even future students, and their families, as well as our faculty. In this issue, and in issues to follow, _CCT_ will highlight the many connections between our faculty and student scholars, and celebrate their academic, intellectual and pedagogical achievements, both individual and collective.

Our faculty members are at the center of Columbia College — it is they who create and propel the unique undergraduate education that the College provides. Columbia takes great pride in its tradition of outstanding teaching. The world-leading scholarship and exceptional teaching of our faculty members is one of the reasons that prospective students choose the College. Faculty members inspire our current students, advise them and guide them through their coursework. And alumni I meet invariably reminisce about the faculty members who taught them, even several decades after graduation. These former students come back for Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean’s Day to sit in on lectures by Columbia faculty members, to reconnect with their undergraduate experience and to learn from teachers who likely were not at Columbia during the years when they were current students.

Our faculty members are world-class scholars and leaders in their fields. They have won countless awards for their work, from Nobel Prizes, to Pulitzer Prizes, to MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Grants. Many are elected members of their discipline’s learned academies. But they also are great teachers. They have fashioned the College’s unique and uniquely valuable undergraduate education: the Core Curriculum and our 143 majors and concentrations. And they continually engage our students in lecture halls, laboratories, seminar rooms and libraries all around campus. The teaching awards given out each year — the Mark Van Doren Award for commitment to undergraduate instruction, the Great Teacher Award, the Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards, endowed by Trustee Gerry Lenfest ’58L, and the Presidential Teaching Awards — attest to the importance we place on teaching and the excellence of our faculty in providing it.

In this issue, we celebrate a number of our faculty members and celebrate in a special way those who have dedicated more than 50 years of their lives to educating our past and present students. Four of the faculty members spotlighted — Ronald Breslow, Wallace Broecker, David Sidorsky and Herbert Terrace — have been at Columbia longer than many of our alumni have been alive. To have been on the faculty for 50 years means these professors were all here when the Class of 1962 graduated. One of them — Broecker — came to the College as a transfer student in 1952 and has been at Columbia ever since. And in that time, these four have taught and mentored many thousands of undergraduate scholars and undoubtedly changed many of their lives. They also have made extraordinary strides within their fields: developing a cancer-killing drug, establishing a new field in chemistry, advancing the conversation about objectivity of ethics, teaching sign language to a chimpanzee and explaining instances of abrupt climate change. Theirs is a most exceptional contribution and a most remarkable sign of the enduring strength of the community of teachers and scholars — current and former — who make up the College.

These four faculty members — and the almost 600 others in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which is the faculty of Columbia College — dedicate their lives to their teaching, scholarship and mentoring. They are, and have always been, devoted to the education of the undergraduate scholars in our College. We honor them in this issue of _Columbia College Today_.

_WINTER 2012–13_
Letters to the Editor

Alumni Pride

As an avid reader of CCT, I was struck by the critical tone of a Letter to the Editor from Scott Miller ’82 in the Fall 2012 issue in which he complained there was too much attention being paid to [President Barack Obama ’83] in CCT, just because he is an alum. Ironically, I had just read a reference to Professor Henry Graff ’49 GSAS on the next page of Letters and was thinking of remarks the professor made to the Class of 1960 at our 50th reunion. Professor Graff offered that he had no recollection of then-student Obama being at Columbia, setting off a few in the class to speculate whether Obama was a student there!

That offended me then, just as this letter from Miller offends me now. It matters little what side of the spectrum one is on to appreciate and take pride in having as a President of the United States a fellow alum. It is unfortunate that we have become so politicized that for some being a Republican or a Democrat comes first.

Gary Hershderfer ’60
Aventura, Fla.

Favorite Faculty

We were recently asked to name our favorite professors during our years at Columbia College. My response named two: Professor Charles Dawson ’38 GSAS and Professor Henry Graff ’49 GSAS.

Reading Rabbi Haskel Lookstein ’53’s Letter to the Editor in the Fall 2012 issue, in which he praised several of his professors, called back great memories.

Professor Dawson literally changed my life. I entered Columbia College in 1946. I spent three years in the Army Air Corps as a bombardier, flying 35 combat missions over Germany on a B-17G Flying Fortress, prior to being accepted by Columbia.

I initially signed up to become a lawyer, and to eventually enter international law so that I could end all wars in the future. It took only a few weeks to realize the futility of this idea, so I changed my major to dentistry. The pre-dental and pre-medical students took the same courses during the first year at the College and I made the Dean’s List that year. Professor Dawson called me into his office and told me I should consider changing my major to medicine, which I did. That decision changed my life!

Professor Graff arrived at the College as a very young lecturer in American history. My class was mainly composed of combat veterans of WWII, including myself, and the average age of the class was 21-23. Serving in the war made us grow up very quickly.

Professor Graff gave me my first and only A-plus, on a paper I wrote about President Abraham Lincoln and his last law partner, William Herndon. How could anyone forget such a fabulous teacher?

Henry Graff and Charles Dawson were the best lecturers, and best prepared teachers, I met at Columbia College.

DR. STANLEY EDELMAN ’49, ’53 P&S
New York City
Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz ’62, ’66 P&S, a professor at the Duke University Medical Center, shared this year’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Brian K. Kobilka, a professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine. They were honored for their work in deciphering the communication system that the human body uses to sense the outside world and send messages to cells — for example, speeding the heart when danger approaches. This understanding is aiding the development of new drugs.

They will split the award of eight million Swedish krona, or about $1.2 million. The Nobels were to be presented by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm on December 10.

Lefkowitz is the 18th College alumnus to win a Nobel; the last was President Barack Obama ’83, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009. Dean James J. Valentini said, “Robert Lefkowitz is one of the great scientists who was trained at Columbia College. He began his scientific journey that led to this tremendous accomplishment as a chemistry student in Havemeyer Hall and went on to mentor other students at Duke. We are very proud of his extraordinary work.”

Lefkowitz and Alvin Roth ’71E, who shared this year’s Nobel in Economic Science, bring the overall number of Columbia Nobel Laureates to 82 since the award was first given in 1901. That figure includes alumni of all schools of the University, faculty, adjunct faculty, researchers and administrators.

After earning an M.D., Lefkowitz completed his internship and one year of general medical residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center (now New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center). He is the second graduate of the P&S Class of 1966 to win a Nobel, joining Harold Varmus ’66 P&S, director of the National Cancer Institute, who shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1989.

President Lee C. Bollinger congratulated Lefkowitz for joining “the long line of distinguished alumni and faculty who have been honored by the Royal Swedish Academy over the past century. We are especially gratified that as a double Columbia alumnus, Dr. Lefkowitz has continued to be actively involved in the University by serving on our medical school’s Board of Advisors. This is a day for all of us to recognize the invaluable contributions to society made by research scientists and to celebrate the special achievement represented by Robert Lefkowitz’s pioneering work.”

Lefkowitz said he was asleep and did not hear the ringing of the telephone early in the morning of October 10, when members of the Nobel Committee called to tell him that he had won. “I wear earplugs when I sleep and so my wife gave me an elbow,” he said. “And there it was, a total shock and surprise, as many before me have experienced.”
Lefkowitz and Kobilka were honored for discovering the inner workings of G-protein-coupled receptors, gateways to cells that react to chemical messages. In the 1960s, Lefkowitz explored the behavior of these receptors and in the 1980s, his group, which included Kobilka as a postdoctoral researcher, searched for and found the gene that produced one of these receptors. The genetic blueprint indicated that the shape of the protein included seven long spiral strings that wove through the cell membrane seven times.

That was almost the same shape as another receptor that had been found in another part of the body — the light receptor rhodopsin in the retina. Lefkowitz said his “real eureka moment” was realizing a family of protein receptors looked and worked similarly. About 1,000 of these G-protein-coupled receptors are now known, residing on the surface of cells and reacting to a host of hormones and neurotransmitters.

“A receptor was correctly assumed to be involved,” said Sven Lidin, professor of inorganic chemistry at Lund University and chairman of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, at a news conference on the day of the announcement. “But the nature of this receptor and how it reacted remained a mystery for a long time. Around half of all medications act through these receptors, among them beta blockers, antihistamines and various kinds of psychiatric medications.”

Knowledge about the shapes of different receptors could refine drug design and is an area of keen focus for pharmaceutical and biotech companies. “We hope by knowing the three-dimensional structure we might be able to develop more selective drugs and more effective drugs,” Kobilka said.

Lefkowitz, who received the U.S. National Medal of Science in 2008, was honored at a P&S alumni event last year and said he was inspired by his family practice to become a physician. “To me, medicine was like a priesthood. I always thought it was the highest and noblest thing you could do in life.” Though he ultimately turned to research, he still feels that “being a physician is just the greatest thing in the world. When I write down my occupation, I still write down physician.”

“arid what are the keys to his success? “The same things that made me successful as a physician made me good at research,” he said. “The four keys are focus, focus, focus, and you can figure out the fourth. Persistence also helped.”

**Dirks Leaves Columbia for UC Berkeley**

Nicholas B. Dirks, Columbia’s e.v.p. of Arts and Sciences for the past eight years and the Franz Boas Professor of Anthropology and History, has left the University and will become the chancellor of UC Berkeley in May. President Lee C. Bollinger announced Dirks’ departure on November 8 and said Provost John Coatsworth would assume his duties until a successor is named, likely by the end of the academic year.

Dirks, who previously taught at Caltech and Michigan, was hired by Columbia in 1997 to rebuild the University’s anthropology department. He went on to guide Arts and Sciences, which consists of five schools, 29 departments, and 27 institutes and centers, through its own rebuilding.

**Greenaway, Horowitz Join Trustees**

Judge Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. ’78 and Ben Horowitz ’88 have been added to the University’s Board of Trustees, bringing to 13 the number of College alumni on the 24-member board. Greenaway became a trustee on June 1 and Horowitz on September 4.

Greenaway was named by President Barack Obama ’83 to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on February 12, 2010. He sits in Newark, N.J., where he previously was a federal district judge. Greenaway is a member of the College Board of Visitors, chair emeritus of the Black Alumni Council and a former secretary of the Columbia College Alumni Association. From 2007–12, he was an adjunct professor at the College, where he taught a seminar on the Supreme Court, and in 1998 he delivered the College’s Class Day address.

Horowitz is a co-founder and general partner of Andreessen Horowitz, a venture capital firm that helps entrepreneurs become successful CEOs and build important and enduring companies. Andreessen Horowitz provides seed, venture and growth-stage funding to the best new technology companies, and the firm currently has $2.7 billion under management across three funds. Among its 150 investments are Airbnb, Box, Fab, Facebook, foursquare, GitHub, Jawbone, Lytro, Magnet Systems, Pinterest and Twitter.

Other College alumni on the Board of Trustees are Chair William V. Campbell ’62, ’64 TC; Vice Chairs Mark E. Kingdon ’71 and Philip L. Milstein ’71; Rolando Acosta ’79, ’82L; Lisa Carnoy ’89; Noam Gottesman ’86; Jonathan S. Lavine ’88; Dr. Paul J. Madden ’81, ’88 P&S, ’88 GSAS; Michael B. Rothfeld ’69, ’71L; ’71 SIPA, ’71 Business; Jonathan D. Schiller ’69, ’73L; and Kyriakos Tsakopoulos ’93.

*Alex Sachare ’71*
Meet Dean Valentini and Share Your Thoughts on the College

Dean James J. Valentini is going on the road, traveling to cities in the United States and abroad to meet alumni, parents and friends and engage them in conversations about undergraduate education at Columbia and the role alumni can play in the College and University.

The dean already has held several of these events — which are co-hosted by the Columbia Alumni Association and the Columbia College Alumni Association — in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Los Angeles. In New York, he was interviewed by Jerry Kisslinger ‘79, ’82 GSAS, chief creative officer for the Office of Alumni and Development; in San Francisco, by Trustees Chair William V. Campbell ’62, ’64 TC, former executive of Apple Computer, Kodak and Intuit; in Los Angeles, by Janice Min ‘90, ’91J, editorial director of The Hollywood Reporter and former editor of Us Weekly; and in Washington, by author, journalist and University Trustee A’Leila Bundles ’76. In February, Valentini will travel to Boston and will be interviewed by WGBH Boston president and CEO Jonathan Abbott ’84 at the station. Visits to Paris and London will follow in March, with a trip to Asia planned for June.

Valentini believes that “Shared Ideas + Common Values = Community” and hopes alumni will share their thoughts with him on several key questions, including:

■ What's the place of undergraduate education in the University?
■ How can the alumni network help students?
■ What should globalization mean for teaching and learning?
■ How can we make Columbia even better?

His goal is for alumni to talk about their visions for the College and find things that all members of the College community can agree on and support to help the College to provide a better experience for the students and faculty who teach them.

In addition to these in-person events, Valentini hopes that alumni will engage in the conversation via email: columbia college@columbia.edu.

Make Columbia part of your legacy

“Columbia is like one of my children— and my estate plans reflect that connection.”

—Lisa Carnoy ’89 CC

“Past generations transformed my experience here,” says Carnoy. “Now it’s my turn to invest in tomorrow’s Columbia.”

Join Lisa Carnoy in the 1754 Society—alumni and friends making a difference through bequests and other planned gifts to the University.

To learn more, e-mail gift.planning@columbia.edu or call 800-338-3294.
Scott F. Smith ’86 was promoted to brigadier general, U.S. Air Force, in September and is executive officer to the combatant commander, U.S. Southern Command. In this position, Smith serves as adviser and principal assistant to the commander, ensuring the success of his daily operations and personal schedule throughout the 31 nations and 15 territories and areas of special sovereignty within the U.S. Southern Command. Additionally, Smith facilitates interaction with the White House, National Security Council, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of State, Congress, ambassadors and foreign dignitaries. Smith, a history major, entered the Air Force through Officer Training School in 1987. Prior to his current posting, he was commander of the 305th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. He is a veteran of Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Joint Endeavor (Bosnia), Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lisa Carnoy ’89 and Joyce Chang ’86 were among the 25 Most Powerful Women in Finance as selected in October by American Banker Magazine. “Across asset management, investment banking, capital markets and cards, these executives are helping to create a path to parity for women in a traditionally male-dominated field,” the magazine declared. Carnoy, a University trustee, is co-head of global capital markets at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, sharing responsibility with Alastair Borthwick for a staff of 750 spanning 16 countries and the full spectrum of debt, equity, foreign exchange and derivatives origination markets. Chang is managing director, head of global credit, emerging markets and index research at J.P. Morgan, where she manages a global credit research team of 170 people in 12 countries and an emerging markets group that handles all macroeconomic forecasts, sovereign debt research and coverage of 350 corporates in the emerging economies of Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The first film adaptation of the Jack Kerouac ’44 classic On the Road, written in 1951, screened at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival in May and is scheduled to open in movie theaters in the United States on December 21. The movie was directed by Walter Salles (The Motorcycle Diaries) and stars Sam Riley as Sal Paradise (the Kerouac character), Garrett Hedlund as Dean Moriarty and Kristen Stewart as Marylou. Francis Ford Coppola bought the film rights to the book in 1979 and worked with several screenwriters and directors on the project across more than three decades before its completion by Salles and screenwriter Jose Rivera.

Sheena Wright ’90, ’94L was named president and CEO of the United Way of New York City on October 4. Wright had been the president and CEO of the Abyssinian Development Corp. (ADC), one of the nation’s premier community and economic development organizations, since 2002, and is the first woman to lead United Way of NYC in its 75-year history. “Sheena’s hiring as our first female president is historic,” said United Way of NYC board chair Robert Kueppers. “She is someone who is deeply committed to our city’s neediest residents and has demonstrated tremendous leadership and success in delivering on that commitment.” During Wright’s tenure with ADC, the corporation built 785 units of residential housing in 78 buildings and nearly a half-million square feet of community, commercial and retail space, including the first new high school building in Harlem in 50 years, creating more than 1,000 jobs in the process.

Tony Kushner ’78 wrote the screenplay for Lincoln, the biopic directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Daniel Day-Lewis that opened nationwide in November. It’s Kushner’s second Spielberg film; he also co-wrote, with Eric Roth, 2005’s Munich.

Filmaker Katharina Otto-Bernstein ’86, ’92 Arts has made a commitment of $5 million to create a state-of-the-art screening room in the Lenfest Center for the Arts, a multi-arts facility under construction at the University’s Manhattanville campus. The venue, which will be named The Katharina Otto-Bernstein Screening Room, will include seating for approximately 150 with advanced digital cinema technology; it is scheduled for completion in 2016. Otto-Bernstein is best known as the writer and director of the award-winning documentaries Absolute Wilson and Beautopia, and as the author of Absolute Wilson: The Biography, a memoir of theatre and opera director Robert Wilson. She received the University’s Alumni Medal of Achievement in 2009.
Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend was held October 12–13 on campus and featured two days of meetings and learning sessions as well as the Alumni Leaders Luncheon and Alumni Medalists Gala. Sponsored by the Columbia Alumni Association in cooperation with individual schools, the weekend was designed for alumni leaders across all areas of involvement to meet and learn from peers and staff as well as honor those who have been exemplary volunteers.

Honored at the luncheon as the inaugural recipient of The Richard E. Witten '75CC Award for Volunteer Leadership was Alexandra Feldberg '08 (at right, with Witten at center). Also presented with an inaugural Witten award, this one The Richard E. Witten '75CC Award for Transformational Volunteer Leadership, was Dr. P. Roy Vagelos '54 P&S (at left).

Speaking on a five-person panel titled “Understanding Our Brains, Understanding Ourselves” was University Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biophysics and Pathology Dr. Richard Axel ’67 (below), who works at P&S, is an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and was a 2004 Nobel Laureate. His specialty is the sense of smell. Joining Axel on the panel was Leslie Vosshall ’87 (not pictured), also a professor of biochemistry and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute as well as the Robin Chemers Neustein Professor and head, Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior at Rockefeller University.

Dean James J. Valentini (bottom photo) was among the weekend’s many speakers, along with Trustees Chair William V. Campbell ’62, ’64 TC and President Lee C. Bollinger. Valentini discussed the College’s priorities in a casual session that featured Q&A.

A New Southern Novelist

David Sunshine
by Morrow Wilson
The Dawn of the Vast Wasteland
KENNEDY PRIZE: Columbia University Libraries and Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith have established an annual theatre award, The Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History, in honor of her late brother. It will be given through the libraries to a new play or musical that, in the words of the prize’s mission statement, “enlists theatre’s power to explore the past of the United States, to participate meaningfully in the great issues of our day through the public conversation, grounded in historical understanding, that is essential to the functioning of a democracy.” The first recipient of the EMK Prize will be announced on Kennedy’s birthday, February 22, 2013.

“My brother loved the arts — museums, books, the performing arts,” said Smith. “Music was perhaps dearest to him, but he and I shared an enjoyment of theatre — especially, for Teddy, musical theatre. And he also had a deep love of history, in the Senate and in his personal life. So I thought this could be a unique prize that would recognize the importance of history, music and theatre.”

Smith worked with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner ’78 and others in creating the parameters for the award. Said Kushner, in an article published in The New York Times, “This seemed to me a chance to create not just another prize — though playwrights need financial support! — but an incentive, a challenge for playwrights and a validation of theatre as a particularly social and civic art form.”

The EMK Prize carries an award of $100,000. In addition, the Libraries’ Center for New Media Teaching and Learning will work with the recipient to create a website featuring study and teaching guides, including extensive historical research and scholarly discussion and interpretation of the prize-winning play or musical. For more information, go to kennedyprize.columbia.edu.

WE'RE NO. 4, AGAIN: For the third consecutive year, Columbia was ranked fourth in U.S. News & World Report’s rankings of national universities, released in September. This time Columbia was tied with Chicago, which moved up from a tie for fifth a year ago. The top three were unchanged, with Harvard and Princeton tied for first and Yale third. MIT and Stanford tied for sixth, Duke and Penn tied for eighth and Caltech and Dartmouth tied for 10th. Ratings are based on a variety of factors including graduation and retention rates, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving; Columbia’s rating includes three undergradu-

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

Make plans now to return to New York City and the Columbia campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2013.

The weekend will feature:
- Class-specific activities, cocktail receptions and dinners planned by each class’s Reunion Committee;
- “Back on Campus” sessions featuring Mini-Core Courses, Public Intellectual Lectures and more as part of Dean’s Day on Saturday;
- New York City entertainment options including an art gallery crawl, Broadway shows and other cultural activities;
- All-class programs including the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception, with dancing, champagne and sweets on Low Plaza; and
- Camp Columbia for Kids, ages 3–12.

In an effort to reduce costs and be environmentally friendly, Columbia College Alumni Affairs and your class’s Reunion Committee will communicate with you via email as much as possible. Be sure you don’t miss out on reunion details! Update your contact information at reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate.

Watch your mail and email for details.

Questions? Please contact Janeze Bond, alumni affairs: jbd3556@columbia.edu or 212-851-7934.

SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY, MAY 30—SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2013
ate schools: the College, Engineering and General Studies. For more information, go to usnews.com and search for best colleges.

**ENDOWMENT**: Columbia’s endowment posted a 2.3 percent return on its investments but dropped from $7.8 billion a year ago to $7.65 billion at the close of Fiscal Year 2011–2012, the University reported. Withdrawals from the endowment exceeded the investment return, causing the slight decline. The 2.3 percent return was among the best reported by peer institutions but well below the 23.6 percent return generated in FY11, which was the best in the Ivy League. Columbia’s annual return during the past 10 years stands at 10.4 percent, just behind Yale’s 10.6 percent.

**COURSERA**: Columbia is offering two free courses online through Coursera, an education platform founded last year by two Stanford professors. The courses are “Financial Engineering and Risk Management” and “Natural Language Processing.” “We’re doing a pilot program in the MOOC [massive open online course] stage, and the idea there is to see ... the potential of the MOOC stage for education,” Sree Sreenivasan, the University’s chief digital officer, told Spectator. “What I’m trying to do in my position is to help see what’s working, try new things and to expand and enhance what we’ve already done and built at Columbia.”

This is the first time Columbia is offering courses that are free and open to anyone in the world with Internet access. Both courses will begin on February 11 and run for 10 weeks. Coursera includes offerings from 33 schools, including Princeton, Penn, Brown, Stanford, Duke and Caltech.

**SPEC ARCHIVE**: Spectator and Columbia University Archives have launched Columbia Spectator Archive, a searchable, online archive that allows anyone to access past issues of the campus newspaper. Almost every issue of Spectator published from fall 1953 through spring 1985, as well as the 1991 and 1992 volumes, has been digitized and uploaded to spectator.archive.library.columbia.edu. Spectator is trying to raise funds to complete the archive with issues from 1877–1953, 1985–90 and 1993–present.

**CAFA**: Provost John Coatsworth has formed a Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA) to provide faculty insight and advice on admissions and financial aid policies and procedures in the College and Engineering. The committee will not participate in individual admissions or financial aid decisions, according to a letter from Coatsworth to the Columbia community but rather will provide advice on admissions criteria, such as curriculum and testing requirements, and evaluate these criteria in relation to student academic performance at Columbia. CAFA will offer guidance on how diversity should be considered in evaluation of applicants, according to the letter. It also will advise on programs such as early decision, combined plans, transfer programs and visiting student opportunities; recommend recruitment initiatives to shape the applicant pool; and advise on financial aid policies that enable the achievement of admissions goals and assess the effectiveness of these policies in meeting educational objectives.

Alex Sachare ’71

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**Dinner & Discussion Series Continues with Hersh**

Leonard H. Hersh ’84, ’87L, senior managing director at Bernstein Global Wealth Management, kicked off this year’s Columbia College Dinner & Discussion Series on October 2 at the Columbia Alumni Center with a session titled “Finance and Law.” The dinner series is a partnership between the Center for Career Education and the Columbia College Alumni Association Career Committee.

**The Dawn of the Vast Wasteland**

Television in the Days of Mad Men
Whenever Shayna Orens '15 is asked for her resume, she worries the reader will be perplexed by her eclectic list of activities, which range from scientific (tracking howler monkeys in Costa Rica) to artistic (attending music camp in New Hampshire) to political (discussing the Egyptian revolution with local students in Cairo).

"It fits together eventually," assures Orens as she explains that these and other endeavors are preparation — retrospectively, in some cases — for a career in international affairs and diplomacy.

Driven in part by a passion for travel, Orens has been immersing herself in other cultures and volunteering around the globe since high school. In summer 2009, in one of her earliest experiences abroad, she spent several weeks observing monkeys and living in a research station in Costa Rica's Manuel Antonio National Park through Kids Saving the Rainforest. More recently, the Baltimore native spent last summer in Rio de Janeiro, where she studied Portuguese and volunteered at Espaço Criança Esperança (Children's Space for Hope), an organization that provides social and educational support for youth in one of the city's many slums. Orens was a mentor, engaging students ages 14–17 in conversations about current events.

"I really want to learn about a place from the inside out, and volunteer work has allowed me to do that," she says. "Learning isn't something that ends when I come home; instead, the experience abroad is a springboard and opportunity to think about things differently."

Orens set her sights on Brazil after traveling to Cairo in March as part of a weeklong program organized by the Division of Student Affairs' Office of Civic Action and Engagement through the nonprofit Hands Along the Nile, which promotes cultural exchange between Americans and Egyptians. In the mornings, Orens and several other students volunteered at an orphanage in the Egyptian capital's garbage collecting district, home to the city's unofficial sanitation workers. In the afternoon, they met with local students, activists and NGO leaders to talk about the 2011 revolution. Formal meetings took place at the U.S. Embassy, but students also dialogue over coffee and dinner.

"We got to see a lot of different sides to the revolution in Cairo, not just from students but also from an underprivileged community and activists who had been very involved," Orens says.

For Orens, who has played the viola since she was 8, the first foray into the realm of international affairs came, somewhat unconventionally, through her love of chamber music. During summer 2009, after returning from Costa Rica, Orens spent two weeks at the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in New Hampshire. There, she participated in the center's Playing for Peace program, which brings together musicians from conflicted areas of the world. Her experience was so moving that she returned the following summer.

"It's really interesting the way you get to know people by playing music together. It's much different than if you were just to sit down and have a conversation. You have to really be in the other person's head and feel the pulse together. That's a really special connection to have with people," says Orens, who played in a quintet with musicians from Israel and Jordan. "That made me interested in learning more about international affairs. Where do these people come from? What's going on there? How can we apply this in the world and in negotiations?"

Orens plans to major in political science and sustainable development. She continues to take viola lessons through the music department and, as a first-year, was a member of the Columbia University Orchestra, which led to a performance at Carnegie Hall. She also has found an outlet for her diverse interests in Spectator, for which she covers environmental and sustainability issues and writes arts reviews.

Core Lecturer Margo Rosen '11 GSAS believes the critical thinking style Orens exhibited in her Lit Hum class is aligned with her career goals. "Shayna's fearlessness and associative thinking were great assets to our Lit Hum class," says Rosen. "I could see her approaching other cultures, languages and problems in the same way she approaches texts: enthusiastically, empathetically and intelligently absorbing, understanding and responding."

Though she loves to explore new places, having a home base is important for Orens and is one of the reasons she chose the College. "I really loved the sense of community here," she says. "Being in New York, I think that's really important, because it can be an overwhelming place if you don't have that. Having a campus that feels like home to come back to at the end of the day — I really love that."

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

■ A LION IN THE WHITE HOUSE: CCT will continue to be delivered to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., at least for the next four years. President Barack Obama ’83 was reelected on November 6, beating Republican opponent Gov. Mitt Romney. Read what Columbia faculty members have to say on the election at news.columbia.edu/2960.

■ “GENIUS” GRANT: Terry A. Plank ’93 GSAS, a professor of earth and environmental sciences at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory as well as a professor of Frontiers of Science, was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow for 2012 along with 22 others, including Maria Chudnovsky, an associate professor of industrial engineering and operations research at Columbia Engineering. Each will receive $500,000 in a no-strings grant paid out over five years. The fellowship makes no requirement of the winners except the expectation that they will continue to create and explore their work.

Plank studies volcanoes, particularly in and around the Pacific Ocean. “I’m interested in how much gas they have in them before they erupt, how much water is dissolved in magma before it erupts,” she told CCT in 2011. “It’s like trying to find out how much CO₂ is in seltzer before you take the cap off and it goes ‘psht,’ because once it goes ‘psht,’ the gas is all gone. How do you know how much used to be in there? That’s the challenge.”

■ GOLDEN GOOSE: Nobel laureate Martin Chalfie, the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Biological Sciences, has won the first “Golden Goose” award, celebrating researchers whose seemingly obscure or unusual federally funded studies turned out to have a significant impact on society. The award was created by a coalition of science organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was presented on September 13 on Capitol Hill. Chalfie received the award along with Osamu Shimomura and Roger Y. Tsien, his partners in receiving the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for work on green fluorescent protein. According to the press release, the team’s “research, following Dr. Shimomura’s work on how certain jellyfish glow in the dark, led to numerous medical research advances and to methods used widely by the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.”

Also being presented the Golden Goose award were Charles Townes, a Nobel laureate in physics, for inventing laser technology, which stemmed from research in molecular and atomic spectroscopy while at Columbia in the 1950s. The team of Jon Weber, Eugene White, Rodney White and Della Roy also won for research on coral that led to discoveries in bone graft technology.

Contact CCT Online

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Click “Contact Us” at college.columbia.edu/cct or call 212-851-7852.

Giving Day Raises Almost $1.3 Million for the College

The University held its first Columbia Giving Day on October 24, and thanks to generous contributions from more than 900 donors, the College raised more than $1.2 million and just more than $98,000 in matching funds. The College won the Trustee Challenge, bringing in an additional $78,179, and earned an extra $15,000 for participation and $5,000 for being the school with the most donors from 4–5 p.m. All gifts went to the Columbia College Fund, which supports the Core Curriculum, financial aid, student services and internships.

Giving Day was an online-based fundraising event that encouraged alumni, parents and friends to come together, support their favorite schools and programs, and help them win up to $400,000 in eligible prizes. Columbia received more than 5,300 donations, including gifts from 39 countries and all 50 states. Donors supported 19 schools and programs across the University, raising $6,855,455.

For more information, go to givingday.columbia.edu.

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Read the latest issue of CCT, keep in touch with fellow alumni and get all the latest College news.
Roar, Lion, Roar

High Hopes for Hoops in 2012–13

A returning All-Ivy League point guard in Brian Barbour ‘13, more size and experience on the front line and the benefits reaped from a summer trip to Europe provided reason for optimism as Columbia’s men’s basketball team began the non-league part of its 2012-13 schedule in November with wins over Furman and Haverford.

Columbia was picked to finish third in the conference’s preseason media poll, behind Princeton and defending champion Harvard. Third-year head coach Kyle Smith says that Columbia’s strong play and team unity, developed in a 12-day trip to Spain and Italy, has him eager to see what the season has in store.

“We couldn’t have asked for anything better as far as the way that the Europe trip turned out for us,” says Smith. “We had 10 guys who went, saw all the sights and bonded really well. It allowed us to tweak some aspects of how we play and work on things that we normally wouldn’t have the time to do.”

One of those adjustments was putting 6-11 Cory Osetkowski ‘15 and 6-9 Mark Cisco ‘13 on the floor at the same time. With more teams playing smaller lineups, Smith hopes to use his team’s height advantage to create mismatches on the offensive end of the floor.

“Mark has a chance to be an all-conference player,” Smith says of the veteran who averaged 10.0 points and a team-high 7.2 rebounds per game last season. “It’s just been a matter of him staying out of foul trouble, and he’s improved in that area. With Cory, having him focus solely on basketball [he also played baseball last spring] will be huge for his development. He was always going to contribute for us, but now he has a chance to make an even bigger impact.”

The Lions also have good depth in the frontcourt, boasting small forward Alex Rosenberg ’15 and 6-8 newcomer Zach En‘Wezoh ’16, who excited the fans in Levien Gym with a trio of second-half dunks against Haverford. In addition, Smith expects to have 6-9 Skylar Scrivero ’15, who missed the entire 2011–12 season, ready to step in by December after a preseason setback.

“I think size is a strength of this year’s team,” Smith says.

“Right now everyone’s trying to play small, and we’re going to try the opposite. We’re zigging when everyone else is zagging, so we’ll see who has the advantage.”

Vital to the Lions’ success is Barbour, who averaged team highs of 15.5 points and 4.4 assists per game and will be called on to get the most from the big front line.

“The thing about Brian is he’s comfortable being a leader,” says Smith. “As a coach, it gives you great ease when you can put the ball in the hands of an experienced point guard.”

Barbour is joined in the backcourt by Steve Frankoski ’15, who returned with 16 points in the season opener against Furman after missing last season with a foot injury. Depth comes from among Dean Kowalski ’13, Noah Springwater ’15 and a group of newcomers that includes Grant Mullins ’16, Mao Lo ’16 and Isaac Cohen ’16.

“This team reminds me a little bit of our Sweet 16 team at Saint Mary’s,” says Smith, referring to the 2009–10 team that went 28-6 with Smith as its top assistant coach. “That year we went 6-11, 6-11, 6-7, very similar to what we’re trying to do here. That was a really skilled team with good guards as well. Right now, we look like them; we’ll find out if we can play like them.”

Columbia starts Ivy play at Cornell on Saturday, January 19.

Point guard Brian Barbour ‘13 looks to repeat his All-Ivy season of a year ago.

PHOTO: COLUMBIA ATHLETICS/GEOFFREY BOLTE

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

SCOREBOARD

2 Number of Columbia volleyball players — Megan Gaughn ‘13 and Heather Braunagel ’13 — named to the All-Ivy League first team, the most in school history.

957 Rushing yards by Marcorus Garrett ’14 in 2012, the third-highest total in school history.
Campbell Center Dedicated

As part of Homecoming on October 20, Columbia marked the dedication of The Campbell Sports Center, the first full-time, year-round athletics building at the Baker Athletics Complex. Designed by Architecture School professor Steven Holl, the center rises at the corner of West 218th Street and Broadway and is the linchpin of the athletics facilities transformation at Columbia, made possible through the Campaign for Athletics.

The center features offices for coaches, conference rooms, a multimedia theatre-style classroom, a student-athlete strength and conditioning center, and communal spaces such as the Milstein Hospitality Pavilion, The FITZ Student-Athlete Lounge and the Lavine Student-Athlete Study Center. The center is named in honor of benefactor William V. Campbell ‘62, ’64 TC, captain of Columbia’s 1961 Ivy champion football team, former head football coach and current chair of the University Board of Trustees.

“There is nobody more deserving of this honor — the naming of The Campbell Sports Center — than Bill Campbell,” says Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy. “Bill always wants the best for Columbia, and we are so proud that The Campbell Sports Center will be an iconic landmark for generations of Columbians for years to come.”

Fall Sports Highlights

- Men’s cross country, led by Mark Feigen ‘13, Leighton Spencer ‘13, Mike Murphy ‘13 and Jacob Sienko ‘14, finished second at the 2012 Ivy League Heptagonal Championships. The team then earned an automatic bid to the 2012 NCAA National Championships for the first time in program history by placing second at the NCAA Northeast Regionals. Columbia, which climbed as high as 10th in the USTFCCA national polls, its highest ranking ever, placed 17th of 31 teams at the NCAAs, its first top-20 finish ever.

- Volleyball, which finished 14–9 overall and 9–5 in Ivy League action, tied for second in league play, its highest finish in school history. Megan Gaughn ‘13 finished her outstanding Columbia career with 1,284 kills, becoming the first Columbia player to reach 1,000 digs and 1,000 kills for her career.

- Football posted a 3–7 record in its first season under coach Pete Mangurian. Season highlights included a 26–22 victory over Yale, Columbia’s first win over the Bulldogs since 2001, and scoring 27 unanswered points to post a 34–17 triumph over Cornell and win the Empire State Bowl. Marcus Garret ‘14 rushed for 957 yards, the third-best season total in school history, and Sean Brackett ‘13 finished second on Columbia’s career list for pass completions, touchdown passes and total offense.

Hall Welcomes Fourth Class

Columbia Athletics honored its fourth Hall of Fame class at a Low Library gala on October 18. Robert K. Kraft ’63 (above), cited in a special category for individual achievement, received his HOF plaque from Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy, while Shannon Munoz ’07, captain of Columbia’s 2006 women’s Ivy League soccer championship team, posed with Trustees Chair William V. Campbell ’62, ’64 TC (left) and President Lee C. Bollinger.

Save the Date!

- FEB. 15–16 Women’s basketball alumnus weekend
- MARCH 2 Men’s tennis alumni event
- APRIL 30 Varsity C Celebration
- MAY 6 Football golf outing

Top national ranking achieved by the men’s cross country team this season.

Where Columbia men’s basketball team was picked to finish in the preseason Ivy League media poll, the highest in at least 10 years.

Years since Columbia last defeated Yale in football, which it did 26–22 on October 27.
Homecoming 2012

More than 1,200 alumni, students, parents and friends gathered on October 20 at the Baker Athletics Complex on West 218th Street for Homecoming 2012. The afternoon included a gourmet barbecue under the Big Tent, an adjacent carnival for kids, music, camaraderie and a football game against Dartmouth (won by the Big Green, 21–16). Attendees returned to the Big Tent at halftime for a dessert reception, sponsored for the third consecutive year by the Columbia Alumni Association.

A special event this year was the dedication of The Campbell Sports Center, the cornerstone of the revitalized Baker Athletics Complex named for benefactor William V. Campbell '62, '64 TC, captain of the 1961 Ivy League Champion football team, former Lions head football coach and chair of the University trustees.

To view photo galleries from Homecoming and the dedication, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO AND CHRIS BALMER '07
PRIDE OF THE LIONS

Columbia’s faculty distinguish themselves as teachers, researchers, scholars

The business of college is knowledge: the transmission of knowledge through teaching, the advancement of knowledge through research and scholarship. Responsibility for both resides with a college’s faculty. They occupy the lecture halls, seminar rooms and labs, encouraging critical thinking in students while simultaneously pursuing their own ideas and investigations.

Columbia College has a history of great teachers, many of whom earned renown beyond Morningside Heights and whose names still pepper the remembrances of older alumni: Mark Van Doren ’21 GSAS; Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 GSAS; James P. Shenton ’49, ’54 GSAS; I.I. Rabi ’27 GSAS. And then of course there is Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS, one of the greatest, who passed away in October at 104.

Barzun’s insights on teaching could fill a book, as the saying goes. And in fact they did. More than one. In 1945’s Teacher in America, he wrote, “Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition. Hence tomorrow’s problem will not be to get teachers, but to recognize the good ones and not discourage them before they have done their stint.”

And so this special section aims to recognize professors for all the hats they wear, beginning with a focus on four who can claim more than 50 years each with Columbia: chemist Ronald Breslow; geoscientist Wallace Broecker ’53, ’58 GSAS; philosopher David Sidorovsky ’62 GSAS; and psychologist Herbert Terrace. Other profiles spotlight the remarkable and diverse careers of historian Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS; filmmaker Frances Negron-Muntaner; and drug research scientist Carl Hart.

As noteworthy as they are, these professors only begin to suggest the range of expertise and achievements that characterize Columbia’s educators as a whole. The faculty of Arts and Sciences totals more than 600. They instruct students in the Core Curriculum as well as in 143 majors, concentrations and special concentrations. They win internationally recognized awards and fellowships — Nobels, Pulitzers, MacArthurs, Guggenheims — and they earn the highest honors given by peers within their fields.

One professor observed recently of his routine, “Days are long. Nights can be even longer.” The statement stands as a testament to the energy and commitment that also, importantly, characterize the College faculty.

We celebrate and thank them all.

Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts
Ronald Breslow Sees Magic in Chemistry

Packing into the span of one interview the details of a 56-year career that includes the development of a cancer-killing drug, the establishment of a new field in chemistry and a key role in the College’s transition to coeducation is no mean feat. “Will we go through tomorrow or just today?” Ronald Breslow jokes.

It helps that the University Professor and chemist packs in a lot of words per minute (sympathy goes to the students taking notes in his classes). But his quick-talking speech pattern seems a function of excitement as much as expedience. After all, this is an 81-year-old who describes chemistry in the same terms he did as a sixth-grader — as “magic stuff.”

“In synthetic chemistry, we make new things — molecules that never existed. You say, ‘Well, how much of that can you do?’ The best estimate is that the number of molecules you could make about the size of a typical drug, with the typical elements in it, is 10 to the 40th — that’s 1 with 40 zeroes after it.” He laughs. “So forget about it, there’s no way you can exhaust this field. Absolutely no way.”

Breslow, who earned an A.B. in chemistry, A.M. in biochemistry and Ph.D. in organic chemistry, all from Harvard, has worked at Columbia since 1956. His extensive accolades include the Arthur C. Cope Award; the Priestley Medal, the highest honor conferred by the American Chemical Society (ACS); and the National Medal of Science. From Columbia he has received the Mark Van Doren Award, and from the Society of Columbia Graduates, the Great Teacher Award. Just as telling as the awards he’s received is the one that ACS established in his name, in 2001, which recognizes outstanding contributions to biomimetic chemistry — a field of which Breslow is considered the father. He coined the phrase in the mid-1950s to describe a “new chemistry based on the principles used by nature.”

“What we do is look at how enzymes work and say, ‘OK, that’s how nature does it — how can we do the same thing?’ We’re learning from what nature already does rather than start from scratch with nothing.”

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Wallace Broecker Is Dean of Climate Scientists

On a crisp fall day that serves as an advertisement for working at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia’s bucolic 157-acre campus west of the Hudson River in Palisades, N.Y., Wallace Broecker ‘53, ’58 GSAS emerges unexpectedly (and unmistakably) from around a bend in the sidewalk: there is the trademark ruffled hair, black jeans and sneakers; a small compass hangs from his belt.

Broecker’s errand would be unremarkable were it not for the impromptu tour that results and the hellos he exchanges with every passerby along the way. This is a man who loves his work, a point that’s underscored when, back in his wide-windowed office in the Gary C. Comer Geochemistry Building, Broecker declares: “Lamont is, for me, the place. The people, the quality of the science, the beauty of the campus. There’s nothing else in the world that can touch it.”

Indeed, the whole of the geophysicist’s 58-year career has been set at Lamont. (He was a research associate for Professor J. Laurence Kulp while earning his Ph.D. in geology.) In that time, Broecker has taught hundreds of undergraduate students, mentored 50 graduate students and 35 postdoctoral fellows, and published 480 papers and 11 books. His many honors include the National Medal of Science and the Vetlesen Prize, widely considered the geoscience equivalent of a Nobel Prize. He was a pioneer in radiocarbon and isotope dating — critical tools for mapping the earth’s past climate fluctuations — and he developed the concept of the “great ocean conveyor,” which helps explain instances of abrupt climate change.

Oh, and he is “the father of global warming” — though Broecker wrinkles his nose at the moniker: “I’m known as that, for better or worse. I don’t really like the idea,” he says, pointing instead to scientist Charles David Keeling, who in the late ‘50s began the regular collection and testing of air samples that demonstrated the steady rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

“It was the first time anybody measured CO₂ accurately enough

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David Sidorsky
Is Professor at Heart

philosophy professor David Sidorsky '62 GSAS would rather not be interviewed, especially for an article predicated on his many years at Columbia.

"It's an awkward thing, after all — this whole, praise as longevity," he says from his office in Philosophy Hall. "Longevity is not a virtue. Excellence is a virtue; scholarship is a virtue. Longevity reflects tenacity. [C.S.] Peirce — when he describes the four kinds of methods of fixing belief — he says there's tenacity, there's intuition, there's authority and there's science. Tenacity is not necessarily the best. Longevity correlates with tenacity."

The explanation befits a man who is more comfortable talking about ideas than about himself. After all, ideas are the business the Canadian-born Sidorsky has been in for upward of 50 years, having taught philosophy at NYU (where he earned an A.B. in 1948 and an A.M. in 1952) before being hired by Columbia in 1959. He earned a Ph.D. in 1962 in philosophy.

"I have wonderful memories from all my early teachers and colleagues at Columbia — an extraordinary group," he says, citing among others historian and sociologist Frank Tannenbaum '21 as well as philosophers James Goodman, Horace Friess Ph.D. '19, '26 GSAS and John H. (Jack) Randall Jr. Ph.D. '18, '22 GSAS.

Sidorsky describes himself as initially a disciple of John Dewey, though he soon became interested in "ordinary language analysis," which holds that the key to investigating philosophical questions lies in paying close attention to the use of everyday language. The school developed largely at Oxford in the 1940s under philosophers such as J.L. Austin and Gilbert Ryle. "I always say my heart is in the coffin with Austin, who died young," Sidorsky says.

As he expands his explanation of his beliefs — offering for context a brief course in older philosophical schools, with stops at Spinoza, Descartes, Newton and Kant — it's easy to see that teaching is his default. His speech pattern amplifies the effect, one sentence following the next with the smoothness and surety of a triple play. Evidence of his impact, meanwhile, comes in many forms: a book, To Do the Right and the Good, which its author Elliot Dorff '65, '71 GSAS, a rabbi and former Ph.D. student, dedicated to him; a recent letter from Peter Lushing '62, '65L.

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Herbert Terrace
Studies Evolution of Language

if Herbert Terrace had his way, before any discussion about his research in the evolution of language, he would put everyone into a room for a quick lesson in breaking the habit of anthropomorphism.

Not that the psychologist is unsympathetic to the impulse. "We're ingenious at it — Aesop's Fables, Doctor Doolittle — it's reinforced everywhere a child looks, more films and books about talking to the animals. I think that's because, in addition to language, we also became very empathic, so we tend to project our feelings onto the animal as if it's just another part of the family. I talk to my cat; she understands. It's natural."

But to Terrace's mind, the tendency can cloud people's judgment as it relates to his work, which is grounded in the conviction that nonhuman primates are incapable of using language like humans. Terrace famously came to this conclusion in the 1970s, after a three-year study that involved teaching sign language to a chimpanzee. And he has focused much of his career since developing a theory that explains how humans arrived at language when simians did not. Or as he puts it, "how we got to the first word."

Terrace is speaking from his office in Schermerhorn Hall where, on the wall opposite his desk, in winking recognition of his life's work, hangs a large print of monkeys — many, many monkeys — sitting before computers. "There's an expression, if you leave a monkey at a typewriter long enough, they'll eventually type Shakespeare. Well, if you look at what's on their screens, they're typing Shakespeare."

The Brooklyn-raised Terrace, who has worked at Columbia since 1961, earned a B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in experimental psychology from Cornell, and a Ph.D. in psychology from Harvard. There, he studied under the famed psychologist B.F. Skinner, known for his theories in operant behavior. (The basic idea is that behavior is determined by its consequences, be they reinforcements or punishments, which make it more or less likely that the behavior will occur again.) "He was a brilliant guy, and I said, 'That's my role model,'" Terrace recalls.

As a graduate student, much of Terrace's work focused on pigeons — his dissertation showed how they could learn to tell

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Ronald Breslow Sees Magic in Chemistry

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Breslow calls it an ancient idea, adding: “When people were trying to figure out how on earth they were going to fly, they looked at insects and at birds, and they said, ‘Wings! Boy, that’s a good idea. Let’s try that.’ And then for a while they tried flapping wings and that was a fiasco; you don’t want to imitate everything. But still: Everything that flies has wings, so that’s obviously the trick.”

Breslow put his conception of biomimetics to work most notably with suberoylanilide hydroxamic acid — SAHA, as he called it in the lab, or Zolinza as it’s marketed by Merck, which owns and manufactures the drug for the treatment of cancer. A computer-generated image of the molecule hangs above a couch in Breslow’s spacious office in Chandler Laboratory. It appears as a string of yellow globes, hugging the gridded outline of a protein.

“That is a really nifty molecule, and it deserves to be up there,” he says.

Breslow’s work built on research by Charlotte Friend of Mount Sinai Medical Center in Manhattan, who discovered that “a very common solvent would take a particular kind of cancer cell and turn it into a normal cell.” The problem was that an enormous amount of the drug would be needed to meaningfully curb cancer in humans.

Dr. Paul Marks ’46, ’49 P&S — then-dean of the Medical School and president emeritus of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center — who knew Friend and her work, approached Breslow in the early ’70s with the challenge: “What can we make that would be more potent and would still work?” Breslow and his team created close to 1,000 compounds in pursuit of their goal. “Eventually we improved the potency of the thing by about more than 100 millionfold.”

That breakthrough occurred in 1987, but years of fundraising, development and human trials still lay ahead. In 2001, Breslow, Marks and a few other colleagues formed a small company, Aton Pharma, with a license from Columbia for the underlying technology, and in 2004 sold that company to Merck. SAHA was approved by the FDA in 2006 as the first-of-its-kind prescription drug. In essence, “it stops cancer cells from growing, then in half the cases turns them into normal cells, while in the other half they commit suicide — a process called apoptosis.” Today, it also is being considered for use as a treatment and possibly a cure for AIDS.

Breslow and his wife, Esther, a biochemistry professor now retired from Weill Cornell Medical College, used proceeds from the sale of Aton to establish the Esther Breslow Professorship in Organic or Biological Chemistry. (The professorship also was funded by Gerry Lenfest ’58L, part of his 2006 pledge to match gifts for endowed faculty chairs in the Arts and Sciences.) The chair will be renamed upon Breslow’s retirement to recognize him as well: “My wife likes the idea that, 100 years from now, we’re going to be together on this,” he says.

As it happens, Breslow grew up in Rahway, N.J., where Merck’s headquarters is located. His father was a doctor, and many of his patients were chemists with the company — which is “how I learned there was even such a field as chemistry.” A family friend who also was Merck’s chemistry director gave the young Breslow a college textbook on organic chemistry. “I’m in sixth grade reading this stuff, and the poor guy who was teaching chemistry at my high school had no idea what I knew.”

Breslow’s enthusiasm extends to his work as an educator. Some 130 Ph.D. theses — red hard-back volumes from Merle Battaile ’59 GSAS to Severin Thomas Schneebeli ’11 GSAS — hold a prominent space on a long shelf in his office. He teaches, among other courses, a freshman-only organic chemistry class, designed for students who have done a significant amount of preparatory work in high school. “Mostly they are people who want to be scientists. Usually about halfway through the course they say, ‘How can we get into research?’ And we do get them into research, and many of them go on to pursue very good careers in the field,” he says.

“The course is challenging and all of them say they never knew what it meant to work, to study, before — but that’s good for them. That’s what a university ought to do; get people to perform up to their peak of ability.” With only 30 students in the class, he adds, he is able to give them all serious attention.

Breslow’s place in Columbia history also is assured for his role as chairman of the committee of faculty and alumni that, in 1980, explored whether the College should admit women. (“I did it in part because I had two daughters who would have gone to Columbia if they could, but had no interest in going to an all-girls’ school.”) With Barnard’s well-being in mind, the committee looked at about a dozen other places where an all-male college in proximity to a women’s college had made the transition, and in each case the women’s college survived. The final recommendation was for coeducation.

“The first year we did it [1983], the incoming class was 45 percent women, right away, as soon as we opened the door. And then four years later, they had won all the prizes. Now, is that so bad?” he says, laughing. “If it hadn’t worked out, it was pretty clear who would be blamed, and that was fine with me. I think that’s part of the responsibility of a thing like that. You come in with the best case you can, and you’re certainly willing to be the person who they say, ‘He brought that?’ But I wasn’t worried.”

Considering the whole of his career, Breslow is hard pressed to single out the accomplishment of which he is most proud. Instead, he returns to the passion that underlies them all: “We’re in the field of understanding not only the world as it is, but also the world as it can be, which is a big, very exciting area. We think about new things and we can create new things, and then we can find out how they work and what they do. Even after all these years, I still think that’s a special thing.”
Wallace Broecker Is Dean of Climate Scientists

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that you could start to think about getting a time trend, and that record continues as being able to see connections between seemingly disparate areas of information. He adds, "The pleasure you really get in science is to beat nature and find out something that nobody else has ever figured out, and then you feel real good. That's what you're trying to do. It's like putting together a picture puzzle and finding a piece that you've been looking for for two days."

But for all his success in big-picture ideas, Broecker names his experience in the field with GEOSECS — shorthand for Geochemical Ocean Sections Study — as "the Camelot of my career," explaining:

"During the 1970s the National Science Foundation had what it called the International Decade for Ocean Exploration. And what it did for the first time was try to put together bigger, multi-institutional projects that involved lots of people. So some of my friends and I got the idea to do a complete survey of the world's oceans, measure all its geochemical properties."

The expedition took place in several legs, beginning in 1972 and finishing in 1978, and included sampling at 454 stations in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

"That was really very satisfying. A lot of it was mechanical — we were doing the same thing at every station — but the idea, that we were the first ones to ever map the ocean. And that has become the foundation for all subsequent studies. They all go back to that, because it laid out what the ocean was like for biologists and geochemists and so on."

The data set provided the foundation for Broecker’s textbook Tracers in the Sea: "It was written in 1980 and people still want it, which is a great compliment." More recently, Broecker played a role in developing Frontiers of Science, which was added to the Core Curriculum in the early 2000s.

Broecker looks out his windows, where the light is signaling the late-afternoon hour, before returning to the subject of Lamont. He was chairman of the geology department from 1978-80. "That was the only time I've done administration in the sense of having an official title .... But I've worked very hard to help keep this place going, and I think I can take a modest amount of credit for the fact that Lamont is what it is."

Here he offers a history of the shuttle bus service between Morningside and Lamont, and its value to students and staff, but fails to mention his influence with the late Gary Comer, founder of Lands’ End clothing retailer, which led among other things to Comer’s $18 million donation toward the construction of the building in which Broecker now sits. Instead, he concludes:

"Things have just gotten better and better. I would be crazy to ever leave."
David Sidorsky Is Professor at Heart

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thanking Sidorsky for the gesture of offering him weekly tutorials when a conflict prevented his enrolling in a lecture section for the semester. Lushing called them “the best academic experience I had in college.”

Sidorsky acknowledges that teaching has formed the cornerstone of his professional life.

“It’s partly the challenge students give to you when they raise issues or questions. It’s partly that I enjoy structuring a narrative for them, structuring a discourse for them ... Developing a good lecture involves quite a few challenges: You have to have some substance, have to have some good jokes, have to make some points directly and simply and some points obliquely and subtly.”

Case in point: A question about the most valuable thing a professor can do for his students elicits an answer from Plato’s dialogues. Sidorsky quotes Minos and Protagoras, on whether excellence can be taught, before concluding with the elliptical: “How you teach what’s important is very, very difficult to know, and whether you’re teaching what’s important is very difficult to know .... Subject matter can be taught. Students do learn. How we teach them is another matter.”

Early on, Sidorsky taught Contemporary Civilization and, on occasion, Literature Humanities, along with history of philosophy. “I’ve also taught moral philosophy or equivalent topics in ethics all the years from the beginning, and political philosophy.” In the 1960s he developed a class in 20th-century philosophy “which, at that time, I only had to teach the first 60 years of,” he says, laughing. “I still teach that every year. It’s my favorite course, and 20th-century philosophy has had an extraordinary road.”

There are two separate issues when it comes to considering philosophy’s place in the modern era, Sidorsky says. “One is the great importance and value of the study of the history of philosophy, and the second is the question of the role of philosophy in understanding the world given the major development of the sciences in understanding the world. It’s still extremely important to appreciate the work of the philosopher, on the one hand, and on the other hand, it’s important to understand the way in which science displaced philosophy in various fields of knowledge.”

In recent years, Sidorsky’s interests have strayed into the philosophy of literature, and he’s completed several essays on literary modernism. But his scholarship has focused most often on the nature of disagreement and issues of conservatism and liberalism (political philosophy) and the objectivity of ethics (moral philosophy).

The latter — in which he believes strongly — “means that when you say something is good, you say it’s good because there are reasons. And the question is, what constitutes a reason? Let’s assume somebody says, ‘The Aztecs said we can sacrifice human beings because of the good reason that we need their blood to move the sun across the sky.’ You say, ‘Oh no, the reason has to be true.’ ... So not every reason constitutes a reason. But if you have true reasons and relevant reasons and strong reasons, then the good is justified. And if you have false reasons or absurd reasons or rationalizations, then the objective claim is false.

“Even attitudes that are prejudicial usually are justified by reasons,” he adds. “It’d be one thing if people said, ‘I’m going to do this terrible thing for no reason,’ but they don’t. They say, ‘This is the reason,’ and often the reason is false. So that means they feel compelled to give a reason, and when the reason is false, then you have an argument against that action. It’s interesting that even the great dictators of the 20th century, who showed great moral regression, gave reasons for their actions in some cases that are obviously false.

“Now the tragedy is, of course, those actions were carried out. But from the point of view of philosophy, the fact that reasons were given that can be demonstrated to be false shows something about the objectivity of morals.”

As it relates to his students, the subject provides one of his most interesting and long-running challenges. Students understand that “mathematics can be true, science can be true. But [they wonder] how can an ethical statement be true? It’s opinion, it’s attitude ... Also, when you say there’s an objective morality, then the assumption — which isn’t necessarily true — is that you’ll be intolerant of the opposite. Whereas if you say it’s relative, then you’re tolerant. Students don’t want to be considered intolerant.”

Sidorsky also is quick to point to the enjoyment he derives from “collegial discussion,” citing his 1975-80 chairmanship of the University Committee on General Education, which aimed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue at Columbia. Sidorsky also was chairman of a University Seminar on modernism and postmodernism and, for about six years, chaired the John M. Olin Colloquium in Political Philosophy; the latter brought in international figures such as the English philosopher Maurice Cranston, the Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski and the French historian Annie Kriegel.

Sidorsky’s late wife, Rhoda, graduated from Teachers College with an M.A. in fine arts. They met, in fact, when he enrolled in her painting class in 1950. “After a few sessions she informed me that I ‘mixed nice colors,’” he recalls. “I immediately grasped that this was a polite and euphemistic way to provide a student with a minimal courtesy passing grade of 51.” The couple married two years later, and their three children all earned graduate degrees at Columbia.

“I’m happy to have been here these many years,” he continues. “I’ve had interesting experiences at Columbia, interesting friendships, interesting disagreements through the years. I think Columbia’s place in the neighborhood should be affirmed more strongly. It contributes a great deal to Upper Manhattan.”

He begins to talk about culture in New York at large — about classical music and a recent concert he attended at Alice Tully Hall — before trailing off, his self-consciousness reasserting itself. Asked whether he’d like to add anything more, he responds with a sigh.

“No, mostly I would want to subtract.”
Herbert Terrace Studies Evolution of Language

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colors apart without making mistakes — but after coming to Colum-bia he found his way back to a subject that had interested him as an undergraduate: language and behavior. One catalyst was his reading of *Verbal Behavior*, a 1957 book by Skinner that had been notoriously criticized by the MIT linguist Noam Chomsky. Terrace also was intrigued by reports of people who were training chimpanzees to use human languages — among them, a couple at the University of Nevada who in the late 1960s taught American Sign Language to a chimp named Washoe.

But, Terrace says, the couple’s work was largely anecdotal. He envisioned taking the next step — not only training the animal but also documenting and rigorously vetting the results.

Thus in 1973, Terrace embarked on a research study with a chimpanzee named Nim Chimpsky (a nod to Chomsky, who insisted that language as we know it is innate and unique to humans). At first the infant Nim lived with the family of a psychology student studying with Terrace, in a Manhattan brownstone; as he grew older and more rambunctious, he was transferred to a sprawling estate owned by Columbia in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

“I had teachers around the clock, from when he woke up till when he went to bed, whispering into a recorder whatever signs he made and the context in which he made them .... Across a roughly three-year period I collected upward of 24,000 utterances in sign language and not only that, but during a two-year period I only looked at combinations of two or more signs.”

These combinations and the order in which signs appeared (“more banana” versus “banana more”) were key, as they went to the question of whether Nim was creating complete grammatical sentences. “I thought I succeeded in showing I could teach a chimp sign language, and that I had the documentary evidence,” Terrace says.

He was preparing to submit his results to the journal *Science* when, while looking at videotape of Nim working with teachers, he realized something critical: Nim was not signing spontaneously; rather, the teachers signed most of what Nim signed, about a quarter of a second before he signed it. Terrace had simply been so fixated on watching Nim’s actions as not to recognize the connection; he characterizes it now as the difference between looking through a telephoto lens and panning back for the wide-angle shot.

Terrace’s ultimate conclusion? That Nim was “a brilliant beggar.”

“Nim learned he had to move his hands in some way to get a specific reward, say an orange. But that’s totally different, in my opinion, from using language in the modern sense. We use language to have conversations. I realized in hindsight that nobody had a conversation with Nim. He just said, ‘gimme, gimme, gimme’ and then he got. But he didn’t say ‘thank you’ or ‘this is an interesting-looking orange’ or anything like that.”

Project Nim ended in 1977 — a documentary by the same name, recounting the study, was released in theatres last year — and Terrace published a paper with his conclusions in *Science* in 1979. However it wasn’t until he was on sabbatical at Oxford, in 1984, that he “really began to think about what all of this meant. And ever since then, I’ve been reading and reading, trying to figure out why we talk and they don’t.”

Terrace is writing a book now on the evolution of language. Among other things, he distinguishes between these two types of language, the imperative commands such as “gimme, gimme,” and the conversational. (He also addressed the subject for the annual Schoff Lecture Series, which took place in November at The Kellogg Center at SIPA.) “We [humans] sort of seamlessly go from one to the other, but people don’t realize the profound difference,” Terrace says. “You would never get a chimp to go from stage one to stage two.”

From 1985 until this past June, Terrace conducted most of his research at his Primate Cognition Lab (the lab initially operated out of borrowed space at Lehman College, but moved to Columbia in 1995). He and his team cared for about a dozen male rhesus macaque monkeys. “I always had about six or seven undergraduates as volunteers, and you couldn’t tear them away.” Research focused on monkeys’ memory systems — for example, testing the animals’ recall for the equivalent of a seven-digit PIN at a cash machine — only instead of numbers, they were asked to pick out photographs that appeared in a different configuration each time. Analyzing their performance, he says, held clues to understanding the evolution of human cognition and its pre-linguistic origins.

Terrace’s honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, All Soul’s College Fellowship and Fulbright Senior Research Scholarship. As for his teaching, he has helmed an introductory course in psychology for “at least 25 years.” For a long time he supplemented that with smaller classes on animal behavior. More recently, he’s shifted toward courses on the evolution of language, consciousness and cognition.

“I like teaching; you get wonderful stimulation. Every year the population changes, both the undergraduate and the graduate students, so you get new blood — and that means you get new, different kinds of reactions.”

Looking back at his career with Columbia, Terrace cites several high points: “The time I felt most excited during my first six or seven years was getting tenure. That’s when I learned what it’s like to be a citizen at a university, all that entails, and I really enjoyed it. Especially the social intellectual [aspect]. And then I taught with faculty in other departments, and that was even better. I used to give courses with a philosopher where we picked up a book — neither of us knew what the other was going to say — and the class loved it, because they saw the grownups fighting with each other.”

Terrace says his most enjoyable period at Columbia began in 1995. “I was very lucky, I had six or seven graduate students who were brilliant; it was very sad to see them slowly go off into the real world .... I’d have visitors, and I’d say, ‘I’m sorry I have to go to a lab meeting.’ And they’d come and watch, and they just thought it was the most exciting thing they had ever seen. Of course, I wasn’t saying all that much — it was the students, they just argued brilliantly. I felt very proud of that.”

Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts, CCT’s managing editor, wrote the profiles of Breslow, Broecker, Sidorsky and Terrace. Photos by Leslie Jean-Bart ’76, ’77."
On February 1, 1960, four black freshmen from North Carolina A&T sat down at a segregated Woolworth’s lunch counter in downtown Greensboro and ordered coffee. Asked to leave, they quietly refused, remaining there until closing time. More people joined in the next day, and the next, and the sit-in protests soon caught fire across the South, galvanizing the civil rights movement. “Never before in the United States had so large a body of students spread a struggle over so great an area in pursuit of a goal of human dignity and freedom,” the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. later wrote.

Five hundred miles north of Greensboro, on Morningside Heights, another college freshman was tracking those events with keen interest.

“The sit-ins inspired things at Columbia,” remembers the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS, who turned 17 the week the Greensboro protests began. “Friends and I formed a little group on campus called ACTION. It was ultra-moderate compared to what came later in the ’60s. But we picketed Woolworth’s in New York to support the sit-ins in the South.”
Foner’s group published civil rights newsletters, sponsored folk music concerts — this was the heyday of politically engaged musicians such as Odetta, Pete Seeger and Harry Belafonte — and persuaded the University’s off-campus housing office to require a non-discrimination pledge from local landlords. Foner attended the March on Washington on August 28, 1963, and, from a spot far from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, listened to King’s famed address. “I had never seen so many people in one place,” Foner says. “It was a tremendously moving event.”

It wasn’t until his upper College years that the academic discipline of American history beckoned to Foner. His interest was sparked by two famed Columbia professors: James P. Shenton ’49, ’54 GSAS, who challenged students to connect past and present, and Richard Hofstadter ’42 GSAS, whom Foner has called, quite simply, “the premier historian of his generation.”

Following their example, Foner has forged a brilliant academic career. Only this fall, approaching 70, did he scale back his teaching schedule to half-time. Still, 43 years after he taught his first Columbia class, Foner appears as youthful and trim as ever. His rapid-fire, New York-accented speech remains lively and pointed. And his scholarly focus has never wavered. “There have been two big themes,” he says. “One is the process of abolition and the legacy of slavery, which is still with us 150 years after the Civil War. And the other is how social movements changed America — the ways in which different groups have helped to reshape the idea of freedom. Both of them help us understand America today.”

Foner’s reputation blossomed quickly. His doctoral thesis, published in 1970 as Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party Before the Civil War, explored the deeply rooted ideals and interests that drove the northern majority to oppose slavery and ultimately wage war against Southern secession. The work took a fresh approach to a significant historical question and established Foner’s national reputation. Free Soil became required reading for students of the period.

A caravan of impressively researched, lucidly composed books followed — he has written or edited 24 so far — among them Tom Paine and Revolutionary America; Nothing But Freedom: Emancipation and Its Legacy; the much-honored Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution 1863–1877 (more on this shortly); The Story of American Freedom; and, most recently, The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery, which won the Bancroft Prize, the Lincoln Prize and, capping a Triple Crown kind of year, the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for History.

Foner also has produced a widely used survey textbook, Give Me Liberty! An American History, and co-curated award-winning museum exhibitions. Visitors to The Hall of Presidents at Walt Disney World may be unaware of it, but the history lesson they receive there was prepared by Foner. He enjoys extraordinary respect among his peers, as mirrored in his election to lead all three major professional organizations in the field: the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association and the Society of American Historians. “If there were a Hall of Fame for American historians, Eric would be a first-ballot shoo-in,” says his longtime colleague and friend Sean Wilentz ’72, the noted Princeton historian and author of The Rise of American Democracy; Jefferson to Lincoln, itself a Bancroft Prize winner in 2006. “He is the most influential and admired American historian of his generation.”

Foner takes equal pride in the recognition he has received as a teacher: the Society of Columbia Graduates’ Great Teacher Award, in 1991, and Columbia’s Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching, in 2006, among other honors. The College presented him a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2007.

Columbia has an exceptional tradition in Foner’s field, including such luminaries as Hofstadter, Charles Beard, Henry Steele Commager and Allan Nevins. “Like his predecessors,” Wilentz says, “Eric changed the prevailing wisdom on fundamental issues in U.S. history, not least the origins of the Civil War and the rise and fall of Reconstruction. Like them, he has written books and articles accessible to readers well outside the academy. To have produced one masterpiece is enviable; Eric has produced no fewer than three — including his first book, Free Soil; his book on Reconstruction; and his study of Lincoln and emancipation.”
Reconstruction’s meticulous scholarship is exemplified by Foner’s “take-no-prisoners” footnotes, as historian Nell Irvin Painter once called them.
"Objectivity does not mean you have an empty mind. It means you have an open mind."

As Lincoln once said, "Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm."

movement, the emergence of student activism in the ‘60s, Lenny Bruce, Abbie Hoffman and the New Left. “The Old Left arose from the abundance of poverty,” Foner says, paraphrasing the late historian John Patrick Diggins, “while the New Left arose from the poverty of abundance.”

Willis Mathewson ’13 was enrolled in the course last spring. “The dish among students is really positive about him, and once I was in the class, I was thrilled,” says Mathewson, a history major whose grandfather, Rufus W. Mathewson Jr. ’55 GSAS, was a longtime member of the Columbia faculty. “It was a very large lecture, so it’s not really as though you’re in a seminar setting and you personally felt like, oh, Professor Foner and I have established some sort of a rapport. But at the same time, listening to someone lecture about something that they’re so clearly, genuinely passionate about gives you a sense that you know him even if he doesn’t know you.”

Foner’s impact is powerful in smaller academic settings, too. “He directed my senior honors thesis on the civil rights movement in New Orleans,” says Emory University professor Leslie Harris ’88, an authority on pre-Civil War African-American history. She remains grateful for Foner’s professional guidance and uncompromising intellectual standards: “He was very much a mentor to me at a really pivotal point in my career.”

Coming full circle, Harris will host Foner in a panel discussion of The Fiery Trial at the Southern American Studies Association conference in Charleston, S.C., in late January. “I’m really looking forward to that,” she says. “I’m reading it with my graduate students in a course this fall.”

The Fiery Trial was also on the reading list for Wilentz’s graduate research seminar in American political history at Princeton last semester. Jane Manners, a student in that seminar, says what she finds most striking in Foner’s works is his combination of “moral thrust and deep research.”

“Foner tackles the greatest moral dilemmas in history, and in doing so, he reminds young historians why it’s exciting and meaningful to be a historian,” she says. “He also is such a thorough, careful researcher that he always has the facts to back up his assertions, which also is inspiring.”

When those comments were read to him, Foner was touched. “I appreciate it very much. That is what I want to do, exactly. I know this is very old-fashioned, but I think history is a moral endeavor. It’s not a science. There are plenty of people who study smaller things, and that’s fine; those are the building blocks of history. But I do think we have an obligation to candidly address the big problems of our society in a historical frame of mind. And yeah, you’ve also got to do the research. I’ve seen plenty of people who are very engaged in finding their own identity, learning about their group, learning about some social problem. But if they don’t do the research, it’s not going to be any good.”

“That’s a smart girl,” he adds with a laugh. “I’ll give her a job. She is obviously a good up-and-coming historian.”

In his own student days, Foner joined a failed petition effort to change the name of Columbia’s Burgess Library to W.E.B. Du Bois Library, after the black historian and activist who co-founded the NAACP. “Du Bois had no Columbia connection, so maybe that wasn’t a good choice,” Foner concedes today. But he expresses no second thoughts about challenging the honor accorded John W. Burgess, a pioneering political scientist and pivotal figure in Columbia’s development as a modern research university at the turn of the 20th century.

However forward-looking Burgess may have been as an academic leader, he was also a man of his times, and the mainstream views of the men in charge in those days were not, shall we say, a model of racial enlightenment. Along with the Columbia historian William A. Dunning, Burgess developed what became the standard narrative of Reconstruction, dramatized in D.W. Griffith’s landmark 1915 film, The Birth of a Nation, which portrays a defeated white South valiantly resisting a post-Civil War coalition of vengeful Radical Republicans, corrupt “carpetbaggers,” traitorous local “scalawags” and savagely caricatured ex-slaves, “Burgess called black suffrage a ‘monstrous thing,’” Foner says. “He was a total racist.”

What came to be called the Dunning School “was extremely pernicious and had a very deleterious effect,” Foner believes, “not only on scholarship, but also on American life altogether, because it provided an intellectual justification for Jim Crow, for the disenfranchisement of blacks and the whole edifice of segregation. Dunning is a great example that history matters,” he says.
Foner repeats the words for emphasis: “History matters.”

Although many scholars across the decades challenged the Dunning-Burgess perspective — not least Du Bois himself, in his 1935 study, Black Reconstruction in America — its premises and imagery proved durable. It fell to Foner to deliver the coup de grâce, in a volume commissioned for Harper & Row’s famed New American Nation history series by its editors, Commager and Richard B. Morris. The resulting 690-page study, Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution 1863–1877, was a finalist for the 1988 National Book Award and earned Foner numerous honors, including the prestigious Bancroft and Francis Parkman prizes and the Lionel Trilling Book Award, given by the Columbia College Student Council. In book reviews, distinguished historians were generous with their praise. “This is history written on a grand scale, a masterful treatment of one of the most complex periods of American history,” David Herbert Donald wrote in The New Republic.

C. Vann Woodward, writing in The New York Review of Books, said, “Eric Foner has put together this terrible story with greater cogency and power, I believe, than has been brought to the subject heretofore.” Reconstruction is “a heroic synthesis that should dominate the field,” Thomas C. Holt said in the Washington Post Book World.

Foner’s narrative puts the four million newly emancipated slaves at the center of the story. While Dunning’s followers ignored, ridiculed or feared black aspirations — one reputable Southern historian, writing in 1947, called the notion of blacks in government something to be “remembered, shuddered at, and execrated” — Foner sees Reconstruction as an era when Americans made a serious effort “to live up to the noble professions of their political creed — something few societies have ever done.” Inspired by the promise of freedom and equality, African Americans established social, religious and educational institutions, purchased land, started businesses, exercised the right to vote and elected the first black members of Congress. Those efforts engendered determined Southern resistance, from voter suppression to social and economic intimidation and outright terror. Any notion of black political power was trampled, and many African Americans were condemned to a state of virtual slavery as sharecroppers, often on the same plantations they had labored on before emancipation.

Reconstruction’s meticulous scholarship is exemplified by Foner’s “take-no-prisoners” footnotes, as historian Nell Irvin Painter once called them. The tome’s selected bibliography alone runs 27 pages, listing the 101 manuscript collections he consulted as well as hundreds of books, newspapers, periodicals, journal articles, memoirs, government documents, scholarly treatises and monographs — among them 24 unpublished doctoral dissertations. Ironically, Foner notes, his Reconstruction research was partly supported by the history department’s Dunning Fund, and much of his reading was done in Burgess Library.

Early in his nine years of pre-Google sleuthing, Foner found serendipity: While teaching for a semester at the University of South Carolina, he discovered 121 tightly packed boxes of official correspondence tucked away in the state archives, offering extraordinary insight into local social and political life. “Before my eyes unfolded tales of utopian hopes and shattered dreams,” he later wrote, “of struggles for human dignity and ignoble violence by the Ku Klux Klan, of racism and black-white cooperation, of how everyday life had become ‘politicized’ in ways barely hinted at in the existing literature.”

If Reconstruction was born in the archive, he says, it was written from the heart.

“It is 600 pages of research, but the fundamental argument is a moral argument about the mistreatment of black people, the struggle for freedom, the struggle for some kind of equality, the failure of that and what that means for society,” Foner says. “That’s the driving impulse of that book. That’s why it was successful, I think.”

It seems fair to ask whether that degree of moral focus clashes with the need for scholarly detachment and objectivity.

“We debate this in history courses all the time,” Foner says. “What is objectivity? Objectivity does not mean you have an empty mind. It means you have an open mind. Nobody goes through the study of history with no preconceptions. You go with assumptions, tentative hypotheses, and then you have to weigh them against the evidence. The essence of being a scholar is the willingness to change your mind. That’s all. You can easily find what you’re looking for, but you must keep an open mind for what you’re not expecting, what contradicts what you thought.”

An example from Foner’s recent work: His respect for Lincoln’s political skill in abolishing slavery grew as he worked on The Fiery Trial. “Not that I was anti-Lincoln, but I was much more critical of him when I began than when I ended my study,” Foner says.

“There has been a tendency in the literature to really emphasize some of Lincoln’s racist statements, to emphasize a kind of slowness in moving toward emancipation. And I was influenced by that. But when I started really looking carefully, I began to say, ‘Well, wait a minute, I don’t think that’s exactly what’s happening here.’ I came to a much deeper appreciation of what he was trying to do, how he was trying to do it, and his open-mindedness, his willingness to listen to criticism, his flexibility. Lincoln was a very savvy politician, a guy who understood the nature of power and what he could and couldn’t do. Lincoln was not a dictator.”

Foner was born in New York City in 1943 and grew up in Long Beach, N.Y., an oceanside community on Long Island. “It was a beautiful place, and quiet,” he says. “I remember playing stickball and going around on my bicycle. It was a typical suburb.”

Less placid was the experience of his father, Jack D. Foner ’68
The right to dissent, to criticize, to agitate for freedom, is what Foner loves about America.

GSAS, whom Eric calls “the finest teacher I have ever known.” Jack was a respected left-wing American historian who, in 1941, ran afoul of the New York State legislature’s notorious Rapp-Coudert Committee, which was investigating Communist influence in education in a manner that would become more familiar during the McCarthy era; this resulted in the dismissal of Foner père from the CCNY faculty along with dozens of other academics, among them Foner’s uncle Philip, a noted labor historian. One of the accusations against Jack Foner — whose faculty position was filled by the young Hofstadter — was that his teaching devoted excessive attention to African-American history. In 1981, the City University’s Board of Trustees issued a formal apology. This is the frame of mind that divides the world, and should begin looking elsewhere for a job. The reason given was lack of funding. Foner was deeply disappointed, but he was immediately offered a position by City College and the Graduate Center of CUNY, which was revitalizing its American history program under Herbert Gutman ’50 GSAS.

By 1975, Foner had achieved tenure there. He returned in triumph to Columbia in 1982 and, six years later, was appointed to the DeWitt Clinton chair earlier held by Hofstadter. Through the years he has taken leaves to teach at Cambridge, Oxford and other universities.

While a graduate student, Foner married screenplay writer and director Naomi Foner ’66 Barnard, ’67 TC; they divorced in 1975. (Foner often is asked if he is related to her children from her second marriage, Maggie Gyllenhaal ’99 and her younger brother, Jake; obviously he is not, though he says they’re very nice people.) In 1980, Foner married Lynn Garafola ’68 Barnard, a noted dance historian and professor at Barnard. Their daughter, Daria, 25, a Princeton graduate, has danced with the Norwegian National Ballet and now is pursuing a doctorate at Columbia in Italian Renaissance art. Foner and his wife live on West 116th Street and are regulars at opera and ballet performances. Foner also enjoys driving around the city and to his country house in northwest Connecticut, where he likes to play tennis and “putter around doing some gardening.” He often tunes his radio — surprise factoid alert — to Tea Party–friendly talk shows like Rush Limbaugh’s, in spite of the appalling degree of “overt racism” he finds there.

The ugly tone troubles him.

“I’m alarmed by what Hofstadter referred to as the paranoid style in American politics — the repudiation of facts, the hostility to difference of opinion,” Foner says. “On the other hand, as a historian, one has to say there have been periods of American history with equally vitriolic and intense political debate.”

Would he compare the current political divisions to America in the 1850s, on the verge of its greatest trauma? “I don’t think we’re headed toward another Civil War,” he says. Still, as he told graduating doctoral candidates at their formal convocation in May, America is in crisis — not just of the economy but of the spirit.

“We witness the fading of the Enlightenment ideals that inspired the founders of this nation,” Foner says. “We live in a world where scientific knowledge is subordinated to political and religious dogma, where intellect and expertise are denigrated as elitist, where demands proliferate that history be taught as an exercise in national self-congratulation, not critical self-examination. This is the frame of mind that divides the world, and America itself, into the forces of good and the forces of evil, and sees every dissenting view as disloyalty.”

The right to dissent, to criticize, to agitate for freedom, goes to the core of what Foner loves about America.

“The patriot is the person who is never satisfied with his country,” he says. “That’s why I teach the history of American radicalism. Because these are the people I think we ought to admire in American history, the people who are trying to make this a better society. There are so many aspects of this country that are admirable. But it should be more. It should be better.”

Former CCT Editor Jamie Katz ’72, ’80 Business writes for Smithsonian Magazine and other publications. As a senior, he took Foner’s course on U.S. history 1815–1877.
Carl Hart Ph.D. wants us to know we’ve been lied to about the effects of cocaine, methamphetamine and other drugs.

Not that we should run out and start looking for a score; that’s not the point.

“But I have been studying drugs for 22 years, 14 years at Columbia, and we have quite a bit of scientific, evidence-based information. And I am here to tell you, drugs are not the bogeyman that people said they were.”

This is not an easy message to absorb, even for an audience that’s been primed, as this one at the Apollo Theater has, by a screening of The House I Live In. The documentary, which won a grand jury prize at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, raises serious questions about the intent and efficacy of the war on drugs, and Hart — an associate professor of psychology who specializes in the impact of drugs on the brain and human behavior — was among those featured in the film. He is speaking now, along with the director Eugene Jarecki, executive producer John Legend and Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-Va.), as part of a post-movie community discussion.

“A woman steps to the microphone. She begs to disagree, describing her own experience with a relative struggling with addiction.

Hart is not unsympathetic and says so, alluding to elements of his own history that the film touched on (drugs’ influence in the Miami neighborhood where he grew up as well as his oldest son’s involvement with them). But he is also aware of how emotion can color a conversation, and wants to reframe her attention — all of our attention, really — on the bigger picture: that years of exaggeration and misinformation about the effects of drugs have skewed public perception and negatively influenced government regulation. Moving forward, he believes that separating myth from reality is essential to producing more reasoned social policy and laws.

“The No. 1 thing we have to do is think ... There are serious consequences to people for exaggerating the effects of drugs.”

Several days before the screening, in his office in Schermerhorn Hall, Hart ticks through the chronology of drugs he has studied through the years: nicotine, morphine (“the same drug as heroin, basically”), then nicotine again, followed by cocaine, marijuana and amphetamines. The last is a drug class that includes MDMA (Ecstasy), methamphetamine and d-amphetamine, “the main ingredient in Adderall,” an ADHD treatment that’s also popular among college students looking to stay awake and focused during marathon cram sessions.

“I try to study the drug that is hot or that the public is really concerned about,” Hart, 46, says between sips of a seaweed-green protein shake. His dreadlocks are collected into a ponytail, and a hint of gold incisor flashes when he speaks.

“There are serious consequences to people for exaggerating the effects of drugs. People go to jail for extended periods of time, people need help and won’t seek treatment because they are afraid of being ostracized—there are all kinds of negative consequences. My aim is to increase the intellectual tone of the public discussion by collecting data. And this data, I hope, will require that other people, when they speak about drugs and their beliefs about drugs, make sure that these beliefs have foundations and evidence.”

As a graduate student — Hart earned an M.S. in 1994 and a Ph.D. in 1996, both from Wyoming — he studied the effects of drugs in rats. But over time he began grappling with the limitations of his research and its real-world applications. One episode in particular, which occurred during a period when he’d shifted his work to the NIH, in Bethesda, Md., drove home the point:

“I was giving a group of young black kids a tour of my rat lab in ’95 or so. They asked me a lot of questions about why their parents used cocaine, why their parents or their relatives were addicted. And I couldn’t answer those questions because I was studying rats. I could tell them all about dopamine in the rats’ brains; I could tell them all about neurotransmitters. But I couldn’t answer their questions about human behavior. That’s when I realized I needed to take a postdoc studying humans.”

In fact, three post docs followed, at UC San Francisco, Yale and — beginning in 1998 — at Columbia. He was recruited by Dr. Herbert Kleber and his wife, the late Marian Fischman ’60 Barnard, ’62 GSAS, who together founded the Division on Substance Abuse at Columbia University in 1992. Fischman, a research scientist whose work studying heroin and cocaine in human users contributed to a resurgence in the field of drug-impact study, became Hart’s mentor.

“She gave me an honest shot, and I worked really hard for her,”
he says, recalling Fischman’s training in everything from grant writing to research methods. “She didn’t pull any punches. If I was slouching, she let me know. And that’s what you want: someone to be honest with you.”

“She wrote the seminal review paper on crack cocaine and powder cocaine and how they were the same drug,” Hart adds, noting that her findings helped build the case for changes in cocaine sentencing laws that were considered under the Clinton administration; at the time, federal penalties for crack cocaine were 100 times harsher than for powder cocaine.

“The paper was probably the most influential paper for the U.S. Sentencing Commission to vote to change the law, and she testified in front of the commission. So she also provided a model of how one could do good science and also be socially conscious.” (That vote was rejected by both Congress and President Clinton, though the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 reduced the sentencing disparity to 18 to 1.)

Since coming to Columbia, the majority of Hart’s research has been conducted at Columbia’s Substance Use Research Center at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Investigations range from testing treatment medications for drug abuse to exploring the impact of a drug on a user’s food intake, sleep, social interactions and cognitive function. Although the work takes place under carefully controlled conditions, Hart says, some people still balk at the idea of giving illicit drugs to people for any reason.

“I thought I was going to be able to cure drug addiction. But over the years, of course, I learned that drug addiction wasn’t the problem.”

“But for me, it would be unethical not to study these drugs in people in the lab. Because if you’re not, then what are you basing your policies on? What are you basing your treatments on? Where does your knowledge come from? How do you establish that knowledge base? It seems irresponsible to me, for a society as wealthy as ours and with all this know-how, not to have empirical information.”

Hart’s conclusions tend to go against the grain when it comes to the prevailing wisdom. Craig Rush Ph.D., an associate editor with the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence and a professor at Kentucky who has known Hart for two decades, points to a paper about methamphetamine that was published late last year in the international journal Neuropsychopharmacology. In it, Hart and his co-authors analyzed roughly 40 studies on the drug.

“The field likes to think that meth is this horrible drug and it’s frying your brain, but Carl did a really thorough review of the literature and concludes that these stories that you hear about in the media — they’re just not supported by the scientific evidence,” Rush says.

In addition to identifying misinterpretations in past research, the paper found that methamphetamine’s short-term effects included improved attention, response speed and visuospatial perception, among other things.

“It was very provocative, because it went against the status quo, though I think Carl needs to be applauded for taking what is probably a fairly unpopular stance in the field,” Rush says. “Science, in my opinion, needs people like that now and then, to shake people up and make them think about [the issue] harder.”

He adds that he is already using the paper as a teaching instrument with his graduate students. “I wanted them to see that there is this new idea out there. Scientists are supposed to be driven by the data and not by what is intuitively appealing, nor influenced by sensational ads in the newspaper or on TV. I don’t think Carl’s paper was in any way implying that meth abuse is not a problem but we need to recognize his point that we’re not making decisions based on the data. And that can have far-reaching implications, politically, in terms of policy.”

Charles Ksir Ph.D., professor emeritus at Wyoming and Hart’s doctoral adviser, echoes the sentiment.

“There’s a great deal of resistance on the part of some people to hearing the kinds of things he has to say. There are — I would almost call them ‘entrenched experts’ — whose professional life and identity depends upon their being recognized as experts in this field and he disagrees with them on important issues, including how to approach the public and the general drug-using population with information. They’re much more interested in trying to frighten people away from trying to use these drugs; he’s more interested in trying to educate them so that, if they use drugs, it’s in safer and less damaging ways.”

Though Hart hardly has left research behind, his tack toward a public policy message has been increasingly in evidence. He has been on the board of the Drug Policy Alliance since 2007 and recently was named to the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse; the 18-member board advises the National Institute on Drug Abuse on a range of issues including, critically, the scientific and technical merits of applicants seeking federal assistance for research. Hart also has been giving more public lectures (New York venues have ranged from the American Museum of Natural History to the Cornelia Street Café).

At Columbia, in addition to his teaching — his survey course on drugs and behavior is popular with undergraduates — Hart is a research fellow for the Institute for Research in African-American Studies. There, he oversees and is moderator for the Conversations program, which brings members of the Harlem community together with scholars on a range of topics. “He’s trying to bridge his work as a scientist with an interest in paying attention to the very important issues that are affecting black communities, whether it’s culture or public policy,” says institute director Fredrick C. Harris. “It’s a testament in many ways to Carl’s commitment to having a broader dialogue.”

Indeed, Ksir says, through all of Hart’s work, he has “developed a broader and deeper understanding of the topic of substance abuse and substance use than probably anyone around.”

Hart’s personal history is bound up with his professional life in ways that distinguish him from others in his field and also help amplify his message. He speaks candidly on the subject, describing a Miami childhood in which, as one of eight children, he was raised partly by his mother and partly by other relatives. He describes his education as spotty at best. He sold marijuana in high school and otherwise “had an unrealistic sort of magical thinking about my life.” A skilled basketball player, he imagined a future in the NBA or working as a street DJ (as a teenager, he did a show with Run DMC).

At the urging of a high school guidance counselor, however, Hart enlisted in the Air Force, serving from 1984–88. He played (Continued on page 95)
Carl Hart, an associate professor of psychology, has studied the effects of drugs on the brain and human behavior for more than 20 years.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO
Among the things that set Frances Negrón-Muntaner apart from a stereotypical professor at work, the most immediately noticeable might be her office. The large and airy room at the northeast corner of the fourth floor of Hamilton Hall is impeccably neat, the ample floor space clear, the desk devoid of papers or ornamentation. From her command post, the associate professor of English and comparative literature and director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race appears energetic yet serene while steeped in her current projects: finishing one documentary film and starting another, writing a historical biography, completing two policy briefs for nonprofits, organizing CSER events and preparing for the fall semester’s classes.

“An organized desk means an organized mind,” Negrón-Muntaner says. It becomes clear that she epitomizes Truman Capote’s description of a great lady as someone who is always busy but always has time.

“She’s an academic and a creative writer and those two people live together in her person,” says Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, a professor of Latino and Hispanic Caribbean studies and comparative literature at Rutgers and a friend of Negrón-Muntaner’s since childhood.

She embodies those two identities and more. Negrón-Muntaner,
who came to the United States from Puerto Rico after college, describes herself as a “compulsive essayist,” interested in the Latino diaspora and immigrant experience. The 46-year-old also is a filmmaker, historian, writer, pedagogue, gay activist and — a surprise even to the committee members who recruited her to Columbia a decade ago for her first academic post — a gifted administrator.

“All these things pull on me — some pull more than others and at different times,” Negron-Muntaner says.

Since becoming the director of CSER in 2009, she has helped transform it into a vibrant intellectual hub. One of the few tenured Latino professors on campus, Negron-Muntaner also has become wildly popular with students. “She’s young and hip and everyone pretty much wants to be her,” says Lizzie Lee ’11, who majored in comparative ethnic studies.

Negron-Muntaner comes from an academic family: her parents worked at the University of Puerto Rico, and her grandparents earned master’s degrees, unusual for women of their time.

When Negron-Muntaner was 8, she moved with her family to Long Island for 1½ years while her father worked on a Ph.D. in history. There, she gained an excellent knowledge of English, which opened up access to other cultures through reading books in English. She also developed an acute awareness of disparities between Puerto Rico and the suburban U.S. “There were a lot more resources in suburban public school: the breadth of the library, the infrastructure of the school itself — how big it was, the gym facilities …. Those things that middle-class children take for granted in the United States are not very widely available in Puerto Rico, even for many in the middle class,” she says. “That stayed with me.”

Negron-Muntaner sat at her father’s knee and helped proofread his dissertation. While in her teens, she helped him conduct research on slavery in the General Archive and National Library of Puerto Rico. “To be asked to count the slaves in a certain area and to write down whether the census notes if they were maimed or not gives you an awareness of where many of the social inequities of your country come from, and how the present comes from the past,” she says.

She also says that because of her upbringing, she was “expected to have a Ph.D.; it was a family requirement. I knew that whatever I did, it’d have to do with books and research.” However, it was her grandfather, a frustrated filmmaker who built a studio in his garage but chose a secure career as a medical photographer, who most inspired her. He gave her her first camera, which was in the shape of Mickey Mouse. When the Polaroid instant became available, he presented her with one. Then she moved up to a Super 8 home movie camera, with which she documented her family life and had her sister star in homemade versions of I Dream of Jeannie — including the disappearances and reappearances, a technical challenge she had to figure out.

At the same time, Negron-Muntaner was drawn to writing. A precocious child, she organized her middle school friends to start a literary journal when most of them didn’t know what a literary journal was. She published her first essay, on the politics of salsa music, in ninth grade. She decided to “skip the silliness of senior year of high school” and went straight to college, graduating from the University of Puerto Rico in 1986 at 19.

After a brief move to Amherst, Mass., she relocated to Philadelphia. “When I came here at 19, I knew I wanted to write, and filmmaking now seemed possible,” Negron-Muntaner says. “Video cameras were relatively affordable and there were many places to learn. And I was moved to record what I saw in cities like Philadelphia, places of tremendous richness and diversity, but also of great poverty and discrimination.”

She explains that children of her class and background were expected to go to graduate school in the U.S. and then return, which she and others of her generation never did. “In my case, coming to the U.S. also opened up other ways of thinking about politics, particularly concerning LGBT and AIDS activism,” she says. “This was a time when LGBT groups in Puerto Rico were literally underground. Although I was out early on, I was a member of one of those groups and the fear was very real. Here, small groups of people could challenge the status quo and make a difference. That impressed me and had an impact.”

While in graduate school for visual anthropology and fine arts at Temple in 1989, Negron-Muntaner worked with a group of people off campus to make a 16-hour documentary film, AIDS in the Barrio.

“AIDS was still thought of as a gay disease. My neighborhood was Puerto Rican and black, with a high incidence of drug use and unprotected sex,” she says. “It seemed to me this epidemic would hit the inner city very hard, because I knew it was not a gay disease.” She screened the film in schools, churches and even living rooms to educate urban Latinos and help prevent the spread of the disease. She says it remained a tool for discussion for at least 15 years.

Negron-Muntaner later made other short films, most relating to the Puerto Rican migratory experience. Her best-known is Brincando el charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican,

Coming to the United States opened up for Negron-Muntaner other ways of thinking about politics, particularly concerning LGBT and AIDS activism.
completed in 1994 as part of her master’s thesis. The hour-long, partly autobiographical film, in which she also acted, is described as “an experimental narrative on Puerto Rican identities in the diaspora.” It was screened at the Whitney Biennial in 1995 as well as at film festivals worldwide. “It was an attempt to think about the migration from Puerto Rico to the U.S. that I was a part of,” she says.

Negrón-Muntaner has made 10 films, from a 30-second public service announcement commissioned by the Philadelphia Lesbian & Gay Task Force to a one-hour documentary about Guam and WWII. All have been funded by nonprofits and public television.

After leaving Temple, Negrón-Muntaner began graduate studies in comparative literature at Rutgers and then moved with her Cuban-American longtime partner to Miami while completing her dissertation. She helped found the National Association of Latino Independent Producers, an organization to support and promote Latino participation in the media, and chaired its board for three years. During that time, it grew to 1,000 members and a $1 million budget.

Yet Negrón-Muntaner herself has never been a full-time filmmaker, having always pursued writing and supported gay activism at the same time. She wrote columns in two Puerto Rican newspapers — “I took on anything that interested me, in any part of the world,” she says — and in 1997 published her first widely influential work, Puerto Rican Jam: Rethinking Colonialism and Nationalism, a collection of essays that she co-edited. Puerto Rican Jam still is a standard text in many Latino studies programs, she says, and is likely part of what attracted the attention of Columbia’s recruitment committee several years later.

“I was going to school but I’ve never seen school as a place that’s separate or a time when you’re ‘away’ from the world,” Negrón-Muntaner says of writing the book while getting a Ph.D. She has since edited two other essay anthologies and published a book of her poetry and a book of her essays, Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture, which includes a famous-in-the-field essay on Jennifer Lopez, “Jennifer’s Butt.”

“My position on academic positions was that I didn’t want them,” she says with a laugh. “My idea was that the space on the edge of institutions was a good place for me. I thought of myself as a very rebellious intellectual ... between an insider and an outsider. On the other hand, it was Columbia, so I thought, ‘What do I have to lose?’”

She came to the University with a dual appointment in the English department — as the first and only hire in Latino literature — and at CSER. Although not a department, CSER houses a major, ethnicity and race studies, and it maintains a faculty jointly appointed with other departments, as well as adjuncts, affiliates and visiting professors — more than 50 in all. The center also organizes public conferences, seminars, film screenings, exhibits and lectures, with the goal of allowing faculty, students and outsiders from different fields and backgrounds to compare racial and ethnic identities and experiences in various contexts.

Negrón-Muntaner spent her first five years at Columbia “wrestling with the question of ‘How do you keep your connection to the outside world and people not tied to academia while you’re in academia?’” She has decided Meds, rising to a tenured position and to director of CSER, earning affection and devotion from students and admiration from colleagues all while continuing to write and make films.

“She’s fabulous,” says Jean Howard, the George Delacorte Professor in the Humanities, and the University’s first vice provost for diversity initiatives, from 2004-07. “We hired her for intellectual reasons; what we couldn’t have predicted is her leadership abilities. She brings real imagination and vision to CSER, in terms of growing the faculty and the curriculum, fundraising, building library resources, reworking the website, building good ties to the community. It’s a tremendous feat.”

Negrón-Muntaner has taught courses on Caribbean literature, Latino Studies, U.S. Latino literature, U.S. Latinos and film, Latina feminist theories and Che Guevara, among others, and in 2012 she received a Distinguished Columbia Faculty Award, chosen by senior faculty for inspiring scholarship, teaching and mentoring.

“One thing Frances does that a lot of teachers forget to do is this: One of her top priorities is her students,” says Lee, who is attending law school to become an immigration lawyer, a path she says was wholly inspired by her studies at CSER. “You sit in class and forget you’re learning; you just want to sit there and listen forever. She has this uncanny ability to turn concepts that seem simple into something complex, and to turn something that seems complex into something simple and logical.”
Negrón-Muntaner wants to change not only what is taught at Columbia but also how it is taught. "The University still operates under a transmission model: The teacher knows, you don't. The teacher will tell you what you don't know and you'll write it down and write it back in an exam," she says. "We need to develop a lab environment. It has to be more about pursuing questions in dialogue with others and communicating ideas."

In her courses, Negrón-Muntaner often requires students to go into the city and learn by doing, through field trips, observations, interviews. "That's part of recognizing that we're Columbia University in the City of New York," Howard says, "and Frances understands perhaps better than anyone I know how to connect to the city outside the walls of the campus. It's hard to do and most academics don't do it."

Her "Introduction to Latino/a Studies" class included an analysis of movie clips and hip-hop lyrics, a book club dinner discussion and salsa dance lesson, alongside meaty discussions of cultural identity and economic and political issues.

"Frances understands perhaps better than anyone I know how to connect to the city outside the walls of the campus."

To position CSER as a physical as well as intellectual meeting ground for people on and off-campus.

To view a clip from one of Negrón-Muntaner’s films, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.
Ignorance: How It Drives Science

Insightful ignorance leads us to frame better questions, the first step to getting better answers.

Stuart Firestein, chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences and a faculty member since 1993, received the Distinguished Columbia Faculty Award last year. As a professor of neuroscience, Firestein oversees a laboratory whose research is dedicated to unraveling the intricacies of the mammalian olfactory system. He is an adviser for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation’s program for the Public Understanding of Science and Technology and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In the following excerpt from his book, IGNORANCE: How It Drives Science, Firestein argues that human ignorance and uncertainty are valuable states of mind — perhaps even necessary for the true progress of science. “Scientists do reach after fact and reason,” he asserts. “But it is when they are most uncertain that the reaching is often most imaginative.”

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard

“It is very difficult to find a black cat in a dark room,” warns an old proverb. “Especially when there is no cat.”

This strikes me as a particularly apt description of how science proceeds on a day-to-day basis. It is certainly more accurate than the more common metaphor of scientists patiently piecing together a giant puzzle. With a puzzle you see the manufacturer has guaranteed there is a solution.

I know that this view of the scientific process — feeling around in dark rooms, bumping into unidentifiable things, looking for barely perceptible phantoms — is contrary to that held by many people, especially by nonscientists. When most people think of science, I suspect they imagine the nearly 500-year-long systematic pursuit of knowledge that, over 14 or so generations, has uncovered more information about the universe and everything in it than all that was known in the first 5,000 years of recorded human history. They imagine a brotherhood tied together by its golden rule, the Scientific Method, an immutable set of precepts for devising experiments that churn out the cold, hard facts. And these solid facts form the edifice of science, an unbroken record of advances and insights embodied in our modern views and unprecedented standard of living. Science, with a capital S.

That’s all very nice, but I’m afraid it’s mostly a tale woven by newspaper reports, television documentaries, and high school lesson plans. Let me tell you my somewhat different perspective. It’s not facts and rules. It’s black cats in dark rooms. As the Princeton mathematician Andrew Wiles describes it: It’s groping and poking, and some bumbling and bungling, and then a switch is discovered, often by accident, and the light is lit, and everyone says, “Oh, wow, so that’s how it looks,” and then it’s off into the next dark room, looking for the next mysterious black feline. If this all sounds depressing, perhaps some bleak Beckett-like scenario of
existential endlessness, it’s not. In fact, it’s somehow exhilarating.

This contradiction between how science is pursued versus how it is perceived first became apparent to me in my dual role as head of a laboratory and Professor of Neuroscience at Columbia University. In the lab, pursuing questions in neuroscience with the graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, thinking up and doing experiments to test our ideas about how brains work, was exciting and challenging and, well, exhilarating. At the same time I spent a lot of time writing and organizing lectures about the brain for an undergraduate course that I was teaching. This was quite difficult given the amount of information available, and it also was an interesting challenge. But I have to admit it was not exhilarating. What was the difference?

The course I was, and am, teaching has the forbidding-sounding title “Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.” The students who take this course are very bright young people in their third or fourth year of University and are mostly declared biology majors. That is, these students are all going on to careers in medicine or biological research. The course consists of 25 hour-and-a-half lectures and uses a textbook with the lofty title Principles of Neural Science, edited by the eminent neuroscientists Eric Kandel and Tom Jessell (with the late Jimmy Schwartz). The textbook is 1,414 pages long and weighs in at 7.7 pounds, a little more in fact than twice the weight of a human brain. New textbook writers are in the business of providing more information for the buck than their competitors, so the books contain quite a lot of detail. Similarly, as a lecturer, you wish to sound authoritative, and you want your lectures to be “informative,” so you tend to fill them with many facts hung loosely on a few big concepts. The result, however, was that by the end of the semester I began to sense that the students must have had the impression that pretty much everything is known; we talk about what we'd like to know, what we think is critical to know, how they might get to know it, what will happen if they do find this or that thing out, what might happen if they don’t. About what could be known, what might be impossible to know, what they didn’t know 10 or 20 years ago and know now, or still don’t know. Why they want to know this and not that, this more than that. In sum, they talk about the current state of their ignorance.

Recruiting my fellow scientists to do this is always a little tricky — “Hello, Albert, I’m running a course on ignorance and I think you’d be perfect.” But in fact almost every scientist realizes immediately that he or she would indeed be perfect, that this is truly what they do best, and once they get over not having any slides prepared for a talk on ignorance, it turns into a surprising and satisfying adventure. Our faculty has included astronomers, chemists, ecologists, ethnologists, geneticists, mathematicians, neurobiologists, physicists, psychobiologists, statisticians, and zoologists. The guiding principle behind this course is not simply to talk about the big questions — how did the universe begin, what is consciousness, and so forth. These are the things of popular science programs like Nature or Discovery, and, while entertaining, they are not really about science, not the day-to-day, nitty-gritty, at the office and bench kind of science. Rather, this course aims to be a series of case studies of ignorance — the ignorance that drives science. In fact, I have taken examples from the class and presented them as a series of “case histories” that make up the second half of this book. Despite them being about people doing highly esoteric scientific work, I think you will find them engaging and pleasantly accessible narratives.

Now I use the word ignorance at least in part to be intentionally provocative. But let’s take a moment to define the kind of ignorance I am referring to, because ignorance has many bad connotations, especially in common usage, and I don’t mean any of those. One kind of ignorance is willful stupidity; worse than simple stupidity, it is a callow indifference to facts or logic. It shows itself as a stubborn devotion to uninformed opinions, ignoring (same root) contrary ideas, opinions, or data. The ignorant are unaware, unenlightened, uninformed, and surprisingly often occupy elected offices. We can all agree that none of this is good.

But there is another, less pejorative sense of ignorance that describes a particular condition of knowledge: the absence of fact, understanding, insight, or clarity about something. It is not an individual lack of information but a communal gap in knowledge. It is a case where data don’t exist, or more commonly, where the existing data don’t make sense, don’t add up to a coherent explanation, cannot be used to make a prediction or statement about some thing or event. This is knowledgeable ignorance, perceptive ignorance, insightful ignorance. It leads us to frame better questions, the first step to getting better answers. It is the most important resource we scientists have, and using it correctly is the most important thing a scientist does. James Clerk Maxwell, perhaps the greatest physicist between Newton and Einstein, advises that “Thoroughly conscious ignorance is the prelude to every real advance in science.”

The very driving force of science, the exhilaration of the unknown... is missing from our classrooms.
At the center of Columbia is its people — the teachers and scholars and the vast network of more than 47,000 College alumni who have shared in the learning community on Morningside Heights and around the globe. From the moment we are admitted to the College, we become part of a worldwide group linked forever by our Columbia experiences. The Columbia College Alumni Association exists to serve all students: future, current and former.

Dean James J. Valentini’s vision for alumni is 100 percent engagement — “No Alumni Left Behind” — and he has tasked the CCAA board with accomplishing that goal. But what does that mean? What is it for the College; what is it for each alumnus/a? We have a pretty good idea how the College and administration should support the students on campus. Yet, after Commencement, the relationship becomes fuzzier.

Thus, the College and the CCAA initiated a strategic planning process this fall to better understand what alumni would like from the College, with the goal of developing a five-year plan for facilitating a deeper, more meaningful relationship for each alumnus/a who wants it. As part of that process, in early 2013, the CCAA will reach out to College alumni. I know you are not a quiet, unopinionated bunch. We hope that you will add your voice to this process (ccaapresident@columbia.edu).

The CCAA board’s last two meetings have been workshops to help the board and administration better understand the role and function of the board and to kick off the strategic planning. Even as planning is under way, we agree with Dean Valentini that we can focus on several areas of student and alumni engagement that are important to both groups: the alumni-sponsored student summer internship program (CCASSIP; see CCT Fall 2012), mentorship programs and the Alumni Representative Committee.

ARC plays a critical role in bringing together the people who make up the Columbia community and its members are among our most active alumni. They extend Columbia’s reach and reputation around the world and assist the Admissions Office in recruiting and evaluating the more than 30,000 students who apply for admission each year to the College and Engineering. ARC members help ensure that each generation of Columbians is dynamic and diverse.

With Columbia’s rising popularity and the increasing number of applications received, we need more alumni to become ARC members — especially since all interviews are now conducted only by alumni. Having more alumni interviewers will enable Columbia to meet its goal of interviewing every serious candidate and continuing to attract the best and the brightest from every community in the United States and around the world. To better understand the program, I spoke with ARC members Simon Salas ‘79, San Antonio, Texas; Vanessa Ohta ‘10, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Anne-Marie Wright ‘89, Salt Lake City, Utah. Below are a few of their thoughts on the benefits to alumni of being an ARC member:

- ARC is one of the easiest ways to stay connected, especially if you live far from the tri-state area.
- I really cherished my time at Columbia and I want to share that experience.
- Columbia meant so much to me and my career and I want to help others have that opportunity.
- Being part of ARC, I am continually reminded of how much Columbia has to offer.
- Young alumni are often at the beginning of their careers and cannot give a lot of money. ARC allows young alumni to give back right away.
- ARC membership allows you to meet other Columbia alumni in your community.

Considering the benefits to students, they said:

- ARC is more than interviewing; it is the student’s first personal connection to Columbia.
- Alumni can give students a firsthand impression of the school.
- Talking about life after Columbia is important too.
- When applicants live in other regions of the country, meeting Columbia grads makes Columbia and New York City seem more accessible.
- Alumni contact with parents of admitted students is also very important.

Enrolling students often cite their interviews and connections with alumni as among the main reasons why they chose Columbia over peer institutions.

Admitted students who were interviewed are more likely to attend Columbia. Enrolling students often cite their interviews and connections with alumni as among the main reasons why they chose Columbia over peer institutions. To find out more or to sign up, go to studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/arc.

In early November, Scott Koonin ’02, co-chair of the CCAA Student Life and Alumni Programs Committee, and I had the privilege to meet with the Columbia College Student Council. The message from the students is clear: Columbia College students want to meet with and learn from their predecessors. I strongly encourage all alumni to take advantage of ARC, CCASSIP, mentoring opportunities and College events to meet students. You will come away glad that you did and enriched by the experience.

Kyra T. B.
**Bookshelf**

Here We Are: More Plays by Kirby Congdon ’50. Congdon ponders the commonalities of human existence in this collection of 14 one-act plays (Presa Press, $19.95).

The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner ’55. Kushner illustrates the importance of maintaining faith in a troubled world through the biblical story of Job (Schocken, $24).

Monastry of the Moon by Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn ’58. Poet Hirschhorn engages with the past, from his childhood to 20th-century European and Middle Eastern history, in his third collection (Dar al Jadeed, $15).

Under the Eye of God: An Issac Sidel Novel by Jerome Charyn ’59. In the latest installment of the author’s Sidel detective series, the renegade former NYPD commissioner now is America’s vice president, targeted by false accusations and assassination threats (MysteryPress.com/Open Road Integrated Media, $14.99).


David Sunshine: A Novel of the Communications Industry by Morrow Wilson ’61. In this second novel by the actor and author, T.J. Brinkman, a small-town football hero dreaming of making it big in television, finds his naiveté challenged by his new boss (AuthorHouse, $16.95).

Do the Movies Have a Future? by David Denby ’65. In a selection of his essays, Denby, the film critic for The New Yorker, surveys trends in contemporary cinema (Simon & Schuster, $27).

Mao, Stalin and the Korean War: Trilateral communist relations in the 1950s by Shen Zhihua, translated by Neil Silver ’65. Silver translates a bestselling work, originally published in China (Routledge, $135).

Up from Authenticity, or How I Learned to Love the Metal Flute—A Personal Memoir by Daniel R. Waitzman ’78. The author, a concert flutist and composer, shares his history as a performer and offers a critique of contemporary performance and composition (Amazon Digital Services, $2.99 on Kindle).

Miracles Happen: The Transformational Healing Power of Past-Life Memories by Dr. Brian L. Weiss ’66 and Amy E. Weiss ’01. Psychiatrist Brian and his daughter Amy, a social worker and hypnotherapist, compile true stories of the spiritual transformation achieved through past-life regression therapy (HarperOne, $25.99).

Winter Journal by Paul Auster ’69. Written as a second-person narrative, Auster’s unconventional memoir explores his aging body, its sensations and desires through the recounting of events in his life (Henry Holt, $26).

Enemies: A History of the FBI by Tim Weiner ’78. Weiner writes his definitive history of the FBI—from secret intelligence operations to the challenge of maintaining national security while also protecting civil liberties (Random House, $30).

Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns by Lisa García Bedolla and Melissa Michelson ’00. The authors analyze the result of get-out-the-vote campaigns in minority communities and discover why some programs succeed while others fail (Yale University Press, $35).

The Last Collaboration by Martha Deed with Millie Niss ’94. In the weeks before Niss, an artist and poet, died, she exchanged letters with her mother, portrayed in pop culture (Media Tectonics, $15).

Bunny Suits of Death: Tales of a CSI by Laura Merz ’01. Merz, a special agent in the Naval Crimes Investigative Service, debunks myths about her profession as portrayed in pop culture (Touchstone Books, $26).


My Ideal Bookshelf edited by Thomas Mallon. Alongside whimsical illustrations, noted writers, chefs, designers, musicians and more provide commentary on their
Sean Wilentz ’72 was the first time he saw Bob Dylan perform, at New York City’s Philharmonic Hall on October 31, 1964. That Halloween performance sparked a lifelong admiration for Dylan’s music and now, nearly 50 years later, Wilentz’s latest book, 360 Sound: The Columbia Records Story (Chronicle Books, $45), is an authorized, illustrated history of the label that took a chance on that scruffy young folk singer in 1962. In fact, it was because of Wilentz’s writings on Dylan that he was commissioned by America’s oldest record label to trace its complicated story.

“It’s a grand story in the history of American culture,” says Wilentz, a noted professor of history at Princeton, “one that encompasses the depth and breadth of American music.”

In the digital age, when the music industry’s standards and practices have been turned on their heads, it is easy to forget the important role that record labels have played during the past 100 years. Not only was Columbia Records a driver of innovation (most notably, by inventing the LP), it also expanded popular tastes and preserved historic standards and practices have been turned on and breadth of American music.”

In 2001, on the strength of his magazine writings on Dylan, Wilentz was invited by the musician’s managers to write an essay about his new album, Love and Theft, for the official Dylan website, bobdylan.com. Another invitation soon followed, this time to write the liner notes for the release of the Halloween concert Wilentz had attended decades earlier (Wilentz’s essay for Bootleg Series Volume 6: The Concert at Philharmonic Hall earned the historian an honor rare among academics: a Grammy nomination. Ultimately he assumed the title of historian-in-residence for Dylan’s website.

It was through this association with Dylan that Wilentz came to the attention of Columbia Records. The company commissioned a 30,000-word essay, but ultimately the word count tripled. The result: a thorough history, full of photographs of the artists, albums and devices that make up the 125-year story of the company, its several near-death experiences and its rise to a place of social and cultural prominence.

One of the most interesting threads in 360 Sound details the company’s connection to America’s troubled history of race relations. Founded in 1887, in the post-Reconstruction era, when anti-black sentiment was rampant in America, Columbia reflected the prevailing attitudes of the day. “Early cylinder recordings by Columbia of so-called ‘coon’ songs fully reflected the racist spirit of the times,” Wilentz writes. But enlightenment and changing popular tastes soon prevailed as the company changed course in the 1920s and ’30s, establishing itself at the vanguard of African-American music by championing the likes of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith and Robert Johnson.


It’s a storied past, but what about the future? Can the label stay relevant in the era of iTunes and YouTube?

“The long history of Columbia Records affirms that volatility and uncertainty, sometimes extreme, have been the rule and not the exception for the recording industry from the start,” Wilentz writes. “Columbia has had to face fundamental changes, technological as well as artistic, that, in the moment, seemed to threaten the company’s future severely … . Fulfilling its commitments to musical excellence as well as financial success will require unprecedented acuity and innovation in the digital era.

“But the label has had to redefine itself many times before.”

Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer, editor and cartoonist.
Obituaries

1936
Irwin Grossman, retired president of clothing manufacturing company, Roslyn, N.Y., on March 1, 2012. Grossman was born in New York City on July 30, 1915. During his fourth year at Columbia, he also received a year’s credit in the Law School, and for the rest of his life regretted not obtaining a law degree. At Columbia, Grossman developed his keen wit and dry sense of humor, which were sharpened by the vicissitudes of life. His close friend, Ambassador Arnold Saltzman ’56, delivered the eulogy at his funeral. Grossman served in the Army from 1941–46, including service in the European theatre, where he rose to the rank of captain. After the war, Grossman joined his father, Isidore, and younger brother, William, in running the family business, Grossman Clothing Co. He and William were founders of Temple Sinai (Reform) and Temple Beth Sholom (Conservative), both in Roslyn Heights, N.Y. Grossman served as the second president of Beth Sholom. He and his wife, Sylvia, were charter members of the Shelter Rock Tennis and Country Club in Manhasset, N.Y. Grossman was predeceased by her and his oldest son, William, and is survived by his sons, Edward and Richard; and one grandson.

1940
Justin N. Feldman, retired attorney, New York City, on September 21, 2011. A graduate of the Law School in 1942, Feldman served in the Army Air Force in WWII; became an assistant to Rep. Franklin Roosevelt Jr. and later his law partner; helped manage Robert Kennedy’s 1964 Senate campaign and helped broker a $5 billion rebuilding program for the city’s public transportation system. Feldman entered reform politics in the late 1940s as a leader of the Fair Deal Democratic Club, dedicated to breaking the control of Tammany Hall. According to Mayor Edward Koch, “Justin Feldman was a reformer before reform in Democratic politics became popular.” Later, Feldman headed the litigation department of Kronish, Lieb Weiner & Hellman (now Cooley, LLP), where he practiced from 1968 to 1993. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sara; daughters, Anne, Rebecca and Elizabeth; and one granddaughter.

1943
Edward M. Buyer, retired electrical engineer, Adammstown, Md., on February 4, 2012. Born in 1921, Buyer was the valedictorian of New Rochelle (N.Y.) H.S., earned a B.S. in engineering from Columbia and flew with the 493rd Bombardment Group, Tenth Air Force in India and Burma. An accomplished sailor, athlete and swimmer, he earned an M.S. from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and was an electrical engineer who helped pioneer the development of electronic reconnaissance. After retiring, he founded the Boyacé Project. His wife, Marilyn, predeceased him after 58 years of marriage. He is survived by their three children and seven grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Heifer International.

1944
Richard D. Hunter, retired minister, Arlington, Mass., on February 25, 2011. A minister of United Church of Christ churches in Michigan, Ohio, upstate New York and Massachusetts, Hunter was born in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., in 1922, and was a graduate of Union Theological Seminary. He served his country and began his life of Christian ministry as a Navy chaplain aboard the USS *Manitou* in the Pacific after WWII. He began serving churches in Manchester, England in 1948, served the Congregational Christian Church of Ravena, N.Y., from 1960 – 68 and then was interim pastor for churches in upstate New York and Western Massachusetts before retiring in 2007. Hunter is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sara; daughters, Anne, Rebecca and Elizabeth; and one granddaughter.

1949
Rose J. Wilson, retired actuary, Hilton Head Island, S.C., on September 23, 2011. Born on February 16, 1925, in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, N.Y., Wilson attended P.S. 97 and Franklin K. Lane H.S., graduating in 1942. At 18, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet, serving as a 1st Lieutenant and bombardier in the 15th Air Force during WWII. After the College, Wilson entered the actuarial training program at Home Life Insurance Co., NYC, and later joined the small actuarial consulting firm of David G. Stone in Newark, N.J., where he became a partner with the then-named firm Stone, Young and Associates, which merged into Watson Wyatt Worldwide Consulting Actuaries in the early 1980s, and from which he retired in 1987. Wilson was a member of the Academy of Actuaries, an associate of the Society of Actuaries, and while actively consulting, a fellow of the Conference of Actuaries in Public Practice. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Geraldine; daughter, Leslie R. Degenaars; sons, Keith C. and Craig L.; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1951
Francis L. “Frank” Raimondo, real estate development and construction consultant, Newton, N.J., on December 7, 2011. Raimondo earned a master’s from Teachers College. He worked in public education in Fort Lee, N.J., for 25 years, first as a teacher and coach of basketball and football. At 28, he...
Barry Commoner ’37, Environmental and Social Activist

Barry Commoner ’37, a biologist, activist, politician and professor, died on September 30, 2012. He was 95 and lived in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Commoner was a crucial figure in the banning of nuclear weapons testing in the late 50s. His work sought to challenge the American system of production and its social conscience through relating all issues, from environmentalism to inequality, under the framework of social justice.

Born on May 28, 1917, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Russian immigrants, Commoner spent hours as a child in Prospect Park collecting specimens to examine under a microscope, which led him to discover his passion for biology at James Madison H.S. Working various jobs, Commoner put himself through the college, from which he graduated with honors in zoology. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi and earned a doctorate in biology from Harvard in 1941.

Commoner served in the Naval Air Corps in WWII, rising to lieutenant. After his service, he was an associate editor for Science Illustrated. In 1947, Commoner joined the faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, where he taught for 34 years. There he worked on the team that discovered that abnormal free radical cells may be the earliest sign of cancer. He also founded the Center for Biology of Natural Systems in 1966 to promote research on ecological systems. In 2000, he stepped down as director to concentrate on new research projects of his own.

Commoner’s environmental activism began in the 1950s. Alarmed by the increasing number of nuclear tests, he helped found the Committee for Nuclear Information, later called the Committee on Environmental Information, which conducted a nationwide study that found dangerous levels of strontium-90 in babies’ teeth. Together, these findings and a global petition signed by thousands of scientists helped convince the Kennedy administration in 1963 to support the nuclear test ban treaty.

Commoner made the cover of Time magazine in early 1970. Throughout that decade, he continued his work on environmental issues, speaking against the view that overpopulation in the Third World was the root of the planet’s ecological and resource problems. During this time, he published The Closing Circle (1971), introducing his famous four laws of ecology. Commoner later wrote the bestselling The Poverty of Power (1976), in which he focused on the relationship between environmental survival and energy usage in American industry.

Commoner’s activist career included a brief period in American politics when he ran for president in 1980 under his own party, the Citizen’s Party. Despite the campaign’s lack of success, Commoner stayed a clear voice for social justice, advocating that such problems as pollution, war, poverty and inequality were all related parts of a larger issue. His radical approach to social justice won him praise from Stephen Jay Gould, a Harvard paleontologist and evolutionary biologist, who reviewed Commoner’s book Making Peace With the Planet in 1990, saying, “Although he has been branded by many as a maverick, I regard him as right and compassionate on nearly every major issue.”

Commoner married Lisa Feiner in 1980; she survives him as do his children, Lucy and Frederick, by his first wife, Gloria Gordon; and one granddaughter.

Karl Daum ’15
Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS, Esteemed Historian and Professor

By Timothy P. Cross '98 GSAS

Famed historian, former University Professor, former provost and dean of the faculties and noted author Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS died in his San Antonio, Texas, home on October 25. He was 104. National Public Radio eulogized Barzun as "one of the most influential historians, educators and thinkers of the 20th century." Writing in The Guardian (UK), historian Douglas Johnson remembered Barzun as "a scholar of encyclopedic knowledge allied to a determination to maintain high standards in any of the fields his work touched on."

In The New York Times, Edward Rothstein praised Barzun "as a man of boundless curiosity, monumental productivity and manifold interests, encompassing both Berlioz and baseball." Barzun, he continued, "stood beside Sidney Hook ['27 GSAS], Daniel Bell ['60 GSAS] and Lionel Trilling ['25, '38 GSAS] as among the mid-20th century's most wide-ranging scholars, all of whom tried to reconcile the achievements of European culture and philosophy with the demands and tastes of American intellectual and cultural life."

Jacques Martin Barzun was born on November 30, 1907, in Créteil, outside of Paris, to Anne-Rose and Henri Martin Barzun. His father was a diplomat and writer, and the family home became a meeting ground for artists and writers, including Jean Cocteau and painter Albert Gleizes, whose portrait of Madame Barzun her son kept until his death. Barzun began his studies at the Lycée Janson de Saïly. During WWII, Barzun got his first teaching experience, when at 9 he began teaching younger students to offset teachers who had entered the French military.

The war devastated the young Barzun to such a degree that he contemplated suicide. At the war's end, his father gave him the choice of study in England or America. Barzun, an enthusiastic reader of James Fenimore Cooper, didn't hesitate in choosing America, and in 1920 the family settled in New Rochelle, N.Y. Barzun entered the College three years later, at 15. He was class valedictorian, drama critic of Spectator, editor of Varsity (a literary magazine) and president of the Philolexian Society, and came under the influence of some of the College's most notable professors of the period, including F.J.E. Woodbridge, Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS and Mortimer Adler '23, '29 GSAS.

Barzun enrolled in GSAS and was appointed an instructor in the history department. He became a full professor in 1945, the Seth Low Professor of History in 1960 and University Professor in 1967. Barzun's professors were the pioneers behind the Core Curriculum, and the first course that Barzun taught at Columbia was "Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West." In 1932, he became a driving force behind the introduction of the "Colloquium on important Books," which he taught with Trilling. He later helped establish "Humanities A," now Literature Humanities, and taught the course regularly.

Barzun assisted historian Carlton J.H. Hayes (Class of 1904, Class of 1909 GSAS) in writing A Political and Cultural History of Modern Europe. He later credited this experience with launching his interest in cultural history, which would be a leitmotif of his career. His first book, Race: A Study in Modern Superstition (1937), grew out of his dissertation. In Darwin, Marx, Wagner: Critique of a Heritage, he criticized his three subjects for contributing to a "mechanical scientism" that had a baleful effect on education. And he emerged as perhaps the most spirited defender of 19th-century Romanti-
Ashbel Green ’50, ’52 GSAS, Legendary Editor and Columbia Anthologist

By Jerry Kisslinger ’79, ’82 GSAS

Ashbel Green ’50, ’52 GSAS, whose acumen as an editor brought the thoughts of some of the 20th century’s most influential figures into print as editor at Alfred A. Knopf, died on September 18 in Stonington, Conn. He was 84 and is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Osha; son, Ashbel; daughter, Alison; stepdaughters, Shaw Osha and Steuart Osha; four grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Green will truly be missed at Columbia, where a half-century after graduating, he helped lead the year-long anniversary celebration in 2004 known as Columbia 250. As chair of the Publications Committee for the 250th, Ash, as he was known, freely offered the expertise he had accrued working with more than 400 authors of astonishing distinction and variety — among them Gabriel García Márquez and Walter Cronkite, Andrei Shakharov and Milovan Djilas, Vaclav Havel and Jacques Barzun Professor in History and the Social Sciences Kenneth T. Jackson. “He helped make the Knopf imprint the most distinguished in the United States.”

Green started at Knopf in 1964 and rose to v.p. and senior editor. He edited fiction, biography, autobiography, history, current affairs and public policy, during which time, according to his obituary that appeared in The New York Times, he “earned a reputation for balancing discretion in altering an author’s language with a distaste for the most minute mistakes, including punctuation.” He remained engaged with authors and editors even after his formal retirement in 2007.

The publishing giant was something of a big man on campus — his yearbook entry lists president of WKCR (then in its 10th anniversary year), University Student Council, Spectator, varsity tennis, swimming, the Activities Council of student board and the Humanist Club. He also earned a master’s at Columbia in East European history. Through the years, Jackson recalls, “he was a loyal supporter of the Columbia football and basketball teams, grumbling about the losses but always in the stands.”

I got to know Ash during the 250th as I helped publish books under his supervision. I picture him in Low Library, vetting a stack of book proposals with firm judgment, and more informally at Homecoming 2004, the gentleman author seated unassumingly under the tent with his book, signing under a banner with its title, My Columbia: Reminiscences of University Life.

Ash — in the ultimate busman’s holiday — had devoted untold Friday afternoons to poring over published works by Columbians, 100 or so in all, and marking excerpts. The result, My Columbia, still is in print and includes 43 pieces — poems, fiction and memoirs from the likes of laser inventor Charles Townes; Trappist monk and author Thomas Merton ’38, ’39 GSAS; Margaret Mead ’28 GSAS; Whittaker Chambers; Jack Kerouac ’44; Darryl Pinckney ’88; and Dwight D. Eisenhower. The selections are bookmarked by pages by mid-18th century diarist George Templeton Strong (Class of 1838) and New Yorker artist Edward Koren ’57. In the end, Ash donated his sources to the library of the Columbia Alumni Center, where the My Columbia collection remains.

His characteristically laconic introduction to My Columbia explains that he wanted “real writing,” rather than commissioned essays, to show the University in the context of people’s lives. “The book is not designed to be an exercise in nostalgia, but rather a celebration of an extraordinary institution whose future looks to be as rich as its past.” In My Columbia, Ash celebrated his alma mater, past and future, through a montage of glimpses into remarkable Columbia lives. His was surely one.

Jerry Kisslinger ’79, ’82 GSAS is the chief creative officer for the Office of Alumni and Development.

WINTER 2012–13

or to Centra Hospice, 3300 Rivermont Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24503.

1960

Donald S. Keller, sheet metal fabrications executive, Wayland, Mass., on November 6, 2011. Born on February 21, 1939, in Brooklyn, N.Y. Keller graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. After the College, he began a long career in the metals fabrication industry, ultimately owning and managing Aphaouser-Elcom Inc. in Watertown, Mass. He played an active civic role in his town of Wayland, chairing public commissions and serving for more than 30 years on the board of Wayside Youth and Family Support Network, including the last 12 as chairperson. He oversaw the expansion of Wayside’s facilities and services, which served tens of thousands of children and families during his tenure. His great recreational passion was skiing and, through the years, he followed the snow throughout the United States, Europe and even South America. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Judith Borky Keller; sons, David and his wife, Emily, Todd and Gregg; two granddaughters; and brother, Kenneth ’56, ’57 E. Memorial contributions may be made to Wayside Youth and Family Support Network (waysideyouth.org).

1961

Barry H. Jacobs, retired ophthalmologist, New York City, on May 9, 2012. Jacobs was an eye surgeon who managed his own practice in the Boston area and also served at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and the Harvard Community Health Plan, and New Hampshire Eye Associates in Manchester, N.H. He was a graduate of Bronx Science and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. He enjoyed woodworking, building model ships, traveling, exploring the outdoors and sharing jokes. In 2007, Jacobs and his wife, Barbara, moved to Texas to be near his daughter and grandchildren. Jacobs is survived by his wife; brother, Dennis and his wife, Judith; sister-in-law, Patricia; stepmother, Renee; daughter, Alison; son-in-law, Michael; and two grandchildren.

Joel J. Karp, international tax and estate planning expert, Washington, D.C., on January 16, 2011. A 1964 graduate of the Law School, Karp grew up in Brooklyn, raised by parents who emigrated from Russia. He headed the tax depart-
Arthur Ochs Sulzberger ’51, Longtime New York Times Publisher


Sulzberger was born on February 5, 1926, in New York City. He jumped from private school to private school in his boyhood, struggling academically and dropping out at 17. He joined the Marines in 1944 and served through the rest of WWII. Sulzberger earned a B.A. in English and history while in the reserves. He was called back to active duty in Korea as a public information officer and finished his service in Washington, D.C., in 1952.

In 1953, Sulzberger started at The Milwaukee Journal, completing a year’s apprenticeship before joining the family business at The New York Times, where his father, Arthur Hays Sulzberger (Class of 1913), was publisher. The younger Sulzberger started on the foreign copy desk, spending time in the London, Paris and Rome bureaus. Despite fears that he was not cut out to be publisher himself, he took over in 1963 when his brother-in-law, Oval E. Dryfoos, who had served as publisher after Sulzberger’s father stepped down, died suddenly.

At 37, Sulzberger became the youngest publisher in the Times’ history. During the next 30 years, he transformed a paper in shaky financial condition into a diverse and profitable enterprise. After shutting down the paper’s money-losing West Coast edition and instituting a budget, Sulzberger expanded the paper and the company. He oversaw the creation of new sections, the daily use of color pictures and graphics, a national edition and special regional editions as well as the acquisition of other newspapers and magazines. Sulzberger stepped down as publisher in 1992 and as chairman in 1997. His years as publisher were not without controversy, most famously his decision to print the secret government history of the Vietnam War, known as the Pentagon Papers, in 1971. When the federal government obtained a restraining order requiring the Times to withdraw the story, the paper appealed the case all the way to the United States Supreme Court. That June, the court upheld the newspaper’s right to publish despite the imposition of “prior restraint.” It was a landmark ruling on press freedom.

After stepping down from the paper, Sulzberger continued his work as chairman of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He was a Columbia University trustee emeritus and received the Alexander Hamilton Medal in 1982.

Sulzberger’s first marriage ended in divorce. His second wife died in 1995 and his third wife in 2010. He is survived by his children, Cathy, Arthur Jr., Karen and Cynthia; nine grandchildren, including Simon Lax ’09; and sisters, Marian S. Helskell and Ruth S. Holmberg.

Karl Daum ’15

Memorial contributions may be made to United Way of Addison County, Town Hall Theater or Friends of Middlebury Hockey.

1965

David R. Wallace, inventor, San Francisco, on March 2, 2012. Wallace earned an M.A. in mathematics from UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. in math and computer science from Tulane. He taught at Emory and Boston Universities and later worked for several technology companies in the Bay Area that were founded on work he invented. He is survived by his wife, Lynn Klamkin; and daughter, Kira.

1977

Damien C. Bona, Academy Award expert, writer, New York City, on January 29, 2012. Bona was born on March 18, 1955, in Sharon, Conn. He and his fellow Spectator staff writer Mason Wiley ’77, ’78 formed a writing partnership after graduation, and they went on to author Inside Oscar, a history of the Academy Awards that was published in 1986 and went on to several other editions. He also was the author of Opening Shots, a look at unlikely film debuts, and Starring John Wayne as Genghis Khan: Hollywood’s All-Time Worst Casting Blunders. In 2009, he was a consultant on the Academy Award ceremonies with Oscar-winning director-writer Bill Condon ’76, one of the show’s producers. Bona also held a law degree from NYU and briefly practiced. He is survived by his partner, Ralph Peña; mother, Alma; sister, Amy Bona-Cohen and her husband, Neil; and three nieces.
OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

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

1926 Malcolm Warnock, retired attorney, Maplewood, N.J., on October 9, 2012.


1937 George W. Hoyns Jr., retired real estate broker, Sugar Land, Texas, on September 29, 2012.


1941 Frederick H. Kramer, salesman, Los Angeles, on August 14, 2012.


1944 Joseph N. Leff, business executive, New York City, on August 26, 2012.


1949 George V. Cook, attorney, Garden City, N.Y., on October 20, 2012.

1950 Emmett C. Harris, international banking executive, Bloomington, Ind., on September 20, 2012.


1952 John W. Edwards, IT executive, Little Compton, R.I., on October 18, 2012.


1959 Jose W. Noyes, financial executive, New York City, on October 18, 2012.


1964 Michael H. Heim, professor and translator, New York City, on September 29, 2012.


1966 Andrew E. Thurman, medical ethics expert, educator, Pittsburgh, on October 22, 2012.


2011 Gelseigh Karl-Cannon, nanny, Bristol, Conn., on November 6, 2012.
Class Notes

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St, MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
ctt@columbia.edu

Your friends and classmates want to hear from you! Please send news about yourself or your family, or a favorite Columbia College memory, to CCT at either the email or postal address above. You also can send news online via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ctt/submit_class_note.

25 40
Robert Zucker
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This is a short note to remind you that Columbia College Today still comes to you, and the only way we can have a class column is for classmates to send me news of their activities.

As regards my life, my 12-room house is on the market and I am buying a two-bedroom apartment in North Shore Towers and Country Club in Queens. There are 1,680 apartments in three 33-story buildings. Facilities include an 18-hole golf course, five tennis courts, a movie theater, supermarket, restaurant and more. I spent most of the summer in Southampton and play a lot of tennis.

So, how about you? Email or write with updates on your life and activities. Let’s keep our class alive.

41
Melvin Hershkowitz
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DrMelvin23@gmail.com

On July 31, Dr. Arthur “Wizzer” Wellington sent a very nice letter from his home in Elmira, N.Y., reporting that his growing family now has six great-grandchildren, with a seventh who was anticipated to arrive in October. Art (92) continues to be active with friends and family in Elmira and is one of three surviving members of his longstanding breakfast club, which began with 12 friends long ago. I doubt that any other Class of 1942 classmates have so many great-grandchildren, but I will happily receive population reports for future issues of CCT. Compliments to Art on his longevity and loyalty to Columbia.

On August 21, our Alumni Office notified me of the death on September 25, 2011, of Dr. William Pfeffer Jr. in Randolph, N.H. William entered Harvard Medical School via the professional option and graduated with his M.D. in 1944. He was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society as a senior. He completed his training as a pediatrician at Columbia, William was a member of SAE, was Glee Club manager and earned Silver and Gold Crowns. He was predeceased by his first wife, Jean Wilkinson, and survived by his second wife, Angela; son, William; daughter, Jane Jerry; and two grandchildren.

We extend condolences to his family. You can read William’s obituary in the Fall issue.


At Columbia, Paul was a member of the Jewish Students Society, Beta Sigma Rho, the Columbia Players and The Varsity Show. He worked on Spectator and earned a Silver Crown. He was a long-time alumnus and occasionally contacted me and my Class Notes correspondent predecessor, the late Dr. Herbert Mark, to discuss Columbia alumni affairs. He was also a steady and generous financial donor to the Columbia University Beta Sigma Rho, the Columbia Players and the winning score. Phil became an All-American quarterback, leading the University to a consensus ranking was seventh of eight teams in the Ivy League, with only Princeton below us.

As a freshman in 1938, this writer recalls seeing the great Sid Luckman ’39, who left the College in 1939 as an All-American quarterback, leading Columbia at the old Baker Field.

In those days of two-way players, Sid also was our punter and a tenacious defensive safety. He had a brilliant pro career with the Chicago Bears, where he helped install the T-formation offense under coach George Halas. Joining Sid on the Bears was Columbia’s outstanding end John Siegal ’39, who became a successful dentist.

In 1938–42, Columbia had some exciting victories over major football schools. In 1938, we beat Army 20–18. In 1939, we beat Navy 19–13 and lost to Tulane 25–0, as we were unable to contain that school's elusive halfback, Jitterbug Kellogg. In 1946, we beat Wisconsin 7–6 and also defeated Georgia 19–13, when halfback Phil Bauer took a lateral pass and ran over the goal line for the winning score. Phil became a Marine officer; decorated for heroism in combat in WWII, when he was killed at Peleliu. In 1941, Columbia led by quarterback Paul Governall ’43, lost to Michigan 28–0. Paul, a strong runner and great passer, was a worthy successor to Luckman. In 1942, he won the Maxwell Award as the outstanding player in the nation. He played professional football for five years after graduation, two with the New York Giants. We send coach Manguerin our best wishes for immediate success and an early Ivy League Championship.

Best wishes and kind regards to all classmates. Send your news and comments by email or call my home, 413-568-1517.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
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Silence seems to be the key word for ’43ers. No news received.

Remember, 2013 is the 70th anniversary of our graduation. That means you all should be planning to attend our Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 2. Look me up; I’ll be there, and would be delighted to see you again on campus. In the meantime, you can ensure that...
Mario E. DeOrchis '43, '48L retired this year after practicing as an admiralty proctor (maritime lawyer) for 64 years.

He now resides in Carleton-Willard Village, a retirement community in Bedford, Mass., where he’s “in charge of our small lending library, among other things.” He also helps in a nearby Episcopal church. And by the time these Class Notes reach you, Louis will have celebrated the 65th anniversary of his ordination, which was conducted by his father, then the rector of Grace Church in downtown New York. Pressed for other activities that keep him busy, Louis responded, “I enjoy music as much as ever and attend regular concerts of the Boston Symphony.”

Also happily retired in the Bay State is MIT history professor emeritus Bruce Mazlish. He is still chum-dollar for the weekend. They are, of course, three or more up on me insofar as the names of the latest rap artists are concerned.

After 36 years and nine months, I fully retired from my position at Penn but will continue as an emeritus professor. They have been mostly good years, and I shall miss interacting with the young trainees.

As of this writing, my wife, Audrey, and I plan to return to London in October for this year’s meeting of SIOP (International Society of Pediatric Oncology), a group that, as I’m sure you can tell from the name, concerns itself with childhood cancers. Audrey was in London once already this year, having been invited to the 2012 meeting of the equestrian Olympic events in July; she reports the organization and facilities were top-notch although the USA team did not perform well. We’ll tour the northwest of Wales after the SIOP assembly. It is said to be the most scenic part of Wales.

Please note my new postal and email addresses, at the top of the column, and please send news.

Henry Rolf Hecht
11 Evergreen Pl.
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hhr15@columbia.edu

Sadly, we must bid goodbye to Ed Costikyan ’47, ’49L, who, despite officially being a few years behind us, was considered a mainstay of the fourth floor/Jon Jay extracurricular community in the first half of the ’40s. I don’t think any of us pictured Ed as a Tammany leader, and yet we discovered he became a successful politician who reformed the New York County political machine. A fellow Columbian and friend to be proud of.

I sent some emails to the class this time around in the interest of drumming up news. From the Rev. Louis Pitt we get the cheerful greeting that he’s “still in reasonably good health and fairly active.”

class notes

MARIO E. DEORCHIS '43, '48L RETIRED THIS YEAR

The article discusses a retired admiralty proctor, Mario E. DeOrchis '43, '48L, who practiced for 64 years. He resides in Carleton-Willard Village, a retirement community in Bedford, Mass. The article also mentions other retired individuals and their activities, such as Bruce Mazlish and Louis Pitt. The text includes information about the SIOP meeting in London and the equestrian Olympic events in July.

MARIO E. DEORCHIS '43, '48L RETIRED THIS YEAR

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Calculating the magnitude and even the sign of this 'dark' (i.e. invisible) mass-energy density contribution to cosmology depends on knowledge of all the possible particles and interactions on all microscales, even those infinitesimally smaller than what could be directly explored in the laboratory. "It is, however, possible to bound the magnitude of the vacuum 'dark energy' mass density from limits for the expansion rate of our universe. That magnitude should not be very much greater than those of other presently observed constituents of our universe. If this were not the case, conditions for life to have evolved would never have existed here or anywhere in our observed universe. Either the present expansion of our universe would too long ago have reversed and become a crunch, or it would have reversed through flower gardens and charming 19th-century cottages. In September my wife, Marge, and I visited Herb at his home high on Russian Hill. His steps are inclined at least 45 degrees (or so it seemed), but whatever the effort getting up and down the hill, the view from his apartment is unbelievable. Chinatown lies below and San Francisco Bay, with its heavy water traffic and the Oakland Bay Bridge, are in full view. Herb's is unmistakably the home of a writer, as it overflows with books, journals, magazines, memorabilia and his faithful manual typewriter. A wonderful visit catching up after these many years. I regret advising the passing of Charles Arnoldi, retired surgeon, who lived in Florida.

47  Frank Iaquinta 620 Pelhamdale Ave., Apt. 15 Pelham, NY 10803 fiaquintam@aol.com Classmates, please send news about yourself and your family, your career, your travels or even any favorite Columbia College memory to me at either the email or postal address above. You also can send news to me via CTC’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ ctc/submit_class_note. This column is a wondrous way for us to stay connected. I hope to hear from you.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Nick Mider nm2613@columbia.edu 212-651-7846 DEVELOPMENT Mara Henckler micz105@columbia.edu 212-651-7494 Columbia College Today Columbia Alumni Center 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530 New York, NY 10025 cct@columbia.edu Thank you to all who shared news this time around.

With Lodovico Blanc ’50E, who was born in Rome in 1922: "After graduating with degrees in industrial engineering, I worked in Cuba until 1960, when I returned to these hospitable shores. I now live in Miami with my Cuban-born wife, Maria (Connie). I worked for ESSO, now ExxonMobil, from which I retired after a 30-year career mostly in information systems. Since my retirement, I am active in a charitable organization, the Order of Malta. Hobbies and interests are SETI (search for extraterrestrial intelligence), NEO (near-Earth objects), archaeology, and prehistoric and ocean impact meteorite research. I am a fan of Dallas Abbott Ph.D. at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and am a Knight of Malta in obedience, which reflects the status that binds you to follow certain strict rules of the order." Dr. Sidney Fink ’52 P&S writes, "I’m 85. I can still hike and paddle, and guess I should share why I am a fortuitous Class of ’48 survivor. First, I was drafted into the Army shortly after the atomic bomb was dropped, which saved me from dying in the invasion of Japan. Since then, I have been healthy enough/smart enough to avoid doctors and pills all my life. (Being one helped, I guess.) So avoid battlefields, eat a good diet, exercise regularly, stay out of the office and drugstores as much as you can and you should easily live past my age. Good luck to you!"

Retired from a business career in retailing that spanned 46 years, David Burstine lives in Tenafly, N.J. "I do a lot of nonfiction reading and visiting of children and grandchildren in Weston, Conn., and Katonah, N.Y. One of my children, Adam, is a professor at SUNY in Baton Rouge, where he is an early-American history expert and author. Particularly enjoyable is his memoir of my years in Mallorca. In 2012, I published Missing in Action and before that I published The Decline and Fall of America."

Dr. Bob Mellins continues to be active at P&S, helping to steer the research of postgraduate fellows as well as pursuing his own. "Elaborating a bit from his note in the Fall issue, Robert DeMaria ’59 CSAS writes, "I continue to live the way I always lived. I write books and publish books. I am the publisher of The Vineyard Press and before that I published the Mediterranean Review. For 50 years I have spent part of the year in Spain in my house in Deia, Mallorca. I have written 20 novels. My latest is Bleeker Street Blues, set in Greenwich Village in 1920; it was published in 2010. In 2011, I wrote a memoir of my years in Mallorca. In 2012, I published Missing in Action, set in WWII. I am doing the fourth edition of The College Handbook of Creative Writing, my textbook for the subject, used in many colleges. "I don’t believe in retirement. Politically, I am very liberal. I support [Barack] Obama ’08, and think America needs an entire overhaul. See my book, The Decline and Fall of America."

"At the College, years ago, my friends included Allen Ginsberg. Jason Epstein ’49, ’50 CSAS; Don Friedman ’49; and John Hollander ’50, ’52 CSAS."

"After my wife and I had major health issues simultaneously in June 2011, we took that as a sign it was time for us to move. We sold our home of 15 years and are happily resettled in the Las Fuentes Resort Village senior community in Prescott in North Central Arizona. It was the right thing for us to do."

"Tom Colvin continues to ‘enjoy old age’ at the beach at Emerald Isle, N.C."

Sharing his story is Nicholas Giosa: “Born Italian Harlem in 1925; shined shoes in father’s barber shop in the Bronx; attended Roma Barber School at 14; graduated from Stuyvesant H.S., in 1942; attended Columbia ’42–’48. Originally was the Class of ’46, interrupted by WWII. Attended BU Medical ’48–’52; interned at Hartford Hospital ’52–’54; did general practice in Hartford ’54–’66; did residency in anesthesia and practiced at Hartford Hospital 1966–2000. Was president of New England Society of Anesthesiologists 1980–81. "Painted avidly in ’50s and ’60s; chief interests now are poetry and photography: Published book of poetry, Words, Wounds and Wonder, with photos, etchings, and pen and inks in 1996; prize photo of mother and father appeared on cover of Parade Magazine; lifelong tennis player."

"Best memories at Columbia are times shared with classmates from Stuyvesant, George Caplis ’48E and Lou Vanaria ’58 CSAS. "Beautiful wife, Louise, died 20 years ago; daughter, Lisa, died 14 years ago; have three sons, Mark (57) and twins Paul and Eric (53). Have been living in same house in Wethersfield, Conn., for 55 years, still cutting grass and doing household chores. "Thankful for the long journey." George Woofle writes, "My wife, Mary Elaine, and I moved to Falmouth, Mass., last year after spending a year in a retirement community, but finally decided to return to the East Coast. We have built a vacation home in Kennebunkport, ME, and love the ocean."

Robert DeMaria ’48 is an author as well as the publisher of The Vineyard Press.
community in West Yarmouth. It was a lovely place, but we decided that there were too many old people. Playing a little golf, such as it is, and writing a little poetry.

Dick Hyman (dickhymannmusic@verizon.net) has a new recording with his daughter Judy, a violinist/composer, of her original waltzes, called Late Last Summer. Also, Hal Leonard Music released his new book, Dick Hyman’s Century of Jazz Piano Transcribed!

In just shy of six months (Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2), the Class of 1948 will celebrate the 65th anniversary of its College graduation by gathering on campus at Alumni Reunion Weekend. Mark your calendar! To ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about the event, please update your contact information online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or call the Alumni Office (212-854-7465). It’s time to say you’re feelin’ mighty fine.

CCT needs a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts, managing editor, for information: alt2129@columbia.edu or call the Alumni Office (212-854-7465). The College needs a class correspondent for this column, or via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

John Weaver
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A last look at the year as winter is night: almost no written contact from classmates but the word at this writing was that Homecoming would be a healthy turnout. I write this in the hope that will be true.

There was a passionate email from Richard Sachs. I had not heard from him for several years. I quote from a much longer message:

"I have been saying for decades that bonds us all in our devotion to our alma mater. We all look forward to classes from ’47-’12: The Core and the success of our new dean. I also bear sad news: my former roommate, Robert Dietsche, passed away unexpectedly in October. He had two children here. He was at our reunion in 2009. He was a Sun Oil executive who retired in Vermont and was a real outdoorsman. C’mon guys, technology has made it easier than ever to maintain contact and share news. We are enriched by the connection. So, in the words of the song, the melody echoes for me as I write: ’Drop a line to say you’re feelin’ mighty fine.’"

Dick Hyman ’48 has a new recording with his violinist/composer daughter Judy, of her original waltzes, called Late Last Summer.

Dick Hyman’s Century of Jazz Piano Transcribed!

Robert Nielson was selected for induction into the 2012 class of the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. During his College career, Bob was the both the NCAA and ICFA foil’s fencing champion, and he led the Lion fencers when they secured the “Iron Man” trophy with a record number of wins in foil, saber and epee competition.

Dick Hyman music signature

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Dick Hyman music signature
Obituaries for more on Punch).
If you requested a Class of 1951 60th Reunion Yearbook (June 2011) and did not receive a copy, please contact<br>Reunions staff promptly as long as the supply lasts. Meanwhile, please keep in touch and send along information<br>for this column. It is always nice to receive a letter, phone call or an email from a happy Lion!

Sidney Prager
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Here we are in the winter month of December. The holidays will soon be upon us and another year will have passed. I hope it was a healthy and rewarding year for all.

The presidential election took place one month ago. I hope you are happy with the results. But remember, it's the process that is important — the fact that we have the right, every four years, as citizens of this great country to freely select our leader. That does not happen in too many places. The months before the election were busy. Feelings and opinions of voters with opposing views seemed to be miles apart. Differences were clear and distinct. Rhetoric among voters was the most dynamic I have experienced in years. The founding fathers were pretty smart to get this idea right; or perhaps they and, as a result, we, were just lucky.

Now for reports from two classmates.

Rex B. Shannon lives in Santa Ana, Calif., with Mary Jo Millham Shannon, his wife of 56 years. His greatest joy is his family. They have two sons, Matthew and Wade, and two grandsons, Lucas (13) and Nicki (10). Rex was a Boy Scoutmaster and Little League coach. He has been blessed with good health and works out at a gym twice a week.

Even today, Rex believes the most enduring of his Columbia experiences was the Core Curriculum. It was priceless.

At Columbia, he listened to Red Barber and his occasional Desmond on the Brooklyn Dodger broadcasts, along with their young protegé, Vin Scully, who was then attending Fordham. In 1958, when the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles, Barber and Desmond retired, and Scully moved west. Since then, Rex has been part of a block of season ticket holders for Dodger games, and Scully, who is in the NAB Broadcasting Hall of Fame, has announced that he will continue to broadcast Dodger games for the 2013 season.

Rex began his career in 1955 with the Aetna life insurance company, where he was an agent for 12 years; he then spent six years in field management. In 1973, he joined New England Mutual Life Insurance, where he was director of agencies, general agent and s.v.p. In 1982, Rex joined Fidelity Union Life Insurance of Dallas, and he was its chairman, president and chief executive for the next 11 years.

Though retired now, Rex continues to be busy. He specializes in working with individuals and corporations in estate planning and implementing creative charitable donor goals. He has qualified as a member of the Million Dollar Round Table.

Rex holds an M.B.A. from Wharton and received the Wharton Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award, given to only two graduates each year. He also is a graduate of the advanced management program at Harvard Business School.

Rex is past director of the American Society of Chartered Life Underwriters, the Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association, the American Council of Life Insurance, the Life Office Management Association, the Texas Life Insurance Association, the Wharton Graduate Executive Board, the Circle Ten Council of Boy Scouts of America and the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth. He is past trustee of the Life Underwriter Training Council, the American College, the S.S. Huebner Foundation for Insurance Education and the Insurance Institute of Northeastern University.

Rex is past chairman of the board of directors and past general campaign chairman of the United Way of Orange County, Calif. He is a former member of the board of governors of the Dallas Symphony Association and of the board of directors of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra in Orange County. For 13 years he was on the board of directors of the Ethel Perry Andrus Gerontology Center of the University of Southern California, which specializes in aging research.

Rex also is past president of the Orange County, Calif., chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, which was founded in 1899. Members have ancestors who fought in the American Revolutionary War. One of Rex's ancestors was wounded at the Battle of Monmouth and the other died at the Battle of Brandywine.

Don Schiller writes, “After graduating, I stayed on a couple of years at Columbia, taking some physics courses and not doing very well in them. During that time I also worked for a period at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory under Dr. Jack Oliver ’45, '53 GSAS. This work prompted me to switch my work preference from geophysics to geophysics, and I was hired by Shell Oil Co. to train and eventually work at its Houston location.

"The year 1954 was an interesting one; going from New York City to Calhoun City, Miss., for training to read seismographs with a field crew to traveling on the Mississippi Delta by helicopter, airboat and dune buggy; to working at Shell’s downtown Houston office; to meeting and marrying my wife, Dorothy; to getting drafted into the Army. Thus ensued a two-year hiatus with Uncle Sam, with basic and artillery training in El Paso, followed by service in Fort Worth, all in the glorious state of Texas."

"After my draft service, I returned to Shell to work on field training, looking for undersea salt domes. Part of this effort involved preparing topographic maps of identifiable strata, using data from networks of lines. This procedure used a number of simultaneous equations, which could be computed by a computer, one of which had just been obtained by Shell in its Houston office. I got so enthused by my work in the computer lab that I switched from geophysics to computer programming at Shell. (This was in 1960.) At the same time, I used my GI Bill to study for and obtain an M.S. in computer science at the University of Houston. Soon after, I learned that IBM had come to Houston to support NASA's space program, and I left Shell to work for IBM as a programmer for the Sandia Corporation’s computer systems and ended up with a computer program called SCAPE (System Capacity and Performance Evaluation), used in about 50 installations around the country for evaluating additional computer hardware, to plot the correct orbit and forecast modified orbits. Then whenever a space flight was in progress, we would wait for reports from, say, Woomera, Australia, and cheer when the incoming data was right on the mark.

"By 1969, orbit positioning programs were essentially completed, and I moved to the Washington, D.C., area for possible work at the Goddard Space Flight Center. IBM did not win some expected contracts, so I worked at IBM's Washington System Center in Gaithersburg, Md. I started with computer simulations of computer systems and ended up with a computer program called SCAME (System Capacity and Performance Evaluation), used in about 100 installations around the country. I moved to Raleigh, N.C., in 1980 and to Calhoun City, Miss., in 1984, respectively. Then, in 1990, I retired and moved to Maryland to be near our children. Since 2002,
Dorothy and I have lived at the Charlestown Retirement Community, near Baltimore. My days are now filled with stamp collecting, acting (in 10 plays since 2005), Scrabble, Sudoku, aiding teachers at a local elementary school and playing bocce.

"It’s been an exciting and rewarding career, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to review it in our class column."

Your reporter thanks you for your contributions and wishes all our classmates good health.

**CLASS NOTES**

**REUNION WEEKEND**

**MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013**

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Incredibly, we’re going to celebrate the 60th reunion of our Class of 1953 from Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2 at Alumni Reunion Weekend on campus and throughout New York City. Ten classmates already have joined as members of the Reunion Committee: Bill Frosch, George Lowry, Jay Kane, Lewis Robins, Jules Ross, Ed Robbins, Pete Pellett, Jim Steiner, Donald Taylor and Ary Zolberg.

As you may recall, we celebrated our 55th reunion with a cocktail party on Friday in the lobby of Hamilton Hall, followed by a romantic dinner under a tent in Van Am Quad. On Saturday, we had a luncheon in Low Library that included a speech by a favorite history professor, Henry Graff Ph.D. ’49 GSAS, who regaled us with anecdotes about various classmates and presidents he visited with at the White House.

At the Reunion Committee’s first meeting, our classmates unanimously decided to invite all widows of classmates. So if you could, please take a moment to send us the names and current addresses of any widow who should be invited. Also, take a minute to update your own contact information with Columbia. This way, you’ll be sure to receive all the latest news about reunion. Update it online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumnupdate) or by calling the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

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

Later, he writes: “Another great advantage in being at Columbia was having great teachers: Mark Van Doren [21 GSAS], Gilbert Hyatt, and the future 1955 Nobel Prize winner in physics, Polikarp Kusch. I remember getting a note from Professor Kusch, saying, ‘I am glad that someone has a concept of harmonic motion. My congratulations!’ I also remember that one of my classmates in physics, Melvin Schwartz, won the Nobel Prize in physics [in 1988]. I know how he did it, too — while I was sleeping at 2 in the morning, he was still in the physics lab.”

Larry, who is known as the “Flatbush Philosopher,” has offered to provide every classmate who attends reunion with a copy of his sparkling and witty book, *Brooklyn-eze Proverbs & Cartoons*. Having read his book from cover to cover, I can heartily recommend it. One of my favorite Harte bits of advice: “You can’t move the mountains, but you can climb it!”

Please let us know if you are planning to attend reunion. I hope to include your name in my next column. In the Spring issue, so that your friends, classmates, teammates and fraternity brothers will know who they can look for at reunion.

Howard Falberg

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One of the many activities that has become an important part of Columbia’s recognition of contributions is the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame, which inducts new members every other fall. Our own Al Thompson and Steve Sobel were inducted in 2010 for track and field, and fencing, respectively; please forgive me if I am leaving out other class members who have been recognized.

There are a good number of class members who have retired from their working careers.

A good case in point is the wonderful Paul Wilson. Paul’s outstanding career as a practicing psychiatrist included 10 years ago. He also authored a number of books and articles through the years. Now, as Paul puts it, “I savored my daily routine of sloth and torpor.” He continues to be happily married to a wonderful lady whom I remember from when she was located across Broadway at a wonderful school named Barnard: Barbara Foley. Paul notes, “We are both in very good health. Still working out at the local YMCA and playing take-no-prisoners geriatric doubles tennis.” Paul and Barbara have several children, including a daughter who follows the family tradition as a psychiatrist in St. Louis. It all sounds wonderful.

I was very glad to receive a note from Michael Frischberg. After graduation, Michael served a 16-month tour of duty with the Army in Korea. He earned an M.A. from NYU and retired after many years teaching high school social studies in New York. Michael and his wife, Arlene, have been happily married for 54 years. They have three daughters and one grandson. They like to read and go to museums in New York City.

Dick Wersman and his good wife, Elin, continue to enjoy these “later years” in Chinoestevea, Va., on the eastern shore of the Delmarva Peninsula. Dick has retired from positions of responsibility at the U.S. Information Agency as well as the State Department dealing with the war on poverty and corruption in Latin America. He notes that tennis keeps him on the go, as does interviewing Eastern Shore applicants to the College.

I hope that all is well with our classmates and look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, be well and loyal to Columbia.

Gerald Sherwin

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Columbia continues to play a major role in many ways, whether worldwide with the Global Centers (visited recently by University Chaplain Jewelnel Davis) and the Alumni Travel Study Program or through local events on campus, such as Café Columbia and the seventh annual CAA picnic on South Lawn, where close to 500 Columbians partied into the wee hours of the afternoon. Coming up in a few months will be our 2013 adventure in the trade routes of Coastal Iberia (Lisbon, Gibraltar and more).

Café Columbia was in top form recently with exciting lectures, including “Probing the Mysteries of Dark Matter and Black Holes with Antimatter” (September 10) and “Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination” (October 1), to entice the attendees. The crowds keep getting bigger and bigger.

At the Columbia University Club of New York in midtown on September 20, Dean Jim Valentini shared his vision for the College and undergraduate education at Columbia and his priorities for the coming year. The dean was warmly received and answered an array of questions.

What started out as a $15 English language course in 503 Hamilton Hall for immigrants in New York City has evolved into a robust linguistic and cultural curriculum — the American Language Program — and is attracting students from all 50 states.

Paul Auster ’69, ’70 GSAS not only has come out with a new book (reflections on his life called *Winter Journal*) but also appeared in a full-page interview in the *New York Daily News*, speaking about his “love affair” with the New York Mets. (Interesting reading about New York’s other team.)

It’s time for applications to flood the Admissions Office as the Class of 2017 begins seeking the coveted spots at the College. Part of the process includes interviews with alumni through the Alumni Representative Committee. Throughout the country and the world, alumni evaluate prospective applicants. We’re pretty close (mid-December) for early decision results.

Let’s get to our classmates, who are active in their many interests.

**Barry Pariser** recently was elected to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. The saber weapon all-star led the fencers to the national team championship in his senior year and was outstanding in his preliminary years at Columbia. Others on that squad were Mort Civan (epee) and Stan Zinberg (foil). The head manager was Lee Rodgers.

We received our periodic call from Beryl Nusbaum in Rochester, N.Y., who travels a lot but tries to stay in touch with Columbia sports teams. The interest level is just as high for **Dick Kuhn**, who lives in New Jersey and practices law on Staten Island.

Another star athlete in our class was Enzo Lerman (until Chet Forte ’57 came along). The last tidbit we
hearing about Ezra was when he emceed a gala for the Hebrew Free Loan Society celebrating its 120th anniversary in New York City.

Columbia is a small community — your classmates will run into Bob Bernton's son-in-law at a Columbia breakfast event recently. Those events are very worthwhile in terms of meeting and greeting other Columbians.

Our former Ford Scholar, Jerry Plasse, is moving to Idaho (Tetonia) to be closer to his daughters. Jerry and his family spent a long time in Owings Mills, Md. By the way, Tetonia is near Jackson Hole, Wyo.

The annual meeting of the Boys of Summer was held in northchester, hosted by Jack Freeman and attended by Ron McPhree and John Naley. Tom Brennan couldn't make it. Other nonclassmates who showed up were Charlie Brown '56, Paul Taormina '56 and Jim King '54. Oh, the stories that were told. Where was Walt Depuita and even Bob Dillingham?

Ed Francell, who lives in Atlanta, is looking forward to our 60th and is trying to find the whereabouts of Cincinnati's Tom Evans. Tom was Ed's first roommate in Livingston (later changed to Wallack). Harold Kushner is either giving fascinating lectures or writing books. His latest work is The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person. His fantasy is that it will be used as a resource for the Literature Humanities course ("Lit Hum" to current students).

Another classmate, another award. Jesse Roth, renowned diabetes researcher at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, received an honorary doctoral degree from the New York University Post in graduation of the Negev at the 42nd Board of Governors meeting in Beer-Sheva, Israel. Jesse lives on Long Island.

Everyone should take note that Bob Pearlman has given scholarships to both the College and Engaged for the past 15 years. We can't let this feat go by without notice.

Getting ready for our next big event (the 60th) is the West Coast contingent, some of whom are making a repeat appearance after the last go-round. The group includes: Broido (La Jolla), Bernie Kirtman (surfing in Santa Barbara), Charlie Sergis (our famous radio personality in Redondo Beach), Harry Scheiber (looking forward to the next crew reunion, as is Bill Mink, high school classmate Bob Brown) and Jim Hudson (whom we haven't seen on the East Coast in a while). We know Shelly Wolf (former Spec business manager) will make the trip, as will Bill Cohen (Los Altos) and Jack Stuppin (Sebastopol), who still is painting after all these years.

The 2013 calendar looks great. Another classmate has passed away. Our condolences to the family and friends of Sam Astra-chan. He will be missed. My fellow '55ers. Keep up the outstanding work you do.

Stay involved. Impress your wisdom to those around you. Love to all Everywhere!

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It seems that we are now the "traveling class," with more of our classmates retired or retiring, opting to spend more of their time and money in our golden years. As Jack Katz, our tennis champ, has said: the only reason he is still working is that he doesn't play golf or bridge. Well, we can add travel to that statement.

By the time you read this, my wife, Elke, and I will be returning from three weeks in China, Tibet and Hong Kong. We will be able to exchange China stories with at least two of our class members (and their wives): Sylvia and Bob Lauterborn and Judi and Larry Gin.

Our monthly luncheons have alternated between Danny Link's country club, Faculty House on campus, the Columbia University Club of New York and even the Yale Club, on occasion, when Len Wolfe makes the reservations and the club has an all-sports chair which my attendance has been good but we always welcome more of our local or visiting classmates, so please get in touch with me or Lou Hennemender (hennem@iol.com) with your email addresses so we can include you on the list. We especially look forward to seeing some of our out-of-town classmates.

Our September lunch at Faculty House included Ed Botwinick, who had flown in from North Carolina (in his own plane, piloted by himself) to attend a Columbia lecture on global warming and our luncheon. Ed, who had serious back surgery, is recovering nicely but slowly. I guess that is what we can expect at our age. We look forward to seeing Ed at our yearly Flora luncheon in February.

One event I want to mention is the October 13 meeting of Columbia College Fund Class Agents at the Annual Fund Leadership Conference, which was held on campus as part of Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend. Although this event was principally for learning about fundraising for the College Fund, our class hoped to use it to bring Class Agents into contact with "old class friends." I promoted it for what I would call "connect" or "reconnect" with College friends. This also was a good venue for starting work on our 60th reunion (3½ years away).

As an example, Leo Glass, who lives in Monticello, N.Y., does not have a computer (lots of stress eliminated) — so I send him class info by snail mail. His address is 20 Hammond St., Monticello, NY 12701, if you would like to contact him.

Now on to class correspondence and news.

Bob Lauterborn writes about what he calls the "fifth third" of his career: "The 'fourth third' came when, after 30 years in marketing and advertising, I was offered an endowed tenured chair professorship at UNC-Chapel Hill. I planned to stay 10 years but I loved teaching so much that I stayed 25! By then, I was getting so many requests from graduate business schools in China and India to do E.M.B.A. courses for them that I decided to become emeritus at UNC; thus began the 'fifth third' of my career.

"My wife, Sylvia, and I spent six weeks in China in April and May (my second trip this year) and as of this writing, I'm going back in August and December. In between, I'll go to India again and maybe back to Poland. I've now been in 20 Chinese cities.

"Many of my students are billionaires but know less about marketing and advertising than my undergraduates. That's not surprising; it's only been 30 years since Mr. Deng said it was OK, after all, for Chinese companies to go public. Did they respond? They know they rode a wave, though, and they're eager to acquire the knowledge they'll need to compete at a higher level globally. They treat us wonderfully. There are two things the Chinese respect: professors and old people. So I'm two-for-two."

Bob concludes by saying he loves to travel and looks forward to many adventures, including a Columbia-sponsored trip to Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands.

Donald Hornowitz, with whom I contacted when I was visiting Elke's son, Jeffrey, in Seattle, also has an interesting story. He was unable to meet with me, as he was spending the last part of the summer at his second home in Hawaii. As he said, growing up in Brooklyn, he thought to be rich. Did they ever respond! They know they rode a wave, though, and they're eager to acquire the knowledge they'll need to compete at a higher level globally. They treat us wonderfully. There are two things the Chinese respect: professors and old people. So I'm two-for-two."

Don, who was a member of the Glee Club, writes: "Speaking of the Glee Club, it appears that in my retirement a new semi-career may be in store. A few months ago, a good friend was appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court. He asked if I would sing the national anthem in the Supreme Court courtroom at his swearing-in. It was an honor to be asked. I did sing it, and that very day was asked to sing at the wedding of the daughter of a major public official. Recently, topping that, I was asked to sing the national anthem at a Seattle University varsity soccer game."

Columbia School Designations

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

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

WINTER 2012-13
Don concludes by saying the Seattle professional soccer team is also considering having him sing, and notes that if the Yankees are looking for a “new /old” vocalist, he is available.

Phil Liebson was nice enough to fill me in on the activities of the Columbia University Club of Chicago, of which he is an engaged member. All in the Chicago area, please contact Phil at philip_liebson@rush.edu to get an update on activities.

Phil also mentions that, as of this past September, he has become “hemiedemi-semi-retired.” This means more time for his other activities, including essays on medieval history, playing the piano (remember, Phil — practice, practice, practice!) and staying active in his profession as a cardiology consultant. In the travel department, Phil and his wife, Carol, spend two weeks each summer on Cape Cod.

Ron Kapon, our peripatetic oenophile, will have the Ron Kapon Wine Library & Ron Kapon Wine Lab dedicated by Fairleigh Dickinson at its Teaneck / Hackensack, N.J. campus. Ron has contributed more than 5,000 books, manuscripts and related articles, making it the second largest private collection on the subject in the United States. As I have stated, Ron is a great resource for anything to do with wine and fine dining.

Jack Katz has opted for continuing to work. As mentioned at the outset of this column, he does not play bridge or golf, although he is our class representative in charge of planned giving. As the end of the year approaches, it may be a good thing to explore some of the advantages of Columbia giving through either annuities or deferred gifts. If you are so inclined please email me at ball8000@earthlink.net and I will be happy to give you the benefit of my knowledge and experience with the programs available in touch with the majority of our class members. Please be a part of our reconnect mission.

To the winterbirds and the snowbirds, have a wonderful season of health and good fortune for the holidays.

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Mac Gmsme, the Professor Emeritus of Art at St. Olaf College, recently was an adviser to a Northfield, Minn., honors art group of students under a Legacy grant from the state; Mac also was the grant administrator. He said that the grant “gave us funds to show what teenagers will do when set loose to express themselves, a triumph of youthful exuberance ….. The young sculptors volunteered for an optional, non-credit, extracurricular sculpture project. They gave it time they did not have, and thought and worked beyond their reckoning. They each feel a genuine sense of achievement ….. These are bright, talented teenagers who are active in everything: theater, music, sports and community. [There were neither] drugs nor alcohol nor shirking duty. Several parents pitched in to get the grant work finished during final exams, which made it a broader collaborative ….. The process also included city planners and engineers, as well as development, cultural and library people, so it’s more complicated than getting elected to office.”

The result was a 14-foot “Tree of Knowledge and Delight” that now stands in front of the Northfield Public Library.

Mac also expressed regret at not having been able to attend this spring’s reunion because of his responsibilities for the project, which was formally dedicated on June 1.

Lawrence Merrion writes, “I am a retired architect, living with my spouse, Judy, and am near my three sons and nine grandchildren. We travel whenever the opportunity arises, such as spending last Christmas on a weeklong Caribbean cruise out of San Juan. We find the San Francisco Bay area to be one of the most pleasant areas in the world, for both climate and variety of activities. I lived in Berkeley 30 years, directly across the street from my friend Eric Gran, and look forward to returning to NYC, perhaps for the 60th.”

Gene Wagner reports the passing of Ken Silvers, loyal member of the Southern California lunch group. Ken’s widow, Jessica, has given us a most moving tribute: “Ken always talked about his experience at Columbia. He continually talked about the Core Curriculum and, because of his education, was able to live a rich and rewarding life, both professionally and personally. Ken was an avid reader. He took up clay sculpture many years ago and became quite good at it. We always traveled with our kids when they were growing up: China, Europe, Africa, Israel, Mexico. Later, we had exotic trips to India and Peru. As Ken’s health and mobility became less stable, we took cruises all over the world. He was truly the most generous, kind and caring person I’ve ever known. He adored his family — two daughters, their husbands and our four grandchildren. As many years Ken was on staff at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute; in the 1970s and ’80s he ran an inpatient adolescent ward. He supervised residents and child psychiatry fellows. He then went into a more full-time private practice, but he continued to supervise child psychiatry fellows as a member of the clinical staff. “Ken continued his private practice, seeing patients at home during his last year. As a psychiatrist and teacher he touched so many people’s lives in ways, so they tell me, for which they will always be grateful.”

Jessica would appreciate classmates’ contributions in Ken’s memory to the Columbia College Fund. You can do so by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline, by calling the Alumni Office at 212-851-7488 or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4330, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10027. Please note on your check or in an accompanying note that the gift is in Ken’s memory.

Norbert Hirschhorn ’58, who lives in London and Beirut, has published his third collection of poetry, Monastery of the Moon.
For those in the New York area, the class lunch is held on the second Wednesday of every month, in the Grill Room of the Columbia University Club of New York, 15 W. 43rd St. ($31 per person). Email Art Radin if you plan to attend, up to the day before: aradin@radinglass.com.

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It is with great sadness that I pass on the information that George R. Carmody, a biology professor and DNA evidence expert living in Ottawa, Ontario, died on June 13, 2011.

Alvin Halpern writes, “My wife, Mariarosa, and I have now been to Spain. The trip from Malaga to the University Club of New York, 15 W. 43rd St. ($31 per person). Email Art Radin if you plan to attend, up to the day before: aradin@radinglass.com.

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continue my Beethoven and Byron research and recently sent off another Beethoven article to the Bonner Beethoven-Studien. Sixty-three pages (single-spaced) and they expressed interest. I’ll be submitting this year after 26 years as joint president of the International Byron Society.”

John wrote a second time, after attending the society’s annual conference in Lebanon in July. “We were in Europe for five weeks, including 10 days in Lebanon for the Byron conference … We spent a week in Vienna doing my Beethoven research and about the same amount of time in Bonn and its magnificent Beethoven-Hauss Digital Archives.”

Matt Sobel says, “Early in the summer, I was punished for my longstanding interest in economics by being appointed chair of that Digital Archives.”

“Beethoven research and about the same amount of time in Bonn and its magnificent Beethoven-Hauss Digital Archives.”

“Beethoven research and recently sent off the summer I canoed a ‘wild and scenic’ portion of the Missouri River in Montana (the White Cliffs) with my grandsons. Yes, I confess, their parents insisted on accompanying us, but the six of us had a grand time.”

We hear from Lewis Fineman, “This summer my wife, Ann, and I again volunteered at Kenai Fjords National Park in Seward, Alaska. This was our eighth season volunteering in this beautiful place; we work in the Nature Center near Exit Glacier, lead guided walks and rope the trails. We are fortunate to volunteer here because it enables us to spend time with our grandchildren, who live in Anchorage with our son, Mark, and his wife, Sarah. We are snowbirds, spending six months in Alaska and six months at our home in Hollywood, Fla. Lucky us.”

R. James Alster sent a long report. Part I follows, with other installments planned for future issues: “Somehow, unaccountably way past the 50 years buy-in age, I live way up north here on the south Jersey shore in this pseudo-paradise of a Florida-style retirement community that — absent Florida’s balmy winters — is one of my favorite places. Despite having been bedded by our community’s governing board in protest against the injustice, I provided throw-of-the-dice-driven your passing along a trail perilously strewn with all the shame inducements that would either advance your being first finish-line exculpated or regress you towards your shameful beginning. The small print at the bottom of the game board notes that in mimicry of the samizdat protest literature sent out to the west by the suppressed dissidence of Soviet authors I was providing a samizdat board game. True to my expectation the biggest joke of all was provided by the game’s exhibit-day removal suppression by our community’s governing board chairman on the grounds of its inappropriateness — meaning its publicizing the shameful extent to which my protests had been yearlong ignored — sort of like K’s appeals to Kafka’s Castle. When I told him — a really nice guy who’d been an Amoco marketing v.p. — that he’d behaved just as a culture commissar in the Soviet Union would have, he’d not been able to grasp the comic surreality of his role. When I’d once earlier teased him that marketing was a hoodwinking trade he’d replied that he’d always seen his function as being informational — and with no hoodwinking intent even if it’d entailed always his putting forth only the positive side of any product that needed boosting.

“I continue writing my long fictions that I make no effort at getting published. My latest titles in the works are i narcissus — [my too late adolescence too soon cut short] and my Self-Same Real Emsedick Head kills.”

I have sent the complete versions of the truncated submissions via e-mail to those for whom I have e-mail addresses. If you don’t get my e-mails please send your e-mail address to me at nmgc59@gmail.com.

Robert A. Machleder
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David Farmer, in “retirement” in Maine, sends this update on his life of leisure: “I have two paying jobs, in addition to my volunteer work with two nonprofit boards. This is my ninth year teaching art history at the Rockland University College (known as UMaine-Augusta, a satellite of the University of Maine-Augusta. The students are degree candidates and range from the usual college age to, shall we say, mature — older people changing direction or finally getting that degree after years of something else. As most are there to satisfy a humanities requirement, my challenge is to engage them in a new and different subject.”

“Last spring, I had a slightly different challenge: teaching the first semester of an introductory course (‘Cave Painting to Giotto’) at the Maine State Prison, the state’s principal maximum security facility, conveniently located 10 minutes from my home. It was an inspiring experience. Those taking courses (many of the incarcerated women) must apply to the program, as if they were applying to college. My group consisted of individuals mostly in their 20s and 30s, quite smart and engaged. They joked about having time to study but in fact were very ambitious and did excellent work. Their tests and papers were outstanding, and we had lively discussions in class; they were more responsive than my classes at URock.

“The state does not provide any money for this terrific program; it is entirely funded by Doris Buffett’s foundation, her principal philanthropy being here and at several other prisons, including Sing Sing. It was both encouraging to be in class and discouraging to realize that most of the prisoners who enrolled in nothing like it — and even those who were remained incarcerated as I walked out after every class. The prison is only a few years old, replacing a dungeon-like, 19th-century structure that must have been awful, and does not look unlike a basic junior college campus (although with razor wire). I really liked my guys; they were very polite and interested. Hard to think of them as convicts, though I’m hoping to do it again, when there is another group needing a humanistic program.”

“I’m also in my fourth year as director of exhibitions for my former institution, the Dahesh Museum of Art. Without a permanent exhibition facility, we are concentrating on organizing traveling exhibitions and sharing individual works in major exhibitions here and abroad. So, travel is a perk. Last year I accompanied 17 of our best works to an important and expansive Orientalist exhibition in Brussels, then accompanied
Jean-Léon Gerome exhibition in bed, which an expert from Colonial board for the General Henry Knox Williams-Proctor Art Institute in will be on view at Utica's Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute in collaboration with Syracuse ing tourists, with visits to Barcelona, Bilbao and Segovia (a real find; a delightful city).

The most exotic project was an exhibition the museum organized in collaboration with Syracuse University and presented in Dubai.

But this time through the ranks at one of my non-paying jobs and been elected chairman of the board for the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, Maine. The main attraction is a recreation of Knox's superb mansion, Montpelier, built in the late 1790s to plans sometimes attributed to Charles Bulfinch. Carefully reconstructed, it is spectacularly sited and is among the finest monumental houses in Maine. The museum has been able to redeem some of the original furnishings, especially the general's bed, which an expert from Colonial Williamsburg terms one of the finest period beds in its original location in America. The museum also is creating programs in American history especially the Revolution ary and post-Revolutionary eras. All you history buffs will recall that Knox was a famous general in the war, responsible for the incredible feat of transporting cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, allowing the Colonials to recapture the city, and was George Washington's first secretary of war. He was a really interesting guy who went from proprietor of a bookstore in Boston to self-taught expert in artillery in the American army.

Tom Hamilton's latest publica-
tion, The Mountain of Long Eyes: An Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy, was released in September. It comprises 28 short stories, including the title story, which involves a Native American shaman using magic to battle domestic terrorists at Kitt Peak Observatory. “Crime and Consequences” follows a 15-year-old girl fleeing her home planet, which is ruled by a tyrranical theocracy. In a sequel, “Beyond Space,” she has become a respected scientist who, with her husband, is beleguered by a would-be assassin. The assassin’s motive and the end of the attacks lead to a shocking finale.

“Why My Mother Hates Me” is a humorous piece that is balanced by the terror of “The Seat of Learning.” And that’s just five of them!

Sad to report the passing of Nelson Lyon. Nelson died at his home in Los Angeles on July 17 from liver cancer. He was a brilliant comic writer, movie writer and director, and an accomplished photographer. Nelson became a prominent figure in the counterculture. In 1966, while a writer and designer for a New York ad agency, he met Andy Warhol, and it was through Warhol that Nelson developed an association and friendship with writers William Burroughs and Terry Southern. Nelson’s portrait photographs of Burroughs have been featured in galleries. In 1971, his career on the rise, Nelson inspired Warhol with an idea for a cover that Warhol was working on for the Rolling Stones’ album Sticky Fingers. He suggested that Warhol incorporate a working zipper on the album cover’s rendi-
tion of jeans. Warhol, acting on the suggestion, was so delighted that he gave Nelson several of his works. By most accounts, Nelson received five of Warhol’s Marilyn Monroe prints. In one account it was a matching pair of electric chair paintings. Soon Nelson was working in Warhol’s studio, The Factory, where he wrote and directed the film The Telephone Book. The film, a sex satire about a woman who falls in love with an obscene telephone caller, starred Sarah Cornelis, a relative unknown, but also featured William Hickey, Barry Morse, Jill Clayburgh and Ultra Violet of Warhol fame. The movie, which was X-rated, was described by the Los Angeles Times critic as “bleakly brilliant,” but on the whole it received less than sparkling reviews. Forty years later the movie surfaced, was screened internationally and was hailed as a “lost masterpiece.”

Nelson went on to become a comic writer at Saturday Night Live and also appeared as “Mr. Mike,” a recurrent, rather forbidding charac ter in SNL skits. But his promising career at SNL came to an abrupt end following a tragic incident in March 1982: In a weekend of party ing at Nelson’s apartment, John Belushi arrived with Cathy Smith, variously described as a back-up singer, groupie and drug dealer. Smith injected Belushi and Nelson with “speedballs,” a mixture of heroin and cocaine. A drug-fueled weekend ended in the discovery three days later of Belushi dead in the bungalow he occupied at a West Hollywood Hotel. Nelson, under grant of immunity, testified at Smith’s trial. Smith entered a plea of guilty to involuntary manslaughter and several drug-related charges.

Although Nelson continued to write and for a time operated a business that made trailers for movies, his career never recovered. While his obituaries in leading newspapers, among them The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times, chose to focus on the scandalous event, those who knew Nelson best treasured their memories of an intelligent, erudite, educated and creative man. His close friend, Mark Mothisa, an artist and the lead singer of Devo, said of Nelson, “He was smarter than most of the people he worked for.”

Nelson is survived by his wife, Jill, to whom he was married several weeks prior to his death, and his daughters from previous marriages, Stephanie and Natalie. Our deepest condolences to the members of Nelson’s family and to his friends.

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Tom Bratter passed away on August 3. Marty Kaplan, Bill Binder man, Jim Melcher, Oscar Garfein and Jonathan Liebowitz attended the memorial service in Great Barrington, Mass. Marty wrote there were no surprises at the description of Tom in the eulogies: larger than life, colorful, always right, knew just what people should do. Tom’s life was impressive for how
he used his talents and powerful personality — and his deep, personal commitment — to help troubled teens. He bought the “Castle” in Great Barrington, Mass., which is now the John Dewey Academy, a residential school for kids, which he created and ran for many years. With his direct, blunt, frequently expletive-filled language; his own funding; all the knowledge he developed about how to fix the lives of troubled kids (whether they were accepted by others or not); and the nonstop support of Carol, his wife of 49 years, Tom built a career around an institution that succeeded in turning around the lives of troubled adolescents.

He got into that work, he said, when he became deep into drugs their best chance to avoid a life of suffering, jail and likely early death. He pounded that point into kids and he did, in fact, change the lives of many — and they, in turn, would come back to tell Tom or Carol about the difference they had made in their lives. Many of the graduates went on to college. At least two entered Columbia College.

In short, Tom was truly heroic in the mission he and, Carol, set for his life, and successful in making a difference in the lives of many people. We should all be very proud of him and what he achieved. He also was a good and loyal friend to many of us.

Bob Pollack was honored by being included in Jewish Sages of Today: Profiles of Extraordinary People. Working on the premise that we are motivated by the meaningful accomplishments of others, the foundation Targum Shlishi produced the book to bring to readers’ attention the remarkable achievements of several individuals who are doing important work in the Jewish world.

Bob wrote this is the nicest honor he has received in a while. The foundation has launched an engaging and interactive companion website (jewishsagesoftoday.com) that complements the book with a wealth of content. The website includes a robust section on each of the people in the book along with an innovative teacher’s guide adaptable for students in grades 7 through university and adult studies.

Phillip Smith ‘69 Arch. and his partner, Douglas Thompson ‘70 Arch., who met at the Architecture School, have a new monograph, Qualities of Duration: The Architecture of Phillip Smith and Douglas Thompson, which was published in September. Qualities of Duration is the first book to chronicle Phillip and Douglass’ complete body of work, with 350 illustrations and text by architectural historian and critic Alastair Gordon. It is available at bookstores and online. They are already at work on volume two, which will continue the overview of their projects, both those being finished and those “on the boards” for the next few years. One of their current residential projects is a modernist remake featuring weathered steel siding for Steve Simring and his wife, Sue, in Tenafly, N.J. “Retirement is not in our vocabulary,” says Phillip, “given how much pleasure we take in the creative process of each and every new project.”

Arnold Klpstein retired after more than 41 years of practicing as a gastroenterologist in Manchester, Conn. After retirement he plans to spend time teaching and writing, and to provide services to agencies when and where he wants without the hassles of running a practice. Arnold attended a gastrointestinal medical meeting in Las Vegas, had the family visit from Kansas and California for Thanksgiving, and then took them to Cambodia and Thailand. He says he is engaged to a most wonderful lady to share life’s adventures with.

and an Albert Wertheim Fellowship to a graduate student as well as hosts the Albert Wertheim Seminar in Performance each spring. The seminar brings distinguished scholars and practitioners in the fields of theatre and performance studies to present new work to faculty, graduate students and the larger Bloomington community.

Jim Cooner and his wife, Kathy, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner attended by their four children and their spouses, and their eight grandchildren. Friends at the dinner included Ed Kosberg ’63. Jim and Kathy have traveled extensively, especially since retiring 12 years ago as a senior v.p. at the Bank of New York. They have been on all the continents including Antarctica, cruised all the oceans and visited more than 70 countries.

John Lipani wrote that at our 50th reunion, he viewed the publication Dave Schwartz, Steve Leone and Jim Amimeen promised to gather for a round of golf. They finally got together in late August. Dave was low man despite the fact that he only brought his “B” game. He claimed his “A” game was in for repair! See nearby for a picture of the fearsome foursome.

Barry McCallion and his wife, Joanne, traveled to the Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu this fall. They have traveled to Mongolia, Turkey and India with the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program and enjoyed the trips immensely. Barry has always worked as an artist and now is making and showing a series of artist’s books, represented by Priscilla Juvelis Rare Books.

Morris Dickstein published a piece on Dwight Macdonald, Gore Vidal and Delmore Schwartz this past summer, as well as, more recently, an essay, “Wrestling with the Angel”; it appears in The Critical Pulse: Thirty-Six Credits by Columbia Book Critics.

Dan Johnson reported that his wife of 53 years, Nancy Wells Johnson, passed away in January 2012. Because they were one of few couples married while in college, many classmates will remember Nancy from visiting him in their West End Avenue apartment and possibly enjoying meals of Mrs. Paul’s “gourmet” fish sticks or navy bean soup. As part of Dan’s grief work, he plans to visit and socialize with family and friends, including Ira Hayes, Phil Smith and Andy Smith ‘62.

Two untimely classmate deaths were reported: Louis R. Tomson, attorney, of New Scotland, N.Y., passed away on May 19; and Edward R. Hotelling, retired pilot, of Somis, Calif., passed away on May 21.

It’s another diamond day here in Middlebury. Vt. Cloudless skies, smooth southerly breezes. Warm in the sun; cool ‘neath the maples. We had a magnificent summer.

Several classmates did not attend our 50th reunion sent emails that arrived too late to appear in the Fall issue.

Bob Meyers writes, “I didn’t attend for a number of reasons. I had really lost interest with the classmates that I knew during the years and would hardly remember anyone. But the main reason is that I’m slated for open heart mitral valve repair surgery in early July and am working on getting myself in the best physical and mental shape in preparation for it. The long flights and testings would’ve been a serious distraction and challenge. Maybe our 55th?”

On September 16, Bob reported that he had the surgery at Stanford Hospital. Despite having to spend several nights the hospital, Bob’s mental and physical preparation stood him in good stead and now is helping speed his recovery. As of this writing, he was looking forward to returning to his exercise routine at the end of September. You can reach Bob at mmeyersa@rvt.com.

George Graff reports, “Sorry I couldn’t make it. I had an unbreakable family obligation. But, if you and others from the class ever get together in the New York area, I would love to join you. We all have much to talk about. At the moment (late June), I am on a sailboat in Chesapeake Bay with my wife, Judy, and two of my sons. Life is good.”

Anthony Valerio writes, “Was in Europe, so missed our reunion, which I’m sure was great. I have news about my new work, a book in-eorm titled John Dante’s Inferno: a Playboy’s Life. John Dante (adopted name) was a friend of mine who passed in ‘03. He worked and lived within the Playboy empire for 40 years. His housemate and good friend, 3hel Silverstein, also a friend of mine, wanted to write a book about it. Then they both passed, and I’ve written it for us now.”

John Boatner, who was in New York May 28–30, says, “I had planned to attend the reception at the home of President Lee C.
was that my Jewish identity was important to me, as was Israel. I could not imagine what would have happened had Israel lost the war. Thus the survival of Israel’s survival became a focus of mine. Eventually I concluded that the most important factor to her survival was people; Israel needed a larger committed population. As I was still single and had no obligations to sense to follow my beliefs and move there, which I did in January 1972.

“I spent most of my career here as director of the North American desk of the Aliyah Department, promoting and processing immigra
tion to Israel. I was lucky; I spent my professional life living out my beliefs.

“I was also lucky personally. I married a lovely Israeli woman, Ahinoam, and we have two sons, Amiati and Assael. In retirement, I’m closely involved with the North American immigrant association, the Conserva
tive Movement, tutoring in a local public school and, my most joyous accomplishment, the starting the Jerusalem Barbershop Ensemble, which has been entertaining audiences with music and comedy for 30 years.

“Again, I know I missed a lovely event, and hope to make the next one.”

Neilson Abeeel proudly reported the birth of his second grandson, Jasper Eliot Abeel Knoop. Jasper was born in New York on August 25 to Neilson’s daughter, Maud, and her fiancé, Stuart Knoop.

Allen Young’s most recent book, The Man Who Got Lost: North Quabbin, is now available. He took photos and we reviewed them together via computer and phone, so I was able to have at least a virtual look. I always hope someone will visit Israel and let me know, so that we can have some time over a cup of coffee.

“A brief summary of my life: My parents escaped the Holocaust, fleeing from Italy to the United States. The rest of the family in Venice survived by fleeing to Switzerland or hiding. I grew up with stories of life in Venice among the Jewish community. When I was 8, the State of Israel was born, and I remember wondering whether that meant we’d have to move again. One of my uncles fought in the War of Independence and later returned to Italy.

“Skipping ahead, in 1967 I was working in the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, when the Six-Day War broke. I was deeply scared and moved. When it was over, I began a process of introspection. My first conclusion Bollinger on May 30, but unfortunately — regrettably — I missed my connection on the Long Island Railroad from Smithtown, N.Y., to the city that day.”

Ken Lipper writes, “I contributed to our reunion Class Gift; however, I could not attend the reunion. I own Lipper & Co., which invests money for individuals and institutions in stocks, bonds and exchange-traded funds. I also do investment banking. In the latter sphere I recently completed a financing for a cosmetics company with JP Morgan and am a member of the special committee evaluating and negotiating the Fiat Industrial/CNH merger. I am writing a book/scriptplay for four major films and won an Academy Award. I live in Greenwich Village and East Hampton.”

Carl Jakobsson sends this note: “I did not make it to the reunion because I live on the West Coast and the round-trip to New York at this time was out of my price range. I would have liked to have made it, because Columbia is a great university, which is something I am not least appreciate where I was there. But I can appreciate now that it takes a lot of effort and teamwork from a lot of people to put together and operate a university like Columbia.”

As you may recall from last issue’s notes, Joe Romanelli missed our reunion even though he had flown from Israel to join us. His son and daughter-in-law had a son, and Joe returned to Jerusalem for the bris. Later in June, Joe sent the following, which deserves quoting in full: “I was so sorry to have missed the reunion. Harvey DeBonis visited him two days before his passing, when George again seemed to be stabilizing. George wrote that George ‘was happy to hear details of our reunion and delighted to receive one of Mike Stone’s [reunion] mugs. Those who knew him well will remember George for his kind and generous spirit, and will cherish the memory of his loving friendship.’

George had worked hard on the Reunion Committee to make our gathering the splendid event it was. At Columbia he was a member of the Ivy League championship football team of 1961, the Glee Club and Beta Theta Pi. He was born in Worcester, Mass., and returned there after graduation to join the insurance company his parents established in 1940, G.M. Abodeely Insurance. For 46 years George was its president. He was known throughout New England for his knowledge of surety, and provided surety bonds to numerous construction projects, including the first two phases of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, sections of the Massachusetts Turnpike and many public and educational buildings. George is survived by his daughter, Jacqueline, of Boston. He loved fly-fishing with friends in Canada, Scotland, Alaska and New England as well as hunting, reading, cooking and travel. He was a licensed pilot, a member of The 200 Foundation in Framingham, Mass., which supports mental health services, and a lifetime member and past board member of the YMCA of Worcester.

As Ed Pressman wrote, “George and I got closer at our 25th, and we really interacted at our 30th. When Columbia had that excellent football team in ’96, I went to every game, home and away (except at Dartmouth, Columbia’s first loss that season). On the schedule was an away game at Holy Cross in Worcester. I called George the wonderful man. He will be sorely missed.”

REUNION WEEKEND

May 30—June 2, 2013

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You are probably reading this on a cold December evening, but don’t despair; the warmth of our 50th reunion is just around the corner, Thursday, May 30-June 2. If you haven’t been inundated with the details from Columbia, contact me right away, and I will make sure you are in the loop. [Editor’s note: Or update your contact information online (reunion.college. columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or by calling the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).]

This is the reunion that we believed, and hoped, would never come, but here it is, and it promises to be a wonderful time. I asked our classmates to let me know if they were coming and who they would like to see. Here are the early results.

Bob Morantz and his wife, Marsha, are planning to attend. He would like to see Harvey Cantor there. Mark Ramee and his wife, Diane, also plan to attend, as do Ken Master, Ina Malter and Charles Miller.

Gary Rachelsky writes, “My wife, Gail, and I will attend and are looking forward to seeing classmates (and spouses) such as Bob Heller, Phil Satow, Gary Toback, Rachel Levenson, Joel Felner and Peter Broido, among others. Gail and I are healthy and happy in our 47th year of marriage. We have seven grandchildren ranging from 2-15. I work full-time at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Cannot wait to catch up with all my ‘old’ classmates.”

Ina Epstein writes, “I am married to Gerrit Epstein, a retired high school English teacher. This December, we will celebrate our 43rd wedding anniversary. We have three children:...”
Beth, Aaron and Jan, and four grandchildren. I recently retired as a federal administrative law judge and have resumed my labor, arbitration and mediation practice.


Paul Kimmel has retired after 42 years of teaching chemistry at East Brunswick H.S. "I'm still teaching at Rutgers. I've been doing the evening general chemistry lecture there for 25 years. Now, with my EBHS benefits, I can do more to do at Rutgers. They gave me the job of administering the general chem course, which is a lot of work, as there are about 1,700 students in the course. I play the piano and do tandem bike riding with my wife, Jane. I drove 9,000 miles in 2011, and we're on target for about the same in 2012. We did a 500-mile group ride across New York State in July from Niagara Falls to Saratoga Springs."

David Orme-Johnson writes, "I definitely want to attend our 50th. I would particularly like to reconnect with Nick Zill, John Cornillón, Michael Schechtman, Dick Ostrofsky, and Victor (Bob) Margolin.

"I continue to pursue my life-long interest in meditation. My wife, Rhoda, and I spent this summer in Fairview, Iowa, at the University we helped to found in 1972 (now called Maharishi University of Management), meditating with a group of 2,000 people with the intention of creating coherence in U.S. national consciousness. Lord knows we need it. I know it sounds nutsy, but there are 50 studies showing it works, on several of which I am a co-author. I have a review of NIH-supported randomized control trials on the effects of the transcendental meditation technique for coronary heart disease coming out any day now in Current Hypertension Reviews."

Henry Black writes, "My wife, Benita, and I went to Kenya and Tanzania on a two-week Road Scholar safari. The wildlife was as memorable as you might expect: lions, zebras, baboons, elephants, a crocodile, a leopard, a rhino, hippos, wildebeests, ostriches, eagles, banded mongooses, hyraxes, flamingoes, giraffes, hyenas, egrets and more. The vistas were truly awesome (sorry, but here the word is appropriate). We visited Olduvai Gorge, where the Leakeys began and did much of their work. Then we spent two weeks at our summer retreat at the Chautauqua Institution.

"As a transfer student and having spent only two years at Columbia, I unfortunately did not get a chance to get acquainted with many of my classmates. I did, however, contribute in a small way by submitting photographs to our yearbook. I do not know how many of you saw them used. The new curriculum certainly kept me very busy. It turned out to be the most challenging and the best educational experience of my life. After receiving my medical degree from NYU and completing residency there, I got married. I spent two years in the USAF in North Dakota, where we had our two children. During the next 32 years, I was in the private practice of surgery in New Jersey and subsequently spent time traveling for four years, performing locum tenens surgery throughout the United States. I retired in 2011. I am now fully enjoying my passion for photography, which started at 13, music and reading. We travel often, and enjoy the time we spend with our sons, family, and most importantly our grandson.

Alexis Levetin will be in Europe and will not be able to attend reunion. He writes, "What a bummer! "This fall semester I am touring the country with prize-winning Brazilian poet Salgado Maranhao. We are giving bilingual readings from his book Blood of the Sun (Milkweed editions) at more than 50 institutions. It should be fun."

Charles R. Cantor writes, "I have noted the date, but, since I'm not really in control of my calendar, I have no idea if I will actually be able to attend the reunion. I am the chief scientific officer of Sequenom in San Diego. After a decade of development we have finally launched non-invasive prenatal diagnostic testing for Down Syndrome and the other common human aneuploidies. I am happy to report that we are already sparring tens of thousands of pregnant women each year from having to undergo invasive tests.

"Sy Moskowitz is professor of law at Valparaiso (Ind.) Law School, where he teaches constitutional law and other subjects. He has taught in numerous places and currently is teaching law in Chile. Sy is active in several national organizations, and remain an avid outdoorsperson, having climbed in the Himalayas, Mt. Kilimanjaro and other places.

"Bob Shlaer writes, "I just now reading the latest CCT Class of '63 notes (Fall issue), and with delight discovered that we have a month, my book, Daddy, Tell Me a Story (This Is My Story and I'm Stretching It) has been released through Amazon. It's a memoir, laced with stories about famous and/or fascinating people in the arts and sciences whose paths have crossed mine." [Editor's note: See profile on Kessler in this issue.]

Alan Wilensky writes, "I plan to be at our 50th reunion. I retired at 70 and now only work 40 percent of the time as a professor emeritus at the University of Washington Regional Epilepsy Center. This gives me more time to spend with my grandchildren, especially my newest of five, Norah, daughter of Alan Wilensky '72."

Nicholas Zill reports, "I produced and co-wrote a musical comedy political satire, How Obama Got His Groove Back, that is played at the Fremont Centre Theatre in South Pasadena, Calif., through Sunday, October 7. We have had a dozen reviews, mostly favorable, and audiences were laughing and loving it."

Mark Koppel writes, "I had knee replacement surgery in May to deal with 1971 accident damage. It went well and I recommend it to anyone who needs it."

Michael Bumagin writes, "I plan to attend reunion as, I believe, does Arnie Barkman and Gary Miller. I've been trying to convince Harry Lesch to travel in from Europa, Calif., that he could be a single parent with two rambunctious teenage boys and he's not sure he can leave them with anyone. If you have suggestions, get in touch with him. Maybe encouragement from another rower will carry more weight than a few rows more.

Harry, Michael's right! Let's get together all us old '63 oarsmen."

Conrad Levenson writes, "I apologize for not sending anything for years. I always mean to and then the business of life overwhelms everything else. I will celebrate my 70th birthday in January. Old friend Gary Rachelefsky and I plan to have a joint celebration meeting in the middle of the country, Chicago, sometime in 2013. I have four children, all overachievers. They range in age from 20 to 25. I have four granddaughters ranging in age from 3-10. The entire family resides on the Upper West Side, where I have remained since I arrived at Columbia in 1959."

"I have been married and divorced twice and have had a loving and rewarding relationship with my significant other for 16 years. I am an architect and sculptor. I practiced architecture full-time for 45 years during which time I had a private practice for 20 years that focused on 'social architecture.' I then spent 16 years directing the..."
Jerry Kessler ’63 Plays Cello for Bart Simpson

By Michael R. Shea ’10 Arts

Whether you know it or not, you’ve heard Jerry Kessler ’63’s cello. It’s immortalized in primetime reruns of sitcoms, in other Fox cartoons such as Family Guy and American Dad!, and most recently in the hit Seth MacFarlane movie Ted.

When Kessler graduated from Roosevelt H.S. in Yonkers, N.Y., in 1959, he had no idea what lay down the road. He simply wanted to “be successful” and to make music. He’d chosen Columbia both for its opportunities and its proximity; his father had died from a heart attack during Kessler’s senior year of high school. “It was the kind of thing, in those days, they didn’t know how to fix — but these days they’d change the plugs, points and condensers and you’d be back on the golf course the next day,” he jokes. “At the time, it seemed best to stay in town. I lived at home.”

Kessler started out on a premed track but quickly decided he didn’t have the zeal that drove his fellow students. So he made an appointment with professor Douglas Moore in the music department, arrived cello in hand and was accepted into the music program. He played in the Columbia University Orchestra under Howard Shanet ’39, ’41 GSAS, a professor, conductor and composer who later wrote an important history of the New York Philharmonic. He also produced 10 orchestra concerts, broadcasting them live over WKCR from Wollman Auditorium to the wider city.

With dreams of working in the entertainment industry, Kessler attended law school at UCLA; he graduated in 1966 and enrolled in the music program. He played in the orchestra for more than 20 years. His cello has been heard on other Fox cartoons such as Family Guy, and most recently in the hit Seth MacFarlane movie Ted.

When Clausen signed on with Zappa in 1972, Zappa asked Kessler to perform on the album that became The Grand Wazoo; later, he toured with the band in the United States and Europe. “He wrote amazingly difficult parts,” Kessler remembers. “We’d say, ‘We can’t play that!’ And he’d say, ‘Yes you can!’ And we did . . . Every May I’d call him to wish him a Happy Mother’s Day.”

The work also led Kessler to bus jobs — recording with orchestras, scoring television and film — all the while holding down a full-time job as an attorney. He met Hollywood composer Alf Clausen and worked with him on Moonlighting and the alien sitcom ALF. When Clausen signed on with The Simpsons in its second season in 1990, Kessler joined the orchestra on cello. “No one thought it would turn into much at the time,” Kessler says. “Last year we did the 500th episode, and there’s no end in sight.”

With Clausen, Kessler also has recorded music for Family Guy, American Dad!, The Cleveland Show and the movie Ted. He’s worked on other shows such as St. Elsewhere, Kung Fu, The Rockford Files and Hill Street Blues. His film scores have included The Shoes of the Fisherman, The Prince of Tides and The Jazz Singer. Some weeks Kessler might have five or 10 recording sessions for his various projects, other weeks he may have none. “The phone rings, you say, ‘Yes.'”

You show up,” he says. Pamela Goldsmith met Kessler in 1961 when she was a student at Mannes College of Music, on East 74th Street. When she moved to Los Angeles, they reconnected, playing music in the same circles. Both played for Zappa — Goldsmith on viola — and both were hired on in the early days of The Simpsons’ orchestra. These days they get together every few weeks and play chamber music for fun.

“That’s a guy who’s very good at a number of different things. A lot of musicians, even very talented musicians are, well, really dingbats or have lots of other problems,” Goldsmith says, laughing. “But Jerry, well, first off he’s my attorney and has kept me out of trouble for a number of years. Then, he’s a very fine cello player, a very fine conductor and he carries a certain joie de vivre that’s hard to put into words.”

Kessler has settled into semi-retirement, paring down his list of legal clients and performing with The Simpsons’ orchestra whenever it rings.

In 2007, he married his wife, Joyce. He has two children from a previous marriage: Jennifer, the education director at the Orchestra of St. Luke’s on West 37th Street; and Amy, who is close to completing a doctorate in physical education at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y. Kessler also founded the Topanga Symphony, outside Malibu, Calif., of which he is musical director and conductor. This past summer he conducted a performance with both his daughters soloing with the orchestra, and self-published a memoir on Amazon.com called Daddy, Tell Me a Story (This Is My Story, and I’m Sticking to It). “I’ve had a good run,” Kessler said. “Not that I plan to stop anytime soon.”

Michael R. Shea ’10 Arts is a freelance writer in New York City.

Jerry Kessler ’63’s cello can be heard on many TV and film soundtracks.
PHOTO: COURTESY JERRY KESSLER ’63
planning, design and construction of facilities for the Phoenix House Foundation, a large national non-profit substance abuse treatment agency.

Conrad’s interesting note is available in its entirety on the website, cc63ers.com, along with photos of some of his sculptures.

Said, one old friend who I had hoped to share a toast will not be joining us at our 50th. I recently learned from his widow, Anne, that Gil Einstein died from congestive heart failure. Gil and I go back as friends to before our teens, and I will remember him fondly. At one of our recent class lunches he re-galed Frank Partel, Tom O’Connor and me with hilarious stories, possibly true, of his days in the Navy. Reques in pace, Gil.

Remember, our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are a great place to reconnect. If you’re in NYC, try to make one of the next lunches, scheduled for December 13, January 10 and February 14 — it’s always the second Thursday. Check cc63ers.com for details.

In the meantime, make plans to attend our 50th reunion! And, as always, let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next.

NYU professor Richard Kayne ’64 will teach linguistics in New Zealand during the spring semester.

hatched their infamous plot during the American Revolution. The book has received excellent reviews. The Chicago Tribune called it a “vivid, nuanced portrait of a divided country in the bloody throes of transformation” and The Philadelphia Inquirer characterized it as “history with all the sex, suspense, knavery and bravery of a spy thriller.” In October, Steve gave a lecture on Shippen at Butler Library, followed by a book signing.

Joseph Prijatel, of Willoughby, Ohio, posts his poetry on his website endlessnightfall.com. The name comes from “a haiku I wrote that is sometimes subtitled ‘Old Man’; a winter day’s/dream of snow/the endless nightfall.”

Here is another: winter moon’s/supposed voice/icy tears.

I am saddened to report the deaths of Peter Shack and Nick Rudd. (See Obituaries.)

I learned from Fred Collignon ’65 that Peter died in July in California from congestive heart complications. Fred writes, “Peter was a good friend /colleague in college, and became a closer friend in post-Columbia life when he returned from the Peace Corps. I spoke at his memorial service, reflecting on his days in Glee Club and Notes and Keys, his solo at Philharmonic Hall while only 19, and other adventures, but I also noted how highly his work in anti-trust and nonprofit work was regarded by Columbia colleagues in law on the East Coast. The latter perspective was useful to his colleagues in the New York Journal-American, try to support ‘partnership people’ in the field.”

Peter died in July in California, where he is a cartographer. We meet the second Thursday of each month, and I encourage everyone to make it a point to join us.

A few days after the lunch, as I wrote this column, Marty Isserlis emailed to say he had arrived in Venice.

Steve Case, as previously reported in this column, has co-authored Trachneous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, the Woman Behind Benedict Arnold’s Plot to Betray America. To tell us more about the book, it recounts the life of Shippen, the 19-year-old wife of Arnold, who with British officer John Andre and Arnold

was a shock when I learned that he was so misinformed. My apologies by a book signing.

Fred Collignon — and I am pleased to

Among other news, Richard Kayne, who is a professor at NYU, reported that he will be off to New Zealand to teach linguistics during the spring semester. Bernard Catalinotto, Marty Isserlis, Howard Jacobson, Fred Kantor, Richard Kayne, Berl Lapson, Dan Schechter, Steve Solomon, Peter Thall, Allen Tobias, Marty Weinstein and Ivan Weissman.

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been feeling well for a couple of years. The doctors found blocked arteries to the heart, probably related to 10 years of diabetes, that could not be resolved by a stent — so off I went for bypass surgery the same afternoon. Sort of like getting hit by a truck!

“I was in the hospital for seven or eight days, then in Virginia to recuperate at the home of some friends until November 12, when I returned to Senegal. Doctors promised I would feel better than I had in years, which did not really happen. The recovery has been slow but I have been functioning well and taking it easy when I get tired. There are good days and bad days. I need to do more exercise and perhaps get a better cardiologist to follow me locally but I guess, overall, I am OK and lucky to still be around. Still love my work though it has become more difficult. Talking about retiring in mid-July. Probably staying in Senegal but I guess that remains to be seen.”

Ira Gomberg (ira@hq-creative.net) has embarked on a new career initiative. “After starting my legal career at Rosenman & Colin, I spent 10 years as general counsel at Sony Corp. of America, where I built the company’s legal department. I graduated to private equity, spending 27 years with P&G Capital until we closed our office this past January. In April, I started a new career when I joined HQ Creative, an Emmy Award-winning boutique creative agency, as COO. It is exciting to be part of a talented, creative, experienced, young and growing team.

“HQ provides a variety of services — branding, design, social media, advertising and brand extensions, advertising, documentaries and film (ranging from a 15-second television spot to a one-hour reality series, documentary or full feature), music scoring and personal get a snapshot of your company and range of services.”

Joe Natven writes, “My wife, Sally, and I returned from Spain in late May (had been away for a month). I’ve been teaching cultural anthropology and writing about art. For those interested in my take on art, my articles can be found at usatsandiego.com/weblogs/joenatven. I’ve been doing adjunct teaching of late at San Diego College. (At one time, with my law experience. I also taught lawyering skills — but I’m back to anthro-

Ira Gomberg ’65 has joined HQ Creative, an Emmy Award-winning boutique creative agency as COO.

Jura. We lived in Brighton, England; Philadelphia; and Albany as I passed through a series of postdoctoral and junior faculty positions on my way to becoming a developmental and evolutionary biologist. We settled in Westchester County, where I have taught and done research at New York Medical College since 1979. We have two daughters: Sarah, a curator at the Corcoran Gallery in D.C., and Erica, an environmental scientist at UC Berkeley.

“I specialized in the physical mechanisms of development, encapsulated in the textbook Biological Physics of the Developing Embryo, co-authored with physicist Gabor Forgacs. Compelling unfinished projects and indications of traction lately have advanced my work in this area — as well as in the related field of evolutionary developmental biology — have been disincentives to retirement. Indelible experiences as a student activist, starting mildly at Columbia, where on Jester we aimed satirical barbs at University expansion policies four decades before the Manhattanville plan was hatched, and intensifying at Chicago, where I was suspended briefly from my graduate program for participating in an anti-war sit-in, followed by the spectacular events of the subsequent years, left me with political views much closer to the Occupy movement than to any mainstream factions. In my own field I have agitated against premature and inappropriate applications of biotechnologies.

“I remained close to two Jester comrades, Richard Grossman, a social visionary sorely missed since his death last November (see CCT, Spring 2012), and Jim Siegel, a great soul and all one could hope for in a friend. Things seemed fun-

fers majors in business, computer skills, the paralegal field and many health care-related programs. The school is headquartered in Albany, with campuses in Pittsfield, Mass., and the financial district of NYC.

“Most of my contact with classmates has come as a result of being a former member of the Columbia band and my attendance at the 2010 reunion, which exceeded my expectations, which were high. I do hope to make one of the band reunion events if my teaching schedule permits. Whenever I am in the city, I try to get to Morning-side Heights to recreate the same feeling of awe that attended me on my first visit.”

Robert Price (rprice@springfieldcollege.edu) has entered his 34th year as a professor of philosophy at the faculty of Springfield College. “I will teach as long as I am connecting with the students. I think I’ll know if that stops happening. If not, I hope there are those who love me enough to tell me … I stay in touch with my roommate Mike Griffin, head basketball coach at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I’m working with long-term recovery from the tornado that struck my town of Monson, Mass., on June 1, 2011.”

I checked out Leon’s Aristotle reference. It’s “Those who know, do. Those that understand, teach.”

Neil Silver (silverd@designmation.com) reports that his translation and adaptation of Mao, Stalin and the Korean War: Trilateral Communist Relations in the 1950s, by pioneering Chinese Cold War scholar Shen Zhihua, was published in June 2012.
in Routledge’s Cold War History series. The book—a peek of which is available on Amazon— offers a post-revolutionary, revisionist, realpolitik, assessment of Cold War Communist diplomacy behind the war, and includes a critical introduction by another leading Chinese scholar. The translation and publication was before November 6, however.

On the long march to publication, Neil learned as much about publishing, 21st-century libraries and academic habits as he did about the Korean War. Before retiring in late 2005 as a Foreign Service officer, Neil worked in, on and around China, serving in U.S. embassies in Beijing, Tokyo and Moscow and working in the State Department on Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Southeast Asian affairs. Aside from a lot of post-retirement gym time, part-time consulting and translating work, and spending time with his children and his wife, Theresa, have hit the road in a number of one- and two-month self-guided bus and train trips through China, Tibet, Nepal/India, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America. This April/May they took their first retirement guided tour, to Turkey. “If you liked New York, you’ll love Istanbul,” says Neil.

Ken Rollston ’66 is retired and enjoying time on and about the trout streams near Lake Tahoe, Calif., and Big Sky, Mont.

Bart, working in Denver; and Coo- per, at home after being released by the Seattle Seahawks after scoring two TDs in preseason.”

Neil Brownstein is “enjoying the thought of our daughter, Emily Hamilton ’13, thriving in her senior year at the College. I am vicariously recalling my thrills and excitement of 47 years ago.”

Still retired is Ken Rollston, who is “otherwise living a thoroughly indolent lifestyle on and about the trout streams near Lake Tahoe, Calif., and Big Sky, Mont. Join me when the urge strikes. Tight lines!”

Pete Wermick writes, “I live in Niwot, Colo., and am seeing the world by teaching and performing in interesting places of late such as Russia, the Czech Republic and Ireland as well as all around the United States, from California to the New York island. I will tour the northeast soon with an all-star banjo player showcase (nybanjo.org).

“I launched a new business, The Wermick Method, under which I’ve now certified more than 40 teachers to teach bluegrass jamming to novices. Business is booming … we’re in 30 states and four countries. “All’s well on the family front, too—43 years now with my wife, Joanne. “Take a look at my website, dbranjo.com.”

Dan Gover “walked in the Alumni Parade of Classes at graduation in May and shared an umbrella with former New York Mayor David Dinkins, who was there for a grandchild’s graduation. He and I were the only ones I could see who had the good sense to be wearing Brooklyn Dodgers caps. We discovered that we had both seen Jackie Robinson lead 30 feet off third base at Ebbets Field. And I also had a nice reunion with Lee Lowenschmidt ’63, a noted sportswriter. Mark Amsterdam and I were the only two from CC ’66 who were there, so we carried our class banner. You other guys have gone the way of the Yumkee man.

“I teach in the English department at Kean University in New Jersey. My family and I live in Maplewood, N.J., a town full of former city folk. I’m formerly of Claremont Avenue and also West 109th street, around the corner from V&T.”

Jeffrey May “moved into a 55- plus community in Tyngsborough, Mass., after living in Cambridge for about 40 years. No more shoveling or mowing! My wife, Connie, and I have written four books for the Johns Hopkins University Press and we continue to work together helping building occupants with indoor air quality problems. Our son, Ben ’08, works for New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and our daughter, Jessica ’02 Smith, works for Social Security in Worcester, Mass.”

Locascio writes,”Since varsity wrestling at and graduating from Columbia, I entered Seton Hall Law and married my high school sweetheart, Sue Anne Forlenza, who, after putting me through my last two years of law school, delivered our only child, Tony. After clerking for a Superior Court judge, I became a trial lawyer, first with Wilenst, Goldman, and Spitzer and next with Drazin & Warshaw, where I became board-certified as both a civil and criminal trial lawyer. “After 22 years and more than 400 jury trials, I was appointed a Superior Court judge, where I sat in all three divisions (civil, criminal and family). After 17 years on the bench and becoming known as Monmouth County’s (New Jersey) settling judge, I retired and became of counsel to Gold, Albanese, & Barletti, where I mediate and arbitrate civil and matrimonial cases at the branch office in Red Bank, N.J., run by my son.”

Recently retired as the director of IT for the NYS Education Department, Dick Melita is “raising a teenage daughter with my sweet wife, Kim O’Brien, a judge with the NYS Department of Health. Continuous themes from the ’60s/ Columbia days are attention to music of all sorts, political activism and driving fast at local tracks.”

David Paglin “still lives in his hometown, Silver Spring, Md., just outside of Washington, D.C. Recently, his theatre project, Conscience Directive, has relished the chance to reconnect with two of Columbia’s greatest professors, renowned drama scholars-critics Eric Bentley and Robert Brustein. David has produced tribute events for each, at George Mason University and the Catholic University of America, featuring the plays and groundbreaking critical works of the two theatre legends.

“Brustein is 85; Bentley 96; both continue to thrive (in Cambridge and NYC), where they actively contribute to the theatre arts. This fall, David [was to produce] another theatre event in recognition of the School of the Arts (sadly, not yet created in its modern form when we were undergrads!), sponsored by the Columbia University Club of Washington D.C. If you’re a Columbia alum and would-be arts-supporter in the D.C. metro area, email me: dpaglin@aol.com.”

On September 13, a reception was held in the Columbia Alumni Center celebrating the exhibit of 200 of Michael Garrett’s 4,000 lions (a follow-up to Alumni Corner in the Winter 2011-12 issue). Here is an excerpt from Garrett’s remarks: “A great deal of the credit for the existence and 4,000-item extent of the collection goes to my co-curator and co-director of acquisitions (and restraint from acquisitions), my superb spouse of 45 years, Sandy Garrett.

“As most of you know, I started collecting lions when I was privileged to be the College’s lion mascot in the late 1700s. Jean de la Fontaine, in one of his fables, described well my time as mascot when he wrote ‘Dressed in the lion’s skin, the ass spread terror far and wide.’ In that same century, poet John Dryden also foretold my fate, writing ‘Roused by the lash of his own stubborn tail, our lion now will foreign foes assail.’ (I assume he was referring to the Princeton tiger.)”}

Season’s greetings to all. I am taking the reins as class correspondent from the capable and dedicated hands of Stuart Berdan, then serving for your many years of service.

So now, I am requesting your updates. A line or a chapter—please take a few moments to hone your expository skills and send something to me. You may use my info above or CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_notes.

Be aware that those whom I do not hear from may find themselves subject to my active imagination.

[Editor’s note: The following updates were sent to CCT this fall, before Forzani took over as correspondent.]

We begin with Calvin H. Johnson: “I’m a professor, teaching law at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin. I help run the Shell Project, which attempts to figure out how to raise $1 trillion revenue for Uncle Sam, with wisdom, when Congress is ready. [At this writing], it is unlikely that Congress will pull down any of our shelf projects before November 6, however. ‘My four kids are all prospering, albeit too far away. Good news all, or in other words, no news at all.”

Roger L. Low writes, “My wife, Helen Bryan ’67 Barnard, and I have lived in London for more than 30 years. I planned to be in the NYC area from late October through early November to visit family and attend my 50th high school reunion.

I’ve found a second career in investor relations, helping U.S. corporations with their outreach to European institutional investors.”

Tony Helfet writes, “I am retired and live just north of San Francisco with my wife, Marje. We have three children: Kate, working in D.C.;
“Enough quotations. It is manifest that Columbia chose its anthropomorphic animal very well. The lion has been through the ages a uniformly powerful symbol in nearly every culture on the globe. Sandy and I have been fortunate to have traveled extensively and to have amassed examples from many cultures, in many media and materials, and across many centuries. Doing so is a joy and delight, and brings us closer together and closer to Columbia. Thank you all for joining us today to celebrate the continuing safari.”

John Sweeney Burke writes, “I had an avid interest in traditional American country music in high school. This intensified during college and in 1968 I had a book about old-time banjo music published, much of which I had written while at Columbia. During those years I also started playing traditional American dance music on the fiddle, sometimes with Arnie McCroskey, a wonderful fiddler (and fiddlin’ girl) in 1980. I married and lived there for decades. She is a great photographer, among many other things. In 1970, her mother decided to study genetics, so we headed for Seattle. When we arrived we discovered the town had just undergone the biggest economic bust in its history. My wife had a fellowship so we were able to rent a place and keep ourselves fed. “Within a month of our arrival I threw in with four other newbies (a guitarist, mandolin player and a banjo player and we started playing on the streets under the moniker The Old Hat Band, a name I appropriated from the days I played on campus with Pete and Arnie. The name fit well, as we passed a top hat with our band’s name on it after each show. “We acquired quite a following and the show grew uncontrollably, adding props and gimmicks along the way. Regrettably, my long suffering spouse soon found the spectacle of me and the band (and Arnie, who was an awesome hat-passer) embarrassing, and we divorced about a year later. “We had a regular gig at the Seattle Center all summer. We were paid but we also passed the hat, on the theory that it was an important part of the show. Flashy costumes came next, and we got a Model A Ford pickup truck that we decked out with a homemade canopy on the back that proclaimed us as ‘Dr. Avery P. Snoofull’s Wonder Cure Medicine Show.’ An actual wonder cure was added in the form of the patented ‘Flo Flue Teabag,’ passed out at the end of the show. “For the next eight or nine years we traveled between Missoula and San Diego, doing shows on college campuses, in small towns and any other venue that would sponsor us, mostly folk music festivals and clubs. Our product line grew with ceramic teacups (in the shape of a top hat with our name emblazoned on the front), Bone relics, curative teeth, a ‘Wheel of Misfortune’ used to determine the current price of the cure and even a rotating gravestone were added. Our best seller was an 8-oz. ceramic medicine bottle of ‘dehydrated water’ (instructions: ‘just add water, heat, insert tea, brew to taste’). “By the end of the ‘70s the bloom had faded from the rose of the counterculture, and the traveling minstrel phase of my life ended. I got a job and remarried (to Susan McCroskey, a wonderful fiddler and fiddlin’ girl) in 1985. I married another daughter (Erin, now married and living about 80 miles south of us) on the way. I snagged a job at a small software company called Microsoft and worked there for 12 years, retiring at 53 to a life of continuous fiddling. ‘Idly interrupted most days by long rides through the Markworth Forest (which adjoined our tiny ‘ranch’ in Duvall, Wash.). In 1987, we were blessed with another daughter, Elizabeth ‘08, a wonderful guitarist/singer/songwriter. All my girls joined me at one time or another studying Irish Gaelic, and Elizabeth and I still sing some of the great Irish songs together when she visits from New York. “Susan and I moved to Bothell, a Seattle suburb, last year and pretty much spend our days doing music. She’s a great Celtic-style fiddler, much in demand for dances and Scottish music gigs, and also teaches fiddle. I’ve been playing in a local bluegrass band, Ryegrass, for 10-plus years, but Susan and I also enjoy playing together at Irish music sessions. ‘ ‘Drop me an email if you’re passing through Seattle (johnsburke@msn.com).’ “Jim Matison is ‘not retired. Running five preschools in very low-income neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Loving it and changing lives. After 30 years in the business world decided three years ago to return to where I started in the 1960s: education. Visits and contributions welcome.’ “Stefan Rudnicket started his 19th year as a leader in the audiobook industry. Since his Grammy in 1998 for producing that year’s Best Spoken Word Album for Children, Stefan has been handling more narration. This August, with more than 300 book performances to his credit, he was named a “Golden Voice” by AudioFile Magazine, joining a distinguished who’s who of the top narrators in the field.

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**

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**Arthur Spector**
271 Central Park West New York, NY 10024 arthurspector@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 1968! Our 45th reunion is coming up, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. Sign up, call your classmates, plan to come. It will be enjoyable and more. That’s a guarantee. In the meantime, take a few minutes to ensure that Columbia has your correct contact information. You can update it online (reunion.college.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or by calling the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

Phillip Mandelker sent a wonderful note about his trip to Russia and Estonia. He writes: “Having been concerned by the long-range forecasts that we were in for a cold, wet trip, we were more than pleasantly surprised that but for about four days we were really able to appreciate the (almost) white nights and temperatures in the high 80s and 90s. “St. Petersburg is a beautiful city on its own. (I still have problems with the name and went around using Leningrad at least as often as St. P.) … We tried to get away from the tourist centers and get a feel for the city in its various stages, including the slums of Dostoyevsky and the very nice neighborhood of Kirovsk. The Hermitage collections are incredible. For the longest time, that was my only reason for wanting to go to Russia, and it is all it is cracked up to be. I must get back to see what it’s like in the winter. “Moscow is a whole other story. I never really had any interest in going but, as we were in St. P., we couldn’t well not go to Moscow. What can I say but that it’s a different world. Definitely not European; really is the entrance to Asia. A hodge-podge city, huge, powerful, anonymous, inviting to foreigners, expensive, feel of robber baron capitalism run amok. I have no particular desire to go back but cannot deny that one really must see the Kremlin and Red Square. Like Petra, no pictures can do it justice. “We were in Nizhny Novgorod, where it all started in the ninth century with the Viking Russian traders. I was always fascinated by that story and those of Alexander Nevsky and the Novgorod Republic standing against the Mongols. “Most impressive was seeing Russia outside of St. P. and Moscow. The new wealth certainly hasn’t spread much beyond those centers. Outside the (first) Kremlin and the Prince’s court area, it’s almost as if we were back in the Soviet world, from housing, hotels, stores and markets to dress, symbols, demeanor—or not quite that bad, but … “Tallinn and Estonia are gems. The very opposite of Russia. Tallinn is beautiful—a truly Gothic, north European city. One of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe, as it was to a large extent spared during WWII. Its citizens have put a lot of time, effort and money into a facelift since independence. Very European, friendly, welcoming, everyone speaks English. The whole country seems wired with free WiFi—an Israeli company did it (I know the guy who was in charge; he’s a friend and colleague) but the idea was Estonian. Also lots of Gothic architecture and Renaissance and Baroque music. We were there during the annual international organ
festival, with concerts held several times a day in various churches around the old city. The island of Saaremaa and old town and castle of Kuressaare (Arensburg during Teutonic and Hanseatic times) were lovely.

“All in all, very glad we did the trip — though Pat Dumont will be happy to know that, all things considered, I much preferred our trip to Botswana and South Africa last December. Also, while there are obviously many places we still would like to get to in Russia, they will have to wait until after the Namib desert and Drakensberg.”

Janet Furman Bowman 69E writes, “A lot of us ’68 folks are looking retirement in the face. Here’s my retirement story: Now that I’ve stepped aside from my pro audio manufacturing business, I’ve gotten involved with SCORE, the volunteer arm of the Small Business Administration, as a counselor. I specialize in mentoring new entrepreneurs who are inventors or have product ideas that they’d like to turn into businesses, which was my career path. This has been a very enjoyable form of volunteer work.”

“I also had time to indulge my lifelong fantasy: being a rock star. Well, maybe not a star, but close enough. I think my rock and roll dream goes back to the Walkers, a Columbia band often seen around campus or on Fraternity Row in the late ’60s (anyone know where they are now?). They were one of the first bands I saw up close and they were, of course, my peers. They seemed to be having so much fun, playing covers of that great ’60s music. I wanted to be one of them yet I hadn’t learned to play an instrument. Later, I did, and I’ve been playing bass guitar in one cover band or another for the past 20 years. My latest band is a Rolling Stones tribute band called Chick Jagger and the Sticky Fingers. Yes, our lead singer, ‘Chick’ Jagger is female, and she really does move like Jagger. You can find us on weekends, playing in sleazy bars and clubs in San Francisco. The atmosphere may be lowbrow and the pay isn’t much, but being on stage is such a thrill! I’m living that time of my life, living my rock and roll fantasy.

“My same-sex wife, Laurie, is, of course, my biggest fan and groupie. Incidentally, Laurie’s son — my stepson — Dylan Lowa is a second-year student at F&HS and has been bike racing for the Columbia team. You can check out Chia at (http://www.chickjagger.com).”

Janet, let us know when you are coming to New York City. And does your band need a pianist?

We learned that Bill McDavid has been named e.v.p., general counsel and corporate secretary at Freddie Mac.
group at the Young Israel of New Rochelle. We study one page a day (sides A and B) for a total of 2,711 pages over 7½ years (seven days per week). This experience has been extremely fulfilling.

"Furthermore, after 35 years of pumping iron, I gave up the weights for Bikram yoga (four nights per week) at Rich Pearl’s suggestion in January. My core muscles are getting stronger and my waist thinner. I also am an avid cyclist and ride more than 100 miles weekly (weather permitting) or spin in the gym. You might even see me as a ride leader for the Westchester Cycle Club. In addition, I ride in the Pan-Mass Challenge in August, a two-day double century ride to raise money for cancer research (pmc.org).

"My kids are grown, independent and married and have blessed me with two granddaughters, Lila and Maggie. Jason is married to Hilary Wurzback, a hospital social worker. He is an energy consultant at Booz, Allen Hamilton in McLean, Va., doing primarily government consulting. Adam is married to Mia El Hafi ’02 Barnard. They both are schoolteachers at the John Cooper School in The Woodlands, Texas. I have traveled extensively to Europe, Israel, Asia, Latin and South America. I recently visited with Larry Berger and his wife, Isabel, in Panama and Neal Handel and Bill Stadiem in Los Angeles.

"As I tend, I realize how rich life can be and reflect very favorably on the time we spent on Morning-Side Heights. For those of you who haven’t heard enough, just wait for the movie, The Life and Times of a ‘69er."

In September, Andy Bronin reported, "I am to be honored on October 11 at the Melanoma Research Foundation’s annual fundraising gala in New York City. I am receiving its Humanitarian Award. This may have something to do with my life’s work as a physician and dermatologist; or it could be a reference to my experience in humanities in 1665–66. Whichever, I am deeply honored."

"We are all, thank God, well. My son, Luke, is deputy assistant secretary of the treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence. A large part of his job, as I understand it, is to make sure that our government’s economic sanctions put maximum pressure both on both Syria and Iran, hopefully forcing Assad to step down and the Iranian government to abandon its nuclear ambitions. Let’s hope that both goals have been achieved by the time this item is published.

"I love practicing dermatology and plan to do it right up until they wheel me into the office, like in Weekend at Bernie’s. My wife, Elaine, is a happy docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. And though our two grandchildren, Luna (3) and Teo (1), are a Washington, D.C., which is a little bit of a hike from Greenwich, Conn., we know how to get there and we do so frequently."

Jim Eller is retired after 33 years as a corporate and securities attorney with law firms and bank legal departments, the last of which was Citibank’s. He enjoys traveling, reading and living in San Francisco.

Paul Auster’s meditation on life, including a bit about the College years, is too long to run in full in this column, which is presumably why Paul opted to publish his news as a memoir titled Winter Journal. I’ve read passages carefully chosen by Amazon’s “Search inside this book” feature. From the available excerpts, I was especially interested in Paul’s description of Carman Hall as an “austere environment, ugly and charmless, but nevertheless far better than the dungeonlike rooms to be found in the older dorms.”

Carman alumni: Does this match your recollections?

"I am writing in the second person, that “what you remember best about your room are the hundreds of books you read there and the girls who occasionally wound up with you in your bed.”

Andy Bronin ’69 received the Melanoma Research Foundation’s Humanitarian Award in October.

Once again, does this match your recollections?

As Paul was in Room 814(A) freshman year and I was in 815(B), I guess I was in an “Auster” environment, not thinking it “austere.”

Update: After filing my column, I saw that Paul is the subject of the cover article of the Fall 2012 Columbia magazine (magazine.columbia.edu). Congratulations to Paul, who made CCT’s cover in March/April 2006.

"As you can tell, I am trying all angles to generate news or views for this column. Somehow, my regular pleading does not cause enough classmates to come forward. If nothing else, please send your suggestions for how to extract news from our classmates, although I’d prefer receiving your news or previously unpublished reflections on our College years.

By chance (Paul will be pleased to read of this experience), Dave Rosedahl copied me on an email exchange with Bill Kelly about Paul’s book; they were trying to recall the name and find out the present location of a classmate referred to by Paul. Dave liked the book, saying, “I recommend Auster’s book — a little bit of nostalgia. Also, interesting to see where common experience of a group of folks have an impact, if any, on participants. As you might expect, Auster’s life and role-playing comport with several of my antediluvian notions — totally inconsistent with conventional wisdom of many of our classmate’s generation.”

Dave, when he wrote, was expecting the arrival of a third grandchild, was learning how to kayak and had attended chamber music camp this past summer in Ashland, Ore. Dave also reported consulting in Cairo, details of which appear on the website of his law firm, Briggs and Morgan. Dave consulted with the Egyptian Stock Exchange and the Egyptian Financial Services Institute, discussing the roles of U.S. financial markets and stock exchanges and their regulators. Dave also participated in a forum on how to improve corporate governance of Egypt’s public companies.

And Bill reports: “Fame and honors have managed to elude me, but I feel I’ve had a good life. Five years ago, I stepped down as a partner in a national law firm and took a position with Hartford Financial Services Group. I dispense legal advice on the time this item is published. If you have suggestions for how to extract news from our classmates, although I’d prefer receiving your news or previously unpublished reflections on our College years.

I was looking forward to attending the Homecoming game on October 20. In the meantime, here is the latest news from our class.

My old friend Frank Motley bragged that he is “already in the lead with the most grandkids (19) for Class of 1970, and now may be the first one with a great-grandchild! If not, one can always add ‘black’ and ‘from Indiana’ to set the achievement apart.”

Dr. Dow Zakheim notes, “Son Scott ’07 of Mich. has been doing a fair amount of international travel. His wife, Boccia, had their first child, Olivia Sara, on June 21. She joins her seven cousins.”

Professor Robert Luann now is “the proud grandfather of two grandsons, Matthew (3½) and Michael, born May 22. They live near Ann Arbor, Mich., just far enough away so that my wife and I cannot casually drive over to visit. In the meantime, I am desperately trying to finish editing a book on Islamic education in Africa.”

Mark Cmochia sent a long and interesting report, which I have excerpted: “My acceptance of a contract interpreter position with the U.S. Department of State not long after graduation, in spring 1971, put into play a series of events that defined my life for the next 40 years. My Serbo-Croatian language skills were quite rudimentary. Nevertheless, after a language test and interview, I qualified. Zarko Bulacić and I traveled on an extensive itinerary throughout
continental America for six weeks, from border to border and coast to coast. He was the president of Montenegro, one of Yugoslavia’s six constituent states. A non-dogmatic, he was a gentleman and a great travel companion. His major goal was to look for economic development opportunities for Montenegro. We visited many of America’s major cities and many of its natural wonders.

“The State Department’s program was intense and meant to make an impression on visiting dignitaries: local and state governmental bodies, together with host individuals and groups, did their best to extend a proper welcome. Sen. Mark Hatfield [R-Ore.] and Robert McNamara were among those we visited. Upon completion, we returned to Washington and said our goodbyes ...

At Portland State University, we had classes with a wide range of language students and their professors. One of them, George Kovic, an exuberant Serbian expatriate, insisted that I apply to its study-abroad program, held in Zagreb, Croatia. Fulbright funding was provided. I was 22 and had made two other plans, so I followed through and found myself at the Filozofski Fakultet in Zagreb with a group of 15 or so Americans, there to study language and history. It was September 1971.

In Croatia, a showdown was building between a new generation of professionally educated, reform-minded communists and the establishment, made up of old-guard cadres, the army and Tito loyalists. The Croatian Communist Party’s support grew with students, political activists and nationalists joining ranks. In late fall 1971, the Croatian Communist Party was purged by Tito but before violent student protests erupted, which lasted several days. They were forcefully put down by uniformed police units brought in from Bosnia and elsewhere outside of Zagreb.

During one of those nights, as some friends and I hurried out of harm’s way, I was overcome by the irony of the situation. Three years earlier, I was among thousands of young Americans who had made a stand at the Pentagon in opposition to a cruel and senseless war. I was lucky; things could have gone very wrong for me that night but they didn’t. The only repercussion was a visit by the secret police to the apartment I shared with two other Americans. I wasn’t there at the time but, aside from taking one of my class notebooks and rummaging through the rest, there were no scars. My roommates were terrified. The pair of agents, one large and physical and the other short and mean, ended their visit with the words: “We were here but we were not here.”

In 1975 I married a Brooklyn girl, whom I have two children: a daughter (20), who is an aspiring journalist in her sophomore year at SUNY Stony Brook, and her brother (18), who entered the same school this fall. Both are/will be honor students.

I was interned on Long Island after having worked 25 years in electro-industry export-import. In the early ’80s I took off a year from work and picked up a diploma in computer technology at NYU’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

“During the ’70s and ’80s, we built houses in Sullivan County, N.Y., and in my family’s ancestral village on Dalmatian island in Croatia. I spent part of summer 1988 with my father on his island. ... And what I worry about now is the future of Croatia, of the Yugoslav nation.”

Columbia professors, especially Joseph Rothchild ’52, ’52 CSAS, Tibor Halasi-Kun and Rado Lenoe. I was a motorcycle-riding, commuting student from Brooklyn so I missed out on dorm and campus life, where many bonds and friendships were made. I do remember some fine classmates although I really can’t call them friends: Eugene Kisluk ’71, Peter Sugar, Nick Prydochko and Steve Boatti. I’m sure they all did well in life.

Steve Stahler writes, “I am an astrophysicist at UC Berkeley, where I do research on the formation of stars. (Someone’s got to do it.) Several years ago, I co-authored the first graduate text in this field, The Formation of Stars. To take my mother’s advice, I did not set in the hills of the East Bay and Marin.”

Stephen Sossman has settled in Napa, Calif., where his wife is the head of school of The Blue Oak School. He is shopping a satirical novel, Clansse Rules, set in Vietnam during the war; writing, and beginning a publishing business, Inkonodast.

Richard Smolev has been a practicing attorney for nearly 40 years since his graduation from Northwestern University Law School. Richard is a special counsel at the New York law firm of Kaye Scholer, where he specializes in working through complex, messy corporate problems. ‘Offerings,’ his first novel, was due out on October 15; it draws on his keen eye for detail and his understanding and perception of what life is like for men and women caught in the middle of corporate and personal firesstorms.

John Dobbs reports: “I live in San Luis Obispo, Calif., and practice as a Jungian analyst there and in Santa Monica. I am a faculty member at the CG Jung Institute of Los Angeles, and I am the chairman of its doctoral program. My wife, Kristine, and I are the parents of our two daughters. Sonya is completing a zoology degree at the University of Hawaii, and Molly is attending the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, studying musical theatre and working in Glasgow as an actress.”

Philip Zegarelli sent this great note: “OK, OK … I have been under the radar a bit and admit to having been AWOL on matters relating to CC and Fiji, where I was house president for two years during the tough years. As you may recall, I also was one of the last NICTOT grads, stationed in New Zealand and Antarctica, then George H.W. Bush’s aide at the United States Mission to the United Nations. I’m married for 36 years to a Marymount Manhattan grad, Barbara, who will retire from the NYC Board of Education in January, working with deaf students. We have four kids (two married), one grandchild and two coming, but they are all scattered around. Around 20-plus years of money-center bank loan workouts, I started my own restructuring firm representing debtors. During all this, I was mayor of Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., for 18 years. I ended all that about four years ago and became the full-time village manager at Minisink Manor. Sort of out of the frying pan and into the fire but I am thoroughly enjoying myself. No retirement for me yet.”

Roger Crossland (U.S. Navy, Ret.) wrote: “As the single Navy SEAL officer in the Class of ’70, I am pleased to report that despite my specialty’s propensity to write, I have not violated operational security in the course of 35 years’ service, active and reserve, including three wars, two hot and one cold. This is not to say I have not written on naval matters (see dreadnaughts-bluejakets.com). This summer I was appointed chairman of the Connecticut Bar Association’s committee on military and veterans affairs. In that capacity I feel confident that I will be able to report to the governor that Connecticut is capable of rebuffing illegal incursions by the dread Knickerbockers who menace our western and southern borders.”

Ralph Allemano writes, “I am a director of IST Plus and involved in the United Kingdom. Of my four children, three are back in the United States: Alice lives and works in Brooklyn, Helen is seeking her fortune in Los Angeles and Laura has started her undergraduate career at Harvard; sadly she wouldn’t consider Columbia. Alexander is starting a Ph.D. in theoretical physics at Durham University (England).”

From Rick Marsh we hear: “My son David graduated from Williams College this past June. [As of this writing] he is a field organizer for the Obama campaign in Colorado, a crucial swing state. My wife, Barbara, and I are extremely pleased with and proud of him and what he is doing.”

As more of our class transitions into retirement or other reasons to believe that they have less news, our column is short. It will be longer next time. A Class Note can be quick, easy, welcomed and thoughtful. It is still great to hear from classmates. This is the first place they look in CCT.

Also, if you do not receive the ’71C eNotes but would like to, please email me.

Remember back 46 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. We are still connected.

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In the wake of reunion and the flood of news it brought, our Class Notes inbox is a little thinner for this issue. But we do have some nice news to share. Richard Marsh sends this great news that his first grandson, James Michael Dukes, was born March 29 to his daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, William Dukes. They reside in Madison, Miss., where Richard and his wife anticipate spending more time. Richard’s other daughter, Jeanne, works for NASA in the general counsel office in Mississippi.

Steven Beliovin, a professor of computer science at Columbia, has been appointed chief technologist of the Federal Trade Commission. In this role, which began in September, he advises the agency on evolving technology and policy issues. Describing his job, Steve noted, “The FTC, among its other roles, helps ensure that companies keep their promises about security and privacy, two areas that I have been working on for many years. I look forward to seeing how I can contribute.”

Before returning to Columbia in 2005, Steve spent more than 20 years at Bell Labs and AT&T Labs.
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By now we all have gotten used to the ever-present query, "When are you going to retire?" But at lunch with an unnamed classmate, I got an unexpected question about my ultimate retirement plans. He asked, "Have you decided where you're going to be buried yet?"

This reminded me of the morbid data quest I pursued earlier this year when I turned 60. The Social Security website had a table that revealed that a male who is 60 today can expect to live to 81.7 years old. I wondered what the life expectancy for a 60-year-old male was in 1970, when I first graced Morningside Heights. I was amazed to see government data showing a life expectancy of only 67! Those extra 14 years means that "60 is the new 46!" Party on, Garth!

A few columns ago I asked if anyone had more information on Mark Tessier, who died in August 2011. The CCT staff was able to find an obituary that fills in some of the details of Mark’s life. After leaving Columbia, he earned an M.B.A. from Harvard. Later Mark returned to his native New Orleans to join Howard Weil (the regional investment bank). The obit said that a male who is 60 today can expect to live to 81.7 years old. I wondered what the life expectancy for a 60-year-old male was in 1970, when I first graced Morningside Heights. I was amazed to see government data showing a life expectancy of only 67! Those extra 14 years means that "60 is the new 46!" Party on, Garth!

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Afro), David Spector (Wolfman Jay Lindsey, Ira Malin (nice look), Ed Vega and Jose Diaz, just to name a few I remembered. I noticed that many are missing. I assume they did not show up for the photo shoot?"

"Lots of classmate names above! Can I expect emails from at least some of you?"

Bob continues, "My family is well and starting to think about retirement. I have been a professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine for more than 27 years and still love biomedical research and teaching and am fairly busy the next few years." Bob moved to Iowa City, where he established a fellowship in endocrinology/metabolism. Dan also was on the faculty of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics before moving to Cleveland in 1986. He is active in the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. Dan earned an M.D. from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. After a year at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY, he moved to Iowa City, where he completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in diabetes/endocrinology/metabolism. Dan also was on the faculty of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics before moving to Cleveland in 1986.

June 10, with acting State Supreme Court Justice Michael D. Stallman officiating. Congratulations!

John Lauer has started a new career with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. After two years of "retirement" following 33 years in the pharmaceutical industry, he decided it was time to go back to work, especially with three sons in Houghton College at the same time. John is working out of the office in West Lawn, Penn., but still resides in Morgantown with Bonnie (his wife of 35 years) and six children. His oldest son, Mark, recently was married to Lindsey; both recently graduated from Houghton.

And this from George Freimark: "Denizens of Carman from our era will rejoice in the knowledge that 'Hairy Manny' (Emmanuel Kratsios '76E) lives! Yes, graffiti fans, our hirsute hero contacted me, after nigh on 40 years, via a well-known online business network. We met for a great dinner and reminisced about those we could remember, and some we couldn't. Manny is remarkably fit and endowed with a magnificent head of hair and salt-and-pepper mustache to match. He is president of an engineering firm headquartered in lower Manhattan. Manny was a fellow oarsman back in the day; he stays in touch with some of his old gang and, lo and behold, reached out to me. A wonderful moment. We all need to do more of the same more often, I believe.

George also reports that his first daughter, Olivia, finished a year abroad at the University of Mannheim, Germany, studying history and traversing the realms of Charlemagne. She returned to the U. of Toronto this fall. George's second daughter now is at Northwestern, where she rows for former Lions head rowing coach Joe Wilhem, head of women's rowing there.

Ira said, "It was great fun, and we were warmly applauded by students and parents. I urge classmates who can work it into their schedules to consider participating either at Class Day or Convocation. They won't be disappointed. It's really a hoot!"

You'll be reading this in December, when Columbia College Fund activities for the year will be in full swing. The fund surpassed its goal last year but each year, of course, we must strive to do better (as Dean James J. Valentini, in fact, has encouraged us to do). I've made my pledge and fulfilled part of it already. If you haven't done so, too, please consider a donation now, while you can also take advantage of it for the 2012 tax year. You can give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline; by calling the Alumni Office, 212-851-7988; or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

The Parade of Classes, which has become a Class Day tradition, now includes a Part II, taking place during Convocation, the welcoming ceremony held in August for incoming first-years. Ira Malin was part of a group of about 75 alumni and friends of whom had children entering the College and Engineering Classes of 2016 who participated. It's part of the ongoing efforts to forge more meaningful links between students and alumni.

Ira said, "It was great fun, and we were warmly applauded by students and parents. I urge classmates who can work it into their schedules to consider participating either at Class Day or Convocation. They won't be disappointed. It's really a hoot!"

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Kevin Farrell, a lawyer in private practice in New York, married Stephen Klein at the Columbia University Club of New York on
and Dr. Ira Steinmetz '78.


Neurologist Eric L. Fremed updates us with news that his two married sons followed in their parents’ footsteps. Eric’s wife of 27 years, Nancy, is a nurse practitioner, and older son Daniel is in his first year of residency with Mount Sinai’s vascular surgery residency training program. Younger son Michael is a second-year medical student at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. Daughter Ariel will graduate from Rutgers this year, and her younger sister, Jordan, is hard at work on her Columbia College application. Konrad Filutowski is the owner and CEO of the Filutowski Cataract & LASIK Institute in Florida.

Robert C. Klapper: My thoughts for this column return to my Art Humanities class more than 30 years ago. As highlighted in earlier issues of CCT, my second career is with ESPN. I host a two-hour radio show in Los Angeles every Saturday called *Weekend Warrior*. You can only imagine how much fun this is in the second largest radio market in America. As I write, this Saturday’s topic will be the return of Peyton Manning, after multiple neck surgeries, to the starting lineup of the Denver Broncos. While it is certainly my first career’s expertise as an orthopedic surgeon that makes you feel she is following you no matter where you stand in those hallowed halls at the Louvre. Leonardo’s trick (my theory) is in rotating her shoulders to the right, having her head straight at us yet her eyes look to the left. This trio of rotations is how he pulled off this ilusion. For me, this is also the magic of Manning and what makes him the masterpiece of the NFL.

So, my loyal listeners here in Los Angeles will benefit from a Columbia College education that took this simple kid from Far Rockaway and opened his eyes to a whole new world. In only that world can one relate the NFL’s greatest quarterback to the renaissance’s greatest painter.

Roar, lion, roar!
Ed Klees '81 has been appointed an adjunct professor at the UVA School of Law.

Along with me and Ed, participants at the meeting included Eric Epstein, Gerrard Bushell, Nat Christian, David Einhorn, Robert Davis, Gary McCready, Steven Greenfield, Matt Marsallo (staff member with the Columbia College Fund), Mark Momjian, Steve Coleman, George Wilson, Barry Rashkover, Kevin Chapman and Joe Keeney. Andy Gershon was unable to attend but offered to host a pre-reunion cocktail party on Saturday, December 1, before the 7 p.m. Columbia basketball game. Eric Epstein agreed to host a spring event and I have offered to host at my apartment a cocktail reception on Thursday, May 30, during Alumni Reunion Weekend, which runs from Thursday through Sunday, June 2.

Kevin Chapman echoed the sentiments of Ed Joyce and Eric Epstein when he said, “I would like to have some events jointly with Barnard. I have a vested interest, as my son is a student ’83 Barnard. Our 25th reunion was attended by 119 members of our class. We expect an even better turnout for our 30th.”

In other news, Eric Epstein and Michele Shapiro ’85 Barnard, ‘92, celebrated the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Esmé, in Israel. Esmé is a student at The Salk School of Science. Robert Davis is the Russian, Eurasian and East European studies librarian for Columbia and Cornell. Robert sent a link to a press release that explains the program: “Last fall, the 2CUL partnership between the libraries at Cornell and Columbia embarked on a new partnership program: sharing research materials and expert librarians in specialized fields, capitalizing on the strengths of each institution. Cooperating meant that the two libraries—which could have viewed each other as competitors—could enhance their purchasing power and research capabilities by pooling resources to provide content, expertise and services that would be impossible to accomplish acting alone. The first resource-sharing agreement involved Slavic and East European studies, with joint support for building collections and Columbia’s expert librarian working with the Cornell community. A year after the new relationship began, Cornell’s library asked users if it was working. The answer was resounding yes ... “Rob Davis — Russian, Eurasian and East European studies librarian at Columbia and Slavic and East European studies librarian at Cornell — is based at Columbia, but he visits the Cornell campus every so often to lead face-to-face instruction and consultation services. Cornell users can also subscribe to Davis’ e-newsletter and access him via telephone, email and video conference. Nearly all the survey respondents said they were not negatively affected by the fact that Davis works off-site, and several praised his expertise, conscientiousness and availability. Working with Cornell’s diverse faculty, students and library staff has been an intellectually rewarding experience. Responding to a kaleidoscope of research needs keeps one on one’s toes,” Davis said.

“There is a tremendous amount of interest in the progress of the 2CUL project among our peer institutions around the nation,” Davis added. “Substantial duplication between two major libraries means greater depth of coverage in foreign language materials. This is the key to maintaining a rich research resource base.”

Steven Greenfield was kind enough to send his 2011 musical albums. The top albums of the year is 1) Battles, Gloss Drop; 2) Santigold, Can I Make You Happy; 3) M83, Hurry Up, We’re Dreaming; 4) Gang Gang Dance, Eye Contact; 5) Frente Cumbrero, Frente Cumbrero Meets Mad Professor; 6) TV on the Radio, Nine Types of Light; 7) Tim Hecker, Ravelstich, 1972; 8) Asobi Seksu, Fluorescence; 9) Oneohtrix Point Never, Replica; and 10) La Vida Boheme, Nuestra. The full survey can be viewed at pernamentinconstancy.blogspot.com.

The online daily State Tax Today (a publication of the nonprofit Organization Tax Analysts) reported, “Michael T. Fatale, chief, Rulings and Regulations Bureau, Massachusetts Department of Revenue, was awarded the Paul Mines Award for Outstanding Contribution to State Tax Jurisprudence at the annual meeting of the Multistate Tax Commission in Grand Rapids, Mich., on August 1. Mr. Fatale’s outstanding contributions include a number of influential law review articles, several of which have been cited for regulatory affairs for Beaver-Visiteer, a leader in the products used in ophthalmic surgery in Waltham, Mass. Dave lives in Saugus, Mass., with his wife and children.

Steve Spence ’82 recently joined Further Lane Securities as a senior managing director. Further Lane is an independent wealth management firm in New York. Steve is managing the broker dealer expansion and new business initiative.

In September I had a wonderful dinner with Jack Hersch ’80E. Jack lives in Santa Monica, Calif., with his son and daughter and runs a credit opportunity hedge fund. He has been deep in training and recently completed the Berlin Marathon with a personal best.

Jim Gerks is co-chair of the Columbia College Fund’s Fund Development Council, of which I am a member, and we have been meeting regularly with Dean James J. Valentini. We hope that you will consider making a gift this year. You may give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline; by calling the Alumni Office, 212-851-7488; or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, N.Y. 10025.

Best wishes to all, and drop me a note at mcbuy80@yahoo.com.
Looking forward to hearing from more of you as our 30th reunion approaches!

Please send news to me at the email address at the top of the column or through CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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According to various news reports, Randy Lerner sold his majority stake in the Cleveland Browns football team. He is still owner of Aston Villa soccer team of the Premier League in England.

Michael Iachetta writes, "Life is good here in Texas. My wife and two young children are great blessings, and I enjoy my job teaching American government (and performing other duties) at a community college in Dallas. In my spare time, I work on perfecting the great arts of producing Texas barbecue, Tex-Mex and (of necessity) New York-style pizza. It's been great to stay in touch over the years with Michael Ackerman and to exchange an occasional email with my favorite Columbia professor, Edward Tayler."

Dr. Adam Dicker says, "Life is good." (Though in his case, it's a little warm in Philadelphia.) "My oldest child, Michal, is a junior at Barnard. My next two children have a few years to go. My wife and I celebrated 26 years of marriage. I enjoy running a department, taking care of patients, mentoring students and continuing my research."

Raul Trillo sends his sentiments to Sal in Dallas. "I am still at Baxter, responsible for our hospital and renal businesses in Latin America and Canada. We moved to Miami this past summer from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. My twin daughters graduated from school this year but, sadly, neither is going to Columbia (one is at Penn, the other at Cornell)."

Late last year, Mark Simon’s oldest child, William, had his bar mitzvah in New Jersey. Roy Pomerantz ’83, Jim Weinstein and Dr. Paul Maddon ’81, ’88 GSAS, ’89 P&S attended. His next one will be for his son, Oliver, in November 2014. Then another seven years, and his twin girls will celebrate. John Kang reports, "I am well and live on the Upper East Side with Sophia, my wife and interior designer extraordinaire, and our three kids. My oldest is a varsity fencer at Duke while the younger ones attend neighborhood schools. I have been a facial plastic surgeon for 18 years and recently opened a state-of-the-art boutique cosmetic and rejuvization center at 30 Central Park South, specializing in minimally invasive surgery and laser-assisted body contouring surgery. Any of our classmates who want to look ‘almost’ like they did when they were hanging out at King’s Pub can come by anytime. A special program will be extended to our classmates."

Ken Ofori-Atta writes, “Greetings from Accra, Ghana. Not sure I’ve ever contributed to the class column.

I moved back to Accra in 1990 after an M.B.A. at Yale and working with Salomon Brothers and Morgan Stanley. Our son has graduated from The Lawrenceville School in New Jersey and is enrolled at Williams College. Torah celebrates his 83 (my track teammate) at us join the Lawrenceville for the graduation. That was special. I also have kept in touch with his twin, Alex Navab ’87, who lives on the Upper West Side.

I retired on February 14 as executive chairman of a boutique investment bank in Ghana called Databank. After 22 years, it is time to find other purpose-led activities of significance to the various communities I touch.

I have spent quite a bit of time since then fundraising for my cousin, Nana Akuto-Addo, who is running for president in the December elections in Ghana. We are ahead in the polls but it’s six months away (as of this writing) so we can’t rest, especially in Africa and fighting an incumbent government. Politics is truly fascinating. I learn more each day, mirroring Thucydides or the adventures of Don Quixote.”

What’s Your Story? Letting classmates know what’s going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes! ONLINE by clicking college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column. MAIL to the address at the top of your column.
Joanne Ooi ’89 Is Willful Iconoclast

By Karen Iorio

One inch wide and 10 miles deep” is a surprising motto for Joanne Ooi ’89, whose résumé includes leading a fashion brand, founding an environmental NGO and launching an online fine jewelry store, but she maintains that depth over breadth has been the unifying thread in her career.

From convincing civic leaders in Hong Kong to confront air pollution to pioneering a social-shopping platform for her start-up website, Ooi approaches all of her endeavors with passion and intellectual curiosity. “I wouldn’t do anything in an artificial or superficial way,” Ooi says, speaking by phone from the Hong Kong home that she shares with her husband, John, and 13-year-old son, Sam.

Ooi has lived in Hong Kong since 1994 — a far cry from Cincinnati, where she grew up and 13-year-old son, Sam. Ooi has lived in Hong Kong since 1994 — a far cry from Cincinnati, where she grew up and where that was encouraged in her high school (Ooi was born in Singapore). At the College she majored in political science and in 1993 graduated from Penn Law, but she wanted something radically different from the corporate jobs her classmates coveted. Then, while on vacation in Hong Kong, she recalls, “A job fell into my lap.” The position, offered to her by a friend, was with Pearl City Associates, a buying office that supervised American brands that were manufacturing in the Chinese market. Ooi would be responsible for visiting Chinese factories to make sure products were being made to the designers’ standards and to ensure they’d be delivered on time. She had been crazy about fashion since she was a teenager, but until then never considered it a viable career option.

The job gave Ooi a taste of what she calls “the wild, wild west” of Asia’s fashion industry in the ’90s as well as the myriad opportunities open to her. Clients included The J. Peterman Co. and Eileen Fisher. After a year, she was recruited to take charge of French shoe designer Stéphane Kélian’s sales in Asia. “I’d take suitcases full of shoe samples — 60 shoes — to Jakarta and Taipei with no contacts, going in cold,” she says. “I’d set up a makeshift showroom in a hotel or go to the leading shopping mall and sweet talk my way into getting the numbers of the high-end store owners. I’d knock on doors and wrangle my way into appointments. I quintupled business. After three years, I knew every high-end retailer in Asia.”

Ooi left Stéphane Kélian in 1997 and started her own small company, Style Trek, both a physical and online boutique. Style Trek emphasized “style over fashion,” Ooi says, or excellence and uniqueness in design over trends. In 2001, in the midst of the Asian financial crisis, Ooi decided to shutter her business and work for a more established company. She accepted a job as creative director of Shanghai Tang, a Hong Kong-based fashion line known for contemporary interpretations of traditional Chinese design such as intricate patterns, bright silk robes and Mandarin collars. By the time Ooi arrived, however, “It had become a gaudy pastiche of Chinese culture. We had to reframe the DNA of the brand.”

Her strategy, as always, was to go deep — in this case, reinventing the brand by approaching Chinese design history with scholarly focus. “I was serious about acquiring knowledge of Chinese culture,” she says. “When we did a collection inspired by calligraphy, I decided to learn Chinese and study the history of calligraphy. Everything I did was an investigation.”

Ooi’s eight years at the company earned her accolades from Business Week, which in 2005 credited her for the company’s 43 percent growth in worldwide sales over the previous year. A 2006 Fast Company cover story, “The Gucci Killers,” lauded Ooi for elevating the brand to the level of fashion dynasties like Gucci and Armani.

By the end of 2008, Ooi was anxious for a new challenge. She stepped away from the Asian fashion world and began as marketing director of Filligrent Links, a biotech company that at the time was manufacturing a cigarette filter that dramatically reduced inhaled carcinogens. So while her new venture marked a radical shift in her professional trajectory, Ooi sees it as in keeping with her personality as a “willful iconoclast” — an iconoclasm she credits Columbia with fostering.

“The liberal arts curriculum shaped me,” she says. “I’m an abstract thinker and the College allowed me way of thinking to flourish. It was the first place where that was encouraged in me. I have a healthy disrespect for authority that’s based on intellectual confidence.”

As part of her job, Ooi attended a conference on clean air, where she participated in a breakout session on environmental toxicity. After learning more about air pollution and the health risks it poses, she decided to shift into environmental activism. Along with Christine Loh, a former Hong Kong legislator, and others, Ooi founded Clean Air Network in October 2009, an NGO that raises awareness of air pollution in Hong Kong.

Just two years after CAN’s inception, in 2011, Ooi and Loh were named to Time magazine’s list of the 100 most influential people. “That CAN even exists is surprising in a city notorious for its obsession with commerce almost to the exclusion of all else,” Time wrote. Ooi’s marketing background and connections allowed CAN to flourish.

“People took me seriously because I always understood why businesses were hesitant. I knew how to communicate to them and they could relate to me,” Ooi says.

“I spent a huge amount of
time engineering every message to be health focused: Air pollution kills people. It was a wake-up call to the public.”

Ooi enlisted her friends from the fashion world, getting the backing of the largest shopping mall company in Hong Kong, which allowed CAN to promote its message on a 70-ft. billboard, in subway stations and in a television advertising spot.

A fellow CAN board member, Lisa Genasci, describes Ooi as fully engaged from the beginning. “She put the skills she learned as a creative director into political activism … In fundraising pitches, she’d get very wrapped up, very passionate about working on the issues. Sometimes she would talk a million miles a minute. I would kick her under the table to get her to slow down.”

While Ooi remains on the board of CAN, she stepped down as CEO in 2011 to again reinvent herself. Her latest venture, Plukka, is an online jewelry marketplace in which prospective designs are voted on by customers; those with enough votes are produced — at a cost that makes sense based on demand. “This business model brings creativity back into retail,” she says. “It gives young designers a chance to get their products out there. There are a billion reasons against retailers taking risks on young, creative people. But [the Plukka model] gives us latitude to try something new.”

In Plukka’s second year, Ooi already is finding success at changing how consumers shop for fine jewelry online. On a recent fundraising round, she raised $2.5 million from angel investors. She plans to increase Plukka’s inventory from 500 to 800 pieces in the coming months.

The company name derives from one of Ooi’s favorite words — pluck, as in the spirited courage she brings to each of her passions in life. “I’ve always taken the harder route,” she says. “It’s personal commitment that gets you over the hump.”

David Zalopsky ’85 was named general counsel of Amazon.com.

While 20,000 people saw me [throw a pitch] at Citifield, Robb Bradley did me many times better. Robb, a designer/director for film and television, recently directed the video for singer-songwriter Robb, a designer/director for film and television, recently directed the video for singer-songwriter...
Izhar Harpaz ’91 Finds Stories That Matter

By Kim Martineau ’97J

Early in his career in broadcast journalism, Izhar Harpaz ’91 knew that the rush of chasing big, breaking news stories was not for him. “I wanted to really delve into something and explore it from all angles, to see what was not immediately obvious,” he says from his office at NBC Studios in New York.

Today, as a veteran producer at Dateline NBC, Harpaz has earned some of his profession’s highest honors for his knack at finding surprise angles on the news. In the Elián González affair that re-ignited U.S.-Cuba tensions in the 2000, he found a love story. In a public school in Atlanta, he found a first-year teacher determined to succeed. And in a Haitian village ravaged by cholera, he documented an unlikely mission by American volunteers to bring medical help.

In most Dateline episodes, a familiar correspondent such as Kate Snow or Lester Holt leads viewers through the story. But it is the behind-the-scenes work of producers like Harpaz that shapes the narrative that unfolds; the producer picks the characters, crafts the script and directs months of on-location filming.

While his name may be unfamiliar to the viewing public, Harpaz is well-known among his peers. He has won two George Foster Peabody Awards for public service, two Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Awards for excellence in broadcast journalism, two Edward R. Murrow Awards for TV, radio and digital journalism and three Emmys for television production, including one this year for the piece on Haiti, “Rescue in the Mountains,” which won for “Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft: Video Journalism.”

There are no trophies, though, on Harpaz’s desk at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. Pictures of his wife and two daughters pinned above his computer speak to the quiet life he leads outside work.

Harpaz’s path to Dateline had many twists. Born on a kibbutz in Israel, he lost his father at 3, when a mine exploded beneath the tractor he was driving. His mother remarried and moved the family to Germany.

At 14, Harpaz moved back to Israel, only to immigrate to the United States a few years later. He finished his senior year in Queens, working odd jobs to support himself, then studied at NYU for one year before moving to Florida to train for the Israeli Olympic swim team. He didn’t make the team but, on a friend’s advice, transferred to Columbia. There, he majored in history and German, swam on the varsity and coached the masters swim team.

Through a personal connection, Harpaz landed his first job in journalism, producing IDs for ABC News staff. He was quickly promoted to desk assistant on the overnight shift, where he took advantage of the slow, early-morning hours to come up with story ideas. Each week, he would leave a packet of pitches on World News Tonight anchor Peter Jennings’ desk. Within a few months, Jennings offered Harpaz a job on his research team. After working his way up to assistant producer, Harpaz left for Dateline in 1996.

The Elián González story, nominated for an Emmy in 2000, was his first major success as a producer. In 1999, González’s mother drowned at sea while attempting to flee Cuba in a motorboat with her son, boyfriend and 11 others. Elián survived, setting off a bitter custody battle between his relatives in Miami and his father in Cuba. An already tense relationship between communist Cuba and its capitalist neighbor exploded. As the story turned political, Harpaz and his TV crew traveled to the boy’s hometown searching for a deeper truth. There they learned González’s mother’s secret reason for leaving: She was in love. It was not so much the promise of freedom in the United States or a better life financially. Her boyfriend had made his mind up to leave Cuba and so she decided to take Elián and go with him.

Over time, Harpaz has developed a set of rules to produce by. The first: Go where the story leads. In “Rescue in the Mountains,” he remained in the remote Haitian village of Medor to film a risky medical mission even after host Ann Curry was evacuated due to election-year violence. “We were prepared to tell the story that developed and not push the elements into a storyline we’d imagined beforehand,” he says. “That took a lot of planning but also quick-on-our-feet thinking as the story changed in front of our cameras.”

His second rule: Treat casting as seriously as a Hollywood director would. “Someone may have a great story, but if they can’t tell it you need to pass,” he says.

Harpaz interviewed three Teach for America recruits before deciding on Monica Groves, the charismatic sixth-grade teacher in “The Education of Ms. Groves,” which won a Peabody in 2006 and a duPont in 2008. He set out to make a film about public education in an inner-city school but knew the story’s success would depend on finding the right teacher. “When I talked to Monica on the phone I really felt her honesty and passion,” he says.

Both rules in producing stories about real people: gain their trust. He does this by trying to be as open and honest with his subjects as they are with him. Today Show host and Dateline correspondent Hoda Kotb credits that rapport for Harpaz’s ability to capture the
intimate moments that have become his signature. "Izhar is authentic, and people respond to that," she says. "He literally falls in love with the people he meets. It's very personal."

With shoots that can stretch for months, relationships with subjects can become close. But there is a journalistic line that Harpaz is careful to observe. During the filming of Groves, in Atlanta, Harpaz watched the teacher grow increasingly distraught over a disruptive student. Through his writing, he watched the teacher grow very personal." says. "He literally falls in love with intimate moments that have grown up way too fast: Sam (16), Eli (14) and Jake (10). This summer, I was fortunate to take a one-week trip to London with Barbara and a one-week family trip to three national parks in Utah (Bryce Canyon, Zion and Capitol Reef). I highly recommend those national parks for teenagers; we went to Yellowstone and Yosemite the last couple of years and had a fantastic time in those places as well."

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I'm sorry to report that David Rakoff passed away on August 9. It is a testament to David's fame and achievements that anyone who reads this column has already read his words, as his passing received prominent and wide coverage. I was startled by the announcement, as David had graciously spoken at our 25th reunion dinner just 14 months prior. He looked fine and spoke well. But he had been very affected by power of cancer, which can capriciously and quickly end a productive life. Please email me with your memories and details of David. He would appreciate the bitter irony when I say that The New York Times published a wonderful obituary on him, a short excerpt of which I've included below. CCT also published a nice obit in the Fall issue. You can Google David to read them and many others.

From the Times: "For his incisive wit and keen eye for the preposterous, Mr. Rakoff (pronounced RACK-off) was often likened to the essayist David Sedaris, a mentor and close friend. Like Mr. Sedaris, he was a frequent contributor to This American Life, broadcast on public radio. Mr. Rakoff's print essays first appeared in the New York Times, GQ, Details, Salon, Slate and elsewhere. They formed the meat of his three published collections, which, besides Half Empty, include Fraud (2001), in which he chronicled, among other things, his brief appearance on a television soap opera (Mr. Rakoff was also an actor); and Don't Get Too Comfortable (2005), which, as its jacket proclaims, skewers the American demographic beleaguered by 'the never-ending quest for artisanal oil and other first world problems.' A self-described gay Jewish Canadian transplant to New York City, Mr. Rakoff was a social anthropologist of postmodern life. Congrats to Vinomip Lichtenger- ber for being named s.v.p. and general counsel at Swisher Hygiene, a NASDAQ-listed hygiene and sanitation company. Prior to joining Swisher, Vince was senior counsel at Goodrich, and before Goodrich, he was senior corporate counsel at auto manufacturer BorgWarner; he also worked for several years at the SEC. Congrats to Columbia basketball star Ellen Bossert for being named chief marketing officer at NanoSteel, a nano-structured steel materials design company. Ellen most recently led North American strategic marketing, sustainability and government business development for Philips Lighting and Controls business.

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While our 25th reunion may be too soon to forget, I start this column with a few more thoughts about it.

Bill Hicks wrote, "I had a great time during my brief visit to NYC! The summer passed quickly. I'm trying to keep up with a busy 4-year-old and 2 year-old. The news. I was fortunate to keep in touch, because I met Director of Undergraduate Admissions Peter Johnson during our reunion, and I'm committed to helping with satellite admissions for CU as best I can — it seems as though a visit to campus has really helped!"

Susan Beamis Rempe '87 was presented the 2011 R&D Award, considered the "Oscar of Innovation."

With all the reunion news, lots of other great stuff has happened that we are just now getting a chance to mention. We start with Susan Beamis Rempe, who, in collaboration with national lab and university researchers, won a 2011 R&D 100 Award, which is considered the "Oscar of Innovation." Susan, project lead and scientist at Sandia National Laboratories, was recognized for developing "biomimetic membranes for water desalination," a solution to address the global challenge of clean water. She received the award in October 2011 at a black-tie gala in Orlando. Elizabeth Leecher has been spending much of her time lately traveling to New York City with her daughter, Eleanor Beckman '16. She wrote, "With my husband, Peregrine Beckman '84, and son, Julian, in tow, we moved Eleanor into Carman and attended Convocation. As Kyra Tirana Barry said in her speech to the new students and families, much remains the same, but some things have certainly changed, generally in a positive way. I have done admissions interviews for Columbia for several years now, and I feel like I have a wealth of updated information for those prospective students, from the advising center to Bwog to The Mill Korean restaurant!"

Lance Hosey is president and CEO of GreenBlue, a nonprofit dedicated to innovation in sustainable design and production. His latest book, The Shape of Green, which came out in June, is the first to explore the economic, environmental and social implications of making the switch to administration (a path I started on at Columbia as an East Asian languages and cultures major). We’ve lived in Los Angeles since 1993 but are hoping to get back to New York a lot more often now.

To view videos of Harpaz’s work, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Kim Martineau '97 writes about earth science at Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

of the Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions of Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. This is my first published essay to appear in an academic journal."

Arun Chanana recently became s.v.p., distribution and agency management at Fireman’s Fund Insurance. In this role, he will provide strategic and operational direction for the distribution and agency management team, which is responsible for enhancing agent and broker relationships by driving accountability and alignment, and providing a consistent customer experience. Arun will be based in Fireman’s Fund’s Liberty Corner office in New Jersey. Arun is a 25-year veteran of the insurance industry. His career has included the entire insurance value chain, including positions as an un-
Columbia in common, Mike and I at one meeting broke into a chorus of "Paul Cézanne" — something of a campus hit [in the 1980s] by the Special Guests.

Marc McCann reported, "I live in State College, Pa., and work for a nonprofit that works with children and youth. I recently celebrated my 20th anniversary with my wife, Denise. We have three boys, ages 19, 15 and 10."

And finally, news from a married couple — Thomas Love '90 TC and Sheryl Hoke Love — who trace their relationship to the Class of '88. Thomas wrote: "As of July 1, I was promoted to professor of education, epidemiology and biostatistics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. There, I direct the Biostatistics and Evaluation Unit at the Center for Health Care Research and Policy, which does primary research and health services research, as well as the Data Management Center of Better Health Greater Cleveland, which aims to improve primary care for chronic disease (diabetes, high blood pressure and heart failure) across Northeast Ohio. Sheryl and I recently celebrated our 22nd wedding anniversary. She is of counsel at Jones Day in Cleveland, specializing in intellectual property litigation.

"We have two sons, Kevin (13) and Brian (10), who, despite our efforts, are growing up with a proper appreciation of both technology and comedy. Thanks to the forebearance of Sheryl and the boys, I manage to squeeze in some theatre, recently playing Nicely-Nicely Johnson in a community production of Guys and Dolls, and the Beadle in a professional Sweeney Todd, despite not actually being a tenor."

Thanks for your updates and please keep sending them. Don't forget that 2013 is our 25th reunion! As chair of Community Board 1, I stay involved in many important issues, such as moving the trials of the 9-11 bombers out of lower Manhattan — which she backed — and supporting the Islamic Community Center near Ground Zero, a position that resulted in receiving death threats. Julie also oversaw the addition of three new public schools in lower Manhattan across four years. Julie will face three City Council members in the Democratic primary in September 2013. Of her latest political endeavor, she says, "I look forward to connecting with Columbia students and alumnae and welcome their involvement in the campaign. It has been thrilling to see the momentum our campaign has built in communities throughout Manhattan. If I speak to voters about job creation, housing, education and other top priorities, I was delighted this past summer to participate in the [Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Student Internship Program], and we look forward to having additional interns this year and next summer."

Classmates are welcome to connect with Julie on Facebook. At the end of August, my husband, Dave Terry '90, and I attended the bat mitzvah of Daniella Neusner, the eldest daughter of Eli Neusner and his wife, Poly. The Neusners live near us in Brookline, Mass., and the celebratory event was held at the State Room in downtown Boston (breathtaking views). Several Columbians were in attendance, including Alex Margolies, Dave Winter, Roger Rubin, Sherri Pancer Wolf '90 and her husband, Doug Wolf '88. Eli, who has many reasons to be proud of his four daughters, said, "The bat mitzvah was wonderful and we had such a great time celebrating with my longtime friends from Columbia. We may be a bit older but we Columbians still know how to party."

If the event, Roger Rubin commented, "Seeing so many friends from Columbia was excellent and made for a good time. It’s nice to see the connections we made at school endure, and that Eli has stayed close with so many people from Carmine."

And speaking of proud fathers, John Alex was back at Columbia this fall to help his daughter, Olivia ('16, move in. Of the memorable day, John mused, "When I checked in for my first day at Columbia, I was dropped off with my bags and a ‘good luck.’ Olivia had a team of students with rolling bins as we drove up, clapping and cheering for her. We moved her in in about 20 minutes. Welcome tents with water and Columbia staff were all over the campus. It was a bit surreal to me, as I don’t think I am (or act, I daresay) more than 20 years old, still. But unlike my own prospects at the time, I have no worries about Olivia’s academic success at Columbia."

For our next column, I should have a report from Homecoming. I hope to get to connect with some of you there.

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What a wonderful surprise to have recently run into my high school classmate Jaime Kapp, now known as Yosef Kanofsky. We had a lot of catching up to do. He and his wife, Sinaya, live in the Crown Heights area of Brooklyn with their children: twin girls (11) and three sons (9, 7 and 5). More than 14 years ago, Yosef completed a program for at-risk Chassidic youth in Crown Heights. Today, in addition to supervising that program, he works with New York City yeshivas to access government programs.

Winding up the column this time, I’m about... to mark 22 years of working in and around higher education and university admissions. I made a move to the other side of the desk, as we say in the world of college admissions. In August, I joined the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C., as associate director of college guidance. It took me some time...
Hi, everybody! Josh Saltman let us know that he is living with his family in Los Angeles and is an attorney at Disney. He recently caught up with Victoria Cook, who lives with her family a few blocks from Columbia and was recently named by Variety as one of 2012’s “game-changing” entertainment attorneys for her work as a top independent film lawyer.

Kudos, Victoria!

Chris Front writes, “Here’s an update from St. Louis. This past summer I became the principal of grades 11 and 12 at John Burroughs School, where I’ve been teaching history since 2002. In addition to my principal duties, I teach a history seminar and am a college counselor, which brings back fond memories of my days as a tour guide for the CC Admissions Office. My wife and I have two sons, ages 6 and 8, who keep us on our toes. I see Jeff Ordower, who also lives in St. Louis, a few times a year. He is fighting the good fight as director of the Missouri Organizing for Reform and Empowerment.”

David Wacks lives in Eugene, Ore., with his wife, Katharine Gallagher, and sons, Ethan (7) and Zev (5). He’s a Spanish professor at Oregon and blogs about his research at davidwacks.uoregon.edu.

And, this in from Ingrid Stabb: “Hello, all! CCT’s Bookshelf section kindly mentioned my book based on the Ennengram, The Career Within You, in the Fall issue, as it came out in Japanese and Korean in 2012. That prompted me to write now with personal news. I remarried last year in Berkeley to John Pennington and this year we welcomed our daughter, Quinn. Miki Hong and I still have our book club going strong after a couple of decades; Miki is a well-published health policy analyst and is in the executive master’s program in health services administration at Michigan. From time to time I see Paul Delehanty at our favorite local Cole Coffee in Rockridge. Paul has been doing great work for the National Union of Healthcare Workers and keeps the CC Spirit of service and justice alive. I also am proud of Susie Wood, whom many of you know has entered the Foreign Service, and Marcelle Hearne, who is doing another impressive international humanitarian law gig in Switzerland. (For Susie, I enjoyed being a reference as a friend who has known her a long time, as it meant a cool-looking FBI guy showed up in dark shades to my social media startup.)

“This summer I blew it and missed Peter Cole, who was here in California wrapping up his research on international labor union history in the Bay Area and South Africa. I heard one of his talks last year and highly recommend you hear him as well as experience his gift of multimedia story. If you are in Berkeley, tweet me @pinterestable.”

On a sad note, Javier Loya forwarded me a note to say that Bob Ray ‘92 passed away in June. Bobby was an attorney in Tampa, Fla. Also, Juan Calderon recently named by our 2012’s “game-changing” entertainment attorneys for her work as a top independent film lawyer.

We were heading for the same train, so we were able to catch up on the ride. Jen is v.p. and senior counsel, employment and compliance, at HBO and lives in South Orange, N.J., with her husband and two daughters. Our kids are about the same age, and it was remarkable how similar our lives are, with juggling work, family, friends and school.

Jen recently ran into Nelson Fubanks ’94 at a kids’ birthday party, when Nelson was visiting his family in New Jersey. A couple of days later, Jen, Nelson and Sandra Fahy met in the city for drinks and a mini-reunion. Jen reports that Sandra teaches history and social science at the Upper School of the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn. In that same, small-world vein, issue every night. You can access the site at spectorarchive.library. columbia.edu. I hope you have as much fun with it as I did. Till next time.“

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013
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Betsy.Gomperz@gmail.com

I hope everyone had a wonderful fall and that the holiday season treats you well.

We were heading for the same train, so we were able to catch up on the ride. Jen is v.p. and senior counsel, employment and compliance, at HBO and lives in South Orange, N.J., with her husband and two daughters. Our kids are about the same age, and it was remarkable how similar our lives are, with juggling work, family, friends and school.

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welcomed their third child, Richard Indiana ("Indy"). Their daughters, Sterling (5) and Arielle (4), are doing well. "We are living happily in Los Angeles, as we have since 1998," Richard writes. "Waterfield Group (waterfield.com) continues to grow and thrive. We are looking for two-year analysts from Columbia undergrad and preparing to expand our office in NYC."

Speaking of NYC expansions, Sharene (Barnett) Wood recently opened a second business, Harlem Haberdashery, at 245 Lenox Ave. in Harlem. "It's an upscale lifestyle boutique that sells exclusive designer clothing, shoes and accessories," she writes. The new shop is a secondary brand of 5001 FLAVORS, a custom clothing brand that caters to celebrities, athletes and other personalities in the entertainment industry, and which is celebrating its 20th year in business. [See CCT's Fall 2011 profile of Wood.]

In other career news, Ayanna (Parish) Thompson continues to take on new responsibilities at Arizona State University, where she now is associate dean of faculty in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. She is the main point of contact for faculty-related issues, including promotion and tenure, annual reviews, faculty awards and mentoring. Ayanna also continues her Shakespeare scholarship, focusing on issues of race and performance. [See CCT's Spring 2012 Bookshelf.]

Eliot Regenstein also has moved into a new role, taking his education policy expertise to the Ounce of Prevention Fund. As s.v.p. of advocacy and policy, he leads the organization’s national policy consultation practice and coordinates its overall state and national policy efforts. Based in Chicago, the fund focuses on advocating for and providing high-quality care education for children from birth to age 5.

Thanks to all for the terrific updates. Please keep them coming! Until next time.

Danny Ackerman '95 was tapped by the Department of Justice and the State Department to be their attorney adviser at the embassy in Honduras.

Danny had recently moved to Los Angeles in October and expects to return for another three-month stint late in the year.

An email exchange with Tony Andriole for the last issue gave me the chance to connect with Omar Hasan '95E, '96E, who completed a Ph.D. in engineering at Rutgers in 2001. He works at Walt Disney World, where his group develops software applications to manage Disney theme parks and resorts.

"My partner, Steve, and I have been together for eight years and we live in a quaint neighborhood in downtown Orlando, far away from the tourist zone," Omar writes. "I enjoy playing classical piano and running."

As of our email, he was busy training for the Disney Wine & Dine Half Marathon in November. Thanks for the updates, and please keep the news coming.
beautiful store; I highly encourage you all to shop there. Dalia, who gave a lovely speech at the wedding, is an employment attorney at Mckinney Valdes, a top-tier law firm in San Juan, PR. As for you especially, I moved, along with several of my colleagues, to a new law firm, Baker & Hostetler, to help develop its East Coast labor and employment practice group. I am pleased to say there are a number of other CC’ser’s there, so it already feels like home.

Avi Green lives in Cambridge, Mass., with his wife, Sarah, and daughter, Rachel (1). Last year, the Boston NAACP gave him its Humanitarian Award for his work to promote civic engagement. More recently, Avi was appointed to the Massachusetts State Senate. As a public policy advocate and strategist, Avi works mainly on issues related to fair redistricting, election reform, fighting political corruption and protecting the right to vote.

That’s it for now. Please send in more notes (see my new email address, at the top of the column!). Now, in honor of the heated political season during which this note was written, I end with this meaningful nugget:

“believe in an America where millions of Americans believe in an America that’s the America millions of Americans believe in. That’s America.”

— Mitt Romney

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Susanna Daniel’s first novel, Stiltsville, co-won the 2011 PEN/Bingham award for best debut fiction, and her second novel, Sea Creatures, co-won the 2011 PEN/Bingh school in Los Angeles, where she has a part-time job, but she is rallying to make Inwood the next Park Slope. Sarah Bunin Benor received tenure from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, where she has worked for eight years teaching American Jewish studies and linguistics. Sarah recently published a book, Becoming Furry: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism, and she created a website about Jewish languages, jewls.org. Her husband, Dr. Mark Bunin Benor, is a family physician and associate medical director at the Saban Free Clinic. They live in Los Angeles and have three daughters: Aliza (4), Dalia (7) and Ariella (9).

Zaharah Markoe welcomed daughter Claire Hayley Markoe into the world in April. Benjamin “Jamie” Lederer, his wife, Su Young Han, and their sons, Jakob (3) and Marius (1), relocated to Jamie’s hometown of Providence, R.I., in July 2011 after he separated from the U.S. Air Force. Jamie has been doing a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship at Brown, and all have enjoyed the proximity to family members.

As for me, Sarah Katz, in July I was appointed as a visiting clinical professor of law at Temple’s Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia. I teach and supervise the Family Law Litigation Clinic, where students handle custody, support, paternity and adoption matters. I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge of this new opportunity and love working with the law students.

REUNION WEEKEND
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We are less than six months away from our 15th reunion. The dates, for those who haven’t marked their calendar yet, are Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 1. Columbia can keep in touch with you about the event, please update your contact information online (reunion.columbia.edu/alumniupdate) or by calling the Alumni Office (212-851-7488).

I hope to see many of you there.

Let’s start this column off with another round of baby news: Jeanette Jakus (who’s married to Ben Kornfeind) writes, “I recently started my last year of training in dermatology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. It has been a long haul, and I’m excited to get out there and start practicing come July. Ben and I introduced our daughter, Lily Rose Komfeind, to the world on June 8. She was named after my grandmothers. We are happy and living a life of style with Lily’s older brother, Sam.”

Congratulations to a double-CC couple on a second beautiful baby.

Another double CC couple, Michael Mazar and Yael Lerman Mazar ’01, celebrated their ninth anniversary this summer. Although they circulated in the same group of friends the year they overlapped at Columbia, they didn’t meet until a few years later. Michael went to medical school and Yale law school, and the two married in 2003. In 2008 they moved to Los Angeles and last spring they welcomed their third child. Michael is a cardiologist for UCLA and Yale works for the national legal department of the American Heart Association.

Amy Kristina Herbert ’12 Dental is in a pediatric dental residency in Washington, D.C., and plans to connect with D.C. alumns. She’s also “looking forward to our 15-year reunion in the spring and to meeting the new additions to many families.” She adds that she’ll be sure to have her cards!

Betsy (Jacob) Bennet sent her first update to Class Notes, writing that she went to medical school, where she met her husband, KG. She is an endocrinologist, working with UnitedHealth Group. Betsy and KG have two children, Allie (2) and Sam (1), who keep them busy. The Bennets live outside Chicago. Hope you all have a fabulous winter and continue to submit Class Notes updates via email or Facebook. See you at reunion!

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99

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Hello, good people from the Class of ’99. Lots of updates to share.

Roxann Smithers ’02L says hello from Atlanta. She recently started her own law firm, Smithers Thornton & Umewagbo (atlawgroup.com), with two partners. They focus on providing legal services for start-up to mid-sized companies. Additionally, Roxann is a model alumna, as she is president of the Columbia Club of Atlanta; the club recently received the Columbia Alumni Association’s first regional Club Award of Excellence for a domestic club.

On to London: I had the pleasure of reconnecting with Muneesha Goyal following a 10-year hiatus. After graduating with an M.B.A. from the Wharton School in 2007, Muneesha moved to London with UBS’ investment banking division. Most recently, she has been working for Jefferies & Co. as the American bank expands its operations into Europe. While Muneesha hasn’t developed an affinity for British cuisine such as mashed peas and scotch eggs, she clearly loves London and all its qualities. Please reach out to her if you reside there!

In May, Susie Lee married Dr. Chris Lacy on the beach in Tulum, Mexico, at Las Ranas Ete Boutique Hotel. The reception overlooked the Caribbean Sea and lasted until dawn; incorporating local traditions such as tequila tastings and a midnight mariachi band performance. In attendance from Columbia were Regina Chang, Dominique Sasso, Rebecca (Kaufman) Palemo ’99 Barnard, Adrienne Lavidor-Berman ’99 Barnard, Josh Muyderman, Annette Bergen ’00 Barnard, Terry Simeina and Deepi Rohatgi (who was with us freshman year, then transferred to Stanford). (See nearby photo.)

Mexico as a destination was inspired by Susie’s two years living south of the border in Monterrey while she launched a venture capital fund focused on social impact. She moved back to San Francisco in 2009, where she met Chris at a dinner with mutual friends. Chris is from Birmingham, England, but had moved to San Francisco six years earlier, claiming he was allergic to the gloomy British atmosphere. The couple resides in California, where they enjoy the sunshine and year-round outdoor activities. After a day in the venture business, Susie is excited to start a new job at the Skill Foundation in Palo Alto; she is focused on investing in social entrepreneurs through innovation investments.

Dr. Lian Alanor Sorhaindo married William Brady Mack III ’01L on September 22 in Brooklyn, Elizabeth M. Phaire, a Universal Brotherhood Movement minister, officiated at Myron’s, a restaurant in Williamsburg. Lian earned an M.D. from Cornell and is a dermatologist at Chelsea Skin & Laser in Manhattan. Her husband is the executive secretary to the United States trade representative, Ambassador Ron Kirk.

I recently attended a birthday gathering for Nathan Hale ’00, ’01J at a Williamsburg brewery. There was a strong contingent of Columbia people, including Adam Nguyen ’98, Bram Raphael ’00, Tony Munoz and Ruth Alshek ’00. The legendary
John V. Bennett made a surprise guest appearance with his timeless tweed jacket.

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Hey classmates, nothing to report this issue. However, would love to hear from you, so please send news to me at the email address above or through CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Jonas Ratner, on April 24. Mason doing great. Ratner welcomed their son. Mason ing to become a neonatologist.

Rupal Patel ’02 participated in the London 2012 Olympics in the opening and closing ceremonies.

Eitan Levisohn, welcomed their daughter, Talya Gaviella, on August 25. Talya joins brother Ezra. Congratulations to all of our parents.

Laura Merz writes, “After living and working in Japan for five years, I have made the move to Naples, Italy, where I am stationed as a special agent for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. My first book was recently published. Called Burnt Nuts of Death — Tales of a CSI, it’s based on my time as a crime scene investigator in Wichita, Kans. Now that I’m no longer a 14-hour plane ride away from the East Coast, I’ll hopefully be able to catch up with some fellow alums very soon!”

Michael Mazar ’98 and Yael Lerman Mazar celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary this past summer. Although they circulated among the same group of friends during the year they overlapped at Columbia, they didn’t meet until a few years later. They moved to Los Angeles four years ago and had their third child this spring. Michael is a cardiologist for UCLA Los Angeles four years ago and had their third child this spring. Michael is a cardiologist for UCLA and Yael works for the national legal department of the Anti-Defamation League.

Min Kim has been named CEO at Nexon America, a developer of free-to-play online games. Min most recently was Nexon America’s s.v.p., live games, overseeing game production and marketing.

Andrea Cherkerzian married Peter Demingan at the Castle Hill Inn in Newport, R.I., on June 17. In attendance were her sisters, Sara Cherkerzian ’95 and Lisa Cherkerzian Hill ’95, as well as Nancy Michaelis, Stefan Davis ’02, Anna Ivey ’94, Sander Cohen ’00 and Nadia Abdulrazak ’08 Nursing. Andrea and Peter live in Cohasset, Mass.

As always, please keep in touch!

Rupal Patel writes, “This summer, I participated in the London 2012 Olympics as a performer in the opening and closing ceremonies. For the opening ceremony, I was the placard bearer for Team Bahamas, which meant I led the team onto the field and around the stadium during the Parade of Athletes. For the closing ceremony, I was a flag escort; I walked with Bahamian sprinter Chandra Sturrup and received the Bahamian flag from her after the flag procession.”

Also, a bit of late-breaking news arrived from Mariel Wolson. She writes, “I completed my dissertation and in November I’ll (finally!) receive my Ph.D. in the history of science at Harvard. I’m a teaching fellow at Harvard while exploring opportunities.”
In May, Susie Lee '99 and Dr. Chris Lacy were married in Tulum, Mexico. Among the attendees were (left to right) Regina Chang '99, Dominique Sasson '99, Rebecca (Kaufman) Palermo '99 Barnard, Adrienne Lavi-dor-Berman '99 Barnard, the groom, the bride, Josh Myu-derman '99, Annie Bergen '00 Barnard, Terryl Simeina '99 and Deepri Rohatgi, who transferred to Stanford after her freshman year at the College. PHOTO: MANUEL CAPPELLARI

Selena Soo '04 started her own PR and marketing consultancy, S2 Groupe. She works with visionary entrepreneurs, experts and authors to build their brands, secure high-profile press and grow their businesses. She also is a contributor to webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

In May, Susie Lee '99 and Dr. Chris Lacy were married in Tulum, Mexico. Among the attendees were (left to right) Regina Chang '99, Dominique Sasson '99, Rebecca (Kaufman) Palermo '99 Barnard, Adrienne Lavidor-Berman '99 Barnard, the groom, the bride, Josh Myuyderman '99, Annie Bergen '00 Barnard, Terryl Simeina '99 and Deepti Rohatgi, who transferred to Stanford after her freshman year at the College. PHOTO: MANUEL CAPPELLARI

Tom Biegeleisen is a senior software engineer at The Huffington Post as of July and is the front-end lead for the community group.

Ben Falik is the manager of Detroit service initiatives for Repair the World, which is building a movement to make service a defining element of American Jewish life, learning and leadership.

Sophie Beal is an assistant professor of Portuguese at Minnesota. She lives in the Twin Cities with her husband and their son, Gabriel, who was born in December 2011.

Alisha Liggett finished medical school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore in 2010 and now is in her last year of family medicine residency at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She adds, "I loved, loved, loved my college experience and it has definitely shaped who I am today."

Jen Thorpe-Moscon added to the memories by saying, "John Jay's top floor is the place to be. The rooms there are roomier than other singles. Totally worth having to walk the one or two flights. And not having to put on a coat to get dinner or late-night food is a wonderful thing."

Congratulations also to Bradley Weinstein, who earlier this year was married in a small wedding on the Big Island in Hawaii, then honeymooned in Kauai. He finishes his periodontics residency at Washington in June 2013 and thinks he might stay in Seattle.

Abigail Druck Shudoñsky and her husband, Aryeh, welcomed their second child and first daughter, Urit Devorah, in August. Their son, Adv (4), loves his sister and is thrilled to be a big brother.

In June I left my job as senior policy adviser to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, where I served for nearly six years — first under the leadership of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and most recently under the leadership of Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) — to move across the country (literally; I packed my car and drove from Washington, D.C., to Las Vegas) to serve as the...
policy and research director for Obama for America in Nevada. It has been an inspiring and grueling experience, one that I am grateful for. I hope that all of my classmates are registered to vote and that everyone is happy and healthy.

We have an exciting update from Josh Forester: “I’ve been competing hosted what became the largest for. I hope that all of my classmates CLASS NOTES Law in May 2011 and practices from Chicago-Kent College of Medicine, and he is an assistant professor in orthopedics.

Jessica Field married Benjamin Bearnot and live in New Haven, Conn., and work at Yale; she teaches anatomy to first-year medical students. We have an exciting update from the 2013 Checkpoint Tracker National Championships. As a baseline to see where I am, I competed in the Championships in West Virginia on September 28.”

Yuma Terada ’05 has published a book on Japanese society as seen from various cities around the world.

Kate Lane, Bennett Cohen, Anna Chernoff, Mike Ciccarone, Jeff Engler, Nate Bliss, Amira Ibrahim ’06 Barnard, Nick Bredie and Davey Volner ’04. Steph (Katsigiani) Benecci and Kevin Benecci ’05E were married on April 28 in Clearwater Beach, Fla. They met as freshmen at the University of Florida, and on hand to celebrate were Fareed Melhem, Harmony Davis, Jon Filbey, Jeremy Sinkin, Jared DeMatteis, John Teal ’08E, Samantha Le ’07 Barnard, Isabelle (Ruebenacker) DeMatteis ’06 and Andrezj Baranak. Steph is an associate for Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman, and Kevin is a finance manager for American Express. Jared recently relocated from Cravath to Wilmer Hale. Harmony and Fareed recently moved to Seattle, where she started a new position with Amazon and he works from McKinsey’s Seattle office. Jeremy is a plastic surgery resident at Georgetown. Jon lives in the United Kingdom, where he is studying for an M.B.A. at Oxford. Andrezj lives in New York and works for Boston Consulting Group.

Elizabeth Segran and Benjamin Schnee were married on June 2 at the Cator-Woolford Gardens in Atlanta. They met in celebrated her one-year wedding anniversary with Vladimir Kottov on September 18. They were married in New York City, and in attendance were Lyndi Decker, Vishal Govil ’05E, Sarah Kachen-Liu ’05E, Michael Liu ’04, Stephen Podolitz ’05E, Yelema Somkina-Ruffini ’05 Barnard; Giovanni Ruffini ’05E; and Goldman ’01 and his wife, Helen (Kotyari) Goldman ’02; Olga Khodosh ’02; Dmitry Aronov ’06E; and Steve Briskin ’03.

Anya Chernoff and Bennett Cohen were married at the Chernoffs’ home in Sheffield, Mass., on July 21. The couple resides in the Netherlands while launching their joint nonprofit, Empower Generation. Congratulations to all of our newcomers! We also have a couple of birth announcements:

Chaim Kagedan writes, “The past few months have been replete with significant (and thankfully positive) changes of both personal and professional nature for me and my family. My wife, Heather (nee Verstade) ’05 Barnard, and I recently welcomed our second child, Diana Faith, in June. In August, we moved from our apartment in the Riverdale section of the Bronx to a house in Teaneck, N.J. Though we were sad to leave behind many alumni who were our neighbors in Riverdale — including my former roommate Binyamin Berkovits ’12 CSAS and his wife, Rachel Pollack-Berkovits ’05 Barnard — the sorrow of departure was greatly mitigated by the fact that in Teaneck we were reunited with good friends Ariel Zell ’04 and his wife, Natalie Zell ’04 Barnard, who recently moved to a house just around the corner from ours.

“Our 3-year-old, Sophia, began attending school in September, and is particularly enjoying the “Play-Doh time” that marks the beginning of her day in the classroom. September also marked a new beginning for me, as I left my position at Davis Polk for a clerkship with Judge Robert W. Sweet of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Like Sophie, I’ve been immensely enjoying my experience thus far, though I will say that there isn’t nearly enough ‘Play-Doh time’ during the typical day.”

Tian Zhang and her husband, Andrew Wang, welcomed daughter Vivianne Ziyi Wang on April 5. Tian completed an internal medicine residency and began a hematologic-oncology fellowship at Duke in July.

Sandy Huang writes, “I recently moved back to New York after two wonderful years in San Francisco Bay Area getting an M.B.A. from Stanford Graduate School of Business. I’m at Equinox, working on operating and marketing analytics for the company. It’s a nice change after four years of finance and a short stint working in the fashion world!”

Italome Ohihokue is in her second year pursuing an M.F.A. in screenwriting at the University of Miami. She won first place at the Creative World Awards, an international film and television competition, for a spec script she wrote for AMC’s Mad Men.

And last but not least, we have a book publication notice: Yuma Terada’s Tokyo Utopia was published in Japan in September. Tokyo Utopia is an essay on Japanese society as seen from various cities around the world and is meant to be a contribution to cultural criticism. The book is available on Amazon and the cover features original artwork by internationally acclaimed artist Akira Yamaguchi.

On a side note, this is my last column as class correspondent. After seven years, I think it’s time to pass the torch to a more capable classmate. It’s been an honor to contribute and it’s been inspiring to see everyone do so well. Thank you to all for being so supportive through the years. Hope to see many of you at our next reunion. Congrats to all for their continued success, and keep the updates coming!”
Michelle Oh Sing
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As always, our classmates are enjoying successes, milestones and adventures.

Aneel Ranadive has launched Pinchit, a city-specific site on which you and your friends can collect and share experiences. The startup is based out of San Francisco and is funded by angel investors including Tim Draper and Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin. People use Pinchit to plan fun things to do for the week, make scrapbooks of great dining ideas and organize fun weekend activities. Best of all, you can discover new experiences around you by browsing the scrapbooks of other people who share your tastes. Get an early access invite by contacting aneel@pinchit.com.

Chase Behringer and Francesco Renzo were married in Vico Equense, Italy. Chase writes, "Mass was held at Santa Maria delle Grazie, Punta a Mare, followed by a seaside reception. Close friend Heather Moylan was in the bridal party. After the wedding, we enjoyed a long, lovely honeymoon sailing in the Alps and in Nepal, then eating my way through Asia. As a side quest, I'm eating rotisserie chicken in as many places I can find it to enhance my rotisserie repertoire."

Matthew Smith recently finished a one-year judicial clerkship with Judge Rosemary Barkett on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, in Miami. He's moving to Washington, D.C., where he'll be an associate at the law firm Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton.

Jonathan Ward started a doctorate at Oxford in the fall, working on Russian and Chinese relations.

He's making good use of his undergraduate studies of Russian and Chinese languages as well as of the significant time spent in those countries post-Columbia. Jonathan spent the tail end of summer in and out of Washington, D.C., and New York, meeting with people in the foreign policy world.

Victoria Diana Baranetsky has started clerking in Syracuse for the Unites States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit after a year in Oxford. She writes, "Got my first job, dears! Done with decade of degrees. Thought that’d come quicker."

Aneel Ranadive '06 has launched Pinchit, a city-specific social networking site.

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Aneel Ranadive has launched Pinchit, a city-specific social networking site.
her first week was just confusing. I told her that was normal.”

Cecilia Raborn writes, “Very sorry to have missed the reunion this year; I’ve heard from many that it was fantastic. My husband and I were mid-move from Houston to Copenhagen, Denmark. I’m settling into my new role at an E&P (exploration and production/oil) company and we’re settling into our new city. Should you find yourself in Denmark, drop me a line.”

Seth Flaxman’s nonprofit TurboVote was featured in The New York Times on October 13. Among other things, the article notes, “Founded in 2010, TurboVote is working with 58 colleges this year. It now helps more than 100,000 individuals get absentee ballots, find voting locations and track coming elections, sending out text reminders for important deadlines.” You can read more on the Times online. [Editor’s note: See profile of Flaxman in the Spring 2012 issue.]

And one last dispatch from our amazing magazine’s coverage of Natalia Premovic: Spotted: Natalia Premovic, Tricia Ebner, Jordy Lievers, Adrian Demko and Squirrel Barsamian hugging it out at the bar formerly known as Cannon’s.

**REUNION WEEKEND**
**MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013**

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Hey Class of 2008! I hope you are getting excited for the upcoming Alumni Reunion Weekend! Reserve the weekend of Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2 and get your tickets. You can learn more about reunion here: reunion.college.columbia.edu. Be sure to go to the “Update Your Contact Information” tab at the top of that page to ensure Columbia has your correct info for reunion materials.

On to our notes...

**Gabby Francis** welcomed a son, Morris Abraham.

Noam Harary is making moves in the film industry: “I’m not quite sure how to share, but I make music videos with Ian Wolfson.”

Calvin Sun led a group of American and British travelers into Iran for a week, and his trip was profiled on Business Insider: businessinsider.com; search under Calvin’s name. Calvin is in his third year of med school and is president of Columbia College Young Alumni.

PJ Berg recently graduated with an M.P.A. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton. He moved back to NYC and is now working in a position with the New York City Economic Development Corp. “I’m very happy to be back in the city, and excited to be working on real estate development projects. And even though I crossed over to go to Princeton, I’d pick light blue over orange any day!” he writes.

Rachel Trager Sales and her husband live and work in Tel Aviv, Israel. “I’d love to hear from CC ’08 alumni who are here for the long-term or short-term,” she writes.

Alisa Brem moved to Florence, Italy, in October for a Fulbright to study local government implementation of sustainable development in Tuscany.

Adrian M. Martin has been the director of operations at ComFit Learning for the last 11/2 years. This year, Adrian has seen ComFit increase revenue by more than 33 percent. He and his staff attended the Council for Opportunity in Education’s 31st Annual TRIO Conference in New York City at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. The conference focused on developing local teachers and educators from all the continental states. ComFit Learning is a Westport, Conn.-based online learning center with customers in more than 40 states.

Ben Teitelbaum graduated from the Journalism School with an M.S. in broadcast journalism. “My master’s thesis was a documentary film about a New York City team handball club comprising immigrants from more than 20 countries. I’m trying to find distribution for the film. I also recently had a print version of the story appear in The New York Times, ‘Unified, in America, by International Sport.’”

Vedla Biton and Vladimir Eidelman ’08E were married on August 12 in a seaside Jewish ceremony and reception in Istanbul, Turkey. In attendance were: Blake Rogo ’06E, Michelle Mayer ’08, Oleg Oliivanchik ’06E, Kseniya Shelkovskaya ’08 Barnard, Yoni BenTov ’08E, Journee Isip, Erica Wolff ’04, Jonathan Wolff ’03E and Stuart Samoff ’94L.

Aliad Damooei c/o CCT Columbia Alumni Center 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530 New York, NY 10025 damooei@gmail.com

Christopher Hernandez has had a tremendously successful year, having been fortunate enough to have several children’s books published.
Arielle Marks ’12 and Lawrence Anglin ’11 were married on July 8 in Princeton. Guests included fellow Lions and Barnard bears, many of whom were members of the Columbia Students for Christ Fellowship, where the bride and groom met. Back row (left to right): Abdallah Diagne ’12, Kristophe Anglin and Wei Sim ’12; third row (left to right): Everard Bellot ’10E, Jon Chan, Regina Chan, Luke Soto ’11, the groom, the bride, Lucy Santizo ’11 Barnard, Neharah Gill ’13 Barnard, Christina Chu ’08 Barnard and Katherine Hung ’11 Barnard; second row (left to right): Sophia Heng ’08E, Gabriel Hall ’11, Bennett Hong ’11, Lauren Oh ’11 Barnard, Katherine Chang ’10 Barnard and Khadine Singh ’13E; and front row (left to right): Lindsay Kugler ’08E, Lu Han ’08 Barnard, Mario Luna ’11, Helen Yuen ’12E, Sabrina Lopez ’10 Barnard, Meixin Wang ’11E, Annabel Chew ’13E, Sharon Samuel ’11 Barnard and Serena Hong ’13 Barnard.

PHOTO: TIM KUDER PHOTOGRAPHY

The New Yorker touted as an act of “enthusiasm for participatory art in huge line-dance events, at which hundreds of non-dancers strut their stuff in a series of synchronized moves, rehearsed beforehand.” Lisa described it as a “30-minute combination of diverse types of dance, music … and people!” As part of the River to River cultural festival this summer, Lisa performed for three nights at Manhattan’s Pier 16. She said, “It was incredible to take part in something big and to tap into a different part of my brain/self.”

After more than two years, Tara Barrett still is in Ecuador and is an assistant field director for the Ecuador WorldTeach program.

Steve Carbonaro started medical school in August at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and expects to graduate in 2016.

Michael Mark has begun managing hip-hop dance groups of any¬where from four to 50 kids. He says, “It’s a lot of energy, a lot motion, a lot of fun, a lot of high-fiving and a lot of smiles.”

James Downie writes, “I’ve started my second year at The Washington Post as the Opinions editor-producer — basically the deputy web editor for the Opinions section. Not surprisingly, we’re busy covering the conventions as I write this note. Lots of extra hours, but it’s great fun, and I get to write for the Post’s website as well, which is a tremendous opportunity.”

Emily Banks ’12 TC shares, “Hello, Class of 2010! After graduating from Teachers College in May with a master’s in curriculum and teaching, I am working at Packer Collegiate Institute, an independent pre-K–12 school in Brooklyn Heights. I teach third grade and love every minute with my wonderful students!”

Our column would not be complete, of course, without some final musings from Chris Yim: “Summers in NYC always seem like a blur. It’s hard to differentiate one weekend from the next when fun is singing about how young we are and JT is throwing away his talent with lackluster films instead of singing about summer love. I had the chance to get away this summer and head out to Alaska. My, that is one beautiful state! I went with three friends whom I met after college, and it was just one stunning view after another. We kayaked, hiked, camped, pitched a tent (or at least tried to) and biked. There is nothing like the great outdoors to remind us of our humanity; we forget that sometimes in the big city. While on my way home, I stopped in San Francisco to visit a friend, where I walked straight into a glass wall at the Googleplex. I also was walking down the street when I saw a familiar face and asked her, ‘Did you go to Columbia?’ It turned out to be Miriam Mack. Passing a classmate on a street in a distant land makes the world seem pleasantly small.”

In other news, one of my best friends from Columbia is seeking to leave the city soon. Like all Californians who live away from their home state, he knew his time here was limited and that he’d eventually go back to sunnier pastures. I suggested that he use the organization I created — VAASN (Virginia Asian-American Singles Network)
— but he refused to meet someone that way. So this is it: if you have any kindhearted, gentle, smart, funny, attractive friends who may like guys named Justin, please reach out to me, and I’ll make introductions. (This is the purpose of Class Notes, right?)

"Lastly, I am happy to say that I am content with things. I am not going on to another job or starting grad school in the fall, starting the new job and catching up with old friends in the city. A new life in Asia. Josh Smith lives in Seoul, South Korea, and teaches English to elementary and middle school students. Lastly, Karen Woodin Rodriguez has been living in Mumbai for the past 14 months [as of this writing], working for Mahindra & Mahindra, a leading Indian multinational corporation. Her main initiative has been Spark the Rise, an early-stage incubator program for social entrepreneurs in India (funding, capacity-building workshops and mentorship).

We have a few folks writing in from Asia!

Jenny (Yi) Zhang has changed jobs from J.P.Morgan New York to Time Warner Hong Kong — a shift in industry as well as continent! She looks forward to her new life in Asia. Josh Smith lives in Seoul, South Korea, and teaches English to elementary and middle school students. Lastly, Karen Woodin Rodriguez has been living in Mumbai for the past 14 months [as of this writing], working for Mahindra & Mahindra, a leading Indian multinational corporation. Her main initiative has been Spark the Rise, an early-stage incubator program for social entrepreneurs in India (funding, capacity-building workshops and mentorship).

From the West Coast, Joey Shemuel writes, "I've been working with homeless youth in San Francisco for 500 miles away from the culture shock of being on the opposite side of the world. As of this writing, she was five months into an eight-month stay in Cambodia, teaching choreography workshops and starting a project to get her students in front of a wider audience. Some of her part-time jobs include teaching the 'Theatre for Dummies' class, checkered Edgerton to an NGO." She is the executive assistant to the executive director at another NGO and checking the English translations for a project about the Cambodian Royal Ballet. She is trying to get used to the local activities and also to the fact that, for example, to not get run over by the thousands of tuk-tuks and motos. She writes that she is "having the adventure of a lifetime."

Speaking of world travels, Pat Blute spent this past summer leading an adventure travel agency trip through rural Myanmar. On the downside, he has had three major tropical maladies since graduation: malaria, typhoid and dengue.

We hope you are all better soon, Pat!

Sarah Ngu has been living the life as a fellow at Trinity Forum Academy. She's been reading good books, cooking and living with 11 other fellows by the Chesapeake Bay, all of whom are "here to figure out the connection between our faith and vocation."

P. Anthony Arias writes, "Life as a young alum has been great. I have been working for a law firm in the Big Apple and I am proud to say I'll be coming back up to Columbia many times this fall for on-campus recruiting! I live in a studio in Turtle Bay/Midtown East with my girlfriend, Camille Van Kote '12 Barnard, and I frequently go to housewarming parties with good people, food and weather. Atlanta is great — good people, food and weather. I'm excited for fall/winter here when, though I can put on a coat more for fun than for shielding myself from the freezing temperature and snow, I've seen more than I expected already in Atlanta. "Medical school is hectic, for sure, compared to undergrad, but I guess that's probably just a grad school thing. Atlanta is great — good people, food and weather."

Anna Ahmad is enrolled in a dual degree master's program at the Mailman School of Public Health and SIPA. She is pleased to remain a part of the Columbia community.

Aditya Bunkerjee spent June and July as a mentor for the hackNY summer fellowship. Now, he spends his days (and nights) working at Quotidian Ventures, a Flatiron-based investment firm, and living in the Village. He writes, "Don't let the NYU kids scare you away from dropping in for a visit!"

And last but certainly not least, congratulations are in order! Arielle Marks married Lawrence Anglin '11 on July 8 in Princeton. A number of Columbians from the Columbia Students for Christ Fellowship attended (see nearby photo). Arielle is now in New York, having begun work at a health care market research firm this past June, so she makes sure to drop by campus every now and then.

We wish you both the best!
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### The Truth Teller

(Continued from page 32)

basketball for the base’s team as well as a British team; more importantly, he used the opportunity to go to college.

“Growing up in Miami in the ’70s and ’80s, cocaine was a big deal,” Hart recalls. “Powder cocaine at the time, but then a few years later, crack cocaine hit and people in my neighborhood — the guys my age, and this is not an exaggeration, at least 60–70 percent were getting arrested on drug-related charges. When I used to go back, they’d tell me they were selling cocaine, all the money they were making. ... I thought maybe drugs were turning them into bad people; I wanted to know what was happening.

“So when I got an opportunity [as an undergraduate] — I was approached by a professor to study the effects of morphine and nicotine on the brains of rats — I thought, maybe this is the key. Maybe I could figure out why people like drugs so much. And then maybe I’ll be able to help do something back home. I thought I was going to be able to cure drug addiction. But over the years, of course, I learned that drug addiction wasn’t the problem. The problem was law enforcement.”

In 2000, Hart, who is married with two younger sons, learned about a third son that he’d fathered as a teenager. “When I met him, he was selling drugs and he wanted to tell me about it. He must have been about 16 or 17. He had already dropped out of high school. It was overwhelming.”

Hart recounts his personal story in his memoir, tentatively titled Crack Scientist and slated for publication next year. “I thought it would be simple to write, because it’s my life. And then it wasn’t. Because it’s my life.” In it, he also discusses the science of drugs and their effects on the brain, as well as drug laws, social policy and public education.

Of the book and of his turn toward an advocacy role in general, Hart says: “The thing that I’ve noticed is that if you don’t talk to people, your views will never get out there. People might get it wrong sometimes, but sometimes it opens a conversation. And you know, the rat that presses the lever is the one that’s going to get reinforced.” He bangs his palm on the table.

“So my view is: you just keep pressing the lever.”

Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts is CCT’s managing editor.
Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS in His Own Words

"Finding oneself was a misnomer; a self is not found but made."

"Education in the United States is a passion and a paradox. Millions want it, and commend it, and are busy about it. At the same time they degrade it by trying to get it free of charge and free of work."

"Clothing fashions have always been impractical, except in Tahiti."

"Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball, the rules and realities of the game — and do it by watching first some high school or small-town teams."

"The French call mot juste the word that exactly fits. Why is this word so hard to find? The reasons are many. First, we don’t always know what we mean and are too lazy to find out."

"The book, like the bicycle, is a perfect form."

"Simple English is no one’s mother tongue. It has to be worked for."

"Art distills sensation and embodies it with enhanced meaning in a memorable form — or else it is not art."

"Political correctness does not legislate tolerance; it only organizes hatred."

"A man who has both feet planted firmly in the air can be safely called a liberal, as opposed to the conservative, who has both feet firmly planted in his mouth."

"In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day’s work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for 20 years."
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866-222-5866
This wall of books is from the office of the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS, longtime faculty member and winner of the Bancroft, Lincoln and Pulitzer Prizes for his writing and the Great Teacher and Presidential Awards for his teaching. For more on Foner, who will celebrate his 50th reunion this spring, see page 24.
Lit Hum Turns 75

Columbia College TODAY

Spring 2013

Austen Pride and Prejudice

The ODYSSEY

The Aeneid of Virgil

The Iliad of Homer

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History of the Peloponnesian War
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17 Students and Faculty Embrace Classic Readings, Modern Technology

"The course is not a museum-like visit. It’s about the interrogation of texts."
By Timothy P. Cross ’98 GSAS

23 Faculty Find Lit Hum Challenging, Fulfilling

“The course is a marriage of methodologies and the idiosyncrasies of the individual instructor.”
By Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA

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“I left Columbia with an understanding of the power of asking the right questions.”
By Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts

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“The idea is to further our education and what we started in Lit Hum.”
By Nathalie Alonso ’08

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You can go home again — to the classics.
By David Denby ’65, ’66J

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CCYA builds engagement among newest alumni.

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For more than 50 years, Norman Dorsen ’50 has fought for fundamental freedoms and against discriminatory legislation.
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Happy Birthday, Lit Hum!

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View a photo album from the Dean’s Scholarship Reception and read the 2012–13 Scholarship Directory
Watch an interview with Rachel Nichols ’03 about her series Continuum
View a photo album of the 2013 John Jay Awards Dinner
Listen to the Clefhangers perform college.columbia.edu/cct
MESSAGE FROM DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

Celebrating Lit Hum, Enriching Its Future

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

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

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

When I speak with alumni about their years at the College, they invariably mention the Core as a defining and transformative experience. When I ask current students what their favorite course is, they consistently say Lit Hum, CC or another Core course. Students come to Columbia College because it has this great and unrivaled Core Curriculum, and when they leave it is the great common intellectual experience they all share. The Core is what makes all of you members of an enduring and trans-generational intellectual community that connects every College student to every other student and to all College alumni. That experience begins with Lit Hum.

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

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

**Share Your Lit Hum Memories**

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

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

SPRING 2013
Pride of the Lions

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

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

Ismael Dovalina ’74
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

It’s been 44 years since the night of “the bust” in 1968, but I’ll never forget Professor [Ronald] Breslow’s actions that long night. As one of the walking wounded, having been whacked in the head by a Tactical Police Force billy club while simply observing the commotion (and following orders to disperse), I was wandering around outside the locked campus when he magically appeared, extremely disturbed by what had just happened to our sacrosanct temple of learning. It was 4 a.m. and nobody could get back into their dorms. Professor Breslow gathered as many students as he could fit in his car and drove us over the GW Bridge to his home. I remember watching the sun rise as we headed for safety. He fed us and allowed us to sleep a bit before returning us to campus. I was able to wash my bloody hair.

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

Dr. Peter G. Joseph ’70
SAN ANSELMO, CALIF.

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

Professor Breslow took a course with a terrifying reputation and made it a wonderful, exciting year of detective work and problem solving. His inspirational teaching turned my academic career around, enabling me to become a physician educator. I was happy to see that many sub-
sequent generations of Columbia students have benefited from Professor Breslow’s superb teaching style. I will forever be grateful to him.

Dr. Daniel L. Lorber ’68
Port Washington, N.Y.

Gutmann, a Good Man

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

Joseph B. Russell ’49
New York City

Scientific Methods

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

Donald Marcus ’55
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Who Should Be Admired?

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

Dr. Roman Kernitsky ’62
Colts Neck, N.J.

Honoring Brig. Gen. Smith

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

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

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

Andrew Upton ’85
Boston

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.

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Reevaluating My Lit Hum Experience

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When asked to picture my happy place, I go to a thatched hut on a beach in Aruba, where I lie on a chaise lounge and alternately look at the azure sea and read the book that is in my hand. I’ve been doing that for 30 years and hope to be blessed to do it for many more. I’m sure that Lit Hum is at least partially responsible for the fact that while I’m lying there, I never feel restless or a need to “do something” beyond reading.

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

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

What was your Lit Hum experience like? What impact did the course have on you? Share your memories of Lit Hum with us at ccalumni@columbia.edu.

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

Highlights of the weekend will include:
- class-specific events planned by each class’ Reunion Committee;
- cultural options such as the New York Philharmonic, New York City Ballet, Broadway theatre and art gallery tours;
- the Young Alumni Party aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid, featuring a champagne salute to veterans and alumni on active duty;
- Dean’s Day Public Intellectual Lectures and “Back on Campus” sessions featuring some of Columbia’s best-known faculty and alumni;
- the presentation of the Society of Columbia Graduates’ 64th Annual Great Teacher Awards;
- all-alumni Affinity Receptions for the Columbia Alumni Singers, Columbia Daily Spectator, varsity athletics, and veterans and alumni on active duty;
- the new and improved Camp Columbia for young Columbians, ages 3-17; and
- the all-class Wine Tasting and Starlight Reception with dancing on Low Plaza.

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

“Reunion and Dean’s Day are venues for generations of College students to come together to renew friendships, extend their intellectual connections to Columbia and revisit the campus that they remember so fondly,” says Dean James J. Valentini. “I look forward to seeing many of you then, particularly on Dean’s Day.”
when I invite all alumni and parents, including those in non-reunion years, to come to campus for thought-provoking lectures.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clefhangers Celebrate 25 Years

The Columbia Clefhangers, founded in spring 1998 by Daniel Henkin ’91, will host a 25th anniversary celebration on Saturday, April 20. For more information, contact clefhangersalumni@gmail.com.

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

PHOTOS: TOP AND MIDDLE: MICHAEL DIVITO; BOTTOM: EILEEN BARROSO
Bernice Tsai ’96 Heads CC Alumni Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asked about her Columbia experience, she said, “My freshman year in Barnard is particularly vivid. I recall students wandering the halls in their sweats or pajamas, carrying works from the Core and gathering in clusters to talk about these incredible books from some of the greatest thinkers of all time. Not only was there a sense of community and unity in all being connected to the Core, but also in hindsight there was the amazing juxtaposition of raw youth being exposed to monumental works that had transcended time — pretty powerful — while eating ramen cooked in tiny hotpots in their rooms!”

“In terms of a moment, I remember the first spring, sitting next to The Thinker near Philosophy Hall and realizing it was an authentic cast by Rodin himself,” Tsai added. “Sitting there alone in the spring, with all this great intellectual activity around me, was such an inspiring moment and made me grateful for the opportunity and the environment to learn, explore and seek knowledge.”

Class of 2013 Gives Back

The Class of 2013 Senior Fund kicked off its campaign for its class gift on January 28. The gift will be presented to Dean James J. Valentini and the Columbia College Fund at Class Day on Tuesday, May 21. The Senior Fund Executive Committee, along with almost 200 members of the Class of 2013 and several alumni leaders, gathered to generate excitement for their last semester and to encourage classmates to donate to the Senior Fund.

Senior Fund Chair Maria Sulimirski ’13 spoke enthusiastically about her time at the College and noted that the evening’s event was an “induction into giving.” She then introduced Valentini, who as he did last year presented his “3-2-1 Challenge,” which asks seniors to pledge $20.13 for three years, to have their gifts matched 1:1 by an alum. The dean announced that he would personally match all gifts made at the event, up to $5,440, noting “We all owe the College something.” He asked attendees to tell him why he chose that amount, with the hints being “James K. Polk” and “Oregon.” The number comes from a historical slogan, “Fifty-four Forty or Fight!”, which is associated with a dispute between England and the United States over the border of Oregon.

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

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

View the “Senior Fund Launch 2013” Facebook album: facebook.com/ColumbiaCollege1754/photos_albums.

Spring 2013
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

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

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

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

■ Tony Kushner '78 was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for Lincoln, which stars Daniel Day-Lewis and was directed by Steven Spielberg. Although the Oscar went to Chris Terrio for Argo, Kushner won the Critics' Choice Movie Award for Best Adapted Screenplay and was honored by the National Society of Film Critics and the New York Film Critics Circle, among others, for Best Screenplay. Kushner — who co-wrote the screenplay for Spielberg’s 2005 film Munich — won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in Drama for his two-part play, Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes, as well as Tony Awards in 1993 for its first part, Millennium Approaches, and in 1994 for its second, Perestroika.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more about the prize, go to kennedyprize.columbia.edu.

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

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

Teodolinda Barolini '78 GSAS, the Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian and chair of the Department of Italian, and Richard Lansing '65, professor of Italian studies and comparative literature at Brandeis, received the Modern Language Association of America’s (MLA) 15th annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies for their work, “Dante’s Lyrics: Poems of Youth and the Vita Nuova.” The award is one of 15 that was presented during the association's annual convention in January.

Barolini is the author of Dante’s Poets: Textuality and Truth in the ‘Comedy’, which received the MLA’s Howard R. Marraro Prize and the Medieval Academy of America’s John Nicholas Brown Prize; The Undivine Comedy: Dethelogizing Dante; and Dante and the Origins of Italian Literary Culture, which won the Premio Filiano di Italianistica. She is the editor of Dante’s Rime giovani e della “Vita Nuova” and is working on the second volume of her commentary to Dante’s lyric poems for the Biblioteca Universale Rizzoli.

Lansing earned a M.A. and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and is the editor of The Dante Encyclopedia (a Choice Outstanding Book for 2003) and Dante: The Critical Complex; the associate editor of Medieval Italy: An Encyclopedia; and author of From Image to Idea: A Study of the Simile in Dante’s Commedia.

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

What's the best way to enjoy a novel? Beau Willimon '99, whose play Farragut North was made into the 2011 movie The Ides of March starring George Clooney and Ryan Gosling, has written another political drama: an American remake of the 1990 British mini-series House of Cards. Directed by David Fincher, the series stars Kevin Spacey as an ambitious Washington politician who trades secrets with an equally ambitious reporter, played by Kate Mara.

It’s the first major original programming effort for Netflix, the video streaming and DVD-by-mail giant, which broke the mold by releasing all 13 episodes of the show’s first season at one time, on February 1.

"It’s fully in the audience’s hands to decide what their own experience is, the same way that you read a novel," Willimon said. "You can read Anna Karenina in two days, or you can read it over a year. And I think that’s better because it personalizes the experience."

Alex Sachare '71
Elisabeth Ladenson Ph.D. ’94 GSAS is a professor of French and comparative literature as well as the general editor of Columbia’s Romanc Review, a journal devoted to the study of Romance literatures. Born and raised on the Upper West Side, Ladenson earned a B.A. from Penn in French and comparative literature and an M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Columbia in French and Romance philology. She taught at Virginia from 1992–2005, after which she returned to Columbia; she has been chair of the Department of French and Romance Philology since September. Ladenson’s books include Proust’s Lesbianism (1999) and Dirt for Art’s Sake: Books on Trial from Madame Bovary to Lolita (2007).

What drew you to studying French?
When I went to college, I thought that I was never going to take French again because I’d been forced to take it for something like 12 years growing up. My first name is spelled with an “S” instead of a “Z” because part of my mother’s family is French and she was a Fran-dissapointment. It’s enriched my scholarship so much.

Shifting to your area of specialization, what would you say to someone who asks, “Why should I focus on this era in French literature?”
I don’t think it’s a particularly attractive time; it’s not that I like the period, I like the authors who were both-Concour, which was and still is France’s most prestigious literary society. By the time she died, she was one of the most respected writers in France. The analogy that I finally came up with is it’s as though Lady Gaga were to cap off her career by winning the Nobel Prize.

What’s your favorite place to be?

My girlfriend and I bought a house in Normandy last year. Of course, there are lots of places I haven’t been that would be nice but I find that the older I get, the less I enjoy traveling. I like my living room quite a lot.

What books are on your nightstand?
An Irish novel, Skippy Dies, that’s quite good.

What would you do if you weren’t a professor?
I guess I lack imagination in the sense that books are all I’ve ever cared about and I can’t really imagine caring about anything else. In that sense I have the best job in the world for me, because I get to write and read and talk about books.

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

Interview: Alexis Tomi ’11 Arts Photo: Isabelle Chagnon

Five Minutes with ... Elisabeth Ladenson

What did you want to be growing up?
You mean, did I dream of being an academic when I was a child? No, no; are there kids who dream of becoming academics? I was going to be a writer, and I guess I have become that in the sense that I write books. But I thought I was going to be a novelist or something of that sort. Just a writer, capital W.
cophile. But I quickly elim-inated several other majors and also discovered a course called “French Cinema and the Novel,” in which we watched films and read French lit but we also read theory, including Freud. And shortly after that, I learned that — even though I was at Penn — my financial aid package could be applied to the Columbia program at Reid Hall. So I went off to France and didn’t come back for two years, at which point I spoke French well and had discovered French literature and had too many credits to major in anything else.

What do you teach?
Graduate and undergraduate 19th-century and early 20th-century French literature courses. I also taught Lit Hum for four years and would like to get back to it. But what I would really like is to take a crack at CC and then go for the trifecta, with Art Hum. I have a great commitment to the Core. … In fact, when I came back here, the first thing I said in my interview was, “I really, really regret not having taught Lit Hum as a graduate stu-dent.” I was not whistling Dixie, as they say; I really wanted to do that. And it has not been a
GLOBAL CENTER: On January 14, Columbia opened its eighth Global Center, in Nairobi, Kenya — the first Global Center in Africa. Global Centers are designed to promote and facilitate international collaborations, research projects, academic programming and study abroad. In addition to Nairobi, Columbia's network of centers that have opened or have been announced includes Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Paris, Santiago and Rio de Janeiro.

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

The Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute will be located within the 450,000-sq.-ft. Jerome L. Greene Science Center, currently under construction on the new Manhattanville campus. It will become the hub of cross-campus research on brain science, bringing together researchers from the Medical Center and Arts and Sciences as well as from Engineering and other schools to collaborate on pioneering research in the neural sciences and an array of academic fields involving human behavior.

CURRIMBOY GIFT: Delhi-based entrepreneur Sharik Currimbooy '02 has pledged $12.12 million to Columbia in a gift that will span multiple schools at the University and will support research and fellowships with a focus on India and emerging markets. The announcement of the gift was timed to coincide with 12:12 p.m. on December 12, 2012 — 12:12 on 12-12-12. It is the largest gift from an alumnus in India to Columbia.

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

APPLICATIONS RISE: Columbia received 33,460 applications for the College and Engineering Classes of 2017, an increase of 5 percent from a year ago and the second-highest total in school history. The Class of 2015, the first that had the option of using the Common Application, received nearly 35,000 applications, a record 33.4 percent increase from the previous year. It's not unusual for applications to spike in the first year of the Common App but after last year's dip of 9 percent, the number of applications for the Class of 2017 continues an upward trend that goes back to the 1990s.
Bryan Terrazas '13 Pursues Fascination with the Cosmos

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

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

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

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

At CERN, Terrazas also realized that he prefers astronomy to pure physics. And so, last summer, he spent two months at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., where he created computerized models to simulate the evolution of radio lobes — perpendicular plumes of matter that rise from black holes at the center of galaxies and are believed to heat the atmospheres around them. The project was funded by the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, which covered Terrazas’ expenses. “It was a very difficult project,” Terrazas says. “My adviser, astronomer Paul Nulsen, was amazing. He gave me a lot of tough things to do, which I had worked with before, but not to that extent.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Selig always was willing and excited to speak with his students, and dozens attended his 86th birthday celebration last August. Harper’s Magazine Publisher John MacArthur ’78 referenced Selig last year in his Class Day address: “He wanted you to embrace the text, to read it with rigor, but also with pleasure. However, like all of my best professors, Selig insisted that reading text was a fundamentally serious endeavor, that text must be respected.”

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

Selig had an appreciation for the rowing team, which named two sculls after him. A remembrance will be held for him this spring at the Columbia Class of 1929 Boathouse.

Karl Daum ’15

Former students may share memories of Selig on the “Fans of Karl-Ludwig Selig” group on Facebook. Several of Selig’s former students have taken up a collection for his caretaker, Gilbert Adiaba. For information on how to donate, contact Dennis Klainberg ’84 (dennis@berklay.com) or Ted Allegaert ’87 (tallegaert@hotmail.com).

Dean’s Scholarship Reception 2013

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

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

The evening’s donor speaker, James T. Brett ’84, ’90 Business, echoed the sentiment: “We are all here today because we are invested in the future of Columbia College,” he said. “We want to remain competitive, and named scholarships allow us to do so.”

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

To view a video from the reception as well as the 2012–13 Scholarship Directory, go to college.columbia.edu/cct. To view photos from the reception, go to facebook.com/ColumbiaCollege1754/photos_albums.
For Reyna Pacheco ’16, squash has been far more than a sport. An immigrant from Mexico, Pacheco’s discovery of squash was a defining moment in her life.

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

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

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

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

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

“I just feel so lucky every day of my life and so blessed to have the opportunity to be here,” Pacheco says of her time at Columbia. As one of the top recruits out of an urban squash program, Pacheco played as the primary No. 2 for Columbia as a first-year, winning five of her first eight matches.

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

In December, Pacheco was a member of a four-person delegation representing the World Squash Federation that went before the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland, to make a case for squash’s inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games. She was joined by WSF President N Ramachandran, CEO Andrew Shelly and the No. 1 ranked men’s player in the world, Britain’s James Willstrop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If reading this section rekindles your memories of Lit Hum, please share them with us at ccalumni@columbia.edu.

Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts
Students and Faculty Embrace Classic Readings, Modern Technology

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

By Timothy P. Cross ’98 GSAS

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

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

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

Erskine was, and remains, a controversial figure in Columbia’s
Gareth Williams, the violin Family Professor of Classics and chair of Lit Hum, says that to read the course’s texts “is to introduce yourself to being unsettled about life.”

PHOTO: MICHAEL DIVITO

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

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

More importantly, it planted the idea in some of the same faculty’s minds that this sort of course might be appropriate for all undergraduates, not just a select few who decided to enroll as juniors and seniors. Here the success of Literature Humanities’ older sibling, Contemporary Civilization, proved crucial. If the College’s freshmen could handle close reading and discussion in a small class format for CC, why not for literature?

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

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

This format matters. “A student having book in hand each week makes a difference in conversation,” says Christia Mercer, the Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy, a former Lit Hum chair who will resume the post this fall. That’s why Lit Hum has never even flirted with the idea of creating readers,
Students in Lit Hum are expected, in the words of Dean James J. Valentini, to “engage with others in a broad way about big ideas specific to the human condition.”

PHOTO: MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

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

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

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

It’s fair to say that this approach — what Valentini describes as “thinking in a broad way as a civilized person” — has puzzled many, both on and off campus. In the early 1960s, a College committee reviewing Lit Hum chaired by Professor Fritz Stern ’46, ’53 GSAS, now University Professor Emeritus, had difficulty understanding “the philosophical or pedagogical ends of the course.” While the committee didn’t suggest abandoning Lit Hum, it noted that the traditional justifications — such as thinking in a broad way about books — were “scorned by the committee.” Similarly, in a savage New Republic review of David Denby ’65, ’66’s Great Books, books’ course, four texts is not a long list. Indeed, anyone who looks to Lit Hum for a fixed canon that all educated people should read is likely to be disappointed. Humanities A initially used most of Erskine’s original syllabus, as had the earlier colloquium. But the course’s administrators have since adapted the syllabus regularly to reflect faculty and student interests. Molière and Voltaire were represented for decades but have fallen off; in the past 20 years, most students have read Cervantes, Austen and Dostoevsky.

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

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

The variety of texts that have appeared on the syllabus during the last 75 years distinguishes Lit Hum both from great books programs, such as President Robert Maynard...
Hutchins’ original experiment at Chicago and the successful program at St. John’s College (in Annapolis and Santa Fe). Lit Hum always has been flexible about which texts it uses, and remains so. Indeed, this flexibility calls into question whether “great books” is an accurate description of the course at all.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mercer sees this as an aid to instructors as well. “Teachers have to finesse how much time they spend on context in class,” she notes. The website makes this an easier task. It also provides
additional resources for instructors such as secondary readings and classroom materials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Austin Quigley, dean emeritus of Columbia College and the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature, made enhancing and institutionalizing the College’s commitment to the Core Curriculum a central thrust of his administration in the last half of the 1990s and the first years of the new century, and Lit Hum clearly benefited from this push. To recognize and support those efforts, the College in 1995 established an East Campus conference room for their weekly staff meetings with the senior professor who served as the course’s chair.

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

The College has sought to expand conversations about the Core in other ways. The most dramatic has been the Core Scholars Program, another Mercer initiative, which was launched in the 2010–11 academic year. Each year the program invites any student who has completed a Core course to create a Core Reflection. The program encourages students to analyze, question, dramatize and interpret materials they encounter in the Core. Authors of exceptionally creative, well-executed reflections — as judged by a student-faculty committee — are honored as Core Scholars, with their reflections posted on the Core Curriculum website (college.columbia.edu/core/scholars). Last year’s winners included a “Triptych For Ovid” by Rowan Hisayo Buchanan ’12 and “The Ecstasy of Sonya” by Marian Guerra ’14, a reflection on a scene from Crime and Punishment.

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

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

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

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

Faculty Find Lit Hum Challenging, Fulfilling

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

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

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

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

A crown jewel of the Core Curriculum, Lit Hum was founded in 1937 as Humanities A. Its goal: to explore major works of literature as a companion course to the existing Contemporary Civilization, which features philosphic works. The syllabus has included The Iliad, Oresteia, Oedipus the King and Inferno every year since its debut, with a slightly shifting cast of other classic works. All are chosen for their enduring relevance to modern life. “We talk about injustice, rage, family ties, identity, power — so many issues we deal with today come up over and over again in the Lit Hum readings,” says Jo Ann Cavallo, associate professor of Italian, who has taught the course continually since the early ’90s. “Even though the texts are very far from us in terms of a
time period, they’re very close to us in life experience.”

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

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

Lit Hum’s teachers hail from humanities departments such as English and comparative literature, philosophy, theater, classics and anthropology. The course includes about 65 sections, which puts it in constant need of those willing and able to take on the rigors of teaching it. (The aim is for the faculty to be evenly divided with a third tenured faculty, a third junior faculty and a third graduate student preceptors.) Many instructors read the assigned text before class, and not just the first time they teach the course, but every time. “Anybody who reads books for a living never feels it’s the same thing over and over again,” Seidel says. “The books reveal themselves over time, with new insights and new ways of reading.”

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

Another challenge to teachers is inherent in the nature of the course: With such a range of works, many are bound to lie outside the scope of individual expertise. “Some people only feel comfort-
able teaching material they know intimately. Putting your-
self in front of the major works of civilization is intimidat-
ing,” Seidel says. “You can teach the course only one way,
and that’s with humility. The works are so much greater
than any of us. You don’t really teach it — you read the
books alongside a lot of smart people, both people teach-
ing the course and the Columbia students.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

“One of the most important commodities is themselves: life
experience,” Williams says of the teachers. “Lit Hum is a mar-
rriage of methodologies, on which we agree, and idiosyncrasies
of the individual.”

L

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

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

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

Currently, Boccacio’s Decameron is off the syllabus, Goethe’s
Faust is on. Pride and Prejudice has been suggested for the chopp-
ing block, perhaps in favor of an alternative Jane Austen novel
such as Mansfield Park. Several years ago, in an effort to be more
inclusive, the Mesopotamian poem The Epic of Gilgamesh was
added but it was removed after just one year.
In addition to the required work, professors can add one or more texts of their own choosing. Popular selections include Toni Morrison’s Beloved, Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man and Anthony Burgess’ A Clockwork Orange. Ladenson adds Margaret Atwood’s The Penelopiad — the story of the Trojan War from Penelope’s point of view — to the Fall syllabus, following The Odyssey. In the Spring, she asks the class to vote on an additional text. “They suggest things like One Hundred Years of Solitude; I propose things like A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man,” she says. “When we narrow it down, every single time they’ve voted for Lolita. It’s a surefire hit, and it alludes to the entire tradition we’ve read.”

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

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

The reading list always has been daunting, for nearly any student, but Williams thinks today’s students are challenged more than ever due to technology. “The act of reading is not what it was 20 years ago. The Internet is a technological marvel in so many ways but it perhaps has had considerable consequences for traditional reading practices,” he says. “These books presuppose a thoughtfulness about life and self-reflection, which are challenged by the speed of information retrieval in the Internet age. The students are as bright and committed as they ever were and come back to it, and each time you do, the books are different, but you never know what’s going to happen in life,” she says. “It was a confirmation of the wisdom that can be found in ancient texts.”

Although the course is billed as life-changing for students, faculty often get as much out of teaching it as the students do taking it. “Intimacy with the texts informs the professors’ research and writing in their own fields and enriches their personal lives as well,” according to Cavallo. When Hurricane Sandy flooded much of Cavallo’s home in Toms River, N.J., in October, she spent the night on the kitchen counter watching the tidal surge reach the windowsills and reflecting on Herodotus. “I was thinking of how Solon warned Croesus that you must be prepared for the unexpected,” she says. “It was a confirmation of the wisdom that can be found in ancient texts.”

“The first-year students are largely divided between those who can’t wait to delve into the venerated Core courses, starting with Lit Hum — for many, the Core is what attracted them to the College in the first place — and those who possess little innate interest in what they initially see as dusty, irrelevant or just plain hard-to-get-through books. “Sometimes you get somebody horrified by the Core, who says, ‘I’m a science guy’ or whatnot, and then they find they love it,” Ladenson says. “That’s a very gratifying pedagogic experience.”

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

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

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

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

“\textit{I left Columbia with an understanding of the power of asking the right questions.}”

\textbf{By Alexis Tonti ‘11 Arts}

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

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

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

It is fair to say that, in 75 years, no student has left Literature Humanities untouched by the experience. Some are relieved to have made it through — and no looking back, thank you very much. Others come away with a sense of satisfaction, and the confidence that the course has in some essential way contributed to their becoming educated, well-rounded individuals. And many, many more experience Lit Hum as a kind of opening out: It increases their appetite for reading and broadens their other interests, attunes them to an ongoing and long-lasting conversation about the world and equips them with new ways of engaging with others and with themselves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I was really daunted by the idea of engaging with the texts," says Anna Couturier '10. "I came from a middle-class California public school and, while I really enjoyed European literature, ancient texts seemed completely above my head." She adds that, through Lit Hum, she gained confidence in her analytical abilities. "It set the pace for the next four years, in which I grew both as a critical thinker and an individual. Lit Hum made me understand that we are not alone in our creations."

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

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

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

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

"I have to give full credit to my instructor, Professor Richard Sacks, [adjunct associate professor of English and Comparative Literature], who taught me how to be both a more critical reader and a more emotionally invested one," says Claire Sabel '13. "He constantly impressed upon us that all of these books are asking fundamental questions about what it means to be human, and that they're usually undermining their own premises rather than offering substantial answers."

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

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

Students also sound appreciation to their teachers for direct-
ing them to the resources of the University as well as New York City at large.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts is CCT’s managing editor.
# Today's Lit Hum Syllabus by the Numbers

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**Total years book has been on syllabus**

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**Sing, goddess, the song of Peleus' son Achilles, and its devastation, which put pains thousandfold upon the Achaeans...**

**Tell me, Muse, of the man of many ways who was driven far journeys...**

**Ask the gods some respite from the weariness of this watchtime measured by years! I...**

**Children, young sons and daughters of oldCadmus, why do you sit here with your suppliant crown?**

**How I wish the Argo never had reached the...**

**According to Homer, Persian was the Pheenicians who caused the conflict**

**Thucydides the Athenian wrote the history of the war fought between Athens and Sparta, beginning the account at the...**

**Just think if it had been a Bacchic...**

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

**In fact, your question does not find me unprepared.**

**There was a man in the land of Ur, whose name was Job, and that man was...**

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**Month book is read**

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<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
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<th>NOVEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homer, <em>The Odyssey</em> 1956</td>
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<td>Euripides, <em>The Medea</em> 1937</td>
<td>Bible, <em>Job</em> 1940</td>
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<td>MARCH 1937</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 1937</td>
<td>Wuthering Heights</td>
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To see all the books that have been on the Lit Hum syllabus since 1937 and the academic years during which each was taught, go to: college.columbia.edu/core/1937.php.
Alumni Book Club Carries On the Tradition

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

By Nathalie Alonso ’08

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

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

Three of Lattman’s classmates, Ben Ryan ’01, William Tsu ’01 and Rodman Williams ’01, along with Brette McSweeney ’04 SIPA, arrive punctually at 7:30 p.m. Within a few minutes, a seminar-style discussion of the love triangle in the book is under way, interspersed with much more laughter than would be admissible in a classroom. The novel, set in the court of Henry II, was suggested by Lattman, a trust and estates attorney who majored in political science and French.

With no designated moderator — except for Williams’ asking the group “not to lose the thread” when he deems a thematic point worthy of probing — the conversation flows and sometimes swerves. The group considers the nature of romantic love and compares their reactions to how readers in the 17th century might have perceived the title character’s infidelity. By the end of the session, they are pondering whether she deserves their sympathy.

As with any other book club, the members present tonight, as well as those who were unable to attend — Jennifer Kim ’01, Ben Wheeler ’02 and newcomer Nikhil Shimpi ’01 — are in it for the company and community aspect. But here there also is a loftier purpose: They consider their club a vehicle for exploring universal themes, as most of them did 15 years ago as first-year students in Lit Hum or, in McSweeney’s case, as an undergraduate at Georgetown. In the spirit of the Core Curriculum, they select books that have had a widespread impact on subsequent writing and thinking. “I’m very thankful that I had Lit Hum as an experience because it did what it was supposed to do, which was give me a solid foundation in the classics of Western Literature,” says Ryan, who majored in English and had the idea to start the club. “Our group is focused on reading things that are definitively canonical. The idea is to further our education and what we started in Lit Hum.”

Ryan, a journalist who recently completed his first novel, reconnected with Tsu, Kim and Wheeler, members of his Lit Hum section, at the Class of ’01’s 10-year Alumni Reunion Weekend. (Wheeler, who as a student helped relaunch CULPA, an independent, student-run evaluation site for Columbia courses and professors, entered with the Class of 2001 but graduated in 2002 after taking a semester off to be a web developer.) Their shared desire to engage in dialogues they had not experienced since college, combined with nostalgia, resulted in
the book club. The group later expanded to include Lattman, Williams and McSweeney, and, most recently, Shimpi, an attorney for the U.S. National Labor Relations Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Despite my explanations, my fellow students in 1991 may well have wondered what in the world I was doing there, sitting in uncomfortable oak-plank chairs with them. I was certainly a most unlikely student: forty-eight years old, the film critic of New York
The project began when my wife suggested that I put up or shut up. In 1989 or 1990, somewhere back there, Cathleen Schine and I were reading, with increasing amazement, the debate about the nature of higher education in this country. Merely reciting the clichés of the debate now induces a blue haze of exasperation and boredom: What role should the Western classics and a “Eurocentric” curriculum play in a country whose population was made up of people from many other places besides Europe — for instance, descendants of African slaves and American Indians? Should groups formerly without much power — women, as well as minorities — be asked to read through a curriculum dominated by works written by Dead White European Males?

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

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

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

I worked myself into a high state of indignation, and Cathy, both a novelist and a reader, shared my view but grew tired of my outrage. There she sat in our apartment in New York, reading book after book, in bed, in the living room, at the chair by the living-room window. Often she read with a cat in her lap, the animal happily purring; its mistress, lost in her reading, scratched its head for hours. My wife was too kind, and perhaps too busy, to point out something that later seemed obvious: I had become something of a nonreader myself; or, let us say, a reader of journalism, public-affairs books, and essays on this or that. “If you’re up, beginning and ending in literature, never leaving the books behind, you read and stop complaining? Certainly the means to answer my questions lay at hand. Columbia was only a couple of miles from my apartment on the West Side of Manhattan. And the courses, though somewhat different in their selection of texts, had not changed much in conception.

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

But why not just sit and read? Why go back to Columbia? Because I wanted to see how others were reading — or not reading. The students had grown up living in the media. What were they like? What had happened to teaching in the age of the culture debate, in a corner of the university far from the war yet obviously touched by the noise of battle? One way of dispelling the crudities and irrelevancies of the “culture wars” was to find out what actually went on in classrooms. And I wanted to add my words to the debate from the ground up, beginning and ending in literature, never leaving the books there.
facedown in the dust; the ravaged longing for home and family
and meadows and the rituals of peace, leading at last to an instant
of reconciliation, when even two men who are bitter enemies fall
into rapt admiration of each other's nobility and beauty — it is
an excruciating vividness, an obsessive observation of horror that
causes almost disbelief.

Simoësios in his stripling's beauty, whom once his mother
descending from Ida bore beside the banks of Simoeis
when she had followed her father and mother to tend the
sheepflocks.
Therefore they called him Simoeisios; but he could not
render again the care of his dear parents; he was short-
lived, beaten down beneath the spear of high-hearted Aias,
who struck him as he first came forward beside the nipple
of the right breast, and the bronze spearhead drove clean
through the shoulder.
He dropped then to the ground in the dust, like some black
poplar... (IV, 472-82)

The nipple of the right breast. Homer in his terrifying exactness
tells us where the spear comes in and goes out, what limbs are sev-
ered; he tells us that the dead will not return to rich soil, they will
not take care of elderly parents, receive pleasure from their young
wives. His explicitness has a finality beyond all illusion. In the end,
the war (promoted by the gods) will consume almost all of them,
and was stumped by the fourth), he turned, looking around the
section of students, and therefore future lawyers, accountants,
teachers, businessmen, politicians, TV producers, doctors, poets,
layabouts. They were taking Lit Hum, a required course that al-
most all students at Columbia take the first year of school. This
may have been the first teacher the students had seen in college.
He wasn't making it easy on them.

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

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

I remembered him well enough: Edward "Ted" Tayler, profes-
sor of English. I had taken a course with him twenty-nine years
earlier (he was a young assistant professor then), a course in
seventeenth-century Metaphysical poetry, which was then part
of the sequence required for English majors at Columbia, and I
recalled being baffled as much as intrigued by his manner, which
definitely tended toward the cryptic. He was obviously brilliant,
“You may not believe that God created the universe,” Tayler said, mournful, sepulchral, “but, anyway, look what God is doing in this passage. He’s setting up opposites. Which is something we do all the time in life.”

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

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

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

The women, many of them also in T-shirts, their hair gathered at the back with a rubber band, were more directly screwed up; you’re in trouble. There’s a discrepancy between what you want to do and what you ought to do. You want to go out and have a beer with friends, and you have to force yourself through a series of battles. After the Fall, you fall into dualities.

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

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

How can a book make one feel injured and exhilarated at the same time? What’s shocking about the Iliad is that the cruelty and the nobility of it seem to grow out of each other, like the good and evil twins of some malign fantasy who together form a single unstable and frightening personality. After all, Western literature begins with a quarrel between two arrogant pirates over booty. At the beginning of the poem, the various tribes of the Greeks (whom Homer calls Achaeans — Greece wasn’t a national identity in his time), assembled before the walls of Troy, are on the verge of disaster. Agamemnon, their leader, the most powerful of the kings, has kidnapped and taken as a mistress from a nearby city a young woman, the daughter of one of Apollo’s priests; Apollo has angrily retaliated by bringing down a plague on the Greeks. A peevish, bullying king, unsteady in command, Agamemnon, under pressure from the other leaders, angrily gives the girl back to her father. But then, demanding compensation, he takes for himself the slave mistress of Achilles, his greatest warrior. The women are passed around like gold pieces or helmets. Achilles is so outraged by this bit of plundering within the ranks that he comes close to killing the king, a much older man. Restraining himself at the last minute, he retires from the combat and prays to his mother, the goddess
Thetis, for the defeat of his own side; he then sits in his tent playing a lyre and "singing of men's fame" (i.e., his own) as his friends get cut up by the Trojans. What follows is a series of battles whose savagery remains without parallel in our literature.

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

Other men may have more active recollections — scoring a goal, kissing a girl at the homecoming game, all that autumn-air, pocket-flask, Scott Fitzgerald stuff — but my sweetest memory of college is on the nuzzling, sedate side. At the beginning of each semester, I would stand before the books required for my courses, prolonging the moment, like a kid looking through the store window at a bicycle he knows his parents will buy for him. I would soon possess these things, but the act of buying them could be put off. Why rush it? The required books for each course were laid out in shelves in the college bookstore. I would stare at them a long time, lifting them, construed that I have it. I like to look something up, I will pull one or another out, bewildered that I have it. I like to own them: I had grown into a book-buyer but not always a book-reader; a boon to the book trade, perhaps, but not a boon to myself.

At the age of forty-eight, I stood in front of the shelves in Columbia's bookstore at 115th Street and Broadway, a larger and better-lit place than the store in my day, which was so tightly packed one never got away from that slightly sweet smell that new books have. I was absurdly excited. There they were, the books for the Lit Hum and C.C. courses: the two thick volumes of Homer; the elegant Penguin editions of Aeschylus and Hobbes, with their black borders and uniform typeface; the rather severe-looking academic editions of Plato and Locke, all business, with no designs on the cover or back, just the titles, and within, rows of virtuously austere type. They were as densely printed as lawbooks. I was thrilled by the possibility that they might be difficult. I would read; I would study; I would sit with teenagers.

CCYA Builds Engagement Among Newest Alumni

Where can you find almost 2,000 Columbia alumni in one place? At the Young Alumni Party on the U.S.S. Intrepid during Alumni Reunion Weekend. This is no surprise: CCYA is Columbia’s strongest, most vibrant alumni program. It is a constantly evolving alumni organization with a tradition of passionate leaders and a calendar of multi-class events tailored to the interests of young alumni.

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

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

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

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

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

Burgess, who works in client services for email marketing company Experian CheetahMail, was a leader of the Black Students Organization and v. p. of campus life for the Columbia College Student Council. She sees her role in CCYA as related: “When I got involved I noticed that there wasn’t enough multicultural representation at alumni programs, so I wanted to help tie my network to the organization. CCYA offers a space for young professionals to interact with people from different professional backgrounds, leading to greater creativity in all of our pursuits. That’s why even our frequent happy hours help young alumni to become stronger adults and stronger alumni.”

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

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

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

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

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

I hope to see all alumni—not just those in reunion years—on campus at Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2.
When Norman Dorsen '50 arrived at Columbia College in fall 1946, he was not your average freshman. First, there was his age. At 16, he was younger than most of his classmates. And then there was his physical appearance. Though at 5-foot-10½ he was tall enough to snag a spot on the JV basketball team, he was, in his own words, “not physically prepossessing,” especially when compared to the many WWII veterans who were flooding the University thanks to the G.I. Bill. Adding to Dorsen’s sense of isolation was the fact that he still lived at home. While other students socialized on campus, he generally trundled home on the subway to his parents’ apartment on West End Avenue and 92nd Street — where he worried obsessively about his grades. Indeed, listening to Dorsen’s description of his college-age self (“I was pretty pathetic,” he says, laughing), one pictures a scrawny, naïve kid adrift in a sea of strapping, savvy undergraduates.

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

Dorsen cannot recall the exact moment his passion for civil liberties began, but for more than a half-century, Norman Dorsen '50 has fought for fundamental freedoms and against discriminatory legislation.
Photos on the walls of Norman Dorsen ’50’s office at NYU attest to the remarkable breadth of his career.

Photo: Thomas F. Ferguson ’74

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

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

Photos: Courtesy Norman Dorsen ’50
there were hints of his liberal leanings during his undergraduate years. He recalls one professor who labeled his opinions "a little spicy" — a characterization that Dorsen does not dispute. "I was no radical," he says, laughing again, "but I definitely had views."

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

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

So Dorsen was "overjoyed" when, in 1961, after two federal clerkships, including one with Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan, and a brief stint practicing law in New York City, he was offered a faculty position and the directorship of the Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Program at NYU Law. It was there he met his wife, Harriette, a woman who shared his liberal views (she became one of the country’s most influential publishing lawyers) and with whom he raised three daughters.

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

He did much more than that. He turned the program into what Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. later called "the most effective and important center in the country for the training of law students for public service on behalf of individual rights." Under Dorsen’s direction, the program has provided practical, hands-on instruction for hundreds of fellows, many of whom continue to work in the public interest as civil liberties lawyers in government and legal services organizations and as law professors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Valerie Seiling Jacobs is a freelance writer, an M.F.A. candidate in the School of the Arts and a teaching fellow in the College’s University Writing Program. Before turning to writing, she practiced corporate law. Thomas F. Ferguson ’74 contributed to this article.
The Voice is All: The Lonely Victory of Jack Kerouac ['44] by Joyce Johnson. Johnson explores Kerouac’s dual identity as a French-Canadian and an American, and assesses how being caught between the two cultures and languages affected his writing (Viking, $32.95).

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

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

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

The Mountain of Long Eyes: An Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy by Thomas Wm. Hamilton '60. This collection includes more than 25 stories on subjects such as time travel, alternate history, horror, politics and space opera (Strategic Book Publishing and Rights, $13.95).

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

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

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

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

The Death and Life of Main Street: Small Towns in American Memory, Space, and Community by Miles Orvell '64. Orvell studies the nostalgic construct of Main Street in American culture, including its allure, ideology and function as a space (The University of North Carolina Press, $39.95).

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


The Magician’s Twin: C.S. Lewis on Science, Scientism, and Society edited by John G. West, and John G. Weissman. This book responds to the need for a foundational text to supplement manuals on interpersonal psychotherapy (Oxford University Press, $55).

Communicating the Bird by Robert Ronnae '70. Ronnae explores political, sexual and emotional themes in this collection of poems (Broken Publications, $10).

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

Inside CEO Succession: The Essential Guide to Leadership Transition by Tom Saporito and Paul Viutum '77. The authors present a comprehensive overview of how boards can manage CEO succession while maintaining corporate success (Wiley, John & Sons, $50).
Phillip Lopate ’64 Takes Stock

By Jessamine Chan ’12 Arts

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

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

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

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

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

During his “powerless and in the dark” years in the mid- to late-1960s, Lopate responded to calls for editorial assistants (ghost writers, really) on Columbia’s unemployment wall and earned money working on manuscripts for psychologists, social scientists and educators. He chronicles this early period in his essay, “The Poetry Years,” admitting that of his 15 years writing poetry: “I am tempted to rub my eyes, as though recalling a time when I ran off and joined the circus.” Despite the “bluffing” that the form required, Lopate’s 12 years as a consulting writer-poet in a Manhattan public school informed his memoir, Being with Children: A High-Spirited Personal Account of Teaching, Writing, Theatre and Videotape. It was also the foundation for a teaching career that has since included positions at the University of Houston, Hofstra and Bennington.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mobile Marketing: An Hour a Day by Rachel Pasqua and Noah Elkin '91. Learn how to develop and deploy mobile marketing strategies for everything from brand building to lead generation and sales to establishing a compelling mobile presence (Wiley, John & Sons, $29.99).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Theos Bernard, the White Lama: Tibet, Yoga, and American Religious Life by Paul G. Hackett, lecturer in the discipline of classical Tibetan in the Department of Religion. Through interviews, diary entries and personal documents, Hackett examines the religious, political and cultural impact of Bernard, only the third American to enter the holy capital city of Lhasa, Tibet (Columbia University Press, $32.95).

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

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

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

Karl Daum ’15
Obituaries

1930
Malcolm S. Mason, attorney. Earlysville, Va., on November 1, 2011. Mason was born in the Bronx in June 1911. He was a 1934 graduate of the Law School and had lived in the Earlysville area since 2003. Mason was an expert in federal grants law and was legal counsel in several federal agencies, including the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Up to the time of his death, he was serving as a senior fellow to the Administrative Conference of the United States. Mason was predeceased by his wife, Irma; brother; and sister. He is survived by his daughter, Jan, and her husband, Ed Freundschuh; son, Mike; and two granddaughters.

1931
Paul E. Queneau, Hanover, N.H., on March 31, 2012. Queneau was born on March 20,1911, in Philadelphia. He earned a B.A. as well as a B.S. (1932) and Ph.D. (1933), the latter two at Engineering, and began work at International Nickel Co.'s (INCO) Huntington, W.Va., alloy plant. Queneau graduated from the Army Engineer School and was deployed to Europe with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He was an intern, resident and surgeon, Sarasota, Fla., on January 25, 2012. At the College, Bases was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At the depth of the Great Depression, he and his brother, Joe, won his first year's P&S tuition by betting on a long shot at the races. He earned the rest of his tuition by working as a shoe salesman and selling blood. Bases graduated from P&S in 1936 and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He was an intern, resident and house surgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital, a diplomat of the American Board of Otolaryngology and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. During WWII, he served in the Army Medical Corps. After the war Bases was a Special Fellow in head and neck surgery at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. He served chiefly during the next 30 years as an attending otolaryngologist at the Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, N.Y. He also devoted 10 years to teaching and practicing medicine in Afghanistan and Java as a volunteer with CARE/Medico. Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Ann; sons, John and Terry; daughter-in-law, Deborah; two grandsons; and two nephews.

1939
Thomas P. Armstrong, retired business administrator, Russell, Mass., on April 15, 2012. Armstrong and his two brothers were raised on the Columbia Stock farm, a thoroughbred horse operation on Long Island, N.Y. After the College, he studied Japanese at Penn while serving in the Army during WWII. Armstrong's career included salaried attendance on boards, final administration and the Department of Health, and the Ambulance Association, Box 353, New Haven, Conn.

1940
Gilbert H. Glaser, retired medical school professor, North Haven, Conn., on January 21, 2012. Glaser, a 1943 graduate of P&S, trained in neurology at The Neurological Institute of New York at New York Presbyterian Hospital / Columbia University Medical Center and then served at the U.S. Navy Base in San Francisco until 1946-48. He was recruited to Yale as head of the neurology section, beginning a 45-year career at Yale. Glaser became full professor in 1963 and was named chairman when neurology became a department in 1971, a position he held until his 1987 retirement. Glaser was internationally known for his clinical expertise and research in epilepsy and was a leader of a new generation of physician-scientists committed to disease-oriented laboratory research as the basis for understanding basic disease mechanisms as a prerequisite to developing novel therapies. Glaser was president of the American Epilepsy Society in 1963 and president of the American Academy of Neurology from 1973-75. He was editor of the journal Neurology and on the editorial boards of many other journals. Yale honored him in 2006 by establishing the annual Gilbert H. Glaser Lectureship and in 2010 by creating the Gilbert H. Glaser Professorship.

1941
Richard H. Kuh, retired attorney, New York City, on November 17, 2011. Kuh was briefly the Manhattan D.A. in 1974, serving between the resignation of Frank S. Hogan '24, '28L and the election of Robert M. Morgenthau. Kuh was born in Manhattan on April 27, 1921. He served as a combat infantryman in Europe in WWII and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law in 1948. Kuh went into private practice in New York in 1948 when he was an ADA from 1953-64, serving as chief of the Criminal Court Bureau and as Hogan's administrative assistant. Kuh's role in the 1964 obscenity trial of stand-up come-

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 COT 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/occt, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 6th Fl., New York, NY 10025.
Daniel J. Edelman ’40, ’41J, Public Relations Pioneer

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

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

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

After leaving the service, Edelman was a news writer for CBS and a publicist at Musicaftert Records in New York before moving to Chicago in 1947 to become PR director of the Toni Co., which sold hair styling products. He expanded on the company’s successful advertising campaign, which used twins to compare its product to those of competitors, by conducting the first modern media tour and sending six sets of twins to 72 U.S. cities.

In 1952, Edelman launched his own public relations company in a small office in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Toni became his first client, followed by brands such as Sara Lee, KFC, Microsoft, Pfizer, General Electric, Wal-Mart Stores, Abbott Laboratories, Samsung, Royal Dutch Shell, Kraft, Johnson & Johnson and Unilever. Some of Edelman’s greatest marketing successes were establishing the Butterball Turkey Talk-Line and helping Advil to switch from prescription to over-the-counter medicine.

Edelman also is known for creating the Mail Preference Service, an opt-out list for people wishing to avoid marketing solicitations, in 1976.

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

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

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

Karl Daum ’15

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

1948

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

Mellins also was an accomplished musician, skier, figure skater and gardener as well as an avid reader.
OBITUARIES

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

Richard Stang ’48

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

1950

Richard D. Cushman, retired v.p. and general manager, Auburn, Calif., on November 9, 2011. Cushman was born February 14, 1929, in Norwich, N.Y. Drafted into the Army, he served from December 1952–June 1954, receiving an honorable discharge as a first lieutenant in the Finance Corps. He remained on reserve duty with the Army until 1964. In 1957, Cushman began a 28-year career with Diamonds International Corp., retiring as v.p. and general manager of the Western Retail Division. In 1988, he began a second career as a volunteer with the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program, helping seniors fill out their tax forms. A year later, he became the program coordinator and also joined the Literacy Support Council as a tutor. He was named the 962nd Point of Light by President George H.W. Bush in 1992. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Pamela; daughters, Cynthia Louise Hickman and Melissa Cushman Banczak; sisters, Sara Bouchonville and Cynthia Whited; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Literacy Support Council, PO Box 5291, Auburn, CA 95604-5291.

1955

Philip D. Bleser, sales manager, Bonita Springs, Fla., on October 28, 2011. Bleser was born on May 6, 1933, in Schenectady, N.Y. He earned a B.S. in 1956 from Engineering and was a member of Sigma Chi. Bleser traveled abroad and lived in Mexico and Venezuela. He was a founding member of the Naples Columbia University Club as well as an avid fisherman and boater. Bleser is survived by his wife of 57 years, Eileen (née Hadley); children, Philip and his wife, Carol; Steven, Susan Copeland, Scott and his wife, Sally; and five grandchildren.

Stuart M. Kaback, retired scientific adviser, Cranford, N.J., on February 13, 2012. Kaback was born in Elizabeth, N.J., and moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., where he spent his childhood. He earned an M.A. (1956) and a Ph.D. (1960), both in chemistry and from CSAS. Kaback joined Esso Research and Engineering Co. in June 1960 and retired in 2002. He held numerous patents, was published frequently and was internationally recognized as an expert in his field. Kaback is recognized for his significant contributions in polymer science and engineering patent information with the American Petroleum Institute, Chemical Abstracts Service, Derwent Information, Questel-Orbit and the Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology. Kaback was a member of the American Chemical Society and won many awards for his work in patent information, including the prestigious Herman Skolnick Award. He had been a member of Temple Beth-El since moving to Cranford in 1966, serving as its president, chair of its board of education and in a number of other capacities. Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Marilyn; children, Robin and her husband, Jim, and Gilbert and his wife, Debra; and five grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

Peter B. Kenen ’54, Economist, Former Provost

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

Born in Cleveland, Kenen moved with his family to New York, where he attended Bronx Science. He graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. from the College and earned an M.A. (1956) and a Ph.D. (1958) from Harvard. From 1956–70 he was a research student at the London School of Economics.

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

Kenen authored and co-authored numerous books and monographs, including British Monetary Policy and the Balance of Payments: 1951–57, winner of the David A. Wells Prize at Harvard for 1958–59. His textbooks International Economics and The International Economy were standards for generations of undergraduates entering the field. He was a founding member of the Group of Thirty, an organization that seeks to deepen understanding of international economic and financial issues, and a member of the Bellagio Group, an international group of academics and public officials from finance ministries and central banks. He was also a member and former fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations as well as a consultant to the Council of Economic Advisers, the Office of Management and Budget, the Federal Reserve, the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Economic Advisory Panel of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Kenen is survived by his wife of 57 years, Regina H.; children, Stephanie, Joanne and her husband, Ken Cohen; Judith and her husband, Jim Gordon; and Marc and his wife, Leslie Fisher-Katz; and five grandchildren, including Zachary Natan Cohen ’13 GS/JTS. Memorial contributions to benefit undergraduate financial aid may be made to the Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025. Donations also may be made to Secure@ Home of the Jewish Family & Children’s Service of Greater Mercer County, 707 Alexander Rd., Ste 1-A, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Elena Hecht ’09 Barnard

Spring 2013

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OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

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

1938 Leo D. Kellerman, ophthalmologist, Douglaston, N.Y., on November 18, 2012.
1943 Cleomenes Generales, physician, La Jolla, Calif., on December 31, 2012.
1946 Eugene Bruck, musicologist, New York, N.Y., on December 8, 2012.
1948 Grant B. Dellaheough, family physician, Dumont, N.J., on November 21, 2012.
1949 Frederick W. Scholl, Hendersonville, N.C., on April 11, 2011.
1955 Ihor Koszman, chemical engineer, Montgomery, Texas, on August 9, 2012.
1956 John V. Tait '68

John R. Tait '68

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

1959 Michael Marks Cohen, former naval officer, former Law School professor, New York City, on December 1, 2012.

Lisa Palladino

1965 David R. Williams, retired music professor, Memphis, on December 6, 2012.
1968 Barry Deutsch, attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 29, 2012.
1973 John W. Tait '68

John R. Tait '68

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Lisa Palladino
Class Notes

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
cct@columbia.edu

Your friends and classmates want to hear from you! Please send news about yourself or your family, or a favorite Columbia College memory, to CCT at either the email or postal address above. You also can send news online via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Robert Zucker
29 The Birches
Roslyn, NY 11576
rzucker@optonline.net

This is a short note to remind you that Columbia College Today still comes to you, and the only way we can have a class column is for classmates to send me news of their activities.

As regards my life, my 12-room house is on the market and I am buying a two-bedroom apartment in North Shore Towers and Country Club in Queens. There are 1,600 apartments in three 33-story buildings. Facilities include an 18-hole golf course, five tennis courts, a movie theater, supermarket, restaurant and more. I spent most of the summer in Southampton and play a lot of tennis.

So, how about you? Email or write with updates on your life and activities. Let’s keep our class alive.

Melvin Hershkowitz
22 Northern Ave.
Northampton, MA 01060
DrMelvin2@gmail.com

On July 31, Dr. Arthur “Wizzer” Wellington sent a very nice letter from his home in Elmira, N.Y., reporting that his growing family now has six great-grandchildren, with a seventh who was anticipated to arrive in October. Art (92) continues to be active with friends and family in Elmira and is one of three surviving members of his longstanding breakfast club, which began with 12 friends long ago. I doubt that any other Class of 1942 classmates have so many great-grandchildren, but I will happily receive population reports for future issues of CCT. Compliments to Art on his longevity and loyalty to Columbia.

On August 21, our Alumni Office notified me of the death on September 25, 2011, of Dr. William Pfeffer Jr. in Randolph, N.H. William entered Harvard Medical School via the professional option associated with his M.D. in 1944. He was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha academic honor society and later completed his training as a pediatrician. At Columbia, William was a member of SAE, was Club manager and earned Silver and Gold Crowns. He was predeceased by his first wife, Jean Wilkinson, and is survived by his second wife, Angela; son, William; daughter, Jane Jerr; and two grandchildren. We extend condolences to his family. You can read William’s obituary in the Fall issue.


At Columbia, Warren was president of Le Cercle Lafayette and v.p. of the Economics Society. He is survived by his wife, Jessie; daughters, Kathryn Meyer Yaverbaum and Nancy Lohman; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Warren, one of the most brilliant members, among many, in our Class of 1942, leaves a record of great accomplishment in economics research and public service. We mourn his loss and extend condolences to his family.

I was sad to see an obituary notice for Paul M. Cohen in The New York Times on August 25. Paul earned an M.B.A. at the Business School in 1947 and then had a long career as an accountant, controller and financial services executive at S.D. Leidscott, Gottlieb & Bock, Continental American Merchandising Company, A.J. Armstrong & Co. and Shearson Lehman. Paul finished his career as a v.p. at Lehman Brothers before his retirement.

At Columbia, Paul was a member of the Jewish Student Society, Beta Sigma Rho, the Columbia Players and the Varsity Show. He worked on Spectator and earned a Silver Crown. He was a loyal alumnus and occasionally contacted me and my Class Notes correspondent to discuss Columbia alumni affairs. He also was a steady and generous financial donor to the College. Paul was predeceased by his first wife, Dorothy Rodbell, and is survived by his second wife, Dorothy Roberts; daughters, Liza- konis and Nancy Lohman; five grandchildren, and step-grandchildren. We mourn the loss of another fine classmate, Paul, a strong runner and great passer, who was a worthy successor to Luckman. In 1942, he won the Maxwell Award as the outstanding player in the nation. He played professional football for five years after graduation, two with the New York Giants. We send coach Mugan- rian our best wishes for immediate success and an early Ivy League Championship.

Best wishes and kind regards to all classmates. Send your news and comments by email or call my home, 413-586-1517.

In those days of two-way players, Sid also was our punter and a tenacious defensive safety. He had a brilliant pro career with the Chicago Bears, where he helped install the T-formation offense under coach George Halas. Joining Sid on the Bears was Columbia’s outstanding and John Siegal ’39, who became a successful dentist.

In 1938-42, Columbia had some exciting victories over major football schools. In 1938, we beat Army 20-18. In 1939, we beat Navy 19-13 and lost to Tulane 25-0, as we were unable to contain that school’s elusive halfback, Jitterbug Kellogg. In 1940, we beat Wisconsin 7-6 and defeated Georgia 19-13, when halfback Phil Bayer took a lateral pass and ran over the goal line for the winning score. Phil became a Marine Officer, decorated for heroism in combat in WWII, when he was killed at Peleliu. In 1941, Columbia, led by quarterback Paul Governali ’43, lost to Michigan 28-0. Paul, a strong runner and great passer, was a worthy successor to Luckman. In 1942, he won the Maxwell Award as the outstanding player in the nation. He played professional football for five years after graduation, two with the New York Giants. We send coach Mugan- rian our best wishes for immediate success and an early Ivy League Championship.

Best wishes and kind regards to all classmates. Send your news and comments by email or call my home, 413-586-1517.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS: Nick Mider
nm2613@columbia.edu
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DEVELOPMENT: Mara Henckler
ml2105@columbia.edu
212-851-7494

G.J. D’Angio
201 S. 18th St., #1818
Philadelphia, PA 19103
dangio@earthlink.net

Silence seems to be the key word for ‘43ers. No news received.

Remember, 2013 is the 70th anniversary of our graduation. That means you all should be planning to attend our Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 2. Look me up; I’ll be there, and would be delighted to see you again on campus. In the meantime, you can ensure that
Mario E. DeOrchis ’43, ’48L retired this year after practicing as an admiral proctor (marine lawyer) for 64 years.

He now resides in Carlston-Willard Village, a retirement community in Bedford, Mass., where he’s “in charge of our small lending library, among other things.” He also helps in a nearby Episcopal church. And by the time these Class Notes reach you, Louis will have celebrated the 65th anniversary of his ordination, which was conducted by his father, then the rector of Grace Church in downtown New York.

Pressed for other activities that keep him busy, Louis responded, “I enjoy music as much as ever and attend popular concerts of the Boston Symphony.”

Also happily retired in the Bay State is MIT history professor emeritus Bruce Mazlish. He is still churning out articles as well as blog posts, which you can tap into at bmazlish, blog.com. Bruce’s most recent article, “From the Sentiment of Humanity to the Concept of Humanity,” was published in the June issue of Historically Speaking — “a very lively periodical for accuracy after your college,” his “best news” was that his 2-year-old grandson, Jacob, got a brother, Jared, on August 7. The boys are offspring of Bruce’s son, Jared, and daughter-in-law, Darcy. They live in beautiful Breckenridge, Colo.

Among ’44’s West Coast contingent is retired attorney Arthur Knapp, who reports from Walnut Creek, Calif., that he keeps in shape by “keeping my yard in shape,” a program supplemented by three-weekly visits to the gym. In July, Arthur even flew for a granddaughter’s wedding. He then celebrated Labor Day by “spending some quality time” with his daughter and admiring her new house in Oregon.

Enoch Callaway 87 Barbaree Way Tiburon, CA 94920-2223 enoch.callaway@uscf.edu

Guido Dattaro (914-961-8051, gdattaro@msn.com) is 87 and retired, having run a construction company for 11 years and then being a building official until he retired. Guido entered the Class of ’45 was but called up because of the war and served as an electronic technician in the Navy. The big event of his naval career occurred at the war’s end. They were anchored off Rota and a group of Japanese came aboard their ship to surrender. He returned to Columbia with great delight and graduated in due time.

Asking what he does for amusement now, Guido says he dates and particularly enjoys dancing! That, at 87, is remarkable in itself. Unfortunately, he says lately he’s been suffering from gout and that has inhibited his preferred activities.

When Mario E. DeOrchis ’48L (203-637-0045, medeorchis@marinelx.com) retired this year after practicing as an admiral proctor (marine lawyer) for 64 years, he took down the two diplomas that hung side by side in the office for DeOrchis & Partners in New York City. One was his CC diploma, and the other certified that he received an L.L.B. from the Law School. This achievement was made possible by a combination of things, including entering law school after completion of his junior year in college, a 10-point bonus for serving in WWII, attending three semesters per year and taking more classes than were usually allowed. Because he was a Columbia College scholarship student, he took down the two diplomas that hung side by side in the office for DeOrchis & Partners in New York City. One was his CC diploma, and the other certified that he received an L.L.B. from the Law School. This achievement was made possible by a combination of things, including entering law school after completion of his junior year in college, a 10-point bonus for serving in WWII, attending three semesters per year and taking more classes than were usually allowed. Because he was a Columbia College scholarship student, he took down the two diplomas that hung side by side in the office for DeOrchis & Partners in New York City.

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Calculating the magnitude and even the sign of this "dark" (i.e. invisible) mass-energy density contribution to cosmology depends on knowledge of all the possible particles and interactions on all microscales, even those infinitesimally smaller than what could be directly explored in the laboratory.

"It is, however, possible to bound the magnitude of the vacuum ‘dark energy’s’ mass density from limits for the expansion rate of our universe. That magnitude should not be very much greater than the allowed limit. For the expansion of our universe, put it well within this allowed limit.

The great mystery is why the theoretical estimates of it from known or contemplated microphysicists are so hugely greater than this limit. Proposition for the tiny value we observe for it include speculations that theoretical physics will always allow an essentially infinite range of possible ‘dark energy’ densities but these are distributed among an infinite number of other, coexisting universes. Only extremely rare ones like our own with tiny vacuum densities could produce the conditions for astronomers and physicists to study their universe.”

Mal adds: “The probable verification of Higgs boson doesn’t yet change any part of the ‘dark energy’ puzzle.”

Richard Friedman, initially an English/drama major, turned to medicine because his father said he had to do something to earn a living. When he retired, the first thing he did was write a pulp novel, Deceit and Deception, which “turned out pretty good for a pulp novel.” So avoid battlefields, eat a diet you love, take good care of yourself and your loved ones and leave the world a better place.

Robert DeMaria ’48 is an author as well as a publisher of The Vineyard Press.
the news of his former roommate’s death, sent this note: “As I read Columbia College Today, I’ve thought how lucky we are to be alive. More and more of the short notes from classmates list the everyday things that they are doing, what their kids have done or are doing, who they have lost and who their friends were at Columbia. Memories are vivid, nostalgia is obvious, thankfulness is apparent. We were so lucky to be at Columbia after the end of one war and before the beginning of the next. We should not waste a minute of any day and live every hour as best we can, as long as we are able. Time passes, more quickly than we realize. Live your life as best you can, as long as you are able. Bob did.”

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

Harvey Gardner, who describes himself as “46 ex-45 still extant,” sent this note: “With Father’s Day (June 17, 1949) travel only between Nyack home and second home in South Egremont, Southern Berkshire County, Mass. In touch weekly with Marcel Gutwirth ‘47, ‘50 GSAS and Charles Simmons.”

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

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

Frank Marcus writes, “This year promises to be a busy one. I practice, teach and pursue research at the University of Arizona. I was an invited speaker at a pediatric cardiology conference in Orange County in January; later that month I was, at this writing, to attend a grand rounds in a hospital in Miami. I am scheduled to give a talk at the American College of Cardiology meetings in March in San Francisco. In April, I plan to travel to Paris to give a talk at the European Cardiac Arrhythmia Society. In May, I plan to give a presentation at the Heart Rhythm Society in Denver. That same month, I will be pleased to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pima County Medical Society in Tucson, Ariz. “In addition to the above, I try to keep in touch with my three grown children and six grandchildren, who range in age from 19 months to 21 years.”

CCT needs a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti ‘11 via email at alexis.tonti@brown.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, please send updates to CCT at the postal or email address at the top of the column or via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbus.edu/cct/submit_class_note

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

John Weaver 2639 E. 11th St., Brooklyn, NY 11236 wudchpr@gmail.com

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

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

I do recall, however, that we had a warm gathering in the tent at Homecoming. Bob Rosencrans, Fred Berman, Bill Lubic and Marvin Lipman all were in fine form and good health. Speaking of Marvin, we heard from his wife, Naomi Lipman ‘51 Barnard, ’52 GSAS, who is obviously his press agent: “Marvin has retirement party: He’s still going strong, seeing patients and working as a writer, blogger, and editor for the latest report he’s been with them for 45 years. Can’t keep a good man down!”

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

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

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

Bud Kassell had surgery on his right hand to fix what he calls his two “trigger fingers,” so that he can continue two favorite activities. Now he can grip a tennis racket and a ski pole with equal comfort and be able to continue his favorite snowboarding. That said, he probably will no longer attend class reunions and so he takes this opportunity to send best wishes to all 1950 classmates.

Bernie Prudhomme, after 43 years in Atlanta, half of which were spent with Coca-Cola, has left the big city and moved to the small town of Thomson, Ga., where his daughter and her husband have a medical practice. Bernie feels that his daughter will probably no longer attend class reunions.

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

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

Sadly, we have three deaths to report: Emmett C. Harris of Bloomingdale, Ill., September 20, 2012; Dr. Robert C. Runyon of Concord, Mass, January 2012; and Dr. Harold Tapley ’51E of Bakersfield, Calif., August 2012.
George Koplinka
75 Chelsea Rd.
White Plains, NY 10603
desilah@verizon.net

As we begin the New Year let's review our list of class officers and representatives. He and his wife, Elaine, live at 150 E. 61st St., Apt. 12H, New York, NY 10065-8530; 212-751-1106; robertsnyder@gmail.com. Bob faithfully attends Columbia football and basketball games, supports alumni activities and represents our class at campus events such as the recent Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony and the Dean's Scholarship Reception.

Class v.p. Elliot Wales and his wife, Fran, reside at 52 Riverside Dr., Apt. 10C, New York, NY 10024-6501; 212-787-2309; elliotwales@aol.com. Elliot, although mostly retired from the practice of law, keeps busy with part-time work. He leads an intellectual life with frequent visits to museums, art galleries, and music halls. He has a strong interest in the Columbia College Alumni Association and traveled recently with the University’s Alumni Travel Study Program on excursions to Spain and Turkey.

Class secretary Willard Block and his wife, Roberta, recently sold their home in Sands Point, N.Y., and now reside in two locations. In addition to their summer apartment in NYC they have homesteaded at 10100 Cypress Cove Drive, Apt. #385, Fort Myers, FL 33908; FAX 802-425-3257. If this plan does not work out, the Blocks plan to become gypsies, visiting family and friends around the country and especially in Vermont.

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

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

Recently Don sent along a copy of his latest publication, an autobiographical account of his life and multi-faceted career, No Stone Unturned — A Life Without Bounds. Here is an amusing excerpt from the Columbia days we all shared: ”Freshmen were required to wear a small Columbia-blue cap for the first months. One of the hazing rituals was placing a cap on top of a tall, at least 20 feet high and was covered with heavy grease. No freshman class could last at least one year had ever succeeded in removing the cap. Class of 1951 became the first to accomplish the impossible. A quickly assembled gang with several NROTC freshmen [(Offie Van Den Berg, Jay Dee Battenberg and Wendell "Doc" Sylvester, all on the freshman football team) among those at the bottom locked their arms around each other and the pole and hung on. In the next two days on Doc's shoulders, also holding onto the pole. Others stood on our shoulders and we built a pyramid of yelling guys. Little Al DeBartolo [now Al Barti] climbed over all of us and grabbed the cap. As far as I know no other class accomplished this amazing feat.”

If you would like a copy of Don's book, contact him at 904-287-0222 or db100@south.net.

There is a change of address for Theodore D. Bihuniak: Ted and his wife, Marilyn, sold their home in Wilson, Conn., last October and moved to Florida. Their new address is 10100 Cypress Cove Drive, Apt #385, Fort Myers, FL 33908; 295-437-2724.

Myron (Mickey) Winick died on November 1, 2012. He earned a master's from the University of Illinois and an M.D. from SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Following an internship in Pennsylvania and pediatrics training at Cornell he joined P&S and became a world-renowned authority on nutrition. A list of Mickey's many awards appeared in our 60th Reunion Directory, reaffirming his contribution to the world. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; two sons and two grandchildren. I know it's late, but this is the first chance I've had to ask: Did you make a resolution for 2013 that you would send in news for this column? If not, do it now! Make my days happy.
day, May 30. The exhibit is expected to be “Treasures from Romanoff Archives” and should be fascinating and informative. As far as I know, our class is the first to be offered a private visit to the Rare Book room on the sixth floor of Butler.

Also relating to the big weekend, I recently received a remarkable offer from Eliot Hearst, who was captain of the Columbia chess team during the 1949–53 season when it won the national collegiate chess championship; he was also captain of the U.S. Olympic Chess Team in 1959. Eliot has offered to hold a reunion event where he simultaneously plays 10 or 12 chess games. He admits to being somewhat hesitant of taking on the contest because very few, if any, masters older than 80 have ever attempted a similar simultaneous exhibition. If you would like to participate, or know of anyone in other reunion classes who might like to participate, please send me their names and email addresses.

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

Keep up the good work.

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

Circling back to reunion, as of the beginning of January, the following classmates have indicated they will attend: Bill Frosh, George Lowry, Jay Kane, Lewis Robbins, James Ross, Ed Robbins, Pete Pellett, Jim Steiner, Donald Taylor, Ary Zolberg, Joseph Aronon, MortonFeilich, Larry Harte, Seymour Hendel, Arthur Hessinger, Donald Hymes, Allan Jackman, Jay Kane, Richard Kleid, Richard Lambert, Martin Saiman, Ken Skoug, Robert Walzer, Dennis Adneuzzi, Gordon Henderson, Fred Ronai and Eliot Hearst.

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

I’m looking forward to seeing you all!

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Every so often I hear from some members of our class, and when I do I am delighted, as I remember them with good feelings even though nearly 60 years have passed since graduation. A good example is Scott Glover, who spent the bulk of his career with ExxonMobil. During that time he was stationed in Japan and Houston. He and his wife now live in New Jersey. They have two children and are involved with civic activity as well as sailing and boating. I hope that we will see them at our next reunion (Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014). I hadn’t been aware that Jack McGill died last year in Miramar Beach, Fla. In July, Bob Ambrose, John Lees, Chuck Graves ’54E and Bob Viarengo, along with their spouses, went to Florida for a joyful memorial service.

In other sad news, John Brackett Jr. passed away on December 8, 2012, at his home in Oxford, Conn. He was on the varsity crew at Columbia and continued his interest and activity in rowing as a member of the New Haven Rowing Club. John earned an M.D. from P’65 and served in the Navy for 12 years. He, his wife, Nancy, and their children later moved to Connecticut, where John was president of several medical associations and was active in community organizations. I looked at what he had written in our 2004 Reunion Yearbook. His thoughts included, “We have no regrets about our life decisions and experiences, and I owe a big thank you to Columbia for allowing me to spend nine formative years under her guidance.”

John will be missed by many. Peter Keneon died on December 17, 2012, after a battle with emphysema. Peter and I were classmates at both Bronx Science and the College, and I had the pleasure and honor of serving for him when he was the news director of WKCR. Peter earned a Ph.D. from Harvard and taught at Columbia from 1937–71. During that time he was chairman of the Department of Economics and was named provost. He then was director of the international finance section at Princeton from 1971–99. Peter was greatly respected as a result of his many publications as well as his positions, which included consultant to the Council of Economic Advisors, the International Monetary Fund and the Federal Reserve. The last time that I saw Peter was at one of our Homecoming games. I know that in addition to many others I will miss him. [Editor’s note: See: Obituaries.]

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

Another classmate who continues to travel extensively is Amie Tolkin. Amie is the father and the grandfather of a group of Columbia alumni. Like a good number of us did during December (including me), he celebrated his 80th birthday. I hope and trust that many members of “The Class of Destiny” are having similar gatherings. My second tendering is that in about 15 months we will celebrate our 60th reunion. I know that Bernd Brecher is working on our reunion program and would be very happy to hear from you.

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

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

One of our favorite professors, Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS, whom many of us had for various classes, passed away on October 25, 2012, at 104. [Editor’s note: See: Obituaries, Winter 2013 issue.]

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

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

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

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

Believe it or not (as the saying goes), the feisty “Class of Destiny” (that’s us) received another accolade: We finished Columbia’s Fiscal Year 2011–12 year as the highest participating group in the Columbia College Fund. A large amount of credit goes to the Class Agents: Don Laufer, Ron Spitz, Aaron Hamburger, Linda and Harry Mendelson (out of Washington, D.C.), Allen Hyman, Dick Kuhn, Elliot Gross and Jeff Brodlo (of the West Coast Broids). We heard from John Naley (living in New Jersey), who keeps in touch with his Brooklyn Tech buddies: Rod Thurston (retired from Los Alamos National Labs) and Tony Coppola (living in Wilmington, N.C.). Keeping in touch with your favorite correspondent, George Kaitt and Ron McPhee send all tidbits of information via Twitter and through their blogs. Who says we haven’t caught up to the modern modes of communication? Not needing a blog is Charlie Sergis, our award-winning radio announcer in New York and Los Angeles.

We missed seeing some of our class in San Francisco when the basketball team visited the Bay Area — Tom Morton (still practicing law,
not basketball), Bill Mink (one of our favorite oarsmen), Ed Sacks (enjoying the West Coast), Bernie Kirtman (Bill Epstein’s pal back East) and Jack Stuppin (continuing to paint).

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

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

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

My favorite and talented classmates.

Maintain your equilibrum even in the face of difficult times. Believe that the glass is half full. The 60th is looming closer.

Love to all! Everywhere!

The 60th is looming closer. Love to all! Everywhere!

Believe that the glass is half full. Maintain your equilibrium even in the face of difficult times.

To follow up on our class theme of traveling, I received emails from Jerry Fine, who took an 18-day trip to Germany, in¬cluding visits to Berlin, Munich, a cruise down the Rhine and ending up at the Swarovski factory for the 25th anniversary celebration. Talk about turning lemons into lemondad! In the process, they drove and used public transportation to get to most of their German destinations. Maurice writes of his high regard for the helpfulness of the German people and was particularly com¬plimentary of their transportation system.

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

The people like everything American but are developing a very nationalist attitude. All the young people, of course, have iPhones, iPads and computers. Everyone under 40 wants to 1) own a condo (bank/government financed), 2) own a car (bank/government financed) and 3) travel — in that order. It was an eye-opening educa¬tion in what can be accomplished in a short time. Of course, there is a downside to the type of govern¬ment-controlled economy under which the Chinese operate.

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

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

Further on the adult education subject, Columbia’s Heyman Center for the Humanities is offering spring colloquia featuring Allan Silver (“Friendship in East Asian & Western Civilizations”) and Peter Pazzaglini ’77 GSAS (“Philosophy as a Way of Life”). Those who attended our 55th reunion may remember Peter as our outstanding Saturday dinner speaker. Go to heymancenter.org for further information.

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

David Schuster, professor emeritus of chemistry at NYU, also sent the following report: “On the occasion of his official retirement and 70th birthday in 2005, a full-day event was held in David’s honor, organized by some of his former under¬graduate and graduate research students. This well-attended event, the first of its kind in chemistry at NYU, held on June 3, 2005, featured an all-day symposium followed by a large reception and dinner, all held at NYU. The symposium included talks by former students now working in academia or the...
pharmaceutical industry and colleagues from universities here and abroad as well as attending talks by David summarizing his career activities, punctuated by lots of pictures. These pictures can be viewed on his NYU website, nyu.edu/projects/schuster/people/schuster/schuster.htm. A large cocktail party at David’s home on East 30th Street in New York was held on the evening preceding the event.

“Subsequently, he was asked to teach a few courses, but following the hiring of several new faculty members he has not taught for several years. He continued to do research with undergraduates and a postdoctoral fellow until 2011, and decided to close his lab earlier in 2012. He continues to write papers with his collaborators in Europe and is working on a book. He has published an article on his career for the Journal of Organic Chemistry. He was the recipient of a 2012 Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society, which was presented following a symposium of Organic Chemistry. His collaborators in Europe and is permanently earlier in 2012. He

30th Street in New York was held on a recent meeting of the ACS in Philadelphia. The award consists of a plaque, a cash award and a research grant, which David intends to use to travel to scientific meetings here and abroad as well as to laboratories and scientific institutions around the world with which he has been affiliated. He also works occasionally for law firms as an expert witness on patent litigation issues and other matters in his areas of expertise in organic chemistry.

In addition to these professional activities, he volunteers one day a week at the archives of the New York Philharmonic, where he writes metadata for its database in connection with ongoing digitization of all the extensive holdings of the archives dating back to the orchestra’s founding in 1942. These files concern music and musicians, personnel matters and all business aspects of the organization. Currently, efforts are directed toward 1943-70, the so-called International Era, during which time the Philharmonic’s activities broadened considerably under the leadership of Leonard Bernstein. As David has been attending concerts of the New York Philharmonic since 1950, he frequently is consulted regarding various files and photographs that draw on his extensive concert experience and his knowledge of music and musicians. He studies the piano and occasionally performs solo and chamber concerts at his home in New York and at scientific gatherings in the United States and in Europe. He and his wife, Carlotta ’57 Barnard, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, live full-time in Manhattan and participate fully in the cultural and culinary life of our great city.”

Hillel Tobias writes, “Having just read the latest copy of Columbia College Today, I am inspired to write. The inspiration came from Jack Katz [who reported that he is still working]. I also work full-time and enjoy every minute of it. I am a medical director of the Liver Transplant Service of NYU Langone Medical Center, where they have yet to fire me as clinical professor of medicine and surgery. In addition, I consult for Concorde Medical Group, which I founded in the ’90s and which, with 43 doctors, now is probably the largest private multispecialty group in Manhattan.

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

“Incidentally, if there are any ’50ers in the Hamptons (there must be some), can we get together for lunch or dinner sometime?”

We have a winter get-together in Florida, summer get-together in the Hamptons — sounds good to me.

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

On December 18, I joined 34 other Class Agents for a Columbia College Volunteer Celebration, sponsored by the Columbia College Fund. Our class has Danny Link, Stan Soren, Al Franco ’56 and myself as Class Agents. Among other functions, we do solicit for contributions to the Columbia College Fund, which also gives us an opportunity to reconnect with class members (we do not just ask for money). I would be remiss if I did not encourage each and every class member who so desires to contribute. The fund year (2012–13) ends on Sunday, June 30. You can give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline, by calling the Alumni Office at 212-851-7488 or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10027.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gene Wagner reports, “On September 22 we again had our Columbus So Cal luncheon in Long Beach. We had seven classmates and five wives, who sat separately. We have set a precedent [on the seating arrangement, because] our wives have bonded just as have the husbands. Attending were Jerri Werksman, John Tussing, Ken Bodenstein, Bernie Lynch, Jon Lubin, myself and Mike Lynch. We made a tribute to Ken Silvers, who had been a regular attendee. He will truly be missed. After the lunch we gathered at my home on Southern Drive and moved to the cold climate of the Twin Cities. If we have any classmates living in that vicinity, I’m sure that Jon would welcome a message from them; his email address remains jonathallubinis@mac.com. Jon is a great guy who has had a successful and interesting career.

“As usual, Mike Gold led us in a political discussion. He tried to avoid the controversy of the presidential election and so we settled on a question on the proposition of a career in a career. Everyone walked away happy.”

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

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

I have two deaths to report: Edward A. Earle, of Wilmington N.C., died on April 25, 2012, and Pasquale “Pat” A. Loconto, of Austin, Texas, died on August 9, 2012.
is a marine biologist for NOAA and based at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. My older son, Kenneth '91, recently moved to Boston. He had a successful career on Wall Street (after getting his Ph.D. in theoretical particle physics at MIT and finding the job market in his field essentially nonexistent), but is now in a new phase of his life, developing a specialized software business and enjoying the intellectual climate he missed on Wall Street.

Last winter, we spent enjoyable time with Joe Krieger and his wife, Rose, when they came out to California and stayed in San Diego for a few weeks. As of this writing, we were planning to spend a week or so in the New York area in October to see the foliage, as well as catch up with family and friends and with our beloved Manhattan.

To David B. Smith, I apologize for using a wrong middle initial. David sent some interesting observations about his past year's travels, which you may recall took him for two months to Turkey, mostly along the Aegean coast of Anatolia: "When we think of ancient Greece and the roots of Western civilization, Athens comes to mind, perhaps Sparta. Or, if we recall Homer, which we all read, we may envision Mycenae or Mycenaean Tiryns or Mycenae or Mycenaeans or the walls of Tiryns. We all know of Helen and the Trojan War. But how many of us understand that the war was fought in Anatolia and as much over Asian trade as the infidelity of Helen? How many of us know that immediately after the fall of Troy, Aeolian Greeks established trading outposts on the Anatolian shore at the mouth of the Meander River at modern-day Sardes? That the beginning of the first millennium BCE, a huge Ionian migration settled most of western Anatolia.

Herodotus, whose histories we all remember from Humanities, himself from Halicarnassus, modern Bodrum, tells us that the first Ionian migrants did not bring women. When they conquered the Anatolian shore, they killed all the native men and took their women. Because the Greeks killed their fathers, husbands and sons, the women by oath thereafter sons, the women by oath thereafter killed their fathers, husbands and sons, the women by oath thereafter killed their fathers, husbands and sons. When they conquered the Anatolian shore, they killed all the native men and took their wives. Because the Greeks killed their fathers, husbands and sons, the women by oath thereafter killed their fathers, husbands and sons.

"Thales was the first great Greek mathematician. Some will know that he visited Egypt, but how many know that he came from Miletus? Thales, as I recall, was a member of the company of the early physicists Anaximander and Anaximenes, both also from Anatolian Miletus. Heraclitus, the first Greek to formulate an atomic theory of matter, hailed from Ephesus. The historian Herodotus and the first Greek city planner, Hippodamus, were from Miletus. Hippodamus famously laid out the plan of Priene on a grid. (We won't mention that in the Indus valley they did the same thing 2,000 years earlier.) Much later, Isidorus of Miletus, a renowned mathematician, completed the construction of Justinian's Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.

"Two of the seven wonders of the ancient world were in western Anatolia: the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus and the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus. The Colossus of Rhodes, a third wonder of the ancient world, was built a few miles off the Anatolian shore.

"It seems that the West owes as much to Anatolian Greeks as it does to the Peloponnesian and mainland Greeks."

After receiving a contribution from Matt Sobel '60, I asked about his position with the economics department at Case Western Reserve, in the Weatherhead School of Management, as I remembered him from my time as an engineer, stringing wires for ham radio antennas. He responded, "Yes, I did string an antenna wire between the roofs of the buildings that in that era were Engineering and the School of Mines. Through that wire I learned an educational mountain hiking and climbing but I've never felt as exposed as a drop as I did then."

Matt Sobel '59, '60 is the chair of the Department of Economics at Case Western Reserve.

"A few years after my engineering degree, I did regional water quality planning for an agency that became part of the EPA when it was created years later. The others in our group were engineers, biologists and oceanographers, and by default I became the link to the social and behavioral sciences. In typical engineering fashion, at first we did our planning by figuring out how much waste should be removed from the effluent of each town, city and manufacturing plant. Meanwhile, I was reading articles written by regional science scholars who originally had been economists. They argued that price systems could be employed to induce people to behave, of their own volition, in the way that one wanted them to behave. Since then, these arguments have been used and abused and seem quite common. At the time, they were novel. Anyway, that sucked me into economics.

"I sought a doctoral program at a university that was excellent in economics, particularly economic international bank in New York City, where I specialized in international trade and commercial law. I even tried to head a legal and investigative unit, becoming the company's chief 'fraud buster' domestically and overseas. After my retirement, I joined a British security consulting firm, where I set up a corporate investigation operation covering the western hemisphere. I retired a second time in 1997, but freelance as an expert witness on the occasional juicy fraud case."

"Never having escaped the spell of the humanities nurtured at Columbia, I also have been a semi-pro operatic baritone. During the '60s and '70s I appeared with various companies in the New York area. The voice is still serviceable but these days I do fewer solo appearances and, since our move to Vermont 15 years ago, restrict most of my singing to church, choruses and the shower. I spend as much time as possible revisiting the DWMs of the literary canon and am trying to keep up my quirky French language skills by slogging through Proust (I'm about halfway through at my current pace)."

"Vermont is as close to paradise as I am likely to get. I have become heavily involved in town activities, chair our local electric commission, ski almost every day during the season, have rationalized a mediocre golf game and fly fish whenever possible. That said, our greatest joy these days comes from a close relationship with our children and grandchildren and their extended families."

Ben Miller reports, "I had spinal surgery the day after the election. I lifted a page from Ronald Reagan's book and said to the doctor, 'I hope you're a Democrat.' He laughed. And I survived, so I guess he was. Recovering slowly. It's taking longer than I thought. The getting-old stuff is a real nuisance."

"Saw Ed Mендрыck;i and his wife, Cathy, in early October. They were in town for a wedding. We spent a lovely afternoon and early evening together. He looked good but frail. And he tries easily. He's a trooper."

Jay Brandstatter '60E writes, "This summer and fall had some Columbia content in it. In August, my wife and I visited the Adirondacks in upstate New York and caught up with our former roommate and his wife, Ann, at their place in Saratoga Springs. Rich is a retired marketing executive in high-tech products and management consulting. After a successful international career, he and Ann now divide their time between Georgetown in D.C. and Saratoga. I've known Rich since we were freshmen and he, like myself, was in the '3-2' program and got a B.S. in electrical engineering. Both of us also were members of the Dumbells, an Engineering School 'honor society' that I believe remember the admittance criteria; perhaps it was beer consumption)."

"We also had lightweight football in common. Remember lightweight or 150-lb. football? In 1956, I was one of the student managers of the lightweights (the varsity) and the admittance criteria was in the capable hands of Norm Gelfand and Mike Tannenbaum), and Rich played defensive back."

"Rich and I recalled the October 27, 1956, morning game against Navy in Annapolis. Final score: Navy 59, Columbia 0. Afterward, the team bus returned to Baker Field right at the conclusion of the varsity's game against Army. Final score: Army 66, Columbia 0. So for the day: Armed Services 119, Colombia 0. Of course, Rich and I also spent a day like that. There might have been a JV or freshman game that weekend to add to that ridiculous total outcome, but enough already. As a postscript, Columbia didn't
play Army again in football until 1982. As for lightweight, it’s now called ‘sprint football’ and Columbia hasn’t had a team in a number of years. And, yes, the service academies still dominate it.

“Another Columbia connection emerged in the recent 2012 elections. The incumbent in our restructured congressional district in Maryland was challenged by John Delaney ’85. John is the son of a union electrician and was awarded an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers scholarship to Columbia. (This is the same path that I followed.) I volunteered for his campaign and contributed where I could, mostly making telephone calls. John has an interesting background; he earned a law degree but made his mark as an entrepreneur and venture capitalist, underwriting a Democratic candidate. He was endorsed by The Washington Post and President Clinton and won the House seat by a 2:1 margin. Definitely a political star in the making.”

From Jay Neugeboren, we hear about his 19th book and two novels, both out this winter and spring. The first, The Other Side of the World, was published in December, and the second, The American Sun & Wind Moving Picture Company, was, at this writing, slated for publication in February. His new play, We Gather Together: A Musical-Comical-Tragical Thanksgiving Entertainment in Two Acts, received a robust staged reading recently, with Kathleen Chalfant and Paul Hecht in the principal roles. This spring, Jay will teach a master class in the graduate writing program at the School of the Arts.

Stephen Basson writes, “Seven months ago, my son and his lovely wife welcomed a daughter, our first grandchild, Phoebe. My wife has been helping her to get out and to the hospital. I went to help the high school where she taught for 39 years because a staff member left suddenly; we both hope that this January–May stint will end her formal career. I am reading regularly kept me up to date of the presidential campaign, but now it’s over and seems unlikely that you want a reprise. Besides, we are now into the 2016 campaign cycle, unfortunately. Makes one long for the British system, which limits campaigns to a month.

Otherwise, the mailbox has been uncharacteristically empty since the last issue of CCT, bringing on not just a state of alarm but also an abiding curiosity. Where have you all been? I’ve been reading about research to achieve “induced hibernation in humans” as a protective mechanism during surgery and to increase longevity. Got me wondering whether all in the class had volunteered to participate in such a project en masse. The slowing of breathing and heart rates. A lowering of metabolic activity. Abstention from, you know, any proclivity. The absence of all animation. A moratorium on email communication? To what end? Life extension? Not a bad idea. And who needs winter? Or was it that you all opted for early voting and sought respite from the remainder of the drawn-out, caustic, highly unpleasant and largely meaningless $2 billion campaign cycle directly elected at the 5 percent of ‘undecideds’? Hibernation, the perfect political campaign avoidance strategy. Makes sense. But why didn’t anyone let me in on how to do it? Now it’s all over.

Awaken. I miss your emails. The honor of the class is at stake and so, too, is the sanity of my mind, make no mistake, as — faced with a deadline and nothing to write — it tends to be fragile contemplating a most embarrassing sight, our prominent blue 60 ‘neath which not a spot of ink, as if the Class of ’60 inexplicably had become extinct.

My very best to all.”

Rabbi Clifford Miller ’61 was honored on December 1 and 2 at Temple Emanu-El in Bayonne, N.J., the congregation he has served for more than 25 years.

Bill Tanenbaum and Bill Caldwell regularly kept me up to date on observations during the presidential campaign, but now it’s over and seems unlikely that you want a reprise. Besides, we are now into the 2016 campaign cycle, unfortunately. Makes one long for the British system, which limits campaigns to a month.

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My very best to all.”

Rabbi Clifford Miller was honored on December 1 and 2 at Temple Emanuel El in Bayonne, NJ, the congregation he has served for more than 25 years. His wife, Deborah Uchill Miller ’66 Barnard; daughters, Arielle and Adinah; and grandchildren, Zeke and Zoey Timen, and Eitan Nadiv Fedor, were joined by more than 100 guests from California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, and New York, in addition to those who wrote to him from far and near. Since earning an M.L.S. from Rutgers, Clifford has practiced a second profession, remaining on Marginside Heights and cataloging the collection of the Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary. He has not retired yet!

David Konstan was elected honorary (foreign) fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Tom Lippman made a three-day trip to Tokyo in November to deliver a paper and give a lecture, “The Arab Spring and U.S. Interests.” Talk about jet lag — he arrived Wednesday evening, spent Thursday and Friday at the conference and flew home on Saturday. He learned he’s not as resilient as he used to be.


Sam Marateck’s paper, “Yang-Mills and Beyond,” was published last summer in the Notices of the American Mathematical Society. It describes the theoretical work leading up to the discovery of the Higgs boson.

San lived in Long Beach, N.Y., an area hit hard by Hurricane Sandy. He was out of his home until early December, and almost every car in Long Beach, including Sam’s, was damaged beyond repair. His was swept into a busy intersection by the ocean surge.

David Blickler passed away on October 26, 2012, in Sacramento, Calif., succumbing to lung cancer. A remembrance and tribute to David was held on November 20 in Sacramento, Calif. Don Roberts, George Perry and Marty Kaplan attended, and comments from letters written by Burtt Ehrlich and Marty Margulies were read at the ceremony.

Marty Kaplan also provided a remembrance of David at the
memorial service at the request of David’s wife, Terrie Lind. Several excerpts appear below.

“David had a large network of friends, reflecting the trust and admiration of fellow students. He was an active leader of three service organizations on campus, and elected chairman of the student government his senior year. He was active in NSA [National Students Association] and, no surprise, he was NSA chairman of the Student Body Presidents Advisory Board, selected by his peers. On all matters, he went for ‘What’s fair? What’s the right thing to do?’ Thus, it was no surprise that later in life he worked for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in Montgomery, Ala.; The Legal Aid Society; Planned Parenthood; Child Action; and Opening Doors.

“Nothing David did for others could surprise any of us who knew him in College, but he went beyond expectations when he celebrated his 60th birthday by joining the Peace Corps, where he had wanted to do when he graduated from college. He spent three years in Kenya, supporting the Lobanoff, put together a set of photographs remembering David’s life. For those who are interested, go to youtube.com and search for ‘Celebration of Life - David M. Blicker.’ One can simply enter “David Blicker” and the show will come up. There are even some shots from Columbia days.

Dr. Bob Lefkowitz ’62, a professor at Duke, was awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
My wife, Ruth, and I enjoyed seeing many of you at Homecoming. Among those attending were Bob Kraft; Ed Coller (back for the Marching Band reunion); Richard Gochman and his wife, Alice; Don Margolis; Phil Satow; Jerry Dwyer and his wife, Jane, along with grandchildren and other Men of Distinction. This was based on a personal freedom and control. IPs are up to, how you're doing and what's next.

As always, let us know what you are doing, and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2013.

Barry Bley writes from Colorado: “I continue my volunteer activities with the Alumni Representative Committee [studentaffairs.columb.edu/admissions/alumni/resources]. For the past 30 years or so, I have spent many a pleasant hour interviewing applicants for admission to Columbia. On average, I interview 50-plus each year, and it is a great pleasure meeting with these highly intelligent, highly motivated young people. It is my way of giving back to Columbia for the outstanding education I received.”

“My Columbia education was financed in large part by a scholarship from the Leopold Scheppe Foundation in New York City. This year the foundation has awarded me its Outstanding Alumnus award, and I will be featured in its annual bulletin.”

On another point, now that I am happily retired from a 42-year
teaching career in the public schools of Suffern, N.Y., and I am enjoying spending lots of grandpa time with my four grandchildren.”

**Steve Henick** writes, “When I retired from business I quickly found out that, for me, hobbies, sports and the like were not going to provide a satisfactory retirement; having traveled extensively for business, doing more was not high on my list of priorities either. Instead, I was a volunteer mediator and started teaching as an adjunct at my local community college. That led to teaching as an adjunct at the University of Maryland University College.

“Last spring, UMUC offered me the opportunity to go back to work full-time as an associate professor and as the academic director of the undergraduate distance learning and international business programs. I accepted and so, at 70, I am working full-time. UMUC is Maryland’s open enrollment university and it has a national and international student body. The school has specialized in distance learning (now online) for decades although we do offer face-to-face courses. Teaching marketing and international business is within my comfort zone but educational administration is new, and that makes this job interesting and enjoyable. I am experiencing major changes driven by disruptive technology, and the application of this technology to achieving educational objectives and student success is fascinating. I am grateful that I can be a part of it.”

In September, Allen Tobias gave a talk at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, Netherlands, on Allen Ginsberg ‘48’s composition of Kaddish.

In December, at a dinner in the home of President L. C. Bollinger, **Steve Case** was honored by the University Trustees and awarded the Nicholas Murray Butler Medal for his work with the Columbia Alumni Association. In presenting the award, Bollinger called Steve, who was a trustee for 14 years, “a citizen of the University.”

At the dinner I sat next to John H. Coatsworth, University Provost and a leading scholar of Latin-American economic and international history. I am pleased to report that Professor Coatsworth is a strong supporter of the Core Curriculum.

**Gene Meyer** writes from Maryland, “I was devastated to learn in the latest issue of CCT of the deaths of Peter Shack and Nick Rudd. I was especially good friends with Peter in college, while he was at Georgetown Law and I was working and living in D.C., and later when I was living in Philly and he was fighting for the rights of migrant workers in South Jersey. We lost contact after he moved to California but reconnected at the last reunion. Nick was an Organization Man, the Mad Man before Mad Men, ebullient, gregarious, a great guy whom I got to know better during our reunion planning. Both are missed.”

“Now for some good news: A group of classmates in D.C. has been having more or less regular lunches with presidential historian Robert Darnton ‘64 GSAS, who taught some of us CC our freshman year. Most recently, nine of us met to talk, presidential history and politics post-election in a penthouse conference room of the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson, courtesy of partner **Shelley Hochberg**, **Dan Press**, who knows Bob personally, has organized what I think are now four or five of these enjoyable meetings.

“I see **Ed Leavy** and **Steve Case** fairly regularly and also **Barry Shapiro**, who is a Silver Spring, Md., neighbor. He is now the editor of the quarterly *Ball ‘n Brit* Magazine for three years. I also write occasional commercial real estate articles for *The New York Times*, along with other publications. We were displaced by last June’s derecho storm and finally landed in a two-room suite in a house in suburban Washington, D.C. My wife, Sandy, and I have a high school senior along with a college senior, and I also have a 41-year-old son who’s a computer guy and professional bluesman (guitar and bass) in Durham, N.C. Best to all.”

Join them in Washington, D.C., or join us at the informal class lunch held on the second Thursday of the month at the Columbia University Club of New York.

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**Leonard B. Pack** 924 West End Ave. New York, NY 10025 packib@aol.com

**Andy Fisher** (andrewfisheriv@gmail.com) sent a great note about Steve Brown, who entered with our class: “I spent a recent weekend with Steve and Carolyn Brown at their year-round house in Medina, Ohio, and the log cabin near Port Clinton on the Portage River where they spend as much time as possible.

“Steve and I have known each other since freshman week in 1961. He grew up in the projects on the west side of Cleveland, the oldest of 12 children, dreaming that someday he would live in Medina, a charming little city west of Akron. Family financial problems kept him from starting college until he was 21 and he got a generous financial aid package from Columbia. He played on assistant football coach Jack Armstrong’s 51 TC’s freshman team and laughed at the stories I would bring back from WKCR. He decided that we should room together and predicted that we would be able to snag a coveted two-room suite. Sure enough, we wound up with 934-935 Fumald Hall, arguably the finest room on campus, and it was my home for the rest of my time at Columbia. But it was not Steve’s. Trying hard to get through Columbia in three years, he flunked a few courses and his scholarship was taken away. He dropped out and was promptly drafted.

“The next time I saw Steve, I had just graduated and was about to be drafted myself. He just had left the Army, had married Carolyn Brown, and was working in Ford’s Foundry in Cleveland and going to Case Western Reserve at night. I figured he’d never make it to Medina but, again, I was wrong. Twenty years later, a letter arrived from his law office. I do not have to open it. The return address was ‘Stephen J. Brown, Attorney-at-Law, Medina, Ohio.’ Since then, we have never been out of touch for long, and he is a cherished friend. He and Carolyn drove 400 miles to see me in my law office. I never heard him complain about the twists and turns his life and career have taken, and I was deeply touched to hear him say how much his three semesters at Columbia meant to him, how they defined that foundation of learning for him and what a privilege it was to spend any time at all at the university we too often take for granted. He would like to be counted among us, to be regarded as a member of the Class of 1965 and to join with us in 2015 as we celebrate No. 50. I already consider him one of the most important people I know during my Columbia years and one of the greatest of the many gifts of my years at Columbia. He will always be my classmate and roommate.”

**David Obelkevich** (obelkevich@aol.com) wrote this in August: “My wife, Lyn Dominguez, and I are in a small town in New Mexico called Las Vegas (not the sin city in Nevada!). Our life here is running, cycling, bird watching, hiking, looking for fossils (I have a fossil collection recently) and enjoying a quiet rural life before returning to West End Avenue in Manhattan.

“Most of the Columbia grads list their intellectual accomplishments. Mibe have been more in the sports realm. I have the longest streak (36 years and counting) of consecutive finishes in the ING New York City Marathon. You can read about this in Chapter 18 of the book: *A Race Like No Other: 26.2 Miles Through the Streets of New York* by Liz Robbins, from 2008.

Another distinction is that I was the first U.S. citizen to finish the Comrades Marathon 10 times. This is a 56-mile race in South Africa, considered the most prestigious ultra-marathon in the world, with more than 12,000 finishers. In the musical arena, I play regularly with the Riverside Orchestra, a local community orchestra that plays on the Upper West Side. My stand partner in the first violin section is Jenny ‘70.

“Lyn has had a career in foreign currency, teaching high school social studies and now translating Spanish into English. It was her idea, 23 years ago, to cycle across the United States. I bought maps from her in 1993. We cycled in Europe in 1996, and we planned a 4,000 mile route from NYC to Oceanside, Calif., lasting eight weeks. Fortunately, the summer vacation from NYC public schools was almost 10 weeks that year, so we had some time to devote before resuming teaching in September. Las Vegas, N.M., was on the route from Laredo, Kans., to Oceanside. It’s a working-class town about the size of my hometown of Johnson City, N.Y., and most of the people are Hispanic. As Lyn’s father was born in Mexico and she speaks Spanish fluently, she fits right in. The climate in the summer is a perfect antidote to the excessive humidity of NYC, and the air at 6,500 feet is always clean and pure. We love it here.”

**Neil Smith** (neilasmirb@comcast.net) has some great, career-capping news: “I have been appointed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to serve as an administrative patent judge on the new Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), which will hold hearings and decide important patent validity and related issues. This is a great opportunity for me to serve the profession. I clerked for a judge on the predecessor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in my early years, Giles S. Rich ’29L, and have wanted to do something like this for the profession. They are opening a new PTO office in San Jose, Calif. With the new patent law, the America Invents Act, the new PTAB will have greatly expanded jurisdiction for trials on important patent validity issues.”

**Dan Waitzman** (danwaitz@sprynet.com) reports: “An expanded
version of my essay, "Up From Authenticity, or How I Learned to Love the Metal Flute," has been published as an Amazon Kindle book, along with supplementary material including a discussion of an early 18th-century French painting depicting a one-keyed flute with additional tone-holes. Search Amazon to find it.

"When I receive CCT, I always turn to this column on the doings of our Class of '65. I read with a mixture of pleasure, nostalgia and sadness: pleasure from learning of the continuing accomplishments of our classmates; nostalgia to think of our college years during which we, as one of the last generations to grow up before the profound social changes wrought by the Vietnam War experience, tried as best we could to make sense of those turbulent years; and sadness to think of the thought of those who are no longer with us and at the thought of our facing the problems and challenges of old age and retirement. How incredible it seems that we should have traveled this road!"

In another column, I pay special attention to Doug Barnett's account of his knee replacement surgery [Summer 2012 issue], for I face the same problem. So far I have been able to cope, after a fashion, by resorting to a cane rather than surgery. I think it is not only I and all of us who must confront the so-called senior years (what an ugly term!) all the best. I must say that being a 'senior citizen' is not quite like being a senior at Columbia, and the thought of graduating can be quite daunting.

I asked Dan if he’d been in my Music Humanities class and told him that I remember the way he clutched his flute case close to his chest as he walked around campus. He replied: "Unfortunately, I never had the pleasure of taking a course with Jack Beeson. My Music Humanities teacher was Peter Westergaard, whose musical views were at opposite poles from my own in regard to his espousal of 12-tone music but whose analytical brilliance and ability to articulate aspects of musical style made the experience of studying with him a most rewarding and pleasurable one. What fine teachers we had, some of them! Sometimes I think that I was too young to appreciate them fully. It took years after my college experience for me to absorb their wisdom, and I am still working on it."

"Yes, I was a bit extreme in the way in which I carried my instrument cases and books! I did not mean to paint so gloomy a picture as my remarks on aging may have implied. There are compensations. How wonderful the new electronic devices are! The young are often criticized for their short attention spans and lack of verbal abilities, and there is plenty of truth to these criticisms (and for one lament the marked decline in the quality of contemporary writing) but I cannot help but think that the new electronic readers, computer and means of communication tend to foster literacy and ease the process of learning, rather than the other way around. I never thought that I should become a devoted acolyte of electronic books but it is a great boon to be able to look up words on the fly; to annotate, highlight and retrieve one's annotations and marks; and to search for passages and words with such unparalleled facility, to say nothing of the additional storage versus mountains upon mountains of books. What a world we live in! The downside, I fear, is the inherent fragility of electronic media: If the Greeks and Romans had had them, I wonder how much of their legacy would have come down to us."

Finally, a personal note. I recently read Steven Millhauser's new story, "A Voice in the Night," published in The New Yorker on December 10. This is a short story about a 16-year-old man (like most of us 1965-ers), remembering how as a young boy in Connecticut he used to lie awake listening for the voice of God, interwoven with the biblical tale of Samuel hearing the voice of God in the night (1 Samuel 3:9). I found it deeply moving and profound and recommend it to all classmates.

Welcome back, classmates. I think I owe all of you a brief precis of my life after matriculation, if for no reason but to level-set my presence here and your expectations.

I entered the College when I was barely 17 and accomplished two things of note that year, aside from football, track and joining Sigma Chi.

I successfully instigated a huge, and possibly the last, panty raid on Barnard during spring finals, exploiting an enormous cache of firecrackers purchased during Spring Break and tossed indiscriminately from a Hartley window. This was enough to rouse the sullen-studying Barnard crowds and get them outside, where we reached critical mass and someone yelled, "Let's go to Barnard," whereupon hundreds of us marched to Broadway, picking up reinforcements as we traveled. Reaching our goal, we were shown a movie, water, soda and various undaubed, and returned to the dorms sated with our achievement. I also initiated (statute of limitations?) the U.S. savings bond chain letter which, you may recall, swept much of the campus that year. I was tipped to the idea by a pal at Rutgers and created my own version, selling several of them, possibly to some of you. Within a week it seemed everyone was trying to get someone else in on it. Fortunately, by the time the administration clamped down, my name was off the list and I escaped scot-free and profitable.

I left school after that year, probably to the relief of several deans, returned the next, left again for two years to complete my military obligation and hang out in California, and have reenrolled in December. But my heart has always been with '66. Upon graduation, I married and stayed that way for seven years. I remarried in 1984 to Kathleen and we will celebrate our 29th anniversary this spring. During that seven-year time I did not think about the world of high-tech and have had more than my share of good fortune in the realms of hardware and software sales, where I still work. I have lived in Tennesee, California, New York and New Jersey, and have frequently traveled between a gladly to local town governments and boards of education.

I have four children, three still living, and two grandchildren, and have absolutely no intention of going gently into that good night. Kathy and I travel, cook, read and spend time with old friends, some of whom are reading this column. And if you do not keep me posted on your doings, I promise you will learn more about my life than you ever wanted to.

"The gift that keeps on giving" is a phrase which his son, Philip, made his movie debut in November in Silver Linings Playbook, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture and its leads, Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, for Best Actor and Best Actress. "Philip appears in a scene opposite Cooper. Everyone who has had a career in film starts somewhere, and this is a huge opportunity and break for Philip. When he told my wife and I that he was in a movie opposite Bradley Cooper, we asked, 'Who is Bradley Cooper?' Apparently he is a mega star and was voted 2011’s sexiest man alive by People magazine. So much for being up-to-date on popular culture."

Yet another post '66 grad who is expected to spend his entire career at Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood, where I began practicing commercial litigation. I became a partner seven years later and fully expected to spend my entire career at Dewey, Ballantine. Five years ago, the firm entered into an ill-advised merger that culminated in its liquidation last spring. I wasn’t ready to pack it in and accepted a partnership years have lived in rural Vermont. I dropped out in fall '65, returned in '69-70 but didn’t graduate, then finally returned and got my degree in 2000.

"I had a long career (30-some years) in the commercial printing industry as a sales exec and eventually CEO of two small companies. During that time I had about 20 years of psychoanalysis, and eventually I decided that my true vocation was in that realm. I got my M.A. in organizational psych at Fairleigh Dickinson in 2002 and shortly thereafter moved to Vermont, where I practice as a therapist and teach psychology full-time as a lecturer at Norwich, which is America’s oldest military college. My work in the area of resiliency and empowerment has gotten some attention and I have devoted my life to helping students, who will be some of the leaders of the next generation, both in the armed forces and in the helping professions.

"My wife, Katherine, and I have an 83-acre farm in Berlin, VT, where we raise grass-fed, all-natural heirloom Normande beef cattle and poultry and a wonderful Australian cattle dog named Boo."

Richard Beggs finally has hung up his suspenders. "I retired from Daiva Capital Markets America as CEO on October 1, and welcomed my New Jersey house on December 11. My wife, Gerry, and I stayed at our Pennsylvania place through the holidays and headed to our Florida home in early January. I’ll do some board and consulting work going forward."

Harvey Kurzwel '69, one of the country’s top litigators, writes, "After graduating from the Law School I joined what was then known as Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood, where I began practicing commercial litigation. I became a partner seven years later and fully expected to spend my entire career at Dewey, Ballantine. Five years ago, the firm entered into an ill-advised merger that culminated in its liquidation last spring. I wasn’t ready to pack it in and accepted a partnership

What’s Your Story?
Letting classmates know what’s going on in your life is easier than ever. Send in your Class Notes!

ONLINE by clicking college.columbia.edu/ccf/submit_class_note.

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.
at Winston & Strawn, a Chicago-based firm with a significant New York office. I continue to practice commercial litigation, which I still find enormously satisfying.

“My wife, Barbara, and I are up to five grandchildren with a set of twins on the way. We split our time between our apartment in NYC, our home in New Jersey and our summer home on Nantucket, where one of the annual highlights is the weekend visit of Kathy and Rich Forzani.”

Harvey was a member of the track team and is an avid Lions sports fan. He can be seen in attendance at any given autumn Saturday at Robert K. Kraft Field.

We hear from another long-lost classmate, Richard Postupak, who “left the College after my freshman year, having played from the early ‘70s. My father planned a gaffe for people from all over the United States. I really loved Morningside and stayed in the area for several years, but then traveled to Tucumcari, N.M., where I lived on a commune and gained great knowledge in working with clay in the tradition of transcendental meditation. The two disciplines seemed synergistic to me and I found great peace of mind.

“Through total happenstance, I became interested in philosophy and, in the early ’70s, for some reason granted a fellowship to the College of Philosophy in Sansepolcro, Italy. This is in a beautiful area of southern Tuscany, just north of Umbria. After graduation, I was an instructor at the college for several decades, until it became defunct, occasionally traveling back to the U.S. as well as throughout the world. One of my great life experiences was having a conversation for several precious moments with the Dalai Lama, in the early ‘90s. Since leaving the college, I have earned my keeps as a baker of French pastry, having taken an extensive training program in Aixenre, France. I find this new vocation has many parallels to my early days as a potter.

“While I have never achieved the great accomplishments or wealth of so many of my classmates, I am constantly reminded of my incredible good fortune in finding a gentle, satisfying and intellectual path through life, and I wish all of you the peace and love I have gained on my way.”

Ron Brookshire writes, “After retiring I went back to work for a former boss to help out for a while. Now, years later, I guess he thinks I still needs help. Thank goodness it is not from home and only part-time. More important news is that my oldest daughter is married and living in Indio, Calif. She works in the Cal State system in marketing/event planning but is thinking about Washington, D.C., after being involved in a successful political campaign for a rep (apple fell far from the tree). One of my twins recently moved to San Francisco with her long-term boyfriend and got the first job she interviewed for (clearly that apple also fell far from the tree). My other twin is finishing her degree at Cal State Long Beach next semester (she had an academic career more in line with mine).”

Tom Harrold reports, “I practice law in Atlanta with Miller & Martin, which was founded 145 years ago and is one of the oldest law firms in the South. [RF: Tom is one of the oldest lawyers in the South.] I am the partner in charge of the international practice group and in 1985 was one of the founders of the world law group. Our group has 52 member firms in 41 countries joining more than 12,000 lawyers. From 1995–96, I was president of the World Law Group.

“My wife of 42 years, Connie, and I are proud parents of daughter Brittany and son Brian. Brittany, a graduate of Dartmouth and the Yale School of Medicine, is also one of the oldest law schools in the South and recently graduated. She has been in residency in internal medicine at Columbia. She is the daughter of a vascular surgeon at Johns Hopkins. A couple of years ago, Beth and I had a nice lunch with my former Columbia roommate, Dr. Ed McCarthy, who is a preeminent orthopedic surgeon at Johns Hopkins. Beth’s husband, Jack Ratchford ’83 P’86, unfortunately went to Princeton undergraduate but he saw the light and graduated from the Medical School. He is in the neurology department at Johns Hopkins and they have two sons, ages 4 and 7, who are very good and loyal Columbia football fans.

Barry Nazarian shares, “I moved from New Jersey to San Diego, where three of the four children I raised as a single parent have migrated, one by one, during the past 15 years. I trained 200 miles a week my first year in this land of cyclists and runners. [RF: Barry is an ardent cyclist.] I haven’t found work yet and can only hope this dearth of jobs persist.”

Finally, yet another voice from the West weighs in. Neil Brownstein writes, “I’m glad to report that all is well with the Brownsteins, with four grandchildren — all West Coast — although two are in Seattle and two are in the San Francisco Bay Area. During 2012, I feel that time and Neil were in sync; mostly I feel that things are working out as I wish to do it. The previous year, there had been too many ‘gotchas,’ where I spent precious time in ways that did not seem that good from my view. Our daughter is Emily Hamilton ‘13; we are looking forward to her graduation in May.”

Albert Zonana 425 Arundel Rd. Goleta, CA 93117 az164@columbia.edu

The Cleverest Crew is at it again.

Marty Goldstein writes, “It’s impossible to top Jon Jarvik’s poem [see below], but let me add a little background. The Royal and Ancient Brotherhood of Buffoons, which centers around the crew cohort of the Class of 1967, give or take a few years, holds a reunion row every five years, customarily coordinated with the class reunions. This year, because of unforeseen circumstances in the boathouse area, we chose to push it up to the October Homecoming day, which proved to be a brilliant choice, as it coordinated with the opening of The Campbell Sports Center as well as with the football game against Dartmouth. It was a beautiful day, with the sun out.

“We had our row in the morning, putting out an eight, coxed by the redoubtable Jimmy Menasian, as well as a four, which I helmed. It was a daunting experience for me at first, since this was a four rigged with the cox in the bow, facing forward, with the crew behind him facing backward, giving me a feeling akin to driving a car from the back seat. It was spooky at first, especially after the apprehensive head crew coach warned us of difficult tide and current conditions, as well as the fact that an eight costs around $30,000 these days, and even minor repairs to the fiberglass and carbon fiber constructions cost thousands. We got our eight.

“We didn’t, and managed a good row, with no damage other than to our aged bodies, and after washing the shells down and putting them away unharmed, we went to the tent for the most excellent buffet luncheon, with a wonderful setup outdoors for the many kids who attended. We all felt part of a wonderful tradition, and shared our love of the College and the whole Columbia community.

“The game against Dartmouth was a good one, close, with Columbia showing up and playing hard, a good omen for the new head coach, Pete Mangurian. We then resumed our gathering at the newly opened [Havana Central at The] West End, over dinner and libations — a truly great day we all wished would never end. We’ll be back for our 50th in 2017.”

The aforementioned poem by Jon Jarvik:

Once upon a maddly cheery While I pondered long and lerry Coming was a quaint and curious long forgotten one
While I nodded nearly napping Suddenly there came a tapping As of someone gently napping Rapping at the boathouse door.

“Tis some cossxwain bold, I muttered. Tapping on the boathouse door. Only this and nothing more.

Ah! distinctly I remember It was in a bright October And each separate oar and rigger Wrought its shadow on the water And the silken splashing, rustling Of each catch of water bubbling Thrilled me with fantastic tremors Felt again from years before. And the cossxwain, never flitting Ever sitting, ever sitting On the narrow seat of fiber Near against the oarbeam sure. And his eyes brightly gleaming Of a dreamy dreaming And the sunlight o’er him streaming Three reflections on the shore. But the cossxwain sitting lonely On the placid seat spoke only Three short words as if his soul In that time was all too outpour. Nothing further then he uttered. Oars were fannered, boat it fluttered, Till I scarcely more than muttered, “Other friends have flown before.” Quoth the cossxwain “Pull that oar!”

Paul Gewirtz’s son, Julian, recently was named a Rhodes Scholar. Julian, a senior at Harvard, will pursue a degree in modern Chinese studies at Oxford. Congratulations to the Gewirtz family.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013
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Greetings to the class. Winter approaches as I gather notes for this column; always a great time to reflect upon the good days ahead for us all. I do like snow and am looking forward to some in Central Park and at my place in Saratoga. To those of you who are in Naples, Fla., Tel Aviv, Paris, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Boston, Washington, D.C. and New York — and all the other great places around the world — accept what will be my beloved wishes that 2013 be a great year for you and your families.

In early December I went to an
Crew members of the Class of 1967 (give or take a few years) hold a reunion every five years. Last fall, it coincided with Homecoming on October 20. Standing outside the Big Tent, left to right: Tom Huseby ’69, Carl Carlson ’65, Dave Green ’69, Eric Dannemann ’67, Dick Hansen ’62, David Blanchard ’67, Gerry Botha ’67, Jon Jarvik ’67 and Dick Dumais ’67; kneeling, left to right: Bob Maisberger ’67E, Proctor Schenk ’69, Jeff Benssilver ’67, Charlie Miller ’67, Jim Menasian ’67, Marty Goldstein ’67 and Robert Chapla ’68; front: John Gormley ’69.

PHOTO: MARTY GOLDSTEIN ’67

event sponsored by the Society of Columbia Graduates (SOCG) and hosted by Paul de Bary, with Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC, chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees and the evening’s speaker. Bill’s report on the state of Columbia was upbeat. Among other things he talked about how the University is making progress on many fronts, including rankings; how the College is the center of the University family; and how our Global Centers are doing well, with interest in Columbia growing around the world.

All in all, he was impressive in his comments and thoughtful. As you may know, Bill has had enormous success in Silicon Valley — he was great friends with Steve Jobs and is on the board of Apple — and so he brings to Columbia a sense of the importance of being open-minded and innovative while also being careful. Bill also was refreshingly appreciative of the Core and the special nature of Columbia in the City of New York.

I am interested in athletics, too, as you know, and Bill showed great confidence that we are moving in the right direction. Football for sure had a better year. I am hoping that the basketball season ends well. One highlight so far was the team’s crushing Villanova on its court; we hit 21 foul shots in a row at the end of the game to ice the deal. Coach Kyle Smith is the real thing!

I went away inspired by Bill’s commitment and ready to call each one of you, both for a donation to the Columbia College Fund (college.columbia.edu/giveonline) and to encourage you to come to Alumni Reunion Weekend (Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2), as many of you have in the past. Our last one had a great turnout, and I am sure this one will be even better attended; there seems to be strong interest. The Reunion Committee is working with spirit, energy and wit. I predict good cheer and good fun. Look for information at reunion.college.columbia.edu and at alumniupdate.columbia.edu.

Returning to the subject of the SOCG event, there was a group of four from the Class of 1968: Paul de Bary was very funny in his introduction of Bill. Paul Gallagher was in from New Haven, Conn., where he and his wife, Pam, have moved to be closer to his consulting firm. He looked great and was in good humor. (I think that he does work with Yale, too; he will have to clarify at some point.) Then there was the always charming and magnificent real estate star lawyer Andy Herz, now more actively involved in good causes; he says he is so glad he has more time for outside good deeds.

I was happy to see Paul, Paul and Andy, all of whom enjoyed Bill’s comments. I also had a chance to talk to Bill about football, and he is as positive about the new coach as you might expect. We agreed that beating Yale and Cornell this year was good, and that the close losses to Dartmouth and Penn (Ivy champs) also boded well.

Speaking of football, I read that we have an incoming first-year next fall — 7-foot-1, from Minnesota. I hope that is right. He should fit well with our 6-foot-11 returning forward, Cory Osetkowski ’16.

John Roy sent in some great news. "Son Noah Roy ’95, ’99 PH (also a Ph.D. from Penn) married the lovely Ann Fuller in Forest Hills, Queens, on November 18. They live in Maryland. Noah is a researcher at NIH and Ann is a nurse.

“My days have been brightened here by teaching the Great Books at a local college. “I look forward to seeing you in May.” Congratulations and look forward to seeing you, too!

I heard from Randy Bregman. It had been a while but I do believe he was a neighbor in Fumald. He says, "I am writing because I have started teaching at SIPA as an adjunct and have been thinking a lot about our days as college students. The course is titled "Modern Russian History from the Inside." We start with perestroika and go to the present. I enjoy being part of that community again. Teaching makes me feel 20 years younger. I try to get to the campus early to walk around and reminisce. I am quite proud to get my first paycheck; it was good for once to get a check from Columbia.

“George Bernstein, a professor at Tulane, provided good professional advice to prepare me for this assignment. In some way, teaching this course is a kind of looking back at my career for the last 25 years. I have done work as a lawyer on Russian matters — transactions, arbitrations, regulatory and antitrust issues — and continue to do so. In the early ’90s, my wife, Patrice, and I lived in Moscow, where I managed the office of a Washington, D.C., law firm and Patrice started a local tour company. We are now based in Washington, raising Roman and Artyom, our sons adopted from Siberia. Both are growing into fine young men, if I may say so myself. I split my time between D.C. and New York.
City, Patrice manages a program for Russian orphans to visit the United States and possibly themselves be adopted.

"One of the benefits of spending part of my time in NYC has been a renewal of old friendships and the opportunity to meet willing warm friends and students from the past. Our reunion this year will be held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 18, and Sunday, May 19. The program includes a reception, a dinner, and a gala performance by the New York Philharmonic. There will be a special guest speaker, who will discuss his or her work and how it relates to the theme of this year's reunion: "The Power of Music." The event will begin at 7:00 p.m., at the Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20540. The cost of the dinner is $125 per person. For more information, please visit my website, www.mywebsite.com."
far those impressive memories of growing up as an undergrad at Broadway and 116th are indelible keepers.”

From Doran Twer: “Much to my surprise and delight, a serene and gray-bearded Ron Tarrington showed up unannounced (as he had threatened in a phone conversation a year ago) at my son Aden’s Gettysburg vs. Dickinson football game on the evening of November 2 in Carlisle, Pa. (think Jim Thorpe). It was our first face-to-face since graduation. Happy to say that he got to see Aden score on a 59-yard TD reception for his Gettysburg team. Ron had driven seven or eight hours from Raleigh directly to the game and then turned right around after the contest. He’s still dancing (a reference for those who remember the Martha and the Vandellas/Diane Warwick campus concert) to his own drummer.”

Dick Menaker writes, “I’m in active practice [Menaker & Herrmann]. Our settlement of the Lehman Brothers liquidation case with Citibank is on the front page of today’s [November 19, 2012] Wall Street Journal. No retirement plans for the moment; our firm recently re-upped on our lease for another 10 years. Still playing tennis (I played the latter in the Broncos Pops outdoor concerts during the summers. Can’t hit the high Es with the same power as singer Johnny Amoruso, however, who also plays in the Pops. Of course he’s almost 80, so there’s still time to catch up with him.”

From Larry Wolfson: “After a 40-year career in advertising, sports and marketing, and helping Times Square make a comeback, I retired in September 2011 after working for a few firms through the years. This was a nine-year spell at Katz Communications, where I sold television time for 25-30 stations in the Midwest. I followed that with four years at Madison Square Garden’s fledgling cable network … all sports. I left to become a v.p. for Donna USA and introduced the now-common rotating signage that runs the length of basketball courts — first the pros, then we added colleges and Major League Baseball. Got to know and become real friends with some awesome athletes and executives. I stayed for nine terrific years before I was lured to Spectacolor to sell permanent and then digital signage, which Times Square has always showed off. Eventually we were acquired by Clear Channel and not much fun was happening anymore. From the late ’90s through 2011, I was v.p. and district manager, calling on clients and ad agencies in the Midwest and Southeast.

“Then, last August, I decided to say goodbye to 42nd Street and retire. What truly accounted for my leaving when I did was that, while I was still the best at what I did in Times Square and Las Vegas, the airport scenes were really getting to me and I wanted to be involved with my grandsons and daughters. Some days I miss the action; other times I get a grip on reality (which was never my forte).

“My wife of 43 years, Robin, and I are blessed with two daughters and three grandchildren, two great boys and [as of mid-November] a three-week-old granddaughter. Life has been good — never perfect — but still a privilege to be here.

“Biggest bummer is our sports teams, i.e., Columbia football and basketball, a real travesty that should once and for all be acknowledged and addressed. We simply are a non-contender and should stop playing in the Ivies if we continue to lose in 69-0 games to John Harvard. I need to stop writing about this because I really get crazy frustrated.

“Anyway, still love rock and Sinatra, read a ton and pray for Israel. That’s a pretty quick summary, but there it is. Just one more thing: My ‘big brother,’ Joe Cody ’66, passed away too young, only 57, in 2001. I miss him constantly and never would have gotten through the College without him. A terrific, wonderful human being.”

Rick Winston writes: “Vermont History, the journal of the Vermont Historical Society, has published my article, A Sinister Poison: The Red Scarf Comes to Bethel. It examines a forgotten episode from 1950, in which two nationally known summer residents of Vermont came under suspicion of aiding the Communist Party. One was a young man named Owen Lattimore, who had been named by Sen. Joseph McCarthy as the ‘No. 1 spy’ in the State Department, and the other was Arctic explorer and scholar Vilhjalmur Stefansson. It’s a fascinating story, and the entire article can be read at vermonthistory.org/journal/80/VI68001SinisterPoison.pdf. I’m doing more research on this period, and I hope to write a book about other events that unfolded during the McCarthy era in my adopted state.”

The about-the-author line that accompanies the article says that Rick “was co-owner of Montpellier’s Savoy Theater for 29 years, and is currently programming director for the Green Mountain Film Festival.”

Please see the Obituaries.

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novel, Offerings, was published October 15 by Academy Chicago Publishers. Here is what one reader posted on Amazon: 'The fantastic knotty debut novel from Richard Smolev unravels in the world of Wall Street machinations, and serves as a modern day reminder of the extent that the dealings of Wall Street affect the day-to-day existences of individuals. With Offerings, Smolev crafts a cracking narrative of financial intrigue that forces you to confront the role Wall Street has in your own existence while following an intricate narrative to its logical endpoint. This one is impossible to put down and will leave afterimages in your head months removed after finishing the novel. I have not read a thriller as top-notch and high-stakes this year.'

Joseph Stillman reports, "After a career working on policy and projects concerning urban poverty in the nonprofit and foundation worlds, several years ago I decided to jump into the travel business and have been teaching social studies in a high school in the South Bronx. It is by far the hardest, and often the most rewarding, job I have ever had, keeping me young and on my toes. When asked, I tell my kids I am 149 years old. Sometimes they believe me.'"

William C. Long notes, "Buoyed by the come-from-behind win at Cornell and the earlier win against Yale...and somehow not discouraged by the 69-0 drubbing against Yale...and somehow not discouraged by the 69-0 drubbing against Yale...I appeared on: abcnews.go.com/ Nightline/ video/ missing-anzu-girl-911-tapes-released-16354671. And two short clips in which I explain forensic linguistics: investigation.discovery. video/ solved-forensic-linguistic.html and hofstra.edu/ Academics/ Colleges/ Hcas/ FLP/ MAFLP/ index.html.'"

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If you are not receiving the '71C eNews and would like to, please email me.

Dennis Langer, a clinical professor in the department of psychiatry at Georgetown's School of Medicine, is an instructor of Innocoll, a biopharmaceutical company. According to his Innocoll biography, "Dr. Langer is a director of Myriad Genetics, Myresis and several private health care companies. He has served as a director of several public and private biotechnology, specialty pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies, including Sirna Therapeutics (acquired by Merck & Co.), Cephesion Therapeutics (acquired by Cephalon), Transkaryotic Therapies (acquired by Shire plc), Pharmacopeia (acquired by Ligand) and CytoGen Corporation (acquired by FLSA Pharma)... He received an M.D. from Georgetown University School of Medicine, a J.D. (cum laude) from Harvard Law School and a B.A. in biology from Columbia.""}

Dr. Eric Rose ’71, ’75 P&S has been appointed chairman of CircuLite.

Dr. Eric Rose ’71, ’75 P&S has been appointed chairman of CircuLite.

Julio Rivera Jr. reports, "I long ago decided that once I had accumulated a certain amount in financial assets, I would stop working and begin a life of leisure. So, effective January 3, I ceased being a productive member of the American labor force and started living on the proceeds from my portfolio. Now I can stay out at night as long as I want without having to wake up and in order to be at my office by 8:30, I can stay in bed all day if I want (which is highly unlikely, as I hate being indoors when there is so much to see and do here in NYC) and do whatever I feel like, whenever I want. "So how do I plan to spend the free time looming ahead of me for years to come? Well, I made several decisions already."

"Travel (domestic): There are several cities and areas of the country I have always wanted to see but never had the time. Charleston, S.C.; Savannah, Ga.; the Grand Canyon; New Orleans; Chicago; the California vineyards; Big Sur; and others. I might become adventurous and rent a car to drive cross-country, stopping off at these places on my way to the West Coast, then traveling to Vancouver, Canada, to visit friends and returning to the East Coast by driving through the rest of the country. For those who have intrigued you with your address with the Alumni Office, don't grab your shotgun and hustle your spouse, kids and pets to a locked room in the house if in the middle of the night you hear banging on your front door: Just peer through your window and if you see a guy standing on the front steps with a toothbrush in one hand and a rolled-up sleeping bag in the other, it’s me, ready to accept your kind offer of hospitality!" "Travel (foreign): I am seriously considering renting an apartment for the summer in Madrid and using that as a base to travel through the rest of Spain and maybe the west coast of France. It would certainly force me to improve my mastery of Spanish. Later on, I hope to visit India, Japan, Eastern Europe, the Nordic countries and Brazil/Argentina/Croatia."

"Classes: As to be expected of an Ivy League student, I plan to enroll in a few language classes, starting with Italian (always wanted to read Dante in the original, though I have been warned it is the equivalent of reading Chaucer in Ye Olde English), to be followed by French, German, Latin and ancient Greek. Another goal is improving my baking skills and becoming adept in the cuisines of France, Vietnam and India."

"Reading: I am now at the point where I can no longer fit additional books in my condo. I have estimated that if I were to read two books a week, I could dispose of my entire holdings by the time I am 100. And all those read books will be contributed to my local public library as I finish them so that others can enjoy them as well."

Alex Sachare writes, "My wife, Lori, and I spent 18 days in Israel last fall, touring the country and visiting with our daughter, Deborough 14 Barnard, who spent the semester at Tel Aviv University. "We had a fabulous time seeing the sights from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the Galilee to Eilat. We went
to the Western Wall three times, including with my family and once for the start of the Sabbath on Friday night, which was amazing. We floated in the Dead Sea, took the cable-car to Masada (my climbing days are history), went to Shabbat services at the Jerusalem Great Synagogue, stayed on a kibbutz, saw more ruins and archaeological sites than I can remember and visited a secret, underground bullet factory from the 1948 war for independence. My wife and I even had a hotel room and bar mitzvah in Jerusalem.

"Exhausted, we got home two days before the start of the rocket launching from the Gaza Strip. Our daughter, however, got the full experience of life as an Israeli, with visits to bomb shelters in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. She stuck it out, however, and is now back at Barnard, where she majors in environmental policy. If anyone wants to know of a tour company that does a great job on guided tours to Israel with a Jewish orientation, please be in touch (asem@columbia.edu)."

Bob Brintrz has written "A Path to Survival Part II," a sequel to a Spring 2012 Class Notes.

"I began to form a vision of how I wanted to be and how I didn't want to be, as the disease progressed. I knew that terminal illness sometimes turns formerly kind and loving individuals into angry, broken people. I would not suffer."

"I started to close my eyes and create a mental vision of myself in a wheelchair, paralyzed, smiling, my family around me also smiling, feeling love for my family and knowing that loving my family, everyone just being themselves. This visualization would manifest a few years later as part of my reality. [Here, on the website, Bob inserts a photograph of such.]

"How did this transformation from dread of paralysis to 'paralyzed and happy,' and from fear of death to acceptance, happen?"

"Bob then starts discussing particular techniques. This excerpt is from his section on visualization."

"I frequently did visualizations of the experience I would have if I were able to be active. I would have my full memories of back when. "When I first interviewed at Columbia in 1967, I was told by an assistant dean that it was much like the Marine Corps: It would make a man of me. I knew that it was an all-male, Ivy-League institution — intellectually rigorous and challenging, I will always appreciate the quality of the education I received from it. I remember well the "living money" for my boys who provided me both a foundation for my strengths and an awareness of my limitations.""
information or need to update their contact information, visit reunion.
college.columbia.edu.

Mike Byowitz is a member of our stalwart Reunion Committee. He is routinely selected as a Super Lawyer in New York each year in his specialty of antitrust. His daughter, Suzanne ’13, will graduate in May — quite a treat to commemorate his 40th!

Bob Pruznick also is a Reunion Committee member; he wrote a piece for our 30th that wasn’t published then, so here it is: “When we arrived on College Walk in 1969, full of excitement, ambition and mutated apprehension, we were not dissimilar to cohorts 40 years before or since — or were we? As the first class to make an informed choice to attend Columbia since the ’68 bust, we were orphans of the Aquarian or incredibly tolerant, open-minded young men. Our freshman year opened with a bang, literally — the small bomb planted in Alma Mater — and ended precipitously after the massive demonstrations following the Kent student strike led to the shortening of the semester. Whether you loved those heady days or regretted the chaos and the diversion from scholarship, you must admit that we shared incomparably interesting times at one of the premier universities of the counterculture. Coming of age during an era when one questioned not only authority but also reality, the Class of ’73 certainly had a claim to distinction, dubious or not.

“If you believed the rhetoric, we were stand-by, we were golden, and we were finding our way back to the garden. We hoped, as Ten Years After imploded, to change the world. We pushed idealism to expo¬sition and Wine Tasting will be held in May — well, it seemed to me that parts of it were like the soundtrack to our life story. We grew up on The Who, the Rolling Stones and Bruce Spring¬steen (to name but a few), from our days before Columbia to the days after. But it was strange to see that we have aged significantly. After all, Bruce is 63, Pete Townς¬end is 67, Roger Daltrey is 68 and Mick is 69.

It is amazing how differently a half-century has affected each of these cultural icons. Bruce and Mick still have youth¬ful vigor, while Pete and Keith seemed to have succumbed to the ravages of the years. Mick was still strutting and grinding, while Pete’s voice and presence seemed like a weaker rendition of his glory days. Peter may not be the good 株式会社のロザリッシュです monster that he is as inscribed above the fireplace in the John Jay lounge, where we assembled almost 40 years ago for Class Day, “Hold fast to the spirit of youth. Let the years come, do what they may.”

A recent news shows that the Class of ’74 has a firm grasp on the “spirit of youth”; many in the class are changing ahead in their career path at an age when members of older generations were booking time to receive a gold watch at their retirement party. Here are just some of the stories I have been privy to: I caught up with Roger Kahn a while back and got an update on him and his family. About two years ago he left Bur­num Securities, a boutique investment bank, for another securities firm in Midtown. He continues to focus on healthcare deals (e.g., he recently sold a medical device company for “a bigger medical company in New Jersey” and is also working on a sale of a company in Is­rael). His older daughter, Amanda, is completing the “post-bac, pre-med” program, while his younger daughter, Stephanie, is at Shelleby Farms in Burlington, Vt., pursuing her interest in sustain¬ability education and farming. They have a ‘camp’ on Galway Lake, just west of Saratoga, N.Y., where they spend time in the summer and winter months.

Steve Hornstein lives in Falls Church, Va., where he says life is interesting. In 2012 he received a sweatshirt from Eastern Virginia Medical School for doing well on his independent study; he had poetry published in an international collection; and received another one-gallon blood donation pin and T-shirt. He’s looking forward to reunion.

Joel Glucksman originally was in CC ’72 but left for a year to do his independent study; he thus graduated in ’73. He lives in New Jersey but has been back to campus often, as two of his three sons and his nephew are College alumni. At 63 and a grandfather, he’s “somewhat nostalgic for my own days on campus. It was an exciting time to be there, and great to be in NYC! I just wish that I could go back and redo the Core.”

“It’s a consummation … devoutly to be wished. May we all reunite in May! To what — a class reception will be held at the Columbia University Club of New York on Thursday, May 30; a High Line tour and lunch, led by landscape architect Steve Cantor, is scheduled for Friday, May 31; a Class of 1973 panel discussion, Affinity Rec¬ognition and Wine Tasting will be held on Saturday, June 1; and a reunion brunch is set for Sunday, June 2. That and much, much more is not to be missed.

Fred Schneider’s law partner retired after 22 years together, so Fred is now a partner and head of the matrimonial and family law department at the firm of Ballon Stoll, an 80-plus-year-old firm. His wife, Harriet, is the director of the Office of Attorneys for Children at the Appellate Division, 2nd Department, of the New York State Courts. Their older daughter, Lau¬ren, is an assistant v.p. at BHI Bank, formerly Bank Hapoalim; their younger, Stephanie, is a second-year law student at CUNY in Long Island City. Fred is looking forward to seeing everyone in May.

Greg Gall is an architect, living in Tarrytown, N.Y., and practicing mostly in the tri-state area. He is on the CU Fencing Alumni Committee and coaches fencing at the Hack¬ley School in Tarrytown and is still involved in the community in Tar¬rytown as a trustee of the historical society and a member of Little Gar¬dens, where he often jogs. Greg’s wife, Kim, is global director for indus¬try sales enablement at IBM; her daughter, Christine, is at Haverford College.

Robert P. (“Bob”) Pruznick is a member of the CU Fencing Alumni Commit¬tee, is scheduled to attend Columbia since the ’68 bust; he had a five boroughs, while the borough’s

SPRING 2013
individual DAs are limited to cases involving real estate career. A recent Facebook post says he added job at Ralph Cottti Estate to his timeline. (His Ralph Cott 77!, Business become the new "Donald")

Ted Gregory was among a small group of alumni inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame at a black-tie dinner Thursday before Homecoming. This year there were only 15 former student-athletes so honored. Ted also was honored at halftime during Homecoming. Ted is director of diversity initiatives and talent retention for the University’s Office of Alumni and Development and has 14 years of experience in the executive search field.

When UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School inaugurated a combined M.D./M.B.A. program, through which students spend two degrees across a five-year stint, it must have been a challenge to find professors with experience in both fields. Steve DeChmery, however, fit the bill. Having both an M.D. and master’s of public health, he had the medical side covered. His long career running various global drug testing firms gave him the business experience. And now Steve has been appointed adjunct professor of healthcare business for the school. He says the job is a little weird, but I must be one of the only M.D.s to be a professor in both a med school and a business school.

We got an update from Bryan Berry in Joliet, Ill., about his children. His eldest daughter, Adrienne, gave Bryan his first grandchild. Bryan’s son, John, is engaged and training as a U.S. Navy pilot. His middle child, Sister Aeparthenous, is a nun who recently celebrated her three-year vows and is the assistant leader of the Novitiate of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matard in Upper Marboro Md. Bryan and his wife, Jill, joined their daughter on a five-day pilgrimage to Italy followed by an 11-day pilgrimage to Israel. Bryan adds, “The company of a nun wearing a habit opened a lot of doors in the Holy Land.”

There you have it. Classmates doing business together and taking care of business around the world. It is clear from these short vignettes that the Class of 74 has “held fast to the spirit of youth!”

After months of impossible-to-coordinate schedules, Jim Dolan and I finally met for drinks and some fine munchies at Baltimore’s new Four Seasons Hotel. After catching up on current events, we (of course) reminisced about our Carolina years. We had this by-health our mutual connections — mine all second-hand but his first-hand — with Schuyler Hall, the Opus Dei residence at Columbia. Numerous classmates were mentioned: Fr. C.J. McCluskey, Bruce Grivetti, Michael Ansaldi and my former roommate, Norman Nichols 76E, among others.

One of Jim’s stories was about standing in line to score tickets for the Metropolitan Opera Gala Honoring Sir Rudolph Bing with Benard and Bryan. Michael and I’ll bet you I’ll get your address to them. Steven is the first deputy commissioner with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and lives in the greater NYC area.

The Columbia University Band Alumni Association is looking for Sean Lawlitt. The band is updating mailing lists and looking for current emails. Steven, when you read this, call me and I’ll check the books and get your address to them. Steven is the first time favorite of the NCIS. He was married last November.

Ted Gregory ’74 was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame and also has a new job at Columbia.

After months of impossible-to-coordinate schedules, Jim Dolan and I finally met for drinks and some fine munchies at Baltimore’s new Four Seasons Hotel. After catching up on current events, we (of course) reminisced about our Carolina years. We had this by-health our mutual connections — mine all second-hand but his first-hand — with Schuyler Hall, the Opus Dei residence at Columbia. Numerous classmates were mentioned: Fr. C.J. McCluskey, Bruce Grivetti, Michael Ansaldi and my former roommate, Norman Nichols 76E, among others.

One of Jim’s stories was about standing in line to score tickets for the Metropolitan Opera Gala Honoring Sir Rudolph Bing with Benard and Bryan. Michael and I’ll bet you I’ll get your address to them. Steven is the first deputy commissioner with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and lives in the greater NYC area.

Meghan Schneider, daughter of Bob Schneider and Regina Mul- lally ’75 Barnard, has been invited by the Harvard College Undergraduat e Research Association to attend the National Collegiate Research Conference at Harvard. Meg is a senior at Penn. Bob and Regina recently returned from a visit south to see son John ’07 and his wife, Stephanie, in Houston. While there, they visited Galveston, Texas; Baton Rouge and New Orleans; a Louisi ana plantation, Oak Alley; and Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas. In Baton Rouge, their three favorite things were the Louisiana Old State Capitol, the Old Governor’s Mansion (the “Little White House”) built for Huey Pierce Long when he
was governor) and the Capitol Park Museum, especially its exhibits on Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, the all-but-forgotten John Fred and his PlayBoy Band (who recorded “Judy in Disguise (With Glasses)” at a recording studio in Baton Rouge.

As usual, our class was represented at several Columbia events this fall. Ira Malin attended the Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, and both Ira and Bob Schneider attended the annual Society of Columbia Graduates meeting and dinner, all in October.

My recent books in progress have included What is Gnosticism? by Karen L. King, Harvard Divinity School Professor of Divinity. In September, she unveiled a newly discovered Gnostic fragment she titled “The Gospel of Jesus’s Wife,” which also was featured in Newsweek. Terry Mulry, Sigmond Wissner-Gross and other religion majors and students have been following this as much as I have.

Paul Valliere Ph.D. ’74 GSAS, a favorite Columbia professor who now has been at Butler University for many years, wrote to me on the subject: “I imagine there’s not enough material on the papyrus to allow for much of an interpretation, though who knows. The study of Gnostic texts continues to flourish.” Paul continues to work on Russian and Eastern Church tradition. He brought out a fairly big book, *Modern Russian Theology*, in 2000 and earlier this year Cambridge published the book he spent the last six years on, *Conciliarism: A History of Decision-Making in the Church*.

Dean James J. Valenti is placing special emphasis on alumni engagement with the College. There are myriad opportunities for alumni to engage, including: the Alumni Representative Committee (interviewing potential students); externships (allowing a student to shadow you at work); sponsoring summer internships at your firm; coaching alumni on best job interview practices; and lots more.

Another of Dean Valenti’s goals is to create a mentorship program through which every undergraduate has an alumni mentor to connect with throughout his or her time at the College. Classmates interested in these and other options should visit college.columbia.edu/alumni/getinvolved. If you haven’t already, please consider getting involved. It’s incredibly rewarding to coach the College’s progeny!

Don’t forget to pay it! If you haven’t yet donated, please consider doing so now, and be generous. You may give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline, by calling the Alumni Office at 212-851-7488 or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia University Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl, New York, NY 10025.

**CLASS NOTES**

**66** Clyde Moneyhun

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Larry Lubka reports a season of changes. His daughter was married in the fall at a winery in Sonoma County; the wedding was outside and in perfect Northern California weather. Larry was delighted that Dan Gottlieb and his wife could spend a season with the school. Thirty percent of us have an outstanding pledge.

David Gorman

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No news to start off 2013 but I hope and expect to have some items to report next time. Of course, this partly depends on you. Email makes it easy — use the address at the top of the column or the webform at college.columbia.edu/ct/contactus. I am also, at the insistence of my bylaws, going to mention the University as a Twitter account, too. I’ll let you know.

**67** Matthew Nemerson

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As the Reunion Committee continued the countdown to our 35th Alumni Reunion Weekend (Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2), we started a new tradition with our first class column survey, sent out in December. Ten percent of the class responded, a fine number given that I only have emails for about 80 percent of you. [Editor’s note: Update your contact information with Columbia at college.columbia.edu/ct/update_contact_info. CCF can then pass an updated email list to Matt.] I will be adding questions leading up to May and hope to be able to put together a class “life survey” for the reunion, which 91 percent of you say you would likely fill out.

Based on the survey I can tell you that about 20 percent of you are planning to be at the reunion and another 50 percent are thinking about coming. Either number would be some sort of record for us, so that is good news. Also, 50 percent say they are planning to give money to Columbia and only 18 percent wouldn’t consider it at all. Eight-eight percent of us now have some sort of positive relationship with the school. Thirty percent of us have been to campus recently and seen all the construction at the new Manhattan’s campus near West 125th Street. As for our careers, 67 percent of us plan to be doing the same thing a year from now, while 5 percent think they may be able to retire within the year.

Send in some questions you’d like to have the class answer (note my new email address, at the top of the column). Thanks to everyone who responded.

Also, visit the reunion website, reunion.college.columbia.edu, to stay up to date on reunion events as well as to make a pledge to attend and update your contact information, if needed.

Paul Tumblen writes, “Last summer I observed my 10th anniversary with Chubb Group of Insurance Companies’ house counsel office in Manhattan. I was spectacularly new. Seven months later, Hurricane Sandy flooded our building in lower Manhattan and knocked out all power and phones. As of today [December 27], we are still unable to return due to the continued lack of telephone (and Internet) service, so I have been working remotely via computer from my daughter’s bedroom and look forward to resuming my life as a commuter in 2013.”

Tom Reuter reports, “[I’ve been spending a lot of time at my two sons.’s new family—Tom’s] 11 is a former Ron Paul campaign worker and now is a fundraiser for the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. Matthew ’07 is a second-year resident in orthopedic surgery at Monmouth Medical Center in New Jersey. Watching the hours he puts in helps me understand why I did not want to be a doctor. My wife, Grace ’78 Barnard, teaches computer technology, and I continue my work improving the efficiency of large engineering organizations.”

Bruce Fraser’s family members have been light on their feet. He notes, “Since the last time I reported, I have again moved firms, this time to Sidley Austin. I’ve been there now more than seven years. It is a great firm and I practice real estate finance. We’re in better shape than my last firm, Dewey Ballantine. My two children have not yet approached college age; we’ll see if they will follow their dad into the law. In the meantime they are not following me in their extracurricular activities, as both are near-professional status in the ballroom dancing world, sweeping up awards on both coasts!”

John R. (Rick) MacArthur knels, “Last year I was proud to join the ranks of my fellow ’70ers, Joe Greenaway and Tony Kushner, as Class Day speaker and even prouder of my daughters, Sophie and Emme, who respectively
Joel Frullo ’79 has been promoted to s.v.p. at CBS Television Distribution, where, with a colleague, he is in charge of programming and development.

"So far, MathWorks is a fantastic place to work, and Boston is a wonderful place to live. Our apartment is across the street from the Back Bay train station, on the border between the Back Bay and South End neighborhoods, and six blocks from Copley Square. Octavio is having a great year, too: Spain chose him to represent it as curator of the Beanstalk, a collaboration with Anthony Burgess, the first comprehensive study of Burgess’ music and its relationship to his writings, is due out in paperback this year.

Amittai Aviram and his partner, Octavio, moved from New York City to Boston last August "so I could start work in September at MathWorks (makers of MATLAB and Simulink) as a senior software engineer. I am compiling a team, thus completing my career change from literature professor. I finished my computer science dissertation just in time and have heard officially that I have been granted my second Ph.D.

"For many years I manufactured components for hydraulic systems in a factory outside of Chicago. We were pioneers in bringing manufacturing back to the United States in the 1990s by use of robotics and automation. In 2011 I sold the company to a buyer who is making good on a promise to keep up investment and expand the Chicago plant. I am now looking to embark on a second career.

"Jeanne E. Baron has tales of coincidence to share: "My wife, Harriet, and I live in Park Slope, Brooklyn. I am a partner in a small law office, Baron & Shelkin. Scott Shelkin and his wife, Linda, were a year behind me at Brooklyn Law School, and Linda and Harriet and me up on a blind date. The rest is history.

“My older daughter recently finished her last class at the Bank Street School and will walk in May or June. She also was in the Brooklyn Starflower girls’ choir last winter. My younger daughter took off from school and has alternated working in my office and teaching at our Hebrew school. She’s applying for transfer now. My office handles immigration and naturalization matters, house closings, wills and estates, matrimonial and L&T work. I recently ran into Joe Cimigliano at Villabate Alba bakery in Brooklyn, and we’re planning to get together. I hope to renew some old friendships.”

The medical front, Raphael Kieval is a “rheumatologist practicing for the past 25 years in Brockton, Mass. I am married to Nadine Evans ’79 Barnard and we have three kids, Jacob (26), Adam (23) and Sarah (20).”

Alec Bodkin writes, "I’m studying new mood drugs, seeing patients and consulting for lawyers. I am starting to organize home concerts and searching for money to construct a website. My avocations are Krishna consciousness, high-quality musical events. Through Sam’s efforts I have gotten interested in opera and have a lifetime of discovering it in favor of ‘pure’ music. I saw Jindřich’s Janáček last night and was floored, and made it through Wagner’s Ring for the first time this fall in high def from the Met over four glorious nights. This was a peak experience."
of the world. Recent stops have included New Zealand (his home away from home), France, Spain and Italy. He was planning to be in Australia for the holiday season to watch the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and will hike, trek, climb and ride in Tasmania this year, being sure to stay away from those devils!

Robert C. Klapper: This issue’s Columbia thought returns to my freshman year and my mother’s visiting our great university for the first time. To paint the scene, I am pretending to be an octopus holding five boxes and suitcases. As we enter the elevator my mother immediately smiles and begins a conversation with the only other adult standing in the mobile cube. She makes it clear that this is the greatest day of her life and this innocent bystander will be the recipient of this emotional barrage. She then remembers that common courtesy dictates that she introduce herself. Pleasantries are exchanged as she states, “Hi, my name is Lilian Klapper,” whereupon a very sweet and soft-spoken Asian man sticks out his hand and says, “I'm Dr. Lee.” My mother responds, “Oh, what kind of doctor are you?” He explains he is chairman of the astrophysics department at either MIT or Caltech (I can’t remember which). To my chagrin (story of my life), my mother rolls her eyes. The elevator door closes and I am once again trapped in first-generation immigrant hell here in America. As the elevator begins to rise, this most brilliant, learned man states, “I know ... my mother doesn’t think I'm a real doctor either!”

With all due apologies to those of you reading this column, who labored endlessly on your theses and are proud recipients of a Ph.D., I want you to know how much I care, and all the respect for what you’ve done. But when your days on this earth are over, and if you should meet my mother in heaven, when she introduces herself, please, just first names.

God bless you, Mom, and to all of the mothers from the Class of 1979. Roar, lion, roar!

Congratulations to Andrew Weisman M.D., Ph.D., on being selected to receive a 2013 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. George is president of Research Laboratories and chief scientific officer at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. He has a distinguished record of scientific achievement and is the author of a substantial number of publications; he also is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. [Editor’s note: See note B in column above.]

I received a nice email from Ray Stukes in response to last quarter’s report on the Grinder aka Dave Cowling 808. Ray is a sales executive with Mercedes-Benz Solutions and lives in Atlanta with his family. We look forward to seeing him at a baseball game this season.

Jim Gerks has been named to the board of governors of the Columbia University Center for New York. In addition to his work with the Columbia College Fund’s Development Council and partnership at Prosaker Rose, Jim has been a driving force for fundraising for our class.

Congratulations to Shawn Fitzsimmons and David Mallof on their sons’ admissions to the College. Nothing better than seeing your child attend alma mater and follow the legacy tradition.

Hope to see you around campus or up at Robert K. Kraft Field. Drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

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I keep checking the mail (OK, email) for updates from the Class of 1961 and, as of the CCT deadline, had nothing to report. This rejection is making me feel empty, even depressed ... similar to how I felt on November 6. (Q: For the bankers out there, can I put a “stop payment” on the last check I wrote supporting Mitt Romney after the fact?)

We have had a good run of classmates reporting in, so I’m going to consider this column to be halftime. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and had a safe and happy New Year’s celebration. Don’t forget to send me an update in 2013! Use my email address at the top of the column, or submit through CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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I am an executive ADA at the Kings County District Attorney’s Office in Brooklyn, where I specialize in fraud investigations and prosecutions. My wife, Sarah Berger, and I live in Brooklyn with our son, Benjamin, who is a senior at The Beacon School in Manhattan. I have fond memories of my years at Columbia and the friends I made there. I remain apike around his ridiculously good victory in his new home state and skiing. I am a partner in Hemstadt Atlas and focus on employment and intellectual property litigation. Like most Columbia grads, I spend most of my time trying to look as good as Evan Hollander and wondering if in my next life I can be John Revere, who lives in Guatemala and is busy managing a booze empire around his ridiculously good Illegal Mezcal.

Edward, thanks for checking in. John, in case you’re reading this, I enjoy small batch, hand-crafted, artisanal mezcal. Just saying. If you care to write in, that would be awesome, too.

Also succumbing to peer pressure, the (by all accounts) handsome Evan Hollander writes, “I am a partner in the New York office of Arnold & Porter, having recently made the move after 18 years at White & Case (the last 2013
as a partner). My practice focuses on complex financial restructuring and in-houseacy matters. I live on the Upper West Side with my wife, Anne Doyle '95 SIPA; my daughter, Rachel (a fifth grader at The Chapin School); and our dog, Elliot. I have aged somewhat but remain significantly better looking than Mesers. Shiny Miles and Hemstadt, along with David Fishman, Larry Sacks '82E and Charles Hess '83, by all objective measures.

Oh, yeah! Trash talk. Excellent! Not to be outdone, David Fishman, an associate at Robert A.M. Stern Architects, reports, "I haven't strayed too far from campus and live with my wife, Stephanie, on 110th Street just east of Broadway, with daughter Claire in her junior year at Brandeis. This fall, I have a new book coming out, co-written with A.M. Stern, Rachel and Jacob Tilove, Paradise Planned: The Garden Suburb and the Modern City."

This is so cool! Jody, whose undergraduate degree is in urban studies and master's is in public administration, will be lining up outside Barnes & Noble the night before the release date.

The final esteemed member of the Shine bridge-jumping team, Larry Sacks, writes, "I have been living in London for more than five years now with my wife, Kay, and son, Benjamin, who is in year five (fourth grade to you Colonials). I recently was granted indefinite leave to remain by the home office so will likely be staying here for some time (though after earlier, similar stints in Hong Kong and Sydney, who knows?). I am a director in risk management with Mitsubishi UFJ Securities Int'l."

A quick sidebar with Larry:

What's your favorite copula, Gaussian, Archimedean or T?

Jeffrey Lautman and his wife, Teri, have been able to announce the engagements of both their children, Adira and Yaniv: "Adira will be wed to Simeon Botwinick from the last visit with KLS two weeks before his December 1, 2012. I met Professor Selig a number of years of teaching at Stanford and lived in San Francisco before moving back to the East Coast to become chair of the West Hemisphere Area Studies program at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute in Washington, D.C."

Well, I must say that I'm quite gratified by all these contributions. Keep 'em coming!

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013
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It is with great sadness that I report the passing of my friend, mentor and beloved art-mining anthropologist, Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig, on December 1, 2012. I met Professor Selig (KLS) when I was a high school senior. I was invited to a reception for prospective freshmen at Dr. Frederick Lane '28, '32 P&S's home overlooking Long Island Sound. Professor Selig was the featured speaker and he spoke passionately about Columbia's Core Curriculum, outstanding faculty and talented students. Significantly, during my last visit with KLS two weeks before he died, I read to him the faculty names and course listings from the most recent CC course catalog. We also spoke about his many former students who had visited him this fall. His love for Columbia and, most notably, his former students was unwavering.

Professor Selig was first and foremost a scholar. Dennis Kleinberg '84, a fellow CCT class correspondent, used to bring KLS the results from searching his name on Google. They were pages long. Professor Selig spoke many languages and loved to converse with my father in Italian. KLS would insist on sitting in the front seats of taxis so he could speak with the different drivers about their home countries, often exchanging words in their native tongue. Professor Selig always lamented the fact that young people were not better versed in geography. He had an outstanding memory and tremendous intellectual curiosity. Once, he was mugged while walking for his own safety to get to one of his classes at Columbia and afterward spent several weeks in the hospital. To pass the time, he read the great texts in his mind. During my last visit with him, he seemed at moments to be confused. Before he passed, however, he extended to me whether Barack Obama or Mitt Romney carried Wisconsin. Perhaps the most famous classes he taught were Modern European and American Literature-Philosophy II ("Super Lit-Hum"), Artistic Theatre, and the Renaissance, Novella-Boccaccio to Cervantes, and Don Quixote, pronounced with an "x." His philological proof for this was the pronunciation of the word "quixotic." KLS is regarded as one of the foremost experts in the world on Don Quixote. He loved to share with his students that every major novel depends on Cervantes' paradigmatic and primogenitor text, a variegated tapestry that works backward and forward. KLS spoke with a unique vocabulary that often is imitated by former students. With a stentorian voice replete with infection and passion, he remarked, "Don Quixote has a certain universality, richness and density which creates a literary virtuosity." In fact, Professor Selig and Don Quixote had a lot in common. Both were 16th century explorers, both loved to converse with my father in Italian. KLS would insist on sitting in the front seats of taxis so he could speak with the different drivers about their home countries, often exchanging words in their native tongue. Professor Selig always lamented the fact that young people were not better versed in geography. He had an outstanding memory and tremendous intellectual curiosity.

The American epic and literary tradition to the text) in a personal tribute to the Great Professor.

The last year of his life, Professor Selig shared with me that he was hallucinating and dreaming about a river. His former students know the symbolism of the river in Huck Finn. It represents adventure and the unknown. He requested that his body be cremated and his ashes dispersed in the Hudson River by the Columbia crew boathouse. A service will be held for him at the boathouse.

Jack Abuoff: "I've decided to reward Oriente (with careful attention to the text) in a personal tribute to the Great Professor."

Frank Antonelli: "I do not think there is a kid who went to Columbia in our generation who does not include Professor Selig on his list of favorite professors."

What's Your Story?

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/cc/submit_class_note.

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

W H A T ' S  Y O U R  S T O R Y ?

S P R I N G  2 0 1 3

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Jon Ross ’83 Proves a Little Help Can Go A Long Way

By Justin DeFreitas

At 51, Jon Ross ’83 has found a way to channel his boundless energy for the greater good. After successful careers on Wall Street and in Hollywood, he founded MicroAid International, a nonprofit for which he travels the globe building homes, replacing tools of livelihood and restoring self-sufficiency for disaster victims in far-flung locales.

The mission is simple: to keep the focus on the victims long after the world’s attention has moved on. “No other organization takes this long-term, hands-on approach to helping people,” Ross says.

Once the initial rush of aid and press coverage has faded, MicroAid (microaidinternational.org) looks for small projects with the potential for big impact in hard-hit towns and villages. The nonprofit has constructed homes in Sri Lanka and built canoes and replaced fishing kits for villages in Samoa. “MicroAid steps in two to three years later as the NGOs depart for the next international crisis but without fully resolving the situation left behind,” says D. Leslie Winter, a longtime friend of Ross and a member of MicroAid’s board of directors.

Ross’ eclectic journey began at the College, where he studied an array of subjects en route to a degree in urban studies. He credits his curiosity and appreciation for different cultures to his study of anthropology. “It combined so many elements of my diverse interests and education: architecture, human interaction, art, science, religion,” Ross says. “I bring a lot of that to the work I do now, and it has informed my life along the way.”

One of the most enduring lessons of Ross’ academic career came outside the classroom, at a cocktail party meet-and-greet with alumni. “An older alum, maybe 70 years old, spoke about his varied career, which included stints in business and philanthropy — 10 years here, 15 there,” Ross says. “It made me realize that you didn’t have to be locked into any one thing forever. That really had an impact on me.”

Upon graduation, Ross accepted a position at the Wall Street brokerage firm Paine Webber, then headed west after a few years and landed a job as a creative executive at 20th Century Fox. Dissatisfied with endless dealmaking that resulted in few completed projects, he left in 1989 for New World Pictures, the small, prolific studio established by maverick director Roger Corman. With no hands-on filmmaking experience, the one-time major studio exec began his new career with that age-old initiation assignment: a coffee run. He spent the next year learning every job in the studio, including electrical work, camera work, set building and design. It proved to be a life-altering experience.

“Growing up in New York and going to Columbia, you’re told that you’re going to rule the world,” Ross says. “I wish someone had told me it’s really helpful to start at the bottom and learn everything.”

From there, Ross forged a 15-year career as a freelance producer of television commercials. Though he was no television fan, nor had he any love for advertising, the money and the freedom to set his own hours enabled him to pursue interests such as world travel and volunteerism. The latter included his work with the Southern California chapter of the Achilles Track Club (now Achilles International), an organization for people with disabilities that he’d established in 1987.

Ross ran the club for 20 years, guiding blind runners in races and marathons, training other guides and handling fundraising, administration, press and outreach. He also volunteered for three years with Habitat for Humanity, earning certification as a construction crew leader while building houses for low-income families in the Los Angeles area.

In 2009, Ross gave up his television career and combined his various skills and interests by founding MicroAid. The idea stemmed from his travel experiences as well as from a 2008 project for which he was commissioned by a Wall Street firm to help distribute relief funds in Sri Lanka, which was still suffering in the wake of the 2004 tsunami. When the project’s funders backed out, Ross made sure his time and research would not go to waste, going solo and raising money to build houses on the island. Thus MicroAid was born.

Though Ross has since added a board of directors, MicroAid remains largely a one-man operation. After conferring with village elders and religious leaders, as well as local nonprofits and the departing NGOs, Ross — along with his board — starts raising funds. Then, acting as project manager, he makes a first visit to the area to coordinate with local communities.
Three other project managers for this spring, is in Peru, with Venice Beach, Calif., currently so that we can have multiple The next venture, scheduled to get jobs building canoes in generation, several of whom to teach the craft to the younger elders also used the opportunity to teach the craft to the younger generation, several of whom used their newfound knowledge to get jobs building canoes in other villages.

MicroAid, which is based in Ross' adopted hometown of Venice Beach, Calif., currently raises $30,000-$50,000 per project. The next venture, scheduled for this spring, is in Peru, with projects planned for Burma, Haiti and Nicaragua.

"The five-year plan is to train three other project managers so that we can have multiple programs operating at the same time, and to raise at least $250,000 annually. And, I hope, to inspire people to help those in need," Ross says.

Every dollar donated to MicroAid goes to programs; the overhead is funded by the board and by Ross, who doesn't take a salary. He funds his own part with savings from his careers and from the proceeds of a small business he founded in 2003: Soothe Your Soles (sootheyoursoles.net), cleansing towels for feet that Ross created and markets to yoga studios, spas and resort hotels. "It pays for my nonprofit habit," he says.

"Jon is an enthusiastic, thoughtful person with a methodical approach to problem-solving," Winter says. "He has never sought personal financial gain; he seeks to assist others. He has foregone lucrative opportunities to do the work that gives him greater satisfaction."

MicroAid's name derives not only from the size of the projects it focuses on but also from the fact that it takes relatively little money to complete them. For example, Ross says, it only costs about $7,000 to build a house in Sri Lanka.

"A small amount of money and a small amount of help can do a lot of good," he says. "Just because I can't build a hundred houses doesn't mean I shouldn't build one."

Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer and graphic artist.
hurricane winds of 120 mph and extreme destruction) devastated Sanremo, including our little canal-village of Matafa'a.

“I finally was able to contact them. Nobody was hurt and the canoes survived, but most of the houses and gardens were destroyed and the villagers lost most of their possessions and clothing. Ten families are living in the church. The entire island will be without electricity for months. [As of this writing] I will be going to help in mid-January — bringing a generator, water purification system, building tools and donated clothing. Already, a wonderful company, LifeSaver USA, has donated one of its revolutionary water filtration systems. … If anyone can spare a financial donation, I will make sure it goes toward building the village in the most efficient and appropriate manner. Thank you.”

Dr. Larry Herman’s twins, Jonathan ‘16F and Daniella ‘16 Barnard, began at Columbia this past fall. His oldest, Amanda, is in Maryland.

Don Steinberg reports: “I’ve become a staff writer at The Wall Street Journal, covering a range of entertainment — movies, music, comedy, books and so on — in the paper’s new ‘Arts’ section on Fridays. It’s a step up from publishing the Art Gallery Link newsletter in Carman Hall. I also have a new book, The Kickstarter Handbook: Real-Life Success Stories of Artists, Inventors and Entrepreneurs, which explains how to take advantage of the online crowd funding phenomenon.”

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As the professor much solace and peace.”

Professor Selig fondly although, I remember him well, though, and I do so with a smile. May he rest in peace.”

Adam Belanoff: “I’ll remember Professor Selig fondly although, despite many positive interactions with him through the years, I never was able to take his Don Quixote course. I am aware of how much I missed.”

Michael Ackerman: “I met Karl-Ludwig Selig in an elevator in Hamilton Hall when I was a freshman. Though we’d never met and I had never seen him, I recognized him immediately from the descriptions I’d heard from others. We wound up chatting for a few minutes and forever after the Great Professor remembered my name, where I’d lived at the time and whom I knew who knew whom. Through his I discovered Edgar Gogol’s ‘The Nose’ (one of my favorite short stories) and he told me countless other great tales. A unique man and a great part of the Columbia community.”

Dr. F. Langham Gregory: “I never had a class with Professor Selig, yet he always treated me and my brother, Douglas ‘83, like celebrities when he ran into us walking across the campus. He was a gifted people-person and a legendary part of Columbiana. The likes of him shall not quickly pass our way again. Thanks for reminding us to take a moment to remember this beautiful man.”

[Editor’s note: See obituary in Around the Quads.]
a patented device, developed at the University of Connecticut, for the conversion of waste cooking oil to biodiesel fuel. My trip to Italy in late fall was productive with respect to teaching law and to the commercialization of the biodiesel reactor. I would love to hear from former residents of 7 Jay whom I knew during our freshman year."

Major league congratulations go out to Tom Cornichia, who was presented a 2013 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement on March 6. Tom is a managing director and head of sales for fixed income, currencies and commodities in the Americas at Goldman Sachs and a member of the Columbia College Board of Visitors. [Editor’s note: See Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/ for a photograph of the event.]

Finally, congratulations to many of our classmates celebrating their (first) half-century this year. Some of you already have hit this milestone. Happy birthday to all!

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Careful readers of the Winter 2012-13 issue of CCT would have read the Alumni in the News section and seen a smiling photo of U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Scott F. Smith in uniform with a chest full of medals. That’s right, brigadier general! Uh-huh! The Class of ’86 now has a general in its ranks. Scott was promoted in a ceremony on September 21 at U.S. Southern Command headquarters in Doral, Fla. SOUTHCOR is responsible for all partner-nation building and U.S. military activity in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

From General Smith himself, we hear the following about the ceremony: “I was blown away by the energy, dedication and generosity of my Columbia colleagues, Phi Gamma Delta brothers and dear friends from as far back as grade school … simply incredible. Aside from ’86ers, there was representation from Classes of ’84, ’85 and ’87. It was a momentous occasion for me and my family, made all the more intense with the presence of so many friends. Not for College days alone, my CU pennant flies proudly in my office!”

Scott adds, “I’m married to Amber and our twins, Mzzi and Marni- sha, are 7; we also have Melody (2½). Unfortunately, they all take after their mother and are beautiful and bright. Theoretically, having young kids when you’re in your 40s is supposed to ‘keep you young.’ Well, the jury is still out on that one — but unquestionably it keeps Amber and I moving! I sure hope in some lab at CU there are some smart folks discovering how to tap the insane energy that three little girls can produce. It is enormous.

“Of course, all have Columbia gear in their closets and I believe Melody shows signs of being a star soccer player for the Class of ’31. Yes, that is 2031. Read that year again. I believe I will be 106 with a kid in college! At least there will be air cars and affordable space travel by then.

“We’ve lived in Miami for the last two years while I worked at U.S. Southern Command as the executive officer for the four-star general in command, Gen. Doug Fraser, USAF. It’s been a fascinating year, including everything we traveled throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, which offered a phenomenal education on working with heads of state, NGOs, private and public endeavors, and foreign militaries along with close interaction with the State Department and the intelligence community.

“Some other Colombians have trot the SOUTHCOR area of responsibility during the last couple of years, including Ambassador Hector Morales ’85 and Dan Foote ’86 (deputy chief of mission in the Dominican Republic following a tour in Haiti). I also understand that Col. Chris Riga ’87, Army Special Forces, will take command of a unit next summer that works extensively throughout Latin America.

“In January I moved on to be deputy commander, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF- HOA) in Djibouti. CJTF-HOA’s mission is similar to SOUTHCOR’s for the African continent (developing partner nation capabilities for security and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief). Additionally, CJTF-HOA goes after the bad guys in that area, so I’m eager to join the mission. That’s about the size of things from here. Best to all college mates wherever they may be.”

Share your news with the class by getting in touch with me using my direct email, at the top of the column, or via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ cct/submit_class_note.

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Sarah A. Kass
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To start this short but in many ways poignant column, I take you to our roving reporter in Oklahoma City, Cathy Webster Ph.D.

She writes, “While we have been living our own little lives, our fearless class correspondent, the one and only Sarah Kass, has earned her Ph.D! Sarah’s degree in clinical psychology has been awarded by Saybrook University in San Francisco. She also did coursework in London, which allowed us to enjoy a wonderful weekend together one damp Halloween. Now, back to your regularly scheduled programming …”

Thank you so much, Cathy! I could not have said it better! For those who don’t know, and I’m sure this encompasses the majority of you, my specialization is in existential psychology, a way of practicing psychology that focuses much less on diagnosis and the medical model and more on how each unique individual human creates meaning in his or her world.

Rooted in existential philosophy — part of that 20th-century stuff we never seemed to cover in CC — we try to help our clients see their choices and possibilities, often where they previously thought they had few to none. And this link both to philosophy and to how one creates meaning in everyday life is easy to see once we start looking.

I edit a daily website, The New Existentialists (newexistentialists.com), where we publish the work of existential psychologists from all over the world relating the practice of existential psychology to such topics as baseball, yoga and coffee. I could go on about this for hours, but I’d rather let Alissa Burstein share this story with you. Alissa, a Ph.D. in education at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, has been facing the realities of daily existence, with tensions as they have been in the Middle East. She told me of this experience while studying: “I was sitting in the music library at Bar-Ilan University when an air raid siren was heard in the center of the country during the recent Operation Pillar of Defense (when Israel acted to stop the missile attacks of the country during the recent Operation Pillar of Defense) (when Israel acted to stop the missile attacks of the siren to some musical composition they were just studying? The whole scenario remains surreal).”

All I could think of was how amazing it was that such creativity and learning could take place under
such conditions. Because humans possess these awesome capabilities is just one of the reasons I choose existential psychology — an approach that really appreciates each person's humanness — for my life path. And then, like a gift from the heavens, I got a message from the incomparable Judy Kim, whom I saw for a flash at a reunion. She wrote, "I live in Stamford, Conn., and work at RBS. Sarah Kass plans to help me find a place to buy groceries in Stamford other than Target!"

So, I must extend much gratitude to my brother, my sister-in-law and my nephew, of course, who live near Stamford, as do my sister-in-law's parents, for enabling me to have enough familiarity with the area to help Judy get her grocery shopping done. Phen! Thank goodness the dissertation defense is done.

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**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Cynthia Wood cw2662@columbia.edu 212-651-9645 DEVELOPMENT Mara Henckler mlc210@columbia.edu 212-651-7494 Eric Fusfield 1945 South George Mason Dr. Arlington, VA 22204 ericfusfield@bigfoot.com

Congratulations to Stephen Sagner, who has been named co-president and chief strategy officer of College Summit, a nonprofit that works with students to encourage their success in high school and college. "College Summit is the gold standard in student-lead college and career readiness organization. I think of a better place for me to have a positive impact on the economic future of our kids, their families and communities than with this extraordinary organization," Stephen said in a press release. "College Summit's strength is developing curriculum and in-school programming. That expertise combined with innovative initiatives like its College Knowledge Challenge, which recently launched with Facebook and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to create college-going apps for students, makes College Summit incredibly attractive to corporations, foundations and others looking to invest in solutions that work today and into the future."

Plaudits (and a mezel tov) also go out to Jonathan Lavine, recipient of the Anti-Defamation League New England region's highest honor, the Distinguished Community Service Award. The ADL, according to its statement, "is recognizing Lavine's immense civic leadership and influence to effect positive change in our community. Lavine believes strongly in giving back to his community. Together with his wife, Jeannie, Lavine has helped create, grow and sustain numerous organizations focused on improving the lives of children and families around the world." Jonathan, a Columbia trustee, is managing partner and CIO of Sankaty Advisors, which he founded in 1997. Sankaty, a fixed income and credit affiliate of Bain Capital, is one of the leading global credit and distressed debt managers, with approximately $19 billion of assets under management. Through the Crimson Lion Foundation, which was launched in 2007, Jonathan and Jeannie provide financial support to many community-based organizations.

Steve Silverstein sent a note: "Still two kids, now 7 and 4, boy and girl, and one wife. I am changing leaf as I am on my way to leaving, I am unable to disclose my future employer. I will continue to provide debt financing to commodities trading companies."

Mark Timoney, who lives in Westchester County, N.Y., and works for HSBC Bank, sent these greetings. "All is well with my wife, Maria, and our kids: Ines Maria (Sarah Lawrence '14), John Lucas '15E, and Ana Gracia and Ricardo David (both still in high school)."

Don't forget that this is our 25th reunion year — a big one — so start planning your trip. The dates are Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2. The Reunion Committee has been working for months to plan a terrific weekend. On Thursday evening, we'll join the members of the 50th Club for a special reception at President Lee C. Bollinger's house; afterward, our class will continue the festivities at the Skyline Room and Terrace in Faculty House. Among the other events are Friday's walking tour of the Low Rotunda and reception at The Standard, and Saturday's class-specific dinner followed by dancing under the stars at the Starlight Reception. Look for more information at reunion.columbia.edu. Also, to ensure that Columbia can get in touch with you about the event, please update your contact information at reunion.columbia.edu/almuniupdate or call the Alumni Office (212-651-7488).

Thanks for your updates and please be sending your email at the address at the top of the column or through CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Emily Miles Terry 45 Clarence St. Brookline, MA 02446 emily.miles.terry@me.com

Our long publication lead time for CCT makes it difficult for this column to run important information quickly. Though this message from Brian O'Connell came in late last fall, it's no less critical now. I've written about Brian before. He is the founding principal of the Scholars' Academy, a gifted grade 6-12 school of just less than 1,200 kids, in Rockaway Park, Queens. In the fall his school was ravaged by Hurricane Sandy and then looted. Brian writes, "We need help. I ask that you help us get the word out to Columbia alumni. Our school lost a tremendous number of books, school instruments, sports equipment, office furniture and technology. In the aftermath, more than 80 iPads and several iMacs were stolen. Our stage, brand new curtains and gymnasium floor are destroyed. Our fitness room is in shambles. The school was flooded with seawater and sewage from the water treatment plant across the street from our building."

According to Brian, more than half of the students and staff were left homeless by the storm. Some students' homes burned to the ground; some staff members' homes were filled floor to roof with seawater. Yet, one week later, 60 percent of students and more than 95 percent of staff were present in two relocation schools in East New York, Brooklyn. Brian has worked tirelessly to build the Scholars' Academy since 2004. The school started as a program while he was principal of P.S. 114Q, a K-6 school. In 2005, the gifted program was expanded to be a stand-alone school and then added one grade each year. In June 2011, the Scholars' Academy graduated its first class of high school students. When Brian wrote to me, he was still living in a hotel as he waited for his house to be habitable.

Contact Brian at principal@aol.com or via LinkedIn.

Last November, my husband Dave Terry '90 and I attended the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner in Low Rotunda. Jonathan Schiller '69, '73L was the recipient of the 2012 Alexander Hamilton Medal. The medal, the highest honor paid to a member of the College community, is awarded by the Columbia College Alumni Association. Jonathan, a University trustee and a member of the Dean's Council of the Law School, received a Goldman Prize for distinguished professional achievement in 2006. Among many professional and personal accomplishments, he was a member of the 1967-68 Ivy League Championship basketball team.

I hadn't been inside Low Rotunda since Dave worked there sorting books and things for his work-study job in the '80s. The Alumni Office dressed up the room magnificently for the evening.

While there, it was nice to catch up with John Vasko '88 and Lisa Landau Carnoy. Also in attendance was Raymond Yu, who has been working in his family's real estate development and management company since graduation. Raymond sent an update: "We have developed and manage office/retail and market rate apartment buildings throughout NYC but a significant number of our projects are in the affordable housing space. We completed our 5th affordable housing project this year. Our last project last year. I also recently became chairman of the board of directors of a community bank based in New York City."

Also at the Hamilton Dinner was Raymond's wife, Ya-Ning. The Yu family has three children (13, 11 and 10) and lives in New York.

Rachel Cowan Jacobs 313 Lexington Dr. Silver Spring, MD 20901 youngbrace@hotmail.com

It's '13. Only two more years until our 25th reunion, so save the date (Thursday, May 28-Sunday, May 31, 2015)! In more immediate developments, kudos to Rakesh Korde, who has been promoted to partner within the Washington, D.C., office of Covington & Burling.

In random encounters, Eleni Passalaris bumped into Colin Campbell when they were picking up their children from a mutual friend's birthday party. Seth lives in New Jersey, albeit 40 minutes away from one another. In Jersey talk, 40 minutes could as well be 40 states away, right?

Two or four states away, depending on how you drive, comes news from Jill Mazza Olson. "My husband, Tod, and I enjoy raising our kids (Zoe, 15, and Finn, 11) in Middlesex, VT. We've definitely transitioned into a new phase of parenting as the kids move into adolescence."

"My work life remains interesting and challenging. A few years ago I got a new title and role — v.p. of policy and legislative affairs — at the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, where I've been for 10 years. I spent much of the year on policy development and the legislative session at the state house. Given Vermont's ambitious health care reform agenda and the devastation of the 201-67-68 Ivy League Champions hip basketball team.
of our mental health infrastructure last year when Tropical Storm Irene closed our only state psychiatric hospital, it’s never dull. Still, we try to find time to recreate in our beautiful state on our mountain bikes, skis and kayaks, and we were all hoping for a snowy winter.”

Oh yes, I could do without snow. One thing I always appreciate about working at a university was that when it snowed, that snow got shoveled faster than you could say “snow day.” Catherine Prendergast might know what I’m talking about. She reports, “I’m a professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. My husband, John Tubbs, and I are cracked up daily by our 8-year-old son, Siggi, who likes to do his homework ‘with the college students’ at Starbucks. Having recently finished a term as director of my university’s first-year composition program, I’ve started a blog of advice, firstyearcomp.com, as a form of public outreach. Burned, thereof, there is always the opportunity to explore current news, as it gives me the chance to deliver expert opinions to millions of viewers every day. Whether it involves interviewing experts or delivering the expert commentary, it keeps me up to date and learning every day. Also, my new book, Beautiful: Clockstopping Secrets to Staying Healthy, Strong, and Sexy in Middle Age, was published in paperback. It is a head-to-toe guide to health and wellness for women 30 and older.”

Catherine Prendergast

In December, Herbert Block ’87 (left) and CCT Class Correspondent Eric Fusfeld ’88 (right) participated in an international conference on Holocaust-era property restitution in Prague, Czech Republic. They are shown here with Norman L. Eisen, U.S. ambassador of the United States to the Czech Republic. Block is assistant e.v.p. of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Fusfeld is director of legislative affairs at B’nai B’rith International and deputy director of the B’nai B’rith International Center for Human Rights and Public Policy.

Goldman and Sara Goldman (née Silver) has been accepted to Columbia! Congratulations to Shmul’ 15 and the whole Goldman family. Jacqueline Harouman was named one of the “Top 50 Women Lawyers” in New York by Super Lawyers. Her practice focuses on matrimonial and family law in the New York metro area.

Jennifer Ashton writes, “I recently was named senior medical contributor for ABC News and appear regularly on Good Morning America and World News with Diane Sawyer. I maintain my private practice in ob-gyn and I love the world of news, as it gives me the opportunity to explore current medical and health issues in all fields and convey key information to millions of viewers every day. Whether it involves interviewing experts or delivering the expert commentary, it keeps me up to date and learning every day. Also, my new book, Breathe Beautiful: Clockstopping Secrets to Staying Healthy, Strong, and Sexy in Your 30s, 40s, and Beyond, was published in paperback. It is a head-to-toe guide to health and wellness for women 30 and older.”

Greg Outling writes, “I am a corporate partner at the law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, where I focus primarily on mergers and acquisitions. My wife, Angela, and I live on the Upper West Side. Angela is a physician on staff at NYU, and we have three wonderful sons, William (8), Daniel (6) and Peter (1). The boys love visiting the Columbia campus and The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Whenever we are up there, we like to grab pizza at V&T and cookies at the Hungarian Pastry Shop.

“One of the great things about being a Columbia alumna in NYC is that it makes the city feel like a small town; I always am amazed at how frequently I run into fellow ’91ers and get a chance to reconnect. As a further reminder that middle age is upon us, these runs typically involve our children. Most recently, I had the fortune to run into Noah Greenhill at a birthday party. Also, my oldest son is classmates with Edward Ryem ’91’s son and my middle son is classmates with Stefan Reyniak’s son!”

Hope everyone is having a great 2013. Until next time, cheers!

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What this column lacks in number of updates it more than makes up for in the quality of the news.

Peter Neisulter and his wife, Karen, welcomed a new addition in the days before Hurricane Sandy. Kate weighed in at 6 lbs., 10 oz. The proud dad is already teaching her the words to Roar! Lion, Roar! Having met Kate shortly after her birth, I’m more than willing to endorse her as a member of the Class of 2033. I also learned that Jason Griffith has joined Sanford C. Bernstein as global head of trading.

Congratulations, Jason! I hope that next time we’ll have a column filled both with lots of updates and lots of good news. Please don’t be shy about writing in; I’d love to hear from you. Use
Jennifer Goldstone '95 is COO of the Birthright Israel Foundation, a nonprofit that funds educational trips to Israel for young Jewish adults.

Janet Balis Allen lives in New York City with her family, including three kids, who are doing well and enjoying school, friends and many activities. Janet rejoined AOL a little more than a year ago to lead sales strategy for the company, but last May she took on a new role as publisher of The Huffington Post. "I'm very much enjoying the new challenge, as we've launched new experiences around the world, built new partnerships with incredible brands like TED and Oprah, and moved into original video with HuffPost Live," Janet writes. "It's a very different scale compared to the one I remember working at WKCR!"

Also taking on a new challenge is Paul Bollyky, who has accepted a position as an assistant professor at Stanford with a joint appointment in immunology and infectious diseases. He and his family have moved to Palo Alto, Calif. Also on the move is Ayanna (Parish) Thompson, who plans to move with her family from Scottsdale, Ariz., to Washington, D.C., this summer to join the faculty at The George Washington University. Thanks to everyone for the great updates! Until next time.

Congratulations to Jennifer Goldstone, who is joining Birthright Israel Foundation as COO. The nonprofit funds educational trips to Israel for young Jewish adults. Her responsibilities include fundraising, communications and marketing.

Michael Kingsley also is in a new job. After seven years as a television producer — and a decade of media experience before that — he began as a media specialist at PR firm Emanate in October. He counsels on media strategy and helps place stories and guests on TV, radio, in print and online. His clients include Bank of America and The Hartford, and he also does work with KFC, National Geographic and more. Michael's wife, Harra, started this fall as an assistant principal at PS 83 in the Bronx, and their son, Aaron, is 2.

I am happy to be back in touch with Laura Margolis, a fellow Chicago native. She and her husband, Brian Frank, live in Los Angeles with their rescue dog and two cats. Laura, an actress, a few years ago appeared in the ABC series Dirty Sexy Money with Donald Sutherland, Lucy Liu and Blair Underwood. It was very cool to see her in ads for the show on the NYC subways! She also starred in the horror film The Strangers, and a sequel to the flick is rumored.

Brian, whom I often sat next to in history classes, is e.v.p. and global head of content at Beats Electronics. In his spare time, he manages rock legends Fu Manchu and up-and-coming punks FIDLAR.

Thanks for the news and please keep the updates coming.

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Classmates, we're light on mail — a state of affairs that must be remedied. Write me with your news, whether about yourself or your family, career, travels or plans. You can use the above email address or CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. This column is a terrific way to stay connected; let's use it!

Sarah Katz 1935 Parrish St. Philadelphia, PA 19130
srk12@columbia.edu

Ruth Mason and her husband, James Wetterau '05 GS, welcomed their second son, Wiley Wetterau Mason, in October. Wiley joins brother Felix (2).

Matthew Morningstar is vice president of media experience before that — he began as a media specialist at PR firm Emanate in October. He counsels on media strategy and helps place stories and guests on TV, radio, in print and online. His clients include Bank of America and The Hartford, and he also does work with KFC, National Geographic and more. Michael's wife, Harra, started this fall as an assistant principal at PS 83 in the Bronx, and their son, Aaron, is 2.

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Thanks for the news and please keep the updates coming.

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Maggie Lewis was married in July 2011 in Tanzania (fantastic elopement!) and she and her husband, John Kikoski ’93 Business, had a son, Armas Said, in September. Maggie is an associate professor at Seton Hall Law in Newark, N.J., and lives in NYC.

Joshua Ross finished his first semester of the M.A. program in East Asian languages and cultures at GSAS.

Edward Wladis recently won the annual ASOPRS Research Award from the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for his research into the molecular biology of ocular rosacea. At the same meeting, he also won the Barryk Fruch Award for the best presentation. A few days later, his work on possible new therapies for thyroid eye disease was chosen as one of the best presentations at the American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting. Ted is in private practice in Albany, N.Y., and recently was promoted to associate professor at Albany Medical College. His wife, Lianne ’00L, also works in Albany. They have two daughters, Molly (5) and Becca (2).

Travis Ketner opened a law office in his hometown of San Antonio. The Law Office of Travis Ketner (1423 W. Martin St., San Antonio, TX 78207) will focus on criminal defense as well as the pro bono representation of autistic children vis-a-vis the public school system.

It is with great sadness that I report that Laura Tatum died on October 13, 2012, of ovarian cancer. Laura grew up in Portland, Ore., and, after graduating from Tigard H.S. in 1993, headed east to Columbia and NYC, where she discovered her personal and professional calling: the professional via work at Columbia’s Avery Architectural Fine Arts Library, and the personal through her delight in the vibrancy of life in the city. Upon graduation, Laura took a position in the library of the Museum of Modern Art before returning to school to earn an M.S.I. in library and information services from Michigan in 2002. Laura spent much of her career in Manuscripts and Archives at Yale University, starting as a 2002 Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship.

Laura shared her erudite passion and inquisitive zest with her longtime partner and husband, Andrew Benner. Married on January 16, 2009, they made a home in a mid-century, modern, wood-and-glass cabin on a pond in Guilford, Conn., with their two beloved cats, Bliki and Nutkin.

Deepest condolences to Laura’s family and friends. Contributions may be directed to The Center for Land Use Interpretation (clul.org) or Connecticut Food Bank (ctfoodbank.org).

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2013
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS

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I hope all of you will consider returning to Morningside Heights for our 15th Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. It’s a great way to reconnect with classmates and/or to show your kids where you went to college. For those who reside in the area, just hop in a cab or on the subway for a ride back to 116th Street. There’s still time to register. Go to reunion.college.columbia.edu for more information and also to update your contact information, if needed, so the Alumni Office can be in touch about the weekend.

You also can join our class Facebook page, “Columbia College Class of ’98.”

One highlight of our class’ reunion events is the Friday night reception, which this year will be held at the STK Rooftop at 26 Little West 12th St. from 6–8 p.m. It looks like a gorgeous venue. Then, of course, there’s our main class dinner on Saturday, followed by drinks and dancing at the Starlight Reception.

As of December 17, our class had raised $40,705 for our Class Gift from 44 donors, up from $39,000 from 32 donors at that same time last year. I’m sure by the time you receive this CCT, our numbers will be closer to $50,000, thanks to the hard work of our Gift Committee.

Hope to see you all in June! Aviva Sufian has moved to Washington, D.C., where she now is director of regional operations for the Administration for Community Living, ACL, a new agency within the Department of Health & Human Services that focuses on increasing access to community-based supports for older adults and people with disabilities.

Best wishes to Lori Meeks, who married Jason Webb on December 8 in a beachside wedding in St. Petersburg, Fla. Lori and Jason are professors of East Asian studies; she is an associate professor of religion and East Asian languages at Southern Cal. Lori’s 2010 book, Hokkai and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan, won the 2012 John Whitney Hall Prize from the Association for Asian Studies.

Congratulations on all of the wonderful personal and professional news, Lori!

If you can’t make it to New York this June, be sure to send an update in honor of our 15th reunion. We want to know how you are doing!

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Greetings, Class of ’99. By the time you receive this update, we will be at least another year shy of our 15-year Alumni Reunion Weekend (save the date: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014). That’s correct. Fifteen years. … I hope you’ll come out for it.

In the meantime, a few of us met in October over drinks and dinner at Rosa Mexicano (Union Square) to catch up informally. Andrew Park, Dominique Sasson, David Evans ’99E, Wendy Liu, Ben Freeman, Sameer Shamsi and myself were in attendance; unfortunately, Charlie Leykom was stuck at the airport. We are hoping to have a few more informal gatherings during the next year running up to reunion, so please reach out to us if you want to meet.

I also heard from Jason Scherer, a software engineer at Google in New York. He is happily married and has a child.

Josh Shaevitz is a professor of physics and genomics at Princeton. (Yes, he confessed that he moved to rural central Jersey.) This little
cookbook slated for publication in January 2014 and has also been writing the Taste Test column for the magazine Every Day with Rachel Ray for more than three years. Her husband, Jacob “Koby” Rosenfeld, works at Goldman Sachs, where he is a v.p. in the strategic group with responsibility for policies, documentation and communications. Dina and Jacob have two sons, Max (5) and Abe (3 1/2), and live in Connecticut.

Sameer Shamji reports that Tom Leggett married Ingrid Chen on November 3 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Columbia people in attendance were Sameer, Chris Loncar ’99E, Crissy Rosenberg and Jayne Tan ’97E. Austin Gelbard ’99E and Marysol Sanchez unfortunately could not attend. Tom and his wife reside in New York and Tom is an executive director at UBS.

That’s all the news for this spring 2013. I hope everyone’s years are off to a great start.

Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg and his wife, Paola, welcomed their daughter, Maia, on September 28. Maia joins brother Camilo. Simon is a legal aid lawyer in Northern Virginia, “enjoying the ample maternity leave that legal aid gives its staff in lieu of a living wage.”

Russell Strom and his wife, Meghan, welcomed Cora Belle Casillan-Strom on September 19 — after 40 hours of labor.

Tamer Makary’s wife, Estathia, gave birth to son Sebastian on December 29. He writes, “I met Liana (the Brit milah ceremony we held on September 16, right before Rosh Hashanah. We then closed on our first house on September 20, and moved in on September 23, right before Yom Kippur. Things have been busy but it was great to start the new Jewish year with a new child and a new home!”

Caroline B. Giordano joined the firm of Miller Canfield in Ann Arbor as an associate in the Litigation & Trial Group. Previously, she was a judicial intern for The Honorable Helene N. White, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Aaron Cohen was married to Liana Yoo ’08 Business on September 29. He writes, “I met Liana through Alastair Wood and his wife, Alisa Wood ’08 Business (née Amarosa). Alisa is Liana’s Business School classmate, and we met when Alastair and I visited her Business School trip in China in spring 2008.

“Our wedding was September 29 and the ceremony was at St. Paul’s Chapel, officiated by University chaplain Jewedel Davis.
Rachel Nichols ’03: From Math Whiz to Model and Movie Star

By Yelena Shuster ’09

Like she did on most days during her junior year, Rachel Nichols ’03 walked past the ads outside the Broadway gates on her way to class. This time, however, she stopped at an image of a sun-kissed, blue-eyed blonde staring from behind a 26”x50” GUESS poster. “You should buy this one,” a street vendor said. “This girl goes here.”

Little did he know that “this girl” was staring right at him.

Since being spotted by modeling agents as a sophomore, the Maine native has starred in high-profile ad campaigns, television series and feature films. You may recognize her from her role as Rachel Gibson on ABC’s Alias or her appearances in the films Alex Cross (which also featured Matthew Fox ’89), Star Trek, G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra and Conan The Barbarian. Today, Nichols has reached a place where fan sites document her every stillettoed step. Yet unlike most starlets, the economics major does her own taxes, tweets with proper punctuation (@RachelNichols1) and speaks in SAT-worthy sound bites.

Despite studying algorithms instead of acting, Nichols credits alma mater with fueling her meteoric rise. “Coming to New York and going to Columbia really helped make me the person who was able to get into the career that I have now,” she says. “It’s funny, but I was really shy in high school and I know you hear a lot of actresses say, — here, she does a spot-on nerd impression — “Oh, I was dorky,” but it’s true. My high school yearbook prediction would’ve been most likely to live in a small shell under a rock. But at Columbia, for the first time in my life, I was on a campus with like-minded people and I felt as though I belonged.”

Nichols met her best friend, Albert Lee ’02E, ’07 Business, at orientation her first day on campus (she entered with the Class of ’02). “It was such a nice first impression,” Lee, an investment banker at Barclays, recalls. Objectively, she’s stunning, but when you speak to her, you see she’s just a down-home Maine girl who didn’t seem to be tainted by the apathy New York is known for.”

In fact, if the math-whizcum-model hadn’t been discovered, she likely would have been a suit-sporting banker. “When I was a freshman, all the seniors were reading Liar’s Poker. Everyone wanted to get into banking after that,” Nichols says, noting her original motivation for modeling was to pay for an M.B.A. at Columbia, naturally.

But fate had another plan. While meeting a friend for lunch, Nichols had a chance encounter with a Next modeling agent, who snapped Polaroids of her on the spot. From there, she began modeling in New York during her sophomore year, then went on leave to pursue her career in Paris full-time. She catwalked in runway shows and posed in major campaigns for the likes of Abercrombie & Fitch.

Despite her success, dropping out of school never was an option. Nichols returned to Columbia eight months later and finished her degree by scheduling classes for two days a week, often from 9 a.m.—9 p.m., modeling the rest of the time and doing homework during photo shoot breaks. “Much to the dismay of my bookers, I was very strict about not working when I had school,” she says. “I loved being here. At the first sight of spring, when everyone was on the Steps, I didn’t want to be anywhere else.”

“She was just another classmate sitting at Tom’s having black and white milkshakes, talking about our upcoming psych midterm,” says Lee. “She was a total dork who took meticulous notes. She always made sure she understood concepts and would be the one person who went to the TA’s office hours. She was who you copied class notes from.”

The transition from still camera to live action was only a matter of time — and talent. Nichols had acted only once, by accident, in an eighth-grade play of which the memory was not very strong. “But you can’t act if you can’t show your emotion.”

Nichols has developed a cult following as a sci-fi siren who can beat up bad guys and look good doing it. Her oft-admired silhouette can be attributed to celebrity trainer Valerie Waters, who was recruited to turn her model body into a muscle-bound beauty for G.I. Joe, for which she underwent six weeks of weapons training along with co-star Sienna Miller. For Conan, the quick study mastered swordplay and horse riding.

The belle of the battle gets her close-up in her current lead role. She’s starring in the second season of the sci-fi crime series Continuum, where she plays a detective from 2077 who’s stranded in present-day Vancouver, trying to stop criminals from the future. The show was an immediate hit; with almost one million viewers, Continuum’s first episode was the most-watched premiere for Canadian channel Showcase. Other networks caught on and state-side fans can now watch both seasons on the Syfy channel.

Despite her success, Nichols is happy to be one star in a constellation of many. “I like to be a working actor,” she says, “because I can go outside and take out my trash without makeup, with dirty hair and wearing sweatsuits, and nobody is taking my picture.”

To watch an interview with Nichols discussing Continuum, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Yelena Shuster ’09 writes for Cosmopolitan, New York and Manhattan magazines. Follow her on Twitter @YelenaShuster.
Lots of Columbia bridesmaids and groomsmen were in attendance. Among the groomsmen were Paul Roland '99; Alastair Wood '01; Alok Verma '01E; Larrance Guido-Pascal '00, '01 SIPA; Alan Rappeport '02; Adam Reese '05 P&S; and James Tierney. Bridesmaids included Erika Yoo '05 P&S; Elisabeth (Cohen) Rohan '98 Barnard; Alisa Wood '08 Business (née Amorosa); Kristin Barbato '08 Business and Kristin Reilly '08 Business.

Congratulations to everyone on their marriages and babies!

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Lachlan M. G. Smith writes, "I live in Providence, R.I., and am in my third year of radiology residency at Brown with plans to pursue a cardiovascular imaging fellowship at Yale in 2014. But most importantly, on October 30, my wife, Meghan, and I welcomed into the world a daughter, Emmelyn May Smith! We couldn’t be happier.

Beth Stein Lipschitz and her husband, Stuart Luth '01 Colby, has successfully produced her first film, White Alligator (whitealligator themovio.com), which she wrote and starred in. It’s a comedy about the racism she encountered in the entertainment industry as a white-skinned Puerto Rican actor. It is now making the festival circuit. Viviana still lives on the Upper West Side.

Also started working for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte as associate medical director for primary care. She lives in the Mission district of San Francisco with her husband and two kids.

Anna (Nelson) Fleming welcomed her first baby into the world on November 12, a son, Jasper Thomas Fleming.

Viviana Rodriguez, along with her husband, Stuart Luth '01 Colby, has successfully produced her first film, White Alligator (whitealligator themovio.com), which she wrote and starred in. It's a comedy about the racism she encountered in the entertainment industry as a white-skinned Puerto Rican actor. It is now making the festival circuit. Viviana still lives on the Upper West Side.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2013
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As much as we try to avoid the use of clichés, sometimes there’s simply no better way to communicate our feelings: Time flies! It’s hard to believe that 2013 is upon us and that our 10-year Alumni Reunion Weekend is just a short memory away. I’ll be coming in from Beijing especially for the weekend, and I hope to see you there as well. The dates are Thursday, May 30-Sunday, June 2. To find out more, to make a pledge to attend or to update your contact information with Columbia, please visit reunion.college.columbia.edu. Feel free to email me with any questions about the weekend. Also “like” our Facebook page, “Columbia College Class of 2003-10 Year Reunion.” So that you’ll know a bit more about some of our classmates when you catch up with them in a few months, here are a few updates.

Andy Shin is the co-founder and CTO for a fashion start-up, Vaunte. He recently moved back to New York City after living in the Bay Area, where he started Togetherville, a company acquired by Disney.

Rachel Lynn Kalin (née Reichard) writes, “My husband, Matthew Kalin, and I welcomed our first child, Sophie Lynn, on December 8.

Adam Kushner is executive editor of National Journal, a weekly political magazine based in Washington, D.C.

Afi Owusu-Sekyere writes, “I live in Indianapolis and am a branch manager within the men’s health business unit of Eli Lilly.”

Kristin Connors and Brian Kaderli are engaged to be married in June.

Raquel Gardner writes, “I recently finished my residency in medicine at UCSF and have started a fellowship in behavioral neurology at the UCSC Memory and Aging Center. My husband, Jonathan, recently graduated from the M.D.-Ph.D. program here and started his residency in lab medicine. My son, Aazria (16 months) already is quite a character!”

Steven Ling writes, “I had an extremely busy but fun-filled summer 2012 in NYC pursuing my passions while being on hiatus from my acting profession. I recently played in an amazing concert with the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra with Elaine Tai ’03E, where we played the works of Mozart, Mendelssohn and Beethoven. I also enrolled in a six-week acting program at the Ted handy Acting Studio, which has been 20 hours a week of intense and fulfilling classes. I have been continuing my improv comedy training at the Upright Citizens Brigade Improvisational and Sketch Comedy Training Center and the Magnet Theater, and have been performing on stage every chance I can get.”

Jason Colombo, v.p. for asset management at Goldman Sachs, married Jessica Levin at the Ritz Carlton in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Jessica is an associate at Morgan Cohen, a Manhattan law firm.

Sam Aron writes, “I married my sweetheart, Jaime Bugaski, in Washington, D.C. On hand for the celebration were Jonathan Manes, Dana Peritz (née Hopp), Karen Sagall ’01E and roommates and Columbia roommate Vincent Schofer ’03E.”

Lastly, Will Hu had a mini Columbia reunion at his wedding to Jessica Meksavan ’05 Barnard. The reception was held at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco. Classmates in attendance included Gaurav Shah, Daniel Dykema, Michelle Hodara, Shelly Mittal and Daniel Lee.

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Hello fellow CC ‘04ers! I hope you are all well and looking forward to spring. As usual, just a friendly reminder to send in your news and updates — don’t be shy! This column needs your input. Feel free to contact me at aeg90@columbia.edu or via Columbia College Today’s web submission form: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

On to the news.

Lauren Enye and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their first child, Arielle, on September 17. Lauren is a surgical pathology fellow at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, having finished her residency in pathology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Lauren also shares that Shirley Cho Fulmer ’04E and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their first child, Hannah, in November.

Congratulations to both sets of parents!

Brian Cabezas married Grace Ouma in July and began an M.B.A. at IE Business School in Madrid, Spain, in November.

Joseph LoGiudice is in a Ph.D. program in social welfare at The Graduate Center, CUNY, and is studying policies and practices that affect the LGBTQI and disability populations.

Congratulations to Robyn Mar and Ria Tabacco, who were married in October. They met in law school at NYU. Rion is a lawyer in the criminal defense practice of The Bronx Defenders.

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Hello from San Francisco, Class of 2005! I’m excited to join you as the new Peter Kang. Let’s start the update with the festivities of the past couple of months.

Cedrick Mendoza-Tolentino wrote in about a Columbia wedding weekend extravaganza: “On June 23, Lauren Peritz married Dan Long at the Lake Placid Lodge in Lake Placid, N.Y. The ceremony was a beautiful bookend to a courtship that, for those who have had the pleasure of spending time with Lauren and Dan through the years, began years ago at a Halloween party at the Nancy Whiskey Pub just south of Canal Street. How were we all supposed to know that Dan, who was shocked that he was being put into a cab given that Lauren’s apartment was only two blocks away, would be the one to win over Lauren’s heart? Dan endured much to be the one lucky enough to stand at the shore of Lake Placid as Lauren’s father guided her down the long set of stairs and over the gravel-covered path — endless hockey games, sailing events and hikes up, through and around the Adirondacks.”
Speaking for those who know them both, we wish them nothing but happiness.

"Many alums were in attendance, including Michael Bazylewicz ’04E; Becker Chase; Pepin Gelardi ’08E; Stefanie Goodsell ’09; Teresa Herrmann; Stephanie Huffman; Kent Parmington ’08; Casey Potsky; Annalise Schantz ’04 Barnard; Grace Souter (née Coyle); Julia Webber ’06, ’13 Business; Lily Wohl, and Weston Friedman ’08. The evening included many highlights, not least of which was a lovely speech by Lily that brought much of the audience to tears. A fun time was had by all, and everyone left Lake Placid wishing the weekend could have lasted just a bit longer.

"Congratulations, Lauren and Dan!"

Becca Brown married Devin McKnight in September in her home state of Vermont. Columbians in attendance included Daryl Weber ’02, Jenn Weber (née Legum), Anya Chernoff, Bennett Cohen, Rujeko Hockley and Anna Sternoff ’05 Barnard. After graduating from Georgetown’s McDonough School of Business last spring, Becca became a communications specialist at Applegate.

Alexandra Hartman and Andrew Tolve celebrated their first anniversary in October. The couple, who began dating senior year after taking Music Hum together, was married on October 1, 2011, in Highlands, N.C. A number of College and Engineering graduates made the trip, including Regina Bennis-Hartman ’09, Sarah Rae Murphy ’05E, Cristina Baulem, Amanda Ramsdell ’12 PaS and Carolyn McCormick. After quite a few years abroad and away, Andrew and Alexandra moved back to New York following their wedding. They live in Brooklyn, where he is a writer and she works on sustainability and labor issues.

In addition to tying the knot, our classmates continue their adventures as playwrights, home owners, doctors and more.

Michael Yates Crowley is a Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program fellow at Juilliard and frequently performs with his theater company Wolf ’39 (wolf39.org).

Brendon Jobs loved his second summer in Washington, D.C., but has decided to stay out in Philly, as Germantown istalcing off and he’s going on with you these days? We all want to know, so send an update!

restorative justice programs in Almeda County, Calif. (And hangs out with me a lot.)

Ariel Daube is finishing a pediatric residency at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and recently matched at a fellowship at Columbia in pediatric critical care.

After completing a degree in urban planning and urban design jointly at Harvard and MIT, Ben Harwood moved to New Orleans to work on Katrina recovery efforts. Since 2009 he has worked in affordable, sustainable recovery housing. He was responsible for writing recovery and redevelopment plans for several important neighborhood authors and passing significant sections of the city’s post-Katrina master plan and securing more than $35 million of state and federal housing funds to fund work on 2,000 lots and homes.

Ben now is a project manager at C&G Construction of Louisiana, where he coordinates projects with the City of New Orleans and many nonprofit organizations. These include the Riggio Foundation’s Project Home Again, which is building 200 homes in the heavily flooded Gentilly neighborhood, and Brad Pitt’s Make It Right Foundation, which is building 150 houses in the devastated Lower Ninth Ward. Ben also is on the board of the Historic Faubourg Tremé Association and chairs its Economic Development Committee.

In December, Ben purchased and began restorations on a 200-year-old historic “Creole cottage” house of his own in the Tremé neighborhood. That’s also where he founded a community-based nonprofit, People United for Armstrong Park, that helped rebuild and re-open Louis Armstrong Park, home of Congo Square, the historic birthplace of jazz. In 2012, his organization produced 15 weeks of free, all-ages musical and cultural programming. Recordings and more information can be found at armstrongpark.org. Don’t hesitate to email Ben at ben@armstrongpark.org if you’ll be in New Orleans any time soon.

What’s going on with you these days? We all want to know, so send an update!

Michelle Oh Sing 9 N 9th St., Unit 401 Philadelphia, PA 19107 mo2057@columbia.edu

Seth Wainer recently started a position with the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy and ran into Wayne Ting, who works on the National Economic Council.

Talibah Newman ’13 Arts was awarded a 2012 Director’s Guild of America Student Film Award in the African-American category for her short film, Busted On Brigham Lane. She is in post-production on her thesis film, Sweet Honey Chile’, which will premiere in the Columbia University Film Festival later this year.

On December 5, Jennifer Modbery (née Schnidman) was featured on CNN.com for her work with Kickboard, a software company that provides a centralized location for teachers to record their students’ progress. The article was headlined, "In Katrina’s shadow, New Orleans’ startups take flight.” (See Around the Quads in this issue and the Alumni Profile in the Summer 2012 issue.)

Teddy Diefenbach finished his master’s in interactive media at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, where he wrote a thesis on narrative systems design in video games. He then founded Rad Dragon, a game development studio based in Los Angeles. The studio’s game, The Moonlighters, was selected and shown by the IndieCade festival at the Electronic Entertainment Expo last summer, and Rad Dragon released its first game for iOS devices, Shove Pro, in November. And now for a series of wonderful wedding announcements.

This past November, Emily Lo married fellow MIT graduate student Marcus Gibson in her native Philadelphia area. She took a break from her architecture thesis-writing to celebrate with guests from around the world, including several Columbians and Carman 13-ers: Anissa Bazzari; Allan Fong ’08E; Emily Kleinman; Jean Lee ’05; Randy Li ’06E and his wife, Norah Li (née Garry); Peter Liu ’08; Krishna Rao; Jonathan Talamini ’07 and his wife, Christine Talamini ’07 (née Lin); Becca Tam ’05 (née Anderson); Anne Thomas; Michael Vary and his wife, Jackie Vary (née Matayoshi); Vidya Vash-Devan; Dave Wei; Susan Wei ’08 (née Liu); Jerry Wu; and Sevinc Yuksel ’06E.

Kinara Flagg ’11L and Paul Fileri were married on August 11 at The Ram’s Head Inn on Shelter Island,
an island between the forks at the eastern end of Long Island, near where Kinara grew up. Many dear friends from the Class of 2006 were in attendance, and some played key roles in the ceremony, including best man (and best twin) Phillip Fileri, Natha Chutthinanond, Umarao Sethi and Laura Stedman. Friend and Kinara’s fellow Law School classmate, Andrew Case ’11L, officiated.

Michael Accardiino and Lauren Accardiino ’09 (née Shearer) also were married this summer.

April Nizlek (now April Jelinek) married Michal Jelinek on August 18 in St. Paul’s Chapel. Max Foxman, Larissa Silva and diving coach Gordon Spooner were in attendance. April and Michal met in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake and now live in Michal’s hometown of Bratislava, Slovakia.

Joanna Loewenstein is engaged to Leon Skormick ’06 Princeton of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lenora Babb writes, “Kori Gatta and John Estrada ’07E are engaged and will be married in the fall. John proposed to Kori where they met, on Amsterdam Avenue near their old dorm, worm. Also, ‘I recently visited Suzanne Hopcroft and Jonny Rose ’04 at their beautiful apartment in Long Beach, Calif., where they recently moved. By all accounts they are enjoying the sunshine and the beach.”

In October, Christina Myers ‘08 produced and performed in an ambitious theatre project, Those Whom the Gods Love, in the Downtown Los Angeles Arts District through her budding theatre company, Kids Terrible. She has also launched a found space theatre experience, which is occupied as a restaurant with a prix fixe dinner; a conspicuous character then acts as guide, escorting guests to an undisclosed loft location for the show. The experience aims to keep the audience on its toes and sets a tone of excitement and surprise from the beginning. The story unfolds as a satire about Hollywood itself told in one football for another.”

Karin O’Donnell moved to Miami last summer and has started working with Google, doing marketing for Google+. “I’m enjoying living in the tropics with a Peruvian graduate and soaking in the ‘Mecaymi’ flavor. My apartment is always open to visiting Lions, unless Anna C. Lindov is occupying the guest room, which she does frequently.”

Karl Moos ’11 Business now travels the world as a v.p. of marketing with Adobe. His work was featured in a New York Times/Wall Street Journal international ad campaign. Karl met his wife, Callista (now only touring), saw the prime minister of Japan in Tokyo and swam with beluga whales at SeaWorld Orlando.

Ladies, Karl also enjoys candlelit dinners, long walks on the beach and Justin Bieber songs. His number is 801-228-8367.

This fall, Lindsey Frost Cleary married Jonathon Cleary in Chattanooga. Teresa Fortes, Holly Ching, Cyrus Ebnesajjad and Soo Han joined Lindsey in the celebration (see nearby photo). Lindsey lives in Tennessee, where she is a research associate in STEM Educa-

Committee planning the Alumni Reunion Weekend festivities, so please save the date: Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2. Events will take place on campus and throughout NYC. Go to reunion.college.columbia.edu to get more information and to make a pledge to attend. Also, please take a minute to update your contact information on the site so Columbia can send you the latest news related to reunion. You also can contact either of the staff members noted at the top of the column. Continue enjoying Lions Prowl.
Among the Columbians in attendance were, left to right: Blake Rego '08E, Michelle Mayer '08, Oleg Otlivanchik '08E, the bride, the groom, Vedia Biton '08 and Vladimir Eidelman '08E. They were married on August 12 in a seaside Jewish ceremony and reception in Istanbul, Turkey. The bridal party included Rebecca Robinson '08E, Barnard, Yoni BenTov '08E and Journee Isip '08.

Hurricane Sandy dealt a devastating blow to many New Yorkers. Marissa "Isang" Smith did her part in the weeks following the tragedy to help. Isang had planned to run in the ING New York City Marathon. After it was canceled, she decided to be a campaign manager for Run Anyways, which was formed in the aftermath of the hurricane. The group raised $16,000 by facilitating a marathon-distance run in Central Park and also collected enough supplies to fill five trucks. Now, Isang is helping turn Run Anyways into an official charity that will continue as a force in the athletic community.

Isang's commitment to running is a full-time profession. She is a coach for City Coach and JackRabbit Sports in New York City. Don't forget to send me an update in 2013! Use my email address at the top of the column or submit through CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

Vedia Biton '08 and Vladimir Eidelman '08E were married on August 12 in a seaside Jewish ceremony and reception in Istanbul, Turkey. Among the Columbians in attendance were, left to right: Blake Rego '08E, Michelle Mayer '08, Oleg Otlivanchik '08E, the bride, the groom, Vedia Biton '08 and Vladimir Eidelman '08E. They were married on August 12 in a seaside Jewish ceremony and reception in Istanbul, Turkey. The bridal party included Rebecca Robinson '08E, Barnard, Yoni BenTov '08E and Journee Isip '08.

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Hello, Class of 2010! Thank you for sharing your wonderful updates. If you are reading this column but have not received an email from me asking for your submissions, please make sure your email address is updated with the College. You can do so at the following link: college.columbia.edu/ct/update_contact_info.

Congratulations are in order for a few of our recently engaged or married classmates.

As of this writing, Jacob Tadros '10E and LeAnn Chavez were to be married on February 10. They met their freshman year in Carman. The bridal party included Rebecca Fuller '11, Sara Yee '10E, Toukam Ngoutane '09E and Kyle Junado '09.

Abby Oberman writes, "My now-fiancé, Bryan Finkel, proposed last August during the final stop of our cruise through Europe (on the top of Mount Solaro, Capri, to be exact). I have been overwhelmed by the well wishes of so many Columbians, and I hope many of them will be there to celebrate when Bryan and I get married this September."

Lauren "Casey" Hayes graduated from a conservatory program at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting last June and now is the development director of True False Theatre and an associate company member of Theatre East. She also is recently engaged to Caleb Deats '11L and is planning her wedding, which will be held on a farm in her home state of West Virginia in August. She is glad her Columbia friends will finally have a reason to visit after years of listening to her wax poetic about the Mountain State.

Michael Cloney is a student at P&G. As an undergrad, he met his now-wife, Tania Harsono '11, in Ferris Booth. The couple was married on July 28, 2011.

Emelie Kogut writes, "I have gone back to school after working at various legal jobs in New York and Switzerland. I’m in my first year at Boston University School of Law and I’m very happy to have Chloe Bright '08 and Suhaydee Tejeda '12 in my first-year class section."

Rachel Vishnepolsky has been awarded the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, to be used toward her mathematical research on smooth dynamical systems.

Alexandra Stein writes, "I’ve moved to Morocco, where I am the program manager for the High Atlas Foundation, an NGO that develops and implements development projects throughout rural Morocco. Living in Marrakech is an adventure, between learning the languages, hitching rides on the backs of motos and exploring the mountains just outside of the city. It seems, though, that I’m never far from home, as my neighbors happen to be Columbia folks, too!"

And finally, our quarterly installment from Chris Yin, who has some incredibly exciting news to report:

"If you’re reading this, it means that you’ve survived the 12-21-12 apocalypse, and I just want to say Congratulations, you’re a trooper." In the post-apocalyptic world, my hope is that you will turn to me as your fearless leader. My campaign starts here.

"On a lighter note, I am still alive and kicking. The 2012 holiday season left me with a few extra pounds that I am hoping to shed now that it’s 2013. But hey, what are New Year’s resolutions for if not to fantasize about washboard abs that are hiding under there somewhere? This past year, I have been incredibly grateful for learning the values of discipline, hard work and grit. Thanks to those who heard me complain and for everything that has humbled me in
the process. In addition, New York would not be the place I call home without the friends who make this city seem a little bit more normal and a little bit less anonymous, and who fill it with a lot more love. Gracias por todos.

“So, without further ado … the big news is that I am now a father. In the many ways I am untraditional, I have once again decided to forgo the system and do it my own way. The week before Thanksgiving, God brought into this world the last child for Gelsey and me, weighing in at 8 lbs., 3 oz. (And yes, he is named after the dorm.) He’s a beautiful lad with my hazel eyes and his mother’s mocha skin tone. I couldn’t be happier and do truly feel like a different man. I don’t suggest this for all, but sometimes a baby does solve all problems.”

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I hope this note finds everyone well and enjoying these early months of 2013. As many of you may know, we lost a member of our class and the Columbia community a few months ago. On November 6, Gelsey Karl-Cannon passed away in Denver, after she was hit by a truck while cycling. From Hartford, Conn., Gelsey majored in environmental sciences at Columbia and co-founded the sustainable cooking group 4local. After graduation, Gelsey moved to Denver to be a nanny for a family with a disabled father. At this difficult time, our thoughts are with her friends and family.

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Class of 2012, our amazing classmates are making big moves both abroad and in the United States. In late November, Rebecca Chanan attended the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Doha, Qatar, as a delegate with Sustainable US, an organization focused on youth and sustainable development. There, she was proud to be a part of the first Qatar’s first public protest and the first climate rally in a gulf state. She also co-wrote a speech delivered on behalf of international youth before the full plenary of ministers from around the world. Rebecca worked with her team to extend international stage to highlight the issue of climate change here at home, recognizing that building a domestic climate movement is the most promising way to shift the United States currently obstructionist stance in the negotiations. David Zhu is working in Hong Kong for Goldman Sachs IB. He attended President Lee C. Bollinger’s Hong Kong reception in October. He is involved with the Columbia University Alumni Association Hong Kong, already having organized a recent graduates gathering with CUAHK VP. Danny Lee ’95 as well as the annual Christmas Party. David invites anyone in the Class of 2012 in Hong Kong to reach out to him. In the midst of first semester finals, he was in Luanda Garcia is a second-year student at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs in Puerto Rico, where I’m a field manager for a project from the University of Chicago investigating variations of maternal behavior. One of the advantages of living on a Caribbean island is that I get to host friends such as Chithra Venkatesan ’12E, Shoshana Spellman ’12E and Anna Brown ’12 Barnard in my beachfront apartment. With that, I urge friends to please visit me before September!”

Nora Dooley is spending a year in South Africa as an intern for Grassroot Soccer (GRS), an NGO that uses the power of soccer to stop the spread of HIV, both by working in communities all over sub-Saharan Africa and with partners across the globe. She encourages classmates to explore ways to become involved by checking out her blog (dooley-noted-southafrica.blogspot.com), which she runs for GRS (grassroot-soccer-kimberley.blogspot.com) and her Twitter feed, @GRSKimberley.

Gillian Rhodes plan to stay in Cambodia for eight months is becoming a much longer adventure, as she now has a job choreographing for the Cambodian Television Network, the No. 1 television company in the country.

Detroit has become an unlikely home away from home for the Class of 2012. Derek Turner and Todd Nelson are “living it up downtown as Venture for America Fellows and hosting such luminaries as Jason Han (interviewing for medical school as of this writing) and Mark Hay (before he hopped across the pond to start his studies at Oxford). Our doors remain open for those 2012ers curious about the Motor City!”

In the months leading up to the presidential election, Dominique Mann was hired to work on President Barack Obama’s re-election campaign in communications at the national headquarters in Chicago. She was in charge of the national Hispanic media operation. She shares, “I landed that job because Columbia’s Alumni & Parent Involvement Fund supported my stay in Washington, D.C., so I could intern at the White House during summer 2011. I want to show my gratitude by including this in Class Notes.”

Brenda P. Salinas was accepted as one of three Kroc Fellows at National Public Radio. She is proud to be among the WKCR alumni to pursue a career in public radio and encourages us to listen for her.

Pat Blute is excited to be the Harwich H.S. (Cape Cod, Mass.) graduation speaker this summer. He currently is in Myanmar filming a documentary

Veronica Hylton, who has returned to Columbia as a coordinator in the American Studies department and lives with Columbia roommates, attended her department’s staff and faculty holiday party in December. She also ran in President Lee C. Bollinger’s Fun Run for the first time, writing, “Glad I finally had a chance, as I was too lazy to study!”

Paul Hsiao lives with Eric Tang ’12E and Eric Chung ’12E on the Upper East Side. They live near Haenna Lee, Anupriya Kohli and Sarah Gordon ’12E. Paul invites the class to let him know if anyone is in the neighborhood.

Some of our classmates have returned to school.

Willie Avendano ’12E has enrolled at Florida International University in Miami for a second bachelor’s (this time in elemen-
ADVENTURES

RUNNING TRIPS NORTHWEST leads all-inclusive trips in WA state. Check us out at runningtripsnorthwest.com!

RENTALS


Naples, Fla: Luxury condominium overlooking Gulf, two-month minimum, 802-524-2108, James Levy ’65 CC, ’68 L.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK: 8 bedroom 7.5 bathroom waterfront estate in Northeast Harbor with pier and deep water moorings. Monthly, May through October. neh2012@hmamail.com, 650-450-8413.

FOR SALE

RARE set of 14 Lenox Columbia plates, mint condition, $950. ’52 CC grad, 845-534-9317.

SERVICES

MUSIC THEORY/COMPOSITION ASCAP Award recipient (Columbia/Mannes) available to teach/tutor in NYC. All ages welcome. References on request. Please email teddypoll@gmail.com.

COLUMBIA JEWELRY at CUJewelry.com

1754 Crown Cuff Links, Lapel Pins, Pendants. Lions, CU designs. Fine, hand-made. 718.796.6408
How Well Do You Know Lit Hum?

Test yourself (sorry, no blue books) with the following quiz. Answers on page 94.

1. What was the original name for Literature Humanities?

2. Four books have been required texts throughout the 75 years Lit Hum has been taught. Name them.

3. Four books have been required texts in all but one year that Lit Hum has been taught. Name them.

4. Which female author’s book was the first added to the list of required texts?

5. From what Lit Hum text is the following quotation taken: “No man is ever going to get satisfaction if the woman doesn’t choose that he should”?

6. An original Lit Hum text in 1937–38, this work by a Greek tragedian was dropped from the curriculum seven times before its most recent reinstatement in 2003–04. Name it.

7. Two authors have had 12 of their works taught as required texts, more than any other authors. Name them.

8. What was the first book of the Bible to be added to the Lit Hum curriculum, and when?

9. From what Lit Hum text is the following quotation taken: “The hero’s mortal body dissolved on his upward path, as a leaden pellet shot from a broad sling melts away in the midst of the sky”?

10. When Lit Hum was created in 1937, this author had five works among the required readings. Name the author and, to be considered a true Lit Hum expert, the five works.
Come celebrate Alumni Reunion Weekend 2013 — the reunion that everyone is looking forward to!

In addition to class-specific events throughout the weekend, you can join all Columbians celebrating their reunions on Friday, May 31, at the “Back on Campus” sessions, including Mini-Core Courses, engineering lectures, tours of the Morningside campus and its libraries and more. There will also be unique opportunities to engage with the city’s arts community through theatre, ballet, music and art gallery tours.

Columbians will be dispersed throughout the Heights and greater Gotham all weekend, but Saturday, June 1, is everyone’s day on campus. This year’s Saturday programming encourages all alumni to come back to celebrate some of the best aspects of Columbia at Affinity Receptions and to return to the classroom to hear some of Columbia’s best-known faculty and alumni at Dean’s Day in a series of Public Intellectual Lectures and Mini-Core Courses. The day wraps up with the reunion classes’ tri-college Wine Tasting, followed by class dinners and a final gathering for champagne, dancing and good times on Low Plaza at the Starlight Reception.

Dates and Registration Information

Thursday, May 30—Sunday, June 2, 2013

For more information or to register, please visit reunion.college.columbia.edu.

If you register before Wednesday, May 1, you’ll receive a 10 percent discount on all events, excluding Broadway shows, New York City Ballet and New York Philharmonic tickets.
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Alumni and students forge meaningful bonds across disciplines and generations.
By Alexis Tonti '11 Arts

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The Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Student Internship Program pairs students with alumni for mutual benefit.
By Shira Boss '93, '97, '98 SIPA

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The Class of 2013 joins the ranks of alumni; plus Academic Awards and Prizes.
By Alex Sachare '71

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A look at the achievements and ambitions of eight members of the Class of 2013.

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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

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By Lita Palladino

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Nate Bliss '05 played a key role in Coney Island’s comeback from Hurricane Sandy.
By Mary Jean Babic

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Alumni and students benefit from intergenerational interaction.

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The Class of 2013 celebrates at the Senior Dinner.

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Baseball, women’s tennis win Ivy League titles.

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

By Kenneth T. Jackson,
the Jacques Barzun Professor in History and the Social Sciences

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The CCAA’s Student Alumni Committee looks to identify areas where alumni can support and enhance the quality of student life.

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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
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.

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 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;
■ mentor a student: college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/mentoring;
■ attend an event with students: studentaffairs.columbia.edu/studentandalumni; and/or
■ sponsor an internship, give students career advice or help them prepare for job interviews: careereducation.columbia.edu/alumni.

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

PHOTOS: TOP, PETER FOLEY; BOTTOM; EILEEN BARROSO
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

Auburn, 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.” 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 wonder¬
ing 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 edu¬cated 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 we were emailing regarding this fantasy 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.

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 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)
Influences and Inspiration

This 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, ’59. 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.

Dean 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):

“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 Schabane
Class of 2013 Celebrates at Senior Dinner

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.

A Million Reasons to Give

The 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

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/columbiacollegel754/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 Early Romantic Antecedents. 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. Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more!
Big Data is changing the world. We’ve changed how you’ll learn about Big Data.

Columbia University’s quantitative graduate programs now include online master’s degrees in Statistics or Actuarial Science, and online certificates in both areas that you can earn in as few as two semesters. Get the flexibility and convenience of online study combined with the rigorous curriculum and exclusive access to faculty and practitioners that you expect from Columbia.

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* Online option available starting Fall 2014.
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.

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 reproductive 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?
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 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 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 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 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 bookshop. 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
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; 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.

Four Alumni Honored with John Jay Awards

Four accomplished alumni — Thomas Cornacchia ’85; Katori Hall ’03; Mike Schmidtberger ’82, ’86 SL; 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.

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COLUMBIA alumni ASSOCIATION
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.

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.

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

CONRAD TAO '15 is an award-winning classical pianist and composer.
PHOTO: RUIMIN WANG
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 and John Hochinger 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, Rostam 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 meticulous” 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, June 2007).

■ Leon Wieseltier ’74, literary editor of The New Republic, was among the 2013 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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SUMMER 2013 13
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 RSI single by Nick Crucet '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.

"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.

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

CAMPBELL SPORTS CENTER SCOREBOARD

2 Times that Nicole Bartnik '13 was named Ivy League Women's Tennis Player of the Year
7 Student-athletes named to Phi Beta Kappa
9 Baseball student-athletes named All-Ivy League
21 Outdoor track and field student-athletes who qualified for the NCAA Track and Field East Regional
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 NCAA 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 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 record at home in its memorable season.

Meili, Santos Honored at Varsity C Celebration

Swimmer Katie Meili ’13 and wrestler Steve Santos ’13, both of whom finished third in the nation 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 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 NCAA 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 19th individual Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association champion and then placing third in the NCAA, 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 Kailie 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.
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 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. Read McNally’s keynote address at college.columbia.edu/terrencemcnally. View more photos from Class Day and Commencement at facebook.com/alumni cc.

Terrence McNally ’60, the keynote speaker at Class Day, told the graduates, “Your work is just beginning.”

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO
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
Academic Awards and Prizes

The Academic Awards and Prizes Ceremony at which students are recognized for their academic achievements is a highlight of graduation week. Dean James J. Valentini and Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis were on hand to congratulate the students at the ceremony, held on May 21 at Faculty House. Yatrakis, along with several noted faculty members, presented the awards. Following are the 2013 recipients.

Special Achievements

To Be Noted
Presented by Dean of Academic Affairs
Kathryn Yatrakis
HARRY J. CARMAN FELLOWSHIP
Yoonjin Ha ’13
CLASS OF 1939 SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Prism Ahmed ’14
Margarete Diaz Cuadros ’14
Emma Gillheany ’14
Alexa Semonche ’14
Yifei Zhao ’15
JARVIS AND CONSTANCE DOCTOROW FELLOWSHIP
Matthew Jacobs ’13
HENRY EVANS TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP
Gery Ram ’13
SOLOMON AND SEYMOUR FISHER CIVIL LIBERTIES FELLOWSHIP
Celina Albape ’14
Andrew Gonzalez ’15
ALBERT ASHER GREEN MEMORIAL PRIZE
Joel Dierbeck ’13
EURETTA J. KELLETT FELLOWSHIP
Adam Formica ’13
Gavin McGown ’13
RICHARD LEWIS KOHN TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP
Chioma Ngwudo ’15
ARTHUR ROSE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP
Roko Rumora ’14
Norman Toy III ’14
DAVID B. TRUMAN ALUMNI AWARD
Simon Jerome ’13
SALUTATORIAN
Yoshikuni K. Oto ’13
VALEDICTORIAN
Leah Friedman ’13

Prizes in Science and Mathematics
Presented by Professor Emlyn Hughes, Department of Physics
RICHARD BERSOHN PRIZE
Julia Oktaviac ’13
COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AWARD
James Nugent ’13
Madhavan Somananthan ’13
Henri Stern ’13
THOMAS J. KATZ PRIZE
Cyril Bucher ’13
ALFRED MORITZ MICHAELS PRIZE
Samuel Kohn ’13
PROFESSOR VAN AMRINGE MATHEMATICAL PRIZE
First Year: Ha-Young Shin ’16
Sophomore: Yifei Zhao ’15
Junior: Sicong Zhang ’14
JOHN DASH VAN BUREN JR. PRIZE IN MATHEMATICS
Sung Chul Park ’13
BRIDGES AND STURTEVANT PRIZE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Georgia Squyres ’13
THE HERBERT FREDERICKS SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Matthew Tsim ’16

Prizes in the Social Sciences
Presented by Professor John Huber, Department of Political Science
CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
Shelley Liu ’13
CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN HISTORY
Elisa Quirko ’13
CARL B. BOYER MEMORIAL PRIZE
Claire Sabel ’13
CHANLER HISTORICAL PRIZE
David Fine ’13
TARAKNATH DAS FOUNDATION AWARD
Lewis West ’13
ALBERT MARION ELSBERG PRIZE
James Wiseman ’13
ILLY PRIZE IN HISTORY
Mysini Manney-Kalovera ’13
GARRETT MATINGLY PRIZE
Eric Kutscher ’13
SANFORD S. PARKER PRIZE
Yuxiao Huang ’13
SANFORD S. PARKER SUMMER RESEARCH PRIZE
Evan Munro ’14
Joonwook Park ’14
Adam Stansell ’15
Xiaoshi Yang ’14
Sanamtha Zeller ’14
EDWIN ROBBINS ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP
Matthew Chou ’14
Emily Dreibelbis ’14
Nicole Dussault ’14
Jake Obeng-Bediako ’14
ROMINE PRIZE
Seminar Paper:
Steven Iglehart ’13
Honor Theses:
Lorna Zhang ’13
PHYLLIS STEVENS SHARP FELLOWSHIP IN AMERICAN POLITICS
Blanca Capone ’16
Melissa Fich ’15
Jiarun Tang ’15
CAROLINE PHELPS STOKES PRIZE
David Baruch ’13
ALAN J. WILLEN MEMORIAL PRIZE
Grace Rybak ’13
MYRA KRAFT PRIZE FOR EXCEPTIONAL PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY
Erica Bower ’14
MYRA KRAFT PRIZE FOR SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
Carrie Montgomery ’13

Prizes in the Humanities
Presented by Professor Courtney Bender, Department of Religion
SENIOR THESIS PRIZE IN ART HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
Isabel Losada ’13
CHARLES PATERNO BARRATT-BROWN MEMORIAL PRIZE
Michelle Dawson ’13
DINO BIGONGIARI PRIZE
Isabel Losada ’13
BUNNER PRIZE
Peter Conroy ’13
DOUGLAS GARDNER CAVERLY PRIZE
Gavin McGown ’13
EARLE PRIZE IN CLASSICS
Gavin McGown ’13
JAMES GUTMANN PRIZE IN PHILOSOPHY
Sanford Diehl ’13
JOHN VINCENT HICKEY PRIZE
Amanda Gutterman ’13
ADAM LEROY JONES PRIZE IN LOGIC
Eric Shapiro ’13
HELEN AND HOWARD P. MARRARO PRIZE
J.D. Nathan Chan ’15
Javier Llaca ’16
Annalise Perricone ’16
AMALIA RINEHART PRIZE
Jennifer Schmeyer ’14
CAROLINE SONNET ’14
MADELINE TUCKER ’15
LOUIS SUDLER PRIZE IN THE ARTS
Avery Israel ’13
MARIANA GRISWOLD VAN RENSSLAER PRIZE
Andy Nicole Bowers ’13
Senior Snapshots

The 1,169 members of the Class of 2013 are remarkable for their achievements and their ambitions. Following are eight of their stories.

Richard Fineman Hopes To Have “The Right Stuff”

It is with some trepidation that Richard Fineman ’13 reveals his life’s dream, which came into focus during an internship last summer at the NASA Ames Research Center in his home state of California. Not too many of his peers, he suspects, are leaving the College with the intention of becoming astronauts.

At NASA, Fineman studied the ways in which the properties of light change as a wave travels through the interstellar medium (dust and other matter that fills the space between stars). The highlight of his experience came in August, when he watched via livestream as the rover Curiosity landed on Mars, marking the beginning of a two-year mission to determine if the planet’s Gale Crater could have ever supported microbial life. “Seeing the complicated sequence that had to take place for it to land successfully was amazing,” says Fineman. “I saw 60-year-old scientists cry; they were so happy that it worked. There was so much innovation that went into it.”

As a result of that experience, Fineman, who majored in chemical physics with a concentration in math, plans to pursue graduate study in aerospace engineering with the goal of fulfilling a long-held but previously unexpressed ambition to explore space. “There are so many opportunities right now with the privatization of space flight. I want to be a part of it,” he says.

Fineman will first take a year off from academia, during which he plans to compete in several triathlons. In July, through Engineers Without Borders, he will spend two weeks in rural Nahuala, Guatemala, where he will help build a pump, well and filtration system that will provide the community with a reliable source of drinking water.

Born in Palo Alto and raised in his mother’s native Guatemala City, Fineman chose the College in part for the opportunity to explore New York City, his father’s hometown. He also was drawn by the Core Curriculum, which he found attractive for the same reasons that he studies physics. “I feel that I am more well-rounded knowing the origins of the way we think,” says Fineman. “One of the things that appeals to me about physics is that it goes into the core understanding of everything and every other science builds on those ideas; I believe that studying the fundamental background of different concepts gives you a greater understanding of the picture as a whole.”

Fineman joined the Columbia swim team as a first-year and was president of the Columbia University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee as a senior. He cherishes the bond he shares with his coaches and teammates, many of whom also belong to his fraternity, Sigma Nu. “I can’t think of anyone better to have shared my college experience with,” Fineman says.

Fineman so enjoyed his undergraduate years that he volunteered with the Columbia College 2013 Senior Fund, a campaign that encourages seniors to donate to alma mater. “The College has given me so much that I should give back in any way that I can,” he says.

For Zuzanna Fuchs, Wordplay Is Subject for Further Study

Zuzanna Fuchs ’13 looks forward to spending the next few years of her life “playing with word endings.” Beginning this fall, Fuchs will pursue a Ph.D. in linguistics at Harvard, where she will delve into her fascination with morphology, a subfield that studies the structure of words and the processes through which words are created.

As a College student, Fuchs, who is fluent in English and Polish and advanced in Spanish, declared a major in statistics but decided to add an independent major in linguistics after enjoying “Introduction to Linguistics.”

“Linguistics is something that people don’t realize is around us all the time,” she says, citing a favorite example. “‘Haha’ and ‘LOL’ are modal particles. They don’t mean anything; they just set the tone for whatever is being said. It’s fun to be at a party and say, ‘Do you know that when you text ‘haha’ or ‘LOL’ you’re using a modal particle?’ It’s a nerdy fun fact, but it’s interesting.”

For her senior thesis, Fuchs examined the gender and grammatical cases assigned to English nouns adopted into the Polish lexicon. “Because nouns in English have neither cases nor genders, I wanted to see what happens to them when they
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 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.

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 Excellence 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
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: get circumcision done.

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 the HIV/AIDS clinic in New York City.

"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.'"

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."

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
Meli. “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, Meli 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/ccl; click on Web Extras.]

Grace Lee ’14 PH

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

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 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
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

### 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 underrepresented 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
The College Connection

Alumni and students forge meaningful bonds across disciplines and generations

BY ALEXIS TONTI ’11 ARTS

One 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 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 throughout the College pooling expertise and resources.

CCE spearheads the Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Student Internship Program (see page 30), Columbia Exploration Internship 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, 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 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 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.

“Td 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 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.’

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

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT

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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.’”

Helping 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, ’96, 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 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
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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 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 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.”

Speaking 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.

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 [Camoy ’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 students. “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 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 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.
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

When 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 his 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 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.”
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

Dr. 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 Lucile 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 firstborn son and namesake, the valedictorian at Bronx Science as 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.

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“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 firstborn 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 suffering for millions. His son might even earn a fortune.

“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.

Twenty-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
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., mus¬cle 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

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

“We were a little arrogant and naïve,” 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.
No shots were fired in earnest, yet New York City — and Columbia — played a significant role in WWII

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=SnoxytTVaA.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard
On 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 unwarranted threat of submarine attacks from German U-Boats. Metropolitan searchlight 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 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.
The 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 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-
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 itself. 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 ninety 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 thousand employees (versus more than twenty thousand at the Philadelphia Navy Yard or more than fifty-five thousand at the New York Navy Yard) worked there at a time when one million men were in the armed services. The Navy Yard was the foremost builder of battleships in the world, and it produced more of them than Japan 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.

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

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 P-47 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 media prowess was tapped in the service of the war effort. From the former Paramount Studios lot in Astoria, Queens, the Army Pictorial Service made military training films and instructed combat cameramen and photographers. At its peak it had both military and civilian employees, including famous New York and Hollywood filmmakers, the most renowned of whom was John Huston, director of The Maltese Falcon. Particularly moving was the story of Harold Russell, a demolition expert who lost his hands. To inspire other maimed soldiers, he was the focus of a film made in Queens called Diary of a Sergeant. Russell later became better known when he starred in the 1946 Hollywood film The Best Years of Our Lives.

But New York’s most important contribution to the war effort remained a secret until long after the final surrender. The development of the atomic bomb began in the Manhattan Engineer District, believing that following the convention of naming engineering commands for the city in 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.

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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, '42E, MANNY WARMAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; JACK M. LEWIS '42, '42E. 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 PALADINO

Almost 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.
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; Phillip 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

More 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.
Sand in His Shoes

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

By Mary Jean Babic

On 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-
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.”

The 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 rolling down 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 internship in its development department. He parlayed the internship into a full-time job as a junior project manager, and 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.”

Growing 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, hearkening 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.
Scholars in the Storm

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

By Michael R. Shea '10 Arts

On 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 ½-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 after — 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.”

Scholars’ 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 his best students endure long bus rides to the city’s top middle and high schools. In 2003, as principal 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, PS. 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-scraping, 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 hobbyhorse, 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 her 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 blamed. 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 tables. 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 Lin-tia 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 depot 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 depot 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.

Michael R. Shea '10 Arts is a freelance writer who lives in New York City.
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
Students and Alumni Have Much To Share

As 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 Sultimski '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 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 opportunities. 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 Tirana Barry ’87
You're My Dawg, Dog: A Lexicon of Dog Terms for People by Donald Friedman '49, with illustrations by J.C. Suares. 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).


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


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 Smokey '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).


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.

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

Karl Dmuk ’15
Obituaries

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.

Warnock and his wife, Dorothy, lived in Short Hills, N.J., for more than 30 years. She predeceased him. Warnock is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Eugene Carlow; 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, N.J. 07040.

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 devoted theatergoer, an 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; a great-nephew, and two great-nieces.

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 veteran 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 encouraged him to entertain foreign dignitaries. After graduating with a degree in business, Lordi embarked on a 40-year sales career for Menken, Playtex and Exquisite Form. A mechanical whiz, he was quick to fix things. With a motley of hobbies, he was a member of the local VFW and a longtime member of Saint Dunstan’s Episcopal Church. Lordi is survived by his wife of 64 years, Elisabeth Perry Lordi, and is predeceased by their wives and children. Memorial contributions may be made to the College (college.columbia.edu/giveonline), 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 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.”

Mark Flanigan, retired naval officer, Washington, D.C., on May 26, 2012. Flanigan was born on October 3, 1930, in Manhattan. He was commissioned in the Navy 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 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 resume in Lifetime Duty." He co-authored recommendations to the chief of naval personnel for counteracting 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 Rohre ’53 Barnard, and their daughters, Page and Meg.

Obligatory 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.
Daniel G. Hoffman ’47, ’56 GSAS, Former U.S. Poet Laureate

Daniel 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 (1971); Brotherly Love (1981); Hagg-Gilding 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 Renze Prize.

He also was a Chancellor Emeritus of the Academy of American Poets and from 1988–99 was Poet in Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, where he administered the American Poets’ Corner. Hoffman joined the Council of the Authors Guild in 1974 and 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 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 Polkoff 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 Wilmingtom, 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 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 Neuman; 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 Seibas 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, Claudia; three nieces; a nephew; and two goddaughters.

1972

Peter V. Darrow, attorney, New York City and Sag Harbor, N.Y., on May 19, 2013. Darrow was born in Amherst, 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 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 maintained for several years. Last year Darrow raised funds to purchase a shell for Columbia’s women’s crew team. After her 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. Seege; one niece; children from a former marriage, Meredith ’84 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 also often wrote about food, keeping a blog and contributing to several books, and is survived by her husband, Andy Benner; sister Jesse, brother Mitch; 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 (cul.org) or the Connecticut Food Bank (ctfoodbank.org).

Lisa Palladino
due to a production error, the first three pages of Class Notes in the Spring 2013 issue were a reprint of the columns from the Winter 2012–13 issue. The news from those columns (1925–48), along with their new submissions, can be found in this issue. CCT regrets the error.

Robert Zucker, ‘29, GSAS and developed influential work in upstate New York has initiated a ‘21GSAS. He is a scholar of the late Robert Lax ‘38, that St. Bonaventure University in New York on Friday, October 18. He signed off with a smile.

CCT also received a note from Steve Georgiou of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., a scholar of the late Robert Lax ‘38, that St. Bonaventure University in New York on Friday, October 18. He signed off with a smile.

Bernard Queneau ‘30, ‘33E writes, "This 100-year-old is slowing down but hopes to attend the Senior Society of Schenectady centennial celebration in New York on Friday, October 18." He signed off with a smile.

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**41 Robert Zucker**

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Albert Sanders writes, "There were a great number of students arts activities in the Class of 1941 were gradually working their way forward in Class Notes. How far forward I hadn’t realized until recently, when I noticed that it was the oldest of the numbered classes reported by a correspondent. That and two other observations impelled this letter. First, the entire [Spring ’13] cover being devoted to ‘Lit Hum Tours 75,’ second, your appeal for something to print. ‘Lit Hum’ turned out to be what we called Humanities A. It brought back the memory of my first confining day at the College in 1937, when someone that my notes indicated was ‘Mr. [Mark] Van Doren [‘21 GSAS]’ told us that we were the first freshman class in a large American college to spend a year studying literature. The book we were given was ‘The Scarlet Letter’ and one of the reason for this experiment was that great books were easier to read than to read about. He also said that undoubtedly there would be books written about us and the experiment. (My second day’s notes were a reprint of the columns (1925–48), along with their new submissions, can be found in this issue. CCT regrets the error.

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Milton Kamen ‘40 writes from New York. "When I recently signed in at a senior citizen expo in NYC, the young woman at the registration desk noticed my year of birth and asked if I had been in WWII. I answered, ‘Yes. During WWII I purchased an Army uniform for over three years,’ fully expecting the usual response of, ‘Thank you for your service.’ "But what I got was, ‘It must have needed a good dry cleaning.’"
stepson, John Wellington, an artist. “My wife and I, collaborating with my son, designed our apartment in New York City. It is high over the city, small but with a magnificent view of Midtown. We also worked on the design of our home in East Hampton, N.Y., an address that has become much more fashionable in the 25 years we have lived there. Several times yearly we occupy our apartment in Paris in the 6th Arrondissement for weeks at a time. We have as many friends there as in New York. Fortunately, my wife speaks French fluently. If need be, I can add, ‘What’s they say?’

“I owe a lot to Columbia College and the Engineering School for the tools they gave me, including building my character. I learned that setbacks can’t all be avoided but what can be avoided is dealing with them in less than the most effective way. This, plus learning what ‘really counts,’ has helped to make me a happy person.”

From the Fall 2012 Issue of Class Notes, which were not printed in that issue due to a production error:

Robert Zucker: “I returned from a wonderful vacation at the Grand Velas Riviera Maya Hotel in Mexico with my friend, Fran, and her husband, Rick. Then we went to Ibiza. I then took a February trip to Ixtapa, Mexico, with my family of 26, including 12 great-grandchildren.”

Wm. Theodore “Ted” de Bary ’53 GSAS also sent an update: “It’s not exactly news but I still teach three days a week, conducting an Asian Humanities course and an upper-level Core course, ‘Classics of East and West,’ on the themes of nobility and civility. I commute by shuttle bus from Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Institute in Rockland County. Among other things I conduct a series of public meetings on Keys to the Core, starting with John Erskine [Class of 1900], Mark Van Doren ’21 GSAS and Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS, meeting Fridays at noon in the Heyman Center for the Humanities. My next book, The Great Civilized Conversation, is due out in spring.”

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

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On March 1, Bob Kaufman reported from his home in Scarsdale, N.Y., that he was preparing for his annual family and golf holiday on the island of Jamaica. At 92, Bob, the most senior member of the Sunningdale Country Club in Scarsdale, N.Y., has been trying to improve his distance off the tee by at least 15 yards with special exercises with his driver. He also reports with pleasure that his younger granddaughter, Ruby Lee (8), has been admitted to the Riverdale Country School, the alma mater of Bob’s wife, Susan. Ruby Lee’s older sister, Maddy Kate (13), already is an excellent age-group golfer and is a prospective Columbia cheerleader, having attended several Homecoming game celebrations with Grandpa Bob and Grandma Sue. Fore!

Arthur “Wizzer” Wellington has been in touch via email and snail mail from his home in Elmira, N.Y. Art, at 92, still drives around town in Elmira, with frequent visits to the Off Track Betting venue, where he recently won a few substantial trifecta wagers. Despite numerous physical ailments, Art’s cognitive status is excellent, as evidenced by his sharp handicap putting. We look forward to receiving this writing from him, written in perfectly legible longhand script. As of this writing, he was scrutinizing the entries and later episodes, starring the late, great actor Raymond Burr.

Columbia’s men’s basketball team ended the season in last place in the Ivy League; we lost our final two games on the road to Harvard and Dartmouth, for a final record of 12–16 (including four wins and 10 losses within the league). Among our notable victories were a 75–77 rout at Villanova on November 20 at Villanova, Pa., and a 78–63 win over Harvard in Levien Gym on February 10. Harvard won the Ivy League championship for the second consecutive year and played in the NCAA tourney.

Columbia coach Kyle Smith recruited two talented backcourt freshmen, Grant Mullins ’16 and Maodo Lo ’16, for the team as well as returning sophomore Steve Frankoski ’15, a 3-point sharpshooter. We lost our starting point guard, Brian Barbour ’13, to graduation. He was among the best in the nation in assist/turnover ratio and in foul shooting percentage.

Former Columbia football coach Kaufman has done the same and, with his experience and leadership, we continue to hope for an Ivy League championship sometime soon.

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

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

On October 30, Don Mankiewicz wrote a lengthy snail mail letter that reported on his status at home in Monrovia, Calif. Don (90) is doing well, enjoying time with his wife, Carol; son, John; and adopted daughters, Jan and Sandy, whose children have made Don a happy grandfather. Don’s father, Herman Mankiewicz ’17, won an Academy Award for writing and directing A Letter to Three Wives. Don himself won the Harper Prize Novel award for his novel Letter to Three Wives. Don was doing well, enjoying time with his family.

As 2013 reaches its midpoint, I am grateful to be in touch with many Columbia friends and classmates (several mentioned in this column), who continue to defy their chronological age and are functioning well as they progress past their 90th birthdays. Please send your news and comments to me at my email or home address. Your phone calls are also always welcome at 413-586-1517.

Class Notes

G.J. Angio

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By the time you read this, we will have celebrated the 70th anniversary of our College graduation at Alumni Weekend and with a luncheon in Hamilton Hall. I’ll report on all the good times and reunions in the Fall issue. The class photo taken at the luncheon, however, may be found on the CTC website (college.columbia.edu/cct) as part of this issue’s reunion follow-up article.

If you attended the luncheon or any other reunion events, please share your thoughts and stories with me by sending a letter or email to the postal or email address at the top of the column or through CTC’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct.

As Shakespeare said in the words of King Lear, “Ripeness is all.” To which we may add: Long may Columbia stand!

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Knowing we would encounter a delay due to CTC’s publishing schedule, I wrote a letter to classmates a while ago, encouraging them to contribute special “life update” stories for this issue. Here is what I received:

Cedric Philipp wrote: “Seventy years. Wow. That December I was in the Army. Commissioned in ’44, I led a platoon on to Omaha Beach, some fighting in Belgium. In ’45, I was dropped into Spain, where ‘Wild Bill’ Donovan [Class of 1905] suspected Hitler would try to escape. Then came nine months working under Gen. Lucius Clay in Berlin. To decommis, I drove with ex-Marine Ray Heckmann in a Jeep through South America, from Venezuela to Chile by land.

“Returned to Columbia for law school. Bad job market. Then Princeton’s grad school for international affairs, the Department of State and [a career in] international pharmaceutical marketing. Married 60-plus years to the same wonderful lady, Sue; three highly accomplished kids; and three grands. A heart valve replacement, leg artery bypass and pneumonia recently hit me at 90-plus.”

Cedric noted that the likelihood of his making reunion was remote but sent best wishes for success.

From Leo Stern Jr.: “In fall 1939 I began Humanities A with 20-odd other students, mainly freshmen, then the structure began with Trilling [25, 38 GSAS]. His memo- rable characteristics were a chain-smoking habit and a young, wispy countenance that was best recalled by our description, ‘mascara blue eyes.’ At that time I had an extensive memory (long since disappeared) and could quote from Professor Trilling’s remarks in class as well as from our reading material. I was delighted when I received a personal letter from him congratulating me on my exam score and I was highly embarrassed when he chose to read to the class as an example of dutiful recall of his lectures. My wife carefully filed it on our bookshelves.

“Trilling was fond of referring to Dante’s Inferno and its narrator, Virgil, with the middle of his life, wound up at 35. ‘The years of our life are three score and ten,’ says the Bible. Trilling wrote a novel, The Middle of the Journey, the protagonist being 35. Fast forward to Trilling’s obituary in 1974. My wife produced our carefully filed letter and examined the date. Lionel Trilling died at 70 and wrote the letter to me at 39!”

Dr. Felix Demartini ’46 PE5 graciously called to say he could not be present for the reunion luncheon. During the conversation, he recalled his College, P&S and subsequent years as an academic.

Felix became the CEO of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and is an emeritus professor of internal medicine at P&S. He has lived in Florida since his retirement several years ago.

Dr. Thomas C. Catalano sent greetings, writing, “My four years at Columbia were incredibly stimulating and, then, by grace of Uncle Sam, I was in med school at Long Island College of Medicine. Internship and residency at St. Vincent’s Hospital in NYC, followed by a Damon Ranyon Fellowship. I found time during all this to marry the lovely Geraldine Morrell Caruso.”

“I was recalled to the Air Force in 1950 during the Korean War and served as Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Miss. . . . After being discharged, I moved with my family to Long Island, where I practiced medicine for 41 years in partnership with Dr. William Walker. My wife and I have three children: Our son and oldest is a lawyer practicing in Jericho, N.Y.; our older daughter is an R.N., and our younger daughter worked as a reinsurance broker. Five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren later, our three children live near us on the Island, with the grands and greats all safely under our roof.”

“During the ’60s, ’70s and ’80s I was president of the medical board and director of medicine at Syosset Hospital, president of the Nassau Hospital Medical Staff Organization and a member of its medical executive board. I also was associate director of clinical medicine at Stony Brook School of Medicine. Another thing of which I am proud is my association with a group of doctors and others at Northrop-Grumman who prepared the astronaut football team for ascent in the space shuttle.”

“We have traveled extensively in Europe and enjoyed many winters in our home in the Virgin Islands and then in Florida. The limitations of age have kept us at home this year, where we are blessed with wonderful help and our nearby solicitude.”

From Bernard Weisberger:

“Where have the last 70 years gone? Here’s how, for me: Right after Pearl Harbor I began several months of intensive Japanese language study on campus; from there, went on to intensive Japanese language training in translating intercepted and decoded Japanese radio messages, which I spent the war doing in Washington, D.C. New Delhi and finally Kumming, China. Back home in March 1945, I migrated westward and, thanks to the ever-blessed G.I. Bill, earned a history Ph.D. at Chicago.

“Onward and upward. I spent 16 years (1952-68) as an academic, working at Antioch, Wayne State and the Universities of Chicago and Rochester. In those years I married, fathered three children and published the first few of 17 books, some for classrooms and academic peers, more (my favorites) aimed at the general public. I recently retired.”

“Dropped out” for four years of freelancing and working as an editor at American Heritage, during which time got divorced and moved back to New York. Finished off my academic life with part-time
teaching at Vassar until 1980. Since then, I’ve lived by my freelancer’s wits, aided after 1987 by Social Security and TIAA-CREF.

“In 1981 and 1982 I got lucky when I was introduced successively to Bill Moyers and Ken Burns, both of whom I’ve intermittently worked for as historian and writer for their documentaries. Learning to write for TV was a great, rejuvenating experience.”

“Midwest, ho! I moved again to the Chicago area in 1990 to be near my grandchildren. In 1992, I was appointed chairman of a board in acupuncture. And I got happily remarried. I’ve had a lucky and satisfying life, so thank you, Columbia, especially for Contemporary Civilization and Humanities A and B, the foundation stones of all I know, believe and have done.”

Dr. G.J. D’Angio: “It has been a wonderful 70 years. People actually paid me to do what I wanted and have fun doing it! I am forever grateful for our great Core Curriculum, where my education really began. I went to Columbia in 1942 to attend Harvard Medical School. The war ended during my surgical internship. Two years with the Army Corps in Japan followed; then to the University of London, to study anatomy and surgery. Tuberculosis interrupted my medical training but eventually I became a pediatric radiation oncologist. Having published and lectured widely on childhood cancer, I became known as a pioneer in my field and received an honorary degree (Bologna) and fellowships (London, Prague, etc.), gold medals and so forth — all that offset by deflationary chagrin when I bit off more than I could chew.

“My first wife, nursing educator Jean Friedman; Jethune R.N. B.S., and I had two sons. One is a professor of pediatrics (University of Rochester) and the other an Episcopal priest. One of my two granddaughters also is an Episcopal priest (and married to one). She will make me a great-grandfather in July. The other granddaughter is an outdoor life and lore instructor in South Carolina.

“Jean died in 2004. I then married Dr. Audrey Evans, with whom I had worked, often at a distance, since we met in 1955. Audrey is English and an internationally famed pediatric oncologist. She also originated the successful Ronald McDonald Houses — ‘homes away from home’ — for the families of children in-hospital or requiring repeated outpatient visits. There are now more than 300 worldwide.

“I fully retired last September; Audrey a few years back. Aside from deafness, I am in excellent health. Audrey also is well and is active in church and community affairs. We have room for guests. Come visit.”

From the Spring CCT Class Notes, which were not printed in that issue due to a production error: Dr. G.J. D’Angio also included this report: “Our trip to the United Kingdom in October went well. The tour of the Bangor region of North West Wales was full of historic interest as well as very scenic. The medical meeting in London was held in the Barbican Centre, not one of the city’s more attractive buildings. We took time from the meeting to visit the WWII underground cabinet room, where Churchill and his government were bunkered during the awful weeks and months of the Blitz. Well worth a visit.

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

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

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

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DR. DAVID M. FRANCIS

“As a medical student, Dr. David M. Francis got a firsthand look at the horrors of war from his field hospital in the Korean peninsula, where he had been sent from California Pacific Medical Center. He is the creator of the Laser Knife and AEROPLAST, a surgical and burn dressing sprayed from an aerosol can, primarily to be used to treat serious burns sustained from an atomic attack. He advises us that his other inventions include coronary artery laser angioplasty, which bypasses the traditional balloon method with the use of a laser. He has also devised an artificial heart and, in the area of orthopedics, percutaneous laser disc decompression. He cured one of his friends of the annoying illness of tinnitus with an ingenious technique, even though he was never trained in the field of audiology. Dan has never been tied down by traditional practices, instead invoking out-of-the-box thinking.

“I met up recently and unexpectedly with Alan Hoffman in the oddest of places — a beauty salon in White Plains, N.Y., patronized by my wife, Linda, and by Alan’s wife, Ellie. Alan reports recent contact with Bud Harkavy.”
Bill Struning chimes in with this note: “Will report on my activities (such as they are) at a later date. However, I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation to Henry Rolf Hecht for his many years as CC ‘44 class correspondent. He did a great job of gathering and reporting on what must have been a relatively small member base (WWII did not help). CC ‘44 was fortunate to have him representing us. We also were fortunate to enjoy the long-term services of Walter Wager in pre-Hecht days.”

Henry Hecht (“proudly ‘44”) responds as follows: “I’m doing OK, all things considered. Since being hit by some sudden weakness in February 2012, I have difficulty walking or concentrating while at my desk, but fortunately no pain and still reasonably alert. Not much more to report — family was planning a belated 90th birthday celebration for wife Hattie and me in May; we both turned 90 early this year. While I had to give up being class scribe, I still could wish to remain friends at hrh15@columbia.edu. Best wishes to you all.”

My old Yonkers H.S. buddy, Wilton Entwistle, tells us he prefers to be addressed as “Bill” and states: “I received my Class Note this year as my 90th birthday (March 6) approached. I am now a bit of a hermit, living in a small house in Lower Manhattan. I figure that when I die, I will be 90 rather than 89, and there will be a small service with a few family members present. I am living with a widow who is a wonderful woman and we have been together for many years. I am sure that I have not missed a single CC ‘44 class note and I have either read or skimmed them all. I do not know who reads them, but I hope that those who do find them useful and perhaps enjoyable. I have been a lifelong supporter of Columbia and I hope that I will always be able to enjoy it as much as I have. I am so grateful for all that Columbia has done for me and for the opportunity to participate in the CC ‘44 class note.”

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This will be my last set of Class Notes, as my short-term memory is beginning to cause troubles. I’ve been asked to say a little something as a sign-off, so allow me to recount a bit about myself. As a professor in the Department of Psychiatry, I left UCSF in 1965 to go to the San Francisco VA Medical Center for a variety of reasons and retired from the VA at 70. I did volunteer work for a while, until I discovered that I had lost interest in the jobs for psychiatrists with an outfit called Traditions Behavioral Health. I worked for them for some years, until I began having strokes. Then I discovered I had severe aortic stenosis. Fortunately I was able to get into a protocol at Stanford, where they were evaluating percutaneous valve replacements. My new cow valve functions almost perfectly. Unfortunately, I developed an infection that was a marker for colon cancer and ended up with a hemi-colectomy. After all that, and because of persisting short-term memory problems, I gave up the practice of medicine.

Then Dorothy, my wife of 56 years, died of a glioblastoma. Since then I’ve been living with a widow named Doris Potter. Today, after many a close friend of both Dorothy’s and mine since around 1956. I’ve published a memoir (Asylum: A Mid-Century Madhouse and Its Lessons about Our Mentality Ill Today), a novel (The Matting Flower: A Botanical Murder Mystery) and moved out of the big house into an apartment on the water. There I read, play the recorder with a ‘consort,’ kayak, and in general lead the good Northern California life. That I do, despite a painless neuropathy of my right leg, which requires me to use a cane or walker. It is with some reluctance that I turn this over to a successor. I hope someone steps forward, and that he enjoys it as much as I have. [Editor’s note: CCT thanks Enoch Callaway for his service as class correspondent. Any CC ‘45-er who is interested in helming this column should contact CCT Managing Editor Alexis Tonti ‘11 Arts at 212-851-7485 or alt2129@columbia.edu. In the meantime, please share news on family, career and family, as well as thoughts on or memories from your College days with CCT. Please mail to Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St, MC 4530, New York, NY 10025; call 212-851-7851; email cct/submit_class_note.]

Dr. Chester Semel ‘48 P&S interned at Mount Sinai, did a year of surgical residency at Duke and then returned to his surgical training at the Staten Island United States Public Health Service Hospital. After his residency, he remained in the U.S. Public Health Service system for about four years, as assistant chief of surgery at Staten Island and deputy chief of surgery at Baltimore. Prior to Staten Island, he took two-plus years off to work on an Indian reservation in the north of Washington State with his new wife. There he had many interesting experiences, including learning to fly a plane and took many trips together. One took them to Mexico, where the plane broke down. They had to fly home commercially, since they didn’t have enough money for the repairs.

The Rev. Clarence Sickles was for many years the CCT class correspondent, so I thought he would be an appropriate subject for my terminal Class Notes. When I called, I found him living with his wife, Jean, at 68 Heath Village, Hackettstown, NJ (07840). We had a long talk, which (given my failing memory) he kindly supplemented with additional notes and press clippings, which reflect 93 years of life well spent.

Clarence was president of his high school graduating class in New Jersey, a member of the honor society and a member of the cross-country team that won the state championship. He entered Rutgers in 1941, made the varsity track team and won a letter. When the Army took over the Rutgers campus in 1943, he transferred to the College, where he was a member of the police relay team. After graduation, he entered General Theological Seminary, graduated with a master’s of divinity in ‘48 and was ordained an Episcopal priest. After serving several parishes, in 1951 Clarence became the first full-time chaplain to Episcopal students at Rutgers. From 1953–65, he served as vicar of St. James’ Episcopal Church in Hackettstown.

In 1962, Clarence formed the Health Village Corporation, which built the Health Village Community, where he and Jean now live. This was originally an affordable retirement community with four levels of care: independent living (like an apartment); shared living (cleaning services and meals); assisted living; and full nursing care. He was an executive director until 1978 and he and Jean became licensed nursing home administrators; he also earned a master’s of education in gerontology from Teachers College.

I could go on but to summarize: Clarence and Jean have eight children and one foster child. He received a humanitarian award from the Hackettstown Chamber of Commerce, periodically is track and field official for high schools and colleges, was twice a candidate for State Senate, chaplain of the Hackettstown fire department, and assistant chaplain of the Episcopal Church in Hackettstown and an occasional substitute teacher at various locations. He also serves Rutgers in various capacities. Finally, he and Jean are certified graphologists, graduates of Felician College (Lodi, N.J.) and do handwriting analysis as a hobby. And, oh yes, he was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree by his theological seminary. I’m sure I still missed something! Clarence has been so-called retired for some time but, predictably, has not been idle. He recently completed a book, The New Ten Commandments, which follows the development and changes of Moore’s laws from 1945 to the present. He said that those interested in reading it should send him a letter at the address mentioned earlier in the column. He sent me one and I’ve read half already, and
can highly recommend it. 

Henry Shinefield ’48 P&S has had a fascinating career. My telephone notes were incomplete and poorly supplemented by my failing memory, so I asked him for an email repeat. Here it is (with some editing).

Your phone call took me back to St. Paul, Minn., to a winter visit to the hamlet in which I graduated in 1941, and to the temporary home of my first Columbia freshman classmate, Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 GSAS. There was a Columbia with Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 GSAS. There was Enoch Callaway, in a light blue freshman, in bow tie, first seat, ready to participate in the phenomenal Columbia student body. 

My first Columbia freshman class was based on a prepaid system rather than a fee-for-service system that was being carried out by a fledging organization called the Kaiser Permanente (KP) Health Plan. Created by Henry Kaiser during WWII for his shipyard employees, it was now offered to the public. Its major hospital was in Oakland, Calif., with a small outpatient clinic above a drug store on a main street in San Francisco.

“I had met Dr. John ‘Jack’ Smillie (Chief of staff of two pediatricians) and asked whether I could help during my time off, so I could understand the program. He agreed, and my resulting experience led me to believe that the future of health care lay in home systems. Patients would pay a defined fee for a defined period of time for complete health and medical care. The physicians are paid a defined salary and the result would be the delivery of first-class, cost-controlled care. This program now cares for approximately one-third of the 30,000,000 people in California and has multiple programs throughout the United States.

Dr. Smillie asked if I would like to join him on completion of my public health service. I said I would, if I hadn’t promised to join my older brother (my role model and father figure) in his busy Paterson, N.J., pediatric practice. So off I went to New Jersey in July 1953, where I spent six years in a busy, outstanding practice, with young patients and some adults. There were laboratory follow-up visits from my California experience that I wanted to complete. So with considerable regret, I told my brother that I had left the practice.

“My retirement comes after having the pleasure and excitement of a 64-year span with rewarding involvement in a variety of disciplines, including public health and medical care. After completing my third year of residency at Well Cornell Medical Center, in 1951, I entered and spent two years in the U.S. Public Health Service as a member of the Communicable Disease Center’s [now Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] first Epidemic Intelligence Service officer class. That experience began with eight weeks of training and resulted in being ‘knightsd’ as an epidemiologist. First came a position with the California State Health Department in Berkeley.

“A major portion of my time was involved in a serious epidemic of Western equine encephalitis, both clinically and in the laboratory. There also was an investigation of a polio epidemic in the Berkeley Hills as well as an eye-opening experience when I was sent to Harlan County, Ky., to investigate a severe outbreak of hepatitis.

“The assignment in California was notable not only for the public health experiences but also because it led to my introduction to a medical practice in which I would ultimately spend 40 exciting years of my medical life. I had heard about a medical delivery of medical care based on a prepaid system rather than a fee-for-service system that was being carried out by a fledging organization called the Kaiser Permanente (KP) Health Plan. Created by Henry Kaiser during WWII for his shipyard employees, it was now offered to the public. Its major hospital was in Oakland, Calif., with a small outpatient clinic above a drug store on a main street in San Francisco.

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

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

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

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

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

Sam says he loved his time at the College and feels privileged to have been Dean Hawkes’ protégé. He remains supportive of the track of others and keep doing what we have been doing, since we have so far beaten the odds (as well as the life expectations as put forth by our physicians).

One day Plimpton suggested that I go out to La Finca to meet Papa. I felt it was inappropriate, not having been invited. He said Papa said it would be fine. I said he didn’t know me, I was sure he didn’t know my writing. I didn’t want to disturb him. Evidently he carried the message that I refused to visit Papa unless he read some of my books.

As I was checking out of the Ambos Mundos on my way to Q Airlines, a telephone call came from Mary Hemingway, personally inviting me for lunch, a few drinks, maybe some fishing with Papa. “I can’t, I’m leaving,” I said.

“There’s another couple days,” she said.

“I’ve got to drive to Detroit. I promised my daughters I would see them for Christmas.”

“They can wait,” she explained to this divorced father. “No. They can’t.”

“There was silence. Then she hung up. That silence by that click was my last communication from Mary Hemingway.

Years later, after his death, I found in a collection of Hemingway’s letters a request to a friend to send him any books that were available by me.

Herbert Hendin, who was a star player on Columbia’s varsity tennis team, recently wrote to President Barack Obama ’83 soliciting his membership in the “Left-Handed Tennis Lions” club. The president qualifies on all counts: left handed, plays tennis, a Columbia. No answer yet, but Herb hasn’t given up hope.

The annual meeting of the founding members of the club brought Mal Ruderman, Bernie Sunshine, Tom Silbiger ’59, ’59E and their wives to Herb and his wife’s home for dinner in April.

Whenever we gather at class luncheons, dinners or reunions, inevitably talk turns to the Core Curriculum (Humanities and CC) and its effect on us. This year, Literature Humanities celebrates its 75th year. “Hard to realize that we were enjoying its fruits at virtually its beginning.”

I am sorry to report the passing of Eugene Brack, who was a highly regarded musicologist. Among his many accomplishments, Eugene produced the first recording of electronic music in the United States. Shifting into Notes from the Spring CCT, I was asked about admissions to Columbia College. This year’s freshmen — the Class of 2016 — included 1,900 students, selected from more than 25,000 applicants. It brought to mind a class luncheon some years ago, when Harry Coleman ’46E was dean of the College. He commented about the continuing rise in applicants to the College, their incredibly high SAT scores and the small number who were admitted. One of us (don’t remember who) wondered whether we could have successfully competed for admission if we were applying in the current era. Unimaginably, Harry said, “Absolutely. No question about it.”

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

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

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

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

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

I add with regret the death of I. Myer Pincus ’45E, ’49L in December. Following our 60th reunion in 2006, Mike wrote in a letter to this correspondent, “A good deal of my openmindedness and attitude derive from those wonderful men at Columbia who inculcated that what is true is what you have examined up close with an open mind. But truth changes as we grow older and experience the world and other people’s truths.”
The gathering storm would send me to war
The Class of Forty-Four in its essence
Is a story of the loss of innocence
Back home in forty-six I applied for readmission
But received a letter of rejection
My College record was their objection
I asked the dean for an interview
He listened to me very seriously
And enabled me to get my degree
That's how I am Class of Forty-Seven
A graduate of the Lion's Den
Former U.S. Post Laureate Daniel Hoffman '56 GSAS
founded on March 30, 2013. You can read more
In The New York Times (nytimes.com; search by keywords "Daniel Hoffman")
And in Obituaries in this issue.
Please share news about yourself, your family, your career, your travels or even a favorite Columbia College memory using either the email or postal address at the top of the column. You also can send news via C.C.T.'s easy-to-use web-form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.
This column is a helpful way for the class to stay connected. I hope to hear from you!

From the Spring 2013 Class Notes, which were not printed in that issue due to a production error:

Columbia College Today Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Jacob J. Starn, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., shares this poem:
I was in the Class of Forty-Four originally
From Boys High School and lived in the city.
So I went to the Ivy League by subways
The College then was in some turmoil
We all were involved by the gathering storm
The war was heating up to a boil
Going to college was off the norm
I don't suppose many of us are still around
To recall Lindbergh and Father Coughlin
The German [American] Bund in Madison Square Garden
Hitler ranting on the radio
Churchill pleading for us to go.
I had received my draft board notice in the spring
Ordered to get my physical without fail
At college I was ill at ease
With Cs and Ds and absentees
My career at college had become a bore

John McConnell '46 "decided to do something with his violin and viola besides taking up space. He now plays six to eight giga months."

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

"I must have made some minor impression on Trilling. I haven't read it, but I understand he has a collection named 'Coldwell' in his 1947 novel, The Middle of the Journey.

"I took another term of Colloquium when I returned from the Army in 1946. I'm not sure, but I think that this time they put me in Colloquium 5. The pros were Donald Frame '41 GSAS and Arthur Szathmary. Frame was the good guy, Szathmary the intellectual. They had us rotate reading our papers out loud at the beginning of each class. The only one I remember was handed in by Ed Paul, later our senior class president. For some reason Ed was 'unavoidably late' on the night he was due to read and arranged for a classmate to read the paper, which Szathmary proceeded to the apart. Ed turned up at the strategic moment. He disclosed that the paper wasn't his but was a distinguished scholar's printed introduction to the edition of the book Ed was supposed to be commenting on, which a joker friend had typed up and sent along for the other friend to read and for Szathmary to light into. My recollection is that Ed timed his arrival at class toward the end of the Szathmary diatribe, explained what the pros and the class had just heard and for once left Szathmary speechless."

David Brainin writes, "Just past the midpoint of my 88th year, I retired from even part-time active law practice. At this writing I am preparing to celebrate the 50th birthday of my wife, Sema, on December 9. I'm still active as an arbitrator and an occasional mediator. I'm looking forward to our 65th reunion and hope to be there."

John Zanders turned 87 on October 21. He writes, "I am in sound health and, while retired from employment, I remain active. I am a member of three local coin clubs and belong to the Jade Buddha Temple here in Houston. I reside in my own small-town family life."

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

Bob sent another note for this issue: “I live about a mile from the College at Riverside Drive and West 90th Street, where I’ve lived for 51 years. Both daughters have left the homestead — the older one in New Canaan, Conn., and the younger one on the East Coast. My wife and I have the apartment (unfortunately, not on the river side), and if my conscience was bigger I might feel guilty about living in a large apartment, but truthfully I feel great about it. I was really looking forward to seeing my old friends at Alumni Reunion Weekend at the end of May. My wife and I often take walks up Broadway to the College, and old memories come flooding back. I can’t believe that was almost 65 years ago.”

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

Harvey Gardner, who describes himself as “48 vs ’49 still extant,” sent this note: “With Joan (married in 1947), travel only between Nyack home and second home in South Egremont, Berkshire County, Mass. In touch weekly with Marcel Gutwirth ’47, ’50 GSAS and Charles Simmons. Still active with the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps, Dr. Sidney Fink ’52 P&S "otherwise spends his time hiking, playing bridge and visiting his extended family, which includes 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren."

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

Frank Marcus writes, “This year promises to be a busy one. I practice, teach and pursue research at the University of Arizona. I was an invited speaker at a pediatric cardiology conference in Orange County in January; later that month I was, at this writing, to present grand rounds in a hospital in Miami; two trans-uranium elements but where I also founded a literary arts publication still extant and was awarded the English gold medal at graduation, for I have always been involved both in literature (primarily as a poet) and science (primarily as a writer and founding editor of books and journals on scientific vanguards, such as neurosciences and psychoneuroimmunology).”

Marv Lipman ’49 was one of 10 Alumni Medalists honored at Commencement on May 22.

“At Columbia, I was an editor both of Jester and The Columbia Review. My best friends there were Thaddeus Golas, Norman Kelvin, Marshall Mascot, Allen Ginsberg and John Hollander ’50; with the latter two I shared poetry prizes awarded by W.H. Auden, Stephen Spender and Mark Van Doren ’21 GSAS. In 1952, while living in Jacksonville, I received a Fulbright Scholarship. I was to study Soviet music and languages at the University of Moscow. I was also to give a presentation at the Heart Rhythm Society in Denver. That same month, I will be pleased to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pima County Medical Society in Tucson, Ariz. “In addition to the above, I try to keep in touch with my three grown children and six grandchildren, who range in age from 19 months to 21 years.”

Below are new notes received for this issue.

Charles Cole, who lives in Beverly, Ohio, writes, “Why not a note from an 89-year-old? Life has been good. College, law school and a career in labor relations with several unions during the time period of writing. Then 10 years of consulting, which were surprisingly rewarding. The six ‘kids’ have done well: three retired, grandchildren numerous and scattered. Lucky seeing them twice a year. University of Tennessee, where I became an off-campus member of the Neurosurgery and Behavior Graduate Program at UMass Amherst. For the first several years in Amherst, I produced films on cultural events, including the benefit of shut-ins and chaired a monthly open-poetry reading. Then my wife’s illnesses and my post-polio (since 1954, I’ve had polio-caused weakness in one leg and overcompensation-caused weakness in the other) slowed me down, and I became a founding member of a post-polio support group to which I still belong. “My philosophy about life? About a dozen years ago, after giving a guest lecture on neurosurgery to my grandson’s middle-school class, I advised the students always to work at something you love, so that you will enjoy the entire week and not just the weekend! “Alas, this long-winded (and yet selective) account sounds like a draft obituary. (Well, I am 85.) Best wishes.”

CCT is sorry to report the death of Bernard W. Wisby ’58 GSAS, a history professor who taught at Columbia and who resided in San Francisco, on April 28, 2012. We will report on Alumni Reunion Weekend in the Fall 2013 issue. The class photo taken at the luncheon, however, may be found on the CCT website (college.columbia.edu/cct) as part of this issue’s reunion following article.

If you attended the luncheon or any other reunion events, please share your thoughts and stories with us by sending a letter or email to the postal or email address at the top of the column or through CCT’s easy-to-use webform or follow-up article.

CCT needs a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Toni ’11 Arts, managing editor: alt129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, please send updates. Your classmates want to hear from you!

Marv Lipman was one of 10 Alumni Medalists honored at Commencement on May 22; there will be an evening event celebrating the medalists in Low Library on Saturday, October 12, as part of Alumni Leaders Weekend. I have mentioned my indebtedness to him for having introduced me to Brooklyn College. It is a great resource for continuing class pride.

I note here Joe Russell’s Letter to the Editor regarding Professor James Gutmann (Class of 1918, ’36 GSAS) in the Spring issue. There cannot be any one of us fortunate enough to have known the professor whose life was not touched and influenced by him.

As I was writing now, the “chirp” of incoming email interrupted me — and now add the following from a too-long silent Don Friedman.

‘Tob you’ll get a lot of responses to the Lit Hum piece in the Spring CCT, but here’s mine anyway. The articles revived memories that have been with me for a long time. “My first semester at the College, I took Hum 1 with Alan Brown, who left to become president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges. What it did to (and for) me we now would express with the phrase ‘It blew my mind’ (I was 16). It also
made clear to me what I wanted to do with my career. I retired after teaching English and other literature for 50 years, the last 40 of them at UC Berkeley. Like many of us who became academicians, I am sure, I drew on those readings and discussions constantly over the years. As testimony to the effect of the Core Curriculum, there were times when, talking with new colleagues, something about our conversation led me to stop and ask, “Did you go to Columbia?” The Core has a way of showing how we think about literature and a lot else. (By the way, after our 50th class reunion, my wife, Stephanie ’57 Raddcliffe, told me that she found Columbia men infinitely more interesting than Harvard boys.)

“I also was moved by Joe Russell’s letter [also in the Spring issue] about Professor James Gutmann and the accompanying photograph. You may remember that at that time, the College didn’t have majors or concentrations; instead, we collected ‘maturity marks’ to ensure that we studied some subject(s) in depth. I accumulated them in English and philosophy. I applied to Harvard graduate school in philosophy, and Professor Gutmann advised me to apply for as many fellowships as I could find (to ‘get my name out there,’ he said). He urged me particularly to apply for an obscure fellowship, the Holder of both the NCAA and ICFA foil championships. Bob was instrumental in bringing the “Iron Man” trophy for fencing to Morningside Heights during his college career and was recently inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

In the opinion of your Class Notes writer, nothing is more important than keeping in touch with classmates described as so central to our Columbia College experience. Many of us are now caregivers to spouses or loved ones, or we ourselves are receiving care from a family member. My recent telephone calls to Dolores Nielsen, Robert’s widow, and to Nancy Hardy Jr, who have strengthened my own resolve to be more aware of what it means to assume total responsibility for another person’s life. A friendly note or an occasional call can make a difference. On the other hand, Ed told me that he always reads my column in CCT, and that made me feel good, too.

Some time ago, art critic Ferdnanda Protzman wrote in The Washington Post the following paragraph about Donald Holden and his watercolors: “For here is a master of the medium and he is one of them. His paintings highlight his consummate skill as a watercolorist as well as his quietly spiritual artistic vision.” So, it is no surprise that 22 of Don’s watercolors will be on permanent display at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C.

C CCT on the next day we went to the Vatican and the famous Saint Peter’s Basilica. “You tell me about a comparable travel experience that you had and I will publish the details.”

Our Florida CIA (Columbia Intelligence Agency!) is directed by Stanley I. Schachter. Apparently there is a group of lions who get together for periodic luncheons. Ronald G. Granger ’54 Dental, a “snowbird” from Maine, has become a member and no doubt is benefiting from Stan’s bountiful knowledge of the literary qualities of James Joyce. Ron retired as a professor and department chair, affiliated with dentistry, at Boston University.

Other news items: Allan W. Robbins of Alexandria, Va, died on March 3, 2013. No details are available. Dr. Gerald Adler is recovering from hip surgery.

Thomas J. Joyce is living in Brevard, N.C. He retired to the mountains after a long career in the insurance industry in the metropolitan New York area. Tom is an outdoors kind of a guy. Hiking is his major love and it helps him to keep in shape.

Recently, Conde Nast Traveler magazine arrived at my home. A four-part series on what it describes as a seven-week trip in Asia that included the most fabulous sights in the Far East and accommodations at the most luxurious hotels. The cost: $48,000 (economy class) plus $6,000 for airfare. It made me think about one of my Korean War adventures, when I was stationed at Yokota AB near Tokyo. I was selected to be the lead navigator for four-engine B-29s on a mission called “Operation Handclasp.” It was supposedly the first post-WWII visit of American military aircraft to Australia. In three weeks’ time we visited Darwin, Melbourne and Sydney along with the north island of New Zealand before returning to Japan. My total cost for this travel extravaganza amounted to $520. It was certainly educational. We chose Italy. Everyone agreed this would work. So, we have booked the car and our three children and their spouses, and nine grandchildren, ages 15-23.

We all left from New York a few days before Christmas (on different planes for safety) and arrived in Venice. There, we visited St. Mark’s Square, the canals and bridges, the Bridge of Sighs and the Doge’s Palace, and took a boat ride to the island of Murano and gondola rides on the canals. We then traveled through the stunning panorama of Tuscany to Pisa, with the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, and then with its Leaning Tower. En route to Florence, we visited a local Tuscan farm and winery in the countryside for a lunch with local specialties and wines. In Florence, we had a visit to the Academy of Art, where Michelangelo’s statue of David is housed. Nearby is the Duomo, celebrated for its magnificent dome. Florence and the fine arts are synonymous, and a tour of the Uffizi Gallery demonstrates this. We then traveled through the famous “Sun Route” motorway to the medieval city of Assisi, renowned for its 13th-century Basilica of St. Francis. Now we have a Pope Francis, who took his name from the famous saint.

We were in Rome for New Year’s Eve. While there, we visited the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the Roman Forum (the political center during the Roman Republic), the Arch of Constantine, the Arch of Titus and the Colosseum. The next day we went to the Vatican.
Irv Milowe ’53’s 100-page book of poems, Strawberry Albatross, is available on Amazon. Many of the poems have won prizes.

“My wife and I lived in the same apartment area in Springfield when we were kids. The love of my life and I have made our home in Longmeadow, a suburb of Springfield, for 54 years and celebrate our 61st anniversary in July. I’ve had a good life thanks in good part to Columbia.”

James Santos writes from Stowe, Vt., “Then: After graduating with an engineering degree from Lehigh, I went to GE followed by military service and owning a novel and technical remanufacturing business with its attendant stresses. Afterward: Consulting services coupled with new product development in the ergonomic, exercise and appliance fields for me and clients. Now: Good fortune. I still ski and play tennis. Returned to carving stone and exhibiting regionally. Still have my pickup truck and crane. Married for 46 years to my beautiful wife, Ruth, and have two lovely children. I am fortunate but still keep my fingers crossed! Regards to all classmates.”

Howie Hansen sent this sad news: “We lost another outstanding football teammate and classmate in Tony Mioso on October 15, 2012.”

He was a good enough student to have the time to excel in football and be a big-hitting first baseman in baseball. He and I spent many hours together in the off-season on the handball courts with coaches Lou Little, John Balquist ’32, Lou Rossini and Paul Carville ’43—he was a very versatile athlete.

“Tony was a leader in the locker room and Mr. Cool on the playing field with great storytelling ability. To this day, his football teammates remember his stories of the old precision camp at Baker’s Manor House, and how the ‘Night Riders’ would deplete our ranks in the dark of the night … or reminding us about celebrating new Columbia President ‘Ike’ Eisenhower’s birthday at our training table as Doc Barrett rolled in his big birthday cake, only to be instructed by Little that ‘the cake was for coaches only’ while we sang Happy Birthday to Ike. Or the ‘hot toast’ story at our pregame meal at Bear Mountain Inn before the Army game at Michie Point. Each table had baskets of hot toast, which Little discovered and ordered John Bate¬man, our assistant coach, to take them all back to the kitchen. Tony was a master at telling those types of stories!”

SUMMER 2013

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I hope everyone enjoyed Alumni Reunion Weekend. The deadline for this issue of CCT fell before the big event, but we’ll have a full report on all the doings in the Fall issue. If you attended, please share your thoughts and stories with me. The class photo, however, may be found on the CCT website (college.columbia.edu/cc) as part of this issue’s reunion follow-up coverage. Meanwhile, Irv Milowe sent the following fascinating email: “I work part-time in psychiatry and psychoanalysis and I am a professor of psychiatry at the University of Miami, which is five minutes away from home in Coconut Grove, Fla. An interesting project has been the China American Psychoanalytic Alliance, an entity which we trained hundreds of Chinese therapists via Skype. This came about as we supervised our starting group’s work during the Chengdu earthquake, and were then asked by the Chinese government to start six, two-year psychoanalytic psychotherapy programs throughout China. We have 100 graduates, 250 in their fourth year of training and 250 on the waiting list. Amazing that psychoanalysis disappears in the United States, it will survive in China. I also am the poetry editor for its magazine.” “My spouse is a Psy.D., also an analyst, and we have been doing research work on a new form of couples therapy with a number of international colleagues.” “A second major project recently reached fruition, as a 100-page book of my poems has been published. Strawberry Albatross is available on Amazon. Many of the poems have won state and national recognition and shot his age at 72!” “His O’ teammates greatly missed seeing him at their periodic gatherings because of his health issues. “Our thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful wife and his three daughters.” Your reporter is sad to report the death of David Braun on February 3, 2013; an obituary appeared in The New York Times. I met Dave by chance at Rockaway Beach the summer before we began at Columbia; we were both looking forward to starting. We were not close but I always considered it an honor that Dave remembered how we met and thought of me as a friend. Your reporter wishes all the members of the Class of 1952 good luck and good health!
Life has a way of providing us with both good and sad experiences. Ron Sugarman looks ahead with both pride and high expectations. He has two grandsons who are 2. Ron loves them and is optimistic “Both look like Columbia material,” he says. Time marches on. In a little less than a year we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of our graduation at Alumni Reunion Weekend 2014 (Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014). If you are able to be part of our reunion, please contact Bernd Brunet or Bob Schoenfeld at brochureservices@aol.com or 914-961-4101. Please stay well and enjoy life. Hope to see you on campus.

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Exciting and informative events have permeated the University and the College during the past several months. In February, Trustee Emeritus George Van Amson ’74 had a lengthy “sit-down” discussion with President Lee C. Bolinger at the Columbia University Club of New York before a crowd of alumni and friends. Much was discussed about the present and future of the school, including Global Centers, online learning, Manhattanville and more. Other noteworthy events at the club included a lecture by Professor Ira Katznelson ’66, who spoke on his new book, Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time. Also in February, a panel and discussion of the healthcare industry landscape took place at the club’s Columbia Networking Night. More than 250 Colombians were in attendance to meet, greet and linger at the Columbia University Gym, home of Princeton basketball, squash, fencing and track and field, to see his alma mater battle its fierce rival in basketball. We also heard from Alan Sloate, who is active in Westchester in a lot of ways; Bob Schoenfeld wrote from Plainview (Long Island). N.Y. Great to hear from the former hooper whose father, Sam ’30, was a big-time referee and player for Columbia. Bob has produced a special film about his dad, which I am sure is available for viewing. We'll be in touch to get the good doctor involved in class activities. 

Tony Blandi resides in Florida, where he’s taking in the sunshine, for the most part. His motto is, “Stay well. Do good things. Drink good wine. Stay in touch.” We are enjoying every minute of it except for the difficulty I’m having adjusting to the iPod, iPad, iPhone and texting.”

By George, does he have company?

We received, sadly, unfortunate news about the death of Dave Williams on December 6, 2012, in Memphis, where he had lived for many years. He had gone there from the Eastman School of Music to become chairman of the music department at the University of Memphis. Larry Garrette, Dave’s roommate for three years at Columbia, recalls him with great admiration as a wonderfully warm and sensitive person and a musical genius who was a great teacher and composer. Larry says Dave even taught him to appreciate and understand modern classical music.

Larry also recalls that Dave was an incredibly fast typist on the IBM electric machine. He worked his way through Columbia typing admission letters in the Admissions Office at night. He was so fast they fired all the other typists. “He added something quite special to my Columbia experience,” says Larry.
extremely interesting conversation with Al Broadway, from an engineering perspective, on some of the engineering problems connected with the battery failure of the recent Boeing 787. Al runs his own engineering consulting firm and has been involved in efficacy management problems of various products. We were all impressed with his knowledge and comments.

On February 7, I, Vic Levin and his wife, Fran, attended the annual Dean’s Scholarship Reception in support of our Class of 1958 scholarship students. We currently support 14 students (three of whom just graduated with the Class of 2013) through two scholarships. The students hail from places ranging from the metropolitan area to as far away as Turkey and include the Southeast, Midwest and Southwest areas of the United States. We even have a member of the Quapaw Indian tribe of Oklahoma who seems to have a very bright and motivated spirit, with most of them indicating their desire to go on to further education and careers in areas such as law, journalism and social services. Spending just two hours one evening with some of our scholarship students impressed upon me the high standards that our admissions department has for its scholarship students.

In addition, Ed had invited the then-acting dean of the Engineering School and the Catalyst sophomore class to an event in their expansion plans. Ed hosted this year’s event. It seems to grow in stature every year. Ed’s wife, Susan; Lou Hemmerdinger and his wife, Maurice Easton, have moved out of their residences for many years. Lou and Maurice moved to a smaller residence in the same area he’s been living in Birmingham, Mich. For those of you in North Carolina, Maurice will be spending more time in that area, too, as his son lives and works in Charlotte. Both Lou and Maurice related that the worst part of downsizing was getting rid of all their accumulated “stuff.”

As a Class Agent for the Columbia College Fund, I again encourage each of you, our Columbia family members, to consider making a donation to the Columbia College Fund for the current fiscal year, which ends on Sunday, June 30, or to get a head start on next year’s contribution. I assure you that all donations, large or small, are accepted and put to good use by the Columbia College Fund, Columbia College, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Flr., New York, NY 10025. If mailing a check be sure to mail online up until midnight EST on June 30. You may also call the Alumni Office at 212-851-7488 during business hours, or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Flr., New York, NY 10025. If mailing a check be sure to allow several days for it to arrive by June 30 if you wish to receive credit for this fiscal year.

I encourage all of our class members to consider making a donation to the Columbia College Fund, Columbia College, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Flr., New York, NY 10025. If mailing a check be sure to mail online up until midnight EST on June 30. You may also call the Alumni Office at 212-851-7488 during business hours, or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Flr., New York, NY 10025. If mailing a check be sure to allow several days for it to arrive by June 30 if you wish to receive credit for this fiscal year.

I subsequently left for California to spend Christmas with my son and his family in Orange County, and I was fortunate to be included in the following Saturday in a class lunch organized by John Taussig and Gene Wagner, which included John Ahouse, Ken Bodenstein, Mike Gold, Lewis Schainuk and Gerry Werkman, in bright and sunny Long Beach, this time overlooking the Queen Mary and the Pacific Ocean. The California contingent also included five wives (all young and beautiful).

“Both lunches were delightful occasions with much good fellowship and reminiscing, and I heartily recommend these opportunities to all classmates who are able to participate.”

Elliott Schwartz, the Robert K. Beck Professor of Music Emeritus at Bowdoin, writes, “In October I was the guest composer at the University of Maryland, Baltimore annual Livewire New Music Festival and Symposium. My music was also performed at Tufts (November) and at the cell in NYC (December). For the NYC performance, the ensemble mise-en was a fault of mine for the chamber orchestra Tartee, composed almost 50 years ago.”

A new CD of my music has been released on the Metier label (United Kingdom). It features the London-based Kreutzer Quartet and also includes live performances of mine at the Kennedy Center Congress in Washington, D.C. (my 70th birthday concert in 2006).”

Elliott’s wife, Dorothy (“Dedeec”), had an exhibition of about 40 of her prints covering half a century,
“Evolution of a Printmaker,” at the Maine Jewish Museum in Portland, Maine, from January 10–February 25. It was curated by Bruce Brown and held in memory of David Gamper and David Becker, who were former students of Elliott’s at Bowdoin. The Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram covered Deedee’s show on January 6 (preview) and January 20.

Deedee began her significant printmaking in 1957, while a student at Smith, with a woodcut, “Daedalus and Icarus.” Her works show a political message; she was influenced by her reading as a teenager of Anne Frank’s The Diary of a Young Girl, the civil and women’s rights movements, and later by “images of cruelty and suffering around the globe.”

From 1984–2006, Deedee was director of the Maine Humanities Council and is a longtime member of the Portland-based Peregrine Press. While in NYC February 7–11, yours truly met Kathleen and Dave Kinne for dinner. I also paid a visit to campus, where I called on Alex Sachar ’71, Lisa Palladino, Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts and Elena Hecht ’09 Barnett of CCT and on Nick Mider, formerly of Alumni Affairs. In the spirit of the Core Curriculum, I also visited two of my favorite haunts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History, and attended a concert of the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Space in which a friend played thecolo.

John (Jack) Kauderer shares some memories of one of his instructors. “In my first semester at Columbia, in fall 1955, I took Humanities A. My instructor was Louis Simpson [’49 GS, ’59 CAS], a demanding and excellent teacher. His obituary appeared in The New York Times, and other papers upon his death at 89 on September 14, 2012. He won the Pulitzer Prize in poetry in 1964 and published many books of poetry and literary criticism. He left behind UC Berkeley and SUNY Stony Brook. I assume some of my classmates also encountered him as an instructor and might be interested in his great accomplishments as a contemporary poet. In retirement, I have had the time to explore poetry, which premised studies did not leave room for. I studied, but I20

Richard Lacoss ’60E writes, “I stayed on for another year after CC graduation and obtained a B.S. from the Engineering School. After that I was off to UC Berkeley, where I earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. Then back to my home state of Massachusetts to work on nuclear test monitoring at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory. I’ve been there ever since, 40 years up until retirement, and part-time for the last several years. I may be the last person in the world to spend his entire career at one organization. But it has been fun, with a chance to work on and direct many diverse projects ranging from seismology, sonar and aeroacoustic surveillance to artificial intelligence, computer architecture and image understanding.

“My home base now is Cambridge, Mass., where I live with my wife of 30 years, Cynthia Oldham, who is retired from a career teaching immigrant children in the Cambridge public school system. We have a son and a daughter who are both seniors in college and will graduate this spring on the same day from Smith and Boston University. This means that, much to our disappointment, we could not both attend both graduations. We planned to split up, with one parent at each. “For the past several years, the four of us have taken a vacation together. It is always a special time for us. Last year it was a trip to China that included Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Xian, Hong Kong and the Li River valley. Exhausting. This year it will be a safari in Tanzania. I hope that this tradition can continue as the children become more independent. Meanwhile, we will have to wait and see. We also have a summer home on the Maine coast where we spend time together.

“Finally, we are at the age when health issues tend to become more important. I am happy to say that I am quite well, although I have new hips that slow down my passage through airport security and, apparently, I had a silent heart attack and now sport a blocked artery. I say ‘apparently,’ because I don’t know when it happened, but the cardiologist assures me that it did. All in all, though, everything is working fine.”

Frank Gatti writes, “I am a child psychiatrist. I participate in the care of children and their families, avoiding the insurance-generated, 15-minute medication check that threatens to undercut any quality in child psychiatry work. I am on the faculty and teach at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester. I live in Amherst with my wife, Eleanor (Ellie). We are a blended family with six children and five grandchildren. I am one of those elected to Amherst town meeting. I was involved years back in the Civil Rights struggle, including in Mississippi, and have served on the Amherst Human Rights Commission. Ellie and I are part of a group of five who have a regular current affairs radio show, Focus, which airs on the UMass-Amherst radio station, WMUA 91.1 FM. Sundays from noon–1 p.m. I have been a Quaker most of my adult life.”

From Norman Bernstein we hear, “In December, I won a landmark environmental case in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. It held that a superfund remediation trust (of which I am one of the trustees) can bring a direct action against the owner and its insurer of an Indiana superfund site to compel it to pay for the environmental cleanup that the trust is conducting. The owner and its carrier wanted (and got from the lower court) a ‘free ride.’ The trust, according to the Seventh Circuit, which reversed the lower federal court, is not confined to a ‘contribution action,’ which arguably has a shorter statute of limitations and other procedural restrictions.

“On a separate note, fine art photographs that I took in Spain last summer while traveling with my wife, Michele, and our daughter, Sarah-Judith (15), were displayed at a reception on March 9 at the Vintology Wine & Spirits shop and gallery in Scarsdale, N.Y. Fifty percent of the proceeds went to the Performing Arts Center in Purchase, N.Y.
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 Neugboren 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 critical novels, The Secret Life 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) 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 redistricting 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 grandchildren, 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. “Follow 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 problems, loss of strength, stumbling, shortness of breath or — I forgot what I was going to say?!

‘Don’t worry about 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.

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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 goal to political engagement. It redefined 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 in 1970, Paul enlisted in the Navy, and was sent to Southeast Asia where he served 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 with Paul.) Dick’s experiences in Da Nang as a result of a knee problem. You may recall, as I do with sadness — for Dick and I were contemporaries on lightweight crew — that after practicing orthopedic surgery for many years in Flashing, 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 Soroaca, Romania. Early life was a succession of flights from one refugee camp to another to escape the Nazi occupation and the thuggish 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. Paul quickly emigrated to New York one year before Paul (and all of us) donned freshman beany 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 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 Saadyy were recently 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 Kliepstein 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.
On a sad note, John Leonardo suffered a heart attack while skiing on December 19, 2012, near his home in Ketchum, Idaho, and died en route to the hospital. We offer our sincerest condolences to his wife, Ann.

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Who can top this update from Richard Hassan (richihassan@netzero.com)? He writes, "It’s a strange tale. I’m actually writing a memoir about my adventures. But it’s all true.

"Where to begin? Well, I married my eighth fiancée. That’s correct. Believe me, I interviewed 32 women, all of whom wanted to leave their broken nation and marry me. Of course I chose the prettiest, Elena, who for a year extracted funds from me... then married her Russian boyfriend.

"Slightly deterred, I traveled to Ukraine in 2008 still seeking tall blondes sans conscience. I’d arranged to wed one of three beautiful ladies, Anya, Svetlana and Eckachinarina. I went with the encouragement of my friends, especially Lee Black. He wrote a scintillating song, Oh! Svetlana, to the tune of Oh! Susanna. This trip took two months and a pile of money, but all three decided not to wed me, to my chagrin.

"So I abandoned tall blondes and headed to the Philippines. There I met two pretty ladies, Juliet and Noemi, who said they would marry me. I rejected Juliet, but thought Noemi would come through. I sent her money for a year, during which she asked for more for an array of tragic occurrences. She’d say, ‘My father died, and we can’t bury him. Can you send me $100?’ When I agreed, she’d bump me: ‘Thank you. I love you. Can you make it $150?’ After her father died, her mother died. Next she was robbed. She then contracted dengue fever. And on and on. Were her pleas real? Had she had the worst luck or could she have been a scammer?

"My friends advised me to abandon my quest but I was a football player on the 1961 championship Columbia team, and I’d taken many shots to the head. So I pressed on. After sending Noemi airfare, I went to LAX twice to meet her. She never made it. She married an Italian.

"The only American I was engaged to was attractive but lacked sanity. We broke up when she called me from jail for bail.

"How did Woody Allen put it when he paraphrased Grocho? ‘I wouldn’t date any woman who would want to date me?’ Well, that old chestnut has finally been disproved. I am blissful with my 30-year-old bride... so happy; my immune system is flourishing; the country-and-a-half bagel, ego and I were married in Santa Monica, Calif., in a park overlooking the Pacific. In addition to the passing crowd, some of my dearest Columbia friends attended, including Bill Campbell ’64 TC, Que Spaulding, J.D. Ramsey ’68 and my brother, Matthew Harner ’63, the best man.

"But the coup de grace was Buzz Congram! He went online in Massachusetts, became a pastor in the Universal Church and flew to Los Angeles to marry us. It was perfect! I’m firmly ensconced on church land.

"Perseverance pays, Bravo!

Victor Cassidy (victorcassidy@yahoo.com) continues to write books, mostly about art. In 2011, he published Sculptors at Work: Interviews About the Creative Process. Last year he organized a memorial show for Steven Jay Uri (1939-93), a forgotten Chicago sculptor. For the show, Victor penned a book-length catalog. Now he’s writing a biography of Alexander Calder. Victor’s second interest. In 2007 he published Henry Clodtler Coeles: Pioneer Ecologist, a biography. Victor has been married for nearly 30 years to Donna Hapac, a sculptor. They live in Chicago.

From Texas, David Cohen (davidcohen.robber@gmail.com) writes that he recently had an unexpectedly delightful experience: “A former girlfriend from Barnard located me via the Internet. Although I am happily married and living far from her, it’s been delightful to relive our New York days. Perhaps this is something we all should do.”

David found his way to Houston via Boston to pursue a career as a construction manager for landmark office buildings. When economic storms blew too hard, he changed course and became a financial planner. He and his wife have three sons, all with degrees from the University of Texas in Houston, which has been very good to us and made urban living sane.

Joe Nozzolio enjoys living in Augusta, Ga. He and his wife settled there because of “her family and year-round golf.” Although they live a mile from Augusta National, getting tickets to the Masters isn’t any easier. “This year we’ll attend one practice round and have to watch everything else on TV. We see my brother, Mike, and his wife when they come down from New York. Somehow they get tickets for the entire tournament! Mike is a New York State Senator from the Finger Lakes region. I’d like to hear from Columbia football teammates. Contact me at nozzolij@aol.com.

Neilson Abeel, a first-rate sailor, and his wife, Tori Bryer, confessed to being passengers on “the only cruise we’ll ever take — 20 days aboard the Holland America ms Veendam.” They traveled from Valparaiso, Chile, south through the Chilean Archipelago, the Straits of Magellan and the Beagle Channel; past Cape Horn; across the Drake Passage; along the western shore of the Antarctic; then north via the Atlantic to Montevideo, Uruguay and Buenos Aires. They went ashore often but missed the Falklands due to strong winds of 60 mph in winter. Neilson says, “they can blow 100 mph. Spectacular light, icebergs, glaciers, whales, seals and birds.”

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, in consultation with representatives of Argentina and Chile recently appointed Bernie Oxman ’65L (bhoxman@law.miiami.edu) to the arbitral tribunal in a dispute between the two nations over the detention of the Argentine naval training ship ARA Libertad. The Libertad was visiting Ghana when a Chadian court ordered it detained pursuant to a U.S. Federal Court judgment against Argentina for defaulting on bonds.

Peter Berman ’69 Arch. (pbermanarchitect@gmail.com) left the Columbia 1960 for the School of Architecture. In his second year there, two professors invited him to join them in a competition for the new Boston City Hall. They won, and the building was built. Peter then felt that to return to Columbia would be unfulfilling. After extraordinary efforts, he gained admission to King’s College, Cambridge. There he studied architecture for two years, married an American, got two degrees and loved every minute.

Peter recalls, “Were it not for the fact that my wife was miserable in England and the economy was in disarray, I might still be there. At any rate, I returned to the School of Architecture, got the American degree I needed for architectural registration, and began my apprenticeship: first with Marcel Breuer (the youngest member of the Bauhaus) and ultimately with Paul Rudolph, arguably America’s most talented architect of the 20th century. In 1971, I established my own practice in New York.” But in 1995 Peter discovered Montana. “It was the first place I’d been where you could build something without tearing something else down! So I moved to Bozeman, becoming one of the state’s few Modernists. In 2004, [architect] Lee Pomeroy asked me to return to New York to design the Fulton Street Transit Center. I accepted, with the proviso that he try to find me a commission in China, where the world’s largest projects were being built. He was unsuccessful but in 2005 I found myself in Chongqing — population 33,000,000 — as chief consultant of CTDI, Third Design Institute, with a staff of 600. We did mixed-use projects for the government and new towns, all enormous and very rewarding. I loved everything about my life there, save the fact that I could rarely see the sun through the pollution. I returned to New York but had not lost my wanderlust.

In 2007 I flew to Dubai to work with an Egyptian architect for the CEO of Al Rajhi Developments, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He persuaded me to become Sulaiman Al Rajhi’s chief consultant. I spent half my time working in Cairo and designing projects even larger than those in China, and the other half in Riyadh designing similar stuff in-house. All that ended in 2010. So with mixed feelings I returned to California, this time to San Diego. I’m still practicing with no thought of retiring. Robert Borne ’60, my ex-roommate and the Columbia Lion, is one of my best friends. And I’m still in awe of Jerry Speyer; we chat occasionally.”

Peter had raised his daughter, Amanda, a single lineage since she was a young girl. Amanda now lives in Dallas with Peter’s two grandchildren.

“Wishing my classmates a wonderful summer,” begins Anthony Valerio (anthony@anthonyvalerio.com). “I’ll be golfing in the afternoon after a winter of physical therapy ostensibly for my legs. In the mornings I’ll write — love the heat — and promote the new print edition of Bart, a Life of A. Bartlett Giamatti. Giamatti, you might recall, left the presidency of Yale to become president of the National League, then commissioner of baseball. He was famous for his essay, Green Fields of the Mind, a little of which goes like this: ‘It breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart, and you’re主办方 to grind your teeth again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoon sunrises and afternoons, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and..."
leaves you to face the fall alone.' Starting this fall I will be in Italy until spring, and so on. Would love to hear from you.”

After 44 years as a litigator in Indianapolis, Larry Gaston (lwegason@att.net) retired two years ago. “Now,” he writes, “I’m reading for pleasure and trying to stay out of my wife’s way. September will be our 50th anniversary. I spend a lot of time volunteering at the Crossroads of America Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Never thought I’d buy a Scout uniform at 72!”

Chris Haakon (cphaakon@aol.com) has enjoyed our Class Notes during the past 50 years but never submitted anything about himself. Here’s his summary: “I was a charter member of the team that brought varsity soccer to Columbia, and I played in a men’s league for 20 years more. After graduation I joined the Navy, served 33 years, had four commanding officer assignments in Naval Intelligence, and then retired as a captain. Around the same time I started working for a small subsidiary of Paramount Pictures, spun the company off, saw it become employee-owned, and in the 1990s became its CEO with 600 employees. When Boeing bought it I ran it for two years then retired.

“Currently I consult and sit on eight boards of mid-sized companies. My wife and I will celebrate our 50th this September. We are in excellent health and enjoy having our three children and seven grandchildren near our home in Northern Virginia. It has been a great 50 years.”

Gerry Sorin (gerald.sorin70@gmail.com), retired Distinguished Professor of American and Jewish Studies at SUNY, New Paltz, missed our 50th reunion to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary in Paris with his wife, Myra. Last November, Gerry published his eighth book, Howard Fast: Life and Literature in the Left Lane, which received the National Jewish Book Award in Biography, Autobiography, Memoir for 2012. It is the only biography of Fast and was described in Publishers Weekly as “an excellent prism through which to review ... Leftist activity... and the anticomunist hysteria of the 1940s and '50s.” In 2003 Gerry won the National Jewish Book Award in History for his previous book, Irving Howe: A Life of Passionate Dissent.

“After a dozen years out of the classroom, I was asked by senior students at New Palz to return last spring [2013] to teach the Honors Seminar. Despite having to face grading papers again, I said ‘yes.’”

Since 1993 Gerry has also been a literary critic, mostly for The Jewish Daily Forward and Haaretz (Israel’s left-wing newspaper), and teaching as a volunteer in the Lifetime Learning Institute.

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You should be reading this column soon after our terrific 50th Alumni Reunion Weekend. Granted, I am writing it months before but I know it will be terrific because I already heard from many of you who planned to be there. The Fall column will have a full report on the weekend. If you attended, please send me your notes now, and I will include them.

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/ct.

I also heard from some of you who couldn’t attend but sent greetings to classmates.

Roland Drolitsch writes, “Alas, I am one of those who was not able to come to reunion. Even though I am getting older, I clearly remember those wonderful days at Columbia. I do not even know where to start, but I will let you know how I came to that wonderful college. I lived way up on the Hudson River and a great friend of the family was professor F.W. Dupee, who had a house there on the river where there was a slight bend in it. From his porch you could see miles and miles down the Hudson. Well, as many of you may know, Professor Dupee was the chairman of the English department and a renowned expert on Henry James. It was Professor Dupee who introduced me to going to Columbia. While there I met and had so many wonderful professors. There was Andrew Chiappe ’33, ’39 GSAS, who taught Shakespeare in a way I still remember. Professor Joseph Rothschild ’52, ’52 GSAS taught me about East Central Europe. Professor James Zito ’48 taught an English class in which every book we read was ‘the best book ever written.’ And who can ever forget Professor Dwight Miner ’26, ’40 GSAS, who when teaching Contemporary Civilization had us all mesmerized?”

Mel Gurtov writes, “Fiftieth reunion? Impossible. Warm greetings to classmates from my farm in Deadwood, Ore. Duty called in our apple orchard; so sorry I was not able to be with you.”

Barry Austern writes, “I was not able to make it but I do say hi to everyone. I guess the only exciting news for me was that in November I took a ‘MacMania’ cruise that was two weeks of instruction on Mac computers. It left from Sydney, Australia, went up the coast of Queensland, then through three ports in New Caledonia. In between we woke up bright and early to see the total eclipse of the sun.”

Charles Bremer did not attend reunion; he matriculated in 1957 and therefore considers himself a member of the Class of 1961. “All my college friends were members of ’61. However, between my junior and senior years, I took a one-year sabbatical and worked at the largest mental hospital in New Jersey (my major was abnormal psychology). After the year was up, I enrolled in the fall semester, but two weeks before classes began I contracted whooping cough. Contracting whooping cough at 21 ain’t no walk in the park. I would rather have had a root canal. So I enrolled in the spring semester and thought ‘What the hell? I’ll enroll for three semesters and take some graduate school courses so I can graduate in May.”

After retiring as v.p., international trade, from a national association in Washington, D.C., Charles now resides in Secaucus, N.J. “I received an outstanding education at Columbia,” he said. “I was a poor student, a goof-off, but I had the privilege of studying under Fred Keller, the great Sidney Morgan...
besser and Douglas Moore.”

Philip Sandler writes, “Four years at Columbia were a wonderful experience. I went on to practice psychiatry in central Massachusetts, helping to close a state hospital, start an inpatient psychiatry unit in our local hospital, work in every aspect of community psychiatry and run a private practice of marital and family therapy. Twenty-one years ago, I moved to Brookline in suburban Boston, worked for a large HMO and then in the student health services of Boston University. After retiring two years ago, I became more active in Rotary International, a worldwide humanitarian organization. I am also a professional zaydeh (Yiddish for grandfather), looking after grandchildren while their parents work.”

Philip was disappointed that he was not able to celebrate reunion with the class. “As the president-elect of the Rotary Club of Brookline, I was hosting a team from Brazil. Our club is sponsoring a clean water project in a village in rural Brazil. The metropolitan area. I expect to attend its inauguration there in two years. In November 2011, I was privileged to join a team of Rotarians who traveled to Mali, in West Africa, to work with the country’s health care system. There were numerous outreach programs, and I was able to tour a hospital in Bamako about our campaign to give a speech to Rotary clubs in the area.”

“My greatest accomplishment and joy is my marriage of 44 years to the amazing Dr. Lucy Winters Sandler, our two sons and four grandchildren. I also am lucky to have two healthy parents. As I write, 10 members of our family are leaving on a Caribbean cruise tomorrow to celebrate my parents’ 72nd anniversary. My father, Aaron, will turn 100 in December. In its wisdom, the state of Florida renewed his driver’s license by mail last year for another six years.”

Carey Winfrey writes, “In summer 2011, I turned 70 and completed 10 years as editor of Smilinghuman magazine, all within about two weeks. That struck me as a telling moment to hang up my typewriter, so within a few hours of my retirement party in Washington, D.C., where my wife, Jane, and I had lived for a decade, we cashed in on our frequent flyer miles and boarded a plane for New Delhi and five weeks in India. It was a wonderful trip, and I didn’t have a second for second thoughts about leaving a job I loved. You can see some photographs from that trip as well as from the moment of the trip and more at my website. Asia (more frequent flyer miles) at jgpmag.com/people/grawells.”

“When we returned from India, we moved into what had been our weekend house in Amenia, N.Y., in Dutchess County) during the 30-some years we lived and worked in Manhattan. As it had been rented out for a decade, there was plenty of deferred maintenance to address, plus the upgrading of a weekend house to one in which we would live for half the year. The other half, and you can probably guess which one, we repaired to Key West, Fla, where Jane and I immediately began working on a self-financed documentary about the town’s many writers, starting with John Dos Passos and Ernest Hemingway, moving forward through Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Tennessee Williams, James Merrill, John Hersey, John Malcolm Brinnin, Truman Capote, Hunter Thompson and Richard Wilbur to such present-day literary luminaries as Alison Lurie, Robert Stone, Judy Blume, Michael Meswah, Ann Beatty, Harry Mathews — and the list goes on and on. It’s a fascinating project that has given us access to some of the more interesting people in Key West.”

“At the end of our key West trip, more than the more than 30 interviews we’ve done so far (with another dozen or so to come), I asked each of our subjects about his/her position on the city’s rampant feral chicken population. Putting together their answers produced a remarkable film called Writers on Chickens, which was shown at the 2013 Key West Literary Seminar, the theme of which was ‘Writers on Writers.’ (Chickens, which can be seen at vimeo.com/52081065 — password: kchwihchicks — has almost nothing to do with the more ambitious film about Key West’s writers, the working title of which is Republic of Letters: The Writers of Key West.)

“In other news, our twin sons turned 30 on March 22 and Graham, the younger one by 10 minutes (though it didn’t seem that long), at the age of 10. In its wisdom, the state of Florida renewed his driver’s license by mail last year for another six years.”

“My wife, Marcia, and I celebrated 47 years of marriage this summer, with two sons and their families, including two delightful grandchildren. With no teaching obligations, Marcia and I have been snowbirding in Sarasota, Fla, the past few years — sun, beach, golf; it really beats the Rochester (and NYC) winters.”

Manny Rabinowitz has been named to the board of directors of the Barnard Foundation for Life since the world began.”

Manny has two sons, Ted ‘87 and Alan (Princeton), and two grandsons. “I practiced law in NYC until 1998, when we moved to Florida, where I was vice chair of American Medical Association. In 2001, I published the National Enquirer, Star, Soap Opera Digest, Country Weekly and Weekly World News. The company was sold in 1999—2000 and I retired. Since then, I have been able to indulge an old passion for photography; Judy and I have been fortunate to travel to many parts of Asia, Africa, Antarctica and South America, and look forward to more of the same.”

“We have lost two more of our classmates. Dr. Henry A. Sellner ’51, who had a long career in Danbury, Conn., died on January 23, 2013. After being named Phi Beta Kappa at the College and medical school at P&S, he practiced ob/gyn for 35 years in Danbury, where he created WomanCare. Later in life, he traveled to Central America to bring his expertise to rural clinics.”

Robert E. Dyson died in Sarasota, Fla., on July 30, 2011. “I wish we’d been able to say hello to them both at the reunion. Require¬

at pace.”

I hope that our 50th Reunion Class Gift breaks all sorts of records. If you want to make sure that it does, please make your donation now. You have until midnight EST on Sunday, June 30, the end of Columbia’s fiscal year, to make it. If you’re going to make a donation, we need to see it in time. (See the how-to below.)

The one record I’d like to see the class break is the one for percent¬age participation. If you have never given a dime in 50 years, now is the time to make amends. How about $10 for each year since graduation? Or, better yet, $100 for each year? If you have already made your donation, thank you for supporting the continued excellence of Columbia. You can give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline, or by calling the Alumni Office at 212-851-7484 or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4350, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

Remember, our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are always a great place to reconnect. If you’re in NYC, try to make one of the next ones, scheduled for June 13, July 11 and, after our summer break, on September 12 — it’s always the second Thursday. Check our website at cc4c.org for details.

Let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next.”

The Class of ’63 recently celebrated its 50th anniversary — a wonderful milestone. The exciting news is that in one year we will do the same (Thursday, May 29—Sunday, June 1, 2014). In the past, Nick Rudd was the driving force behind our reunions. We must now look to others to turn our 50th into the success it should be. Please contact me (or either of the staff members noted above) with your suggestions and your availability to help in the planning.”

Class writers have drawn atten¬tion recently. The New York Times ran a Sunday review of two books by Phillip Lopate: Portrait Inside My Head: Essays and To Show and To Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction. Noting that in past collections, Phill had covered a range of subjects while paying attention to his inner life, the review observed that Portrait “gives full play to an even wider range: immensely readable essays on his family, on remaining a baseball fan, on his sex life (‘Duration; Or, Going Long’), on
the tense romance between mov¬
ies and novels, on old and new
features of New York's urban land¬
scape and on elusive writers like
James Agee and Leonard Michaels,
them bodies bold essayists who
blurred the lines between fiction
and nonfiction." [Editor's note:
See the featured book in the Spring
2013 CCT.]

In To Show and To Tell, Phil "gives
away all his trade secrets — a
thoughtful guidebook for writers of
literary nonfiction that could serve
as a teaching or writing essay. It
threads its way around the pitfalls
of personal writing; the need to turn
oneself into a character; to write
honestly, assertively about friends
and family; and to find exactly
where and how to sign off.

Foreign Affairs ran a review of
Energy for Future Presidents: The Sci¬
ence Behind the Headlines by Richard
Muller, a physics professor at UC
Berkeley. The book addresses the
future of energy use. The reviewer
writes, "[Muller] frames his highly
readable, assertive about friends
and family; and to find exactly
where and how to sign off.

Richard, a longtime nonbeliever
in climate warming, attracted con¬
siderable attention last year when
he wrote a New York Times op-ed
piece, "The Conversion of a Climate¬
Change Skeptic," stating that "global
warming is real and humans are
almost entirely the cause."

In the last column I reported that
Barry Bley has spent 30 years as a
volunteer with the Alumni Represen¬
tative Committee, interviewing
applicants for admission to the
College. In an update, Barry reports,
"Judging from the applicants I
interviewed this cycle, Columbia's
tradition of excellence will continue."

Jerry Zuriff "retired in 2008 after
40 years as a professor of psychol¬
ogy at Wheaton College and from
M.I.T., where I was a psychologist
in the Mental Health Service for 35
years. Now in happy but active re¬
irement, still living with Elizabeth
in Cambridge, Mass., where I have
a small part-time psychotherapy
practice in Harvard Square."

For his 70th birthday, Jerry and
Elizabeth "spent a joyous few days
in New York City sampling the
Met Opera, the New York Philhar¬
matic, the American Symphony
Orchestra, the Frick Collection and
the Museum of Arts and Design,
all of which I highly recommend to
classmates."

Marty Weinstein spent five
weeks teaching in Uruguay and
Argentina. Marty is Emeritus Pro¬
fessor of Political Science at William
Paterson University in New Jersey,
and an internationally recognized
expert on the politics of Uruguay.
He is the recipient of two Fulbright
awards and the author of two books
and numerous articles on Uruguay.

After marrying an Englishwoman
in January, Gary Schonfeld now
divides his time between New
York, where he is a lawyer, and
England, where he is a solicitor.

I am saddened to report the
death last year of Fred Levine.
A pre-med at the College, Fred
graduated from Harvard High School
and trained in surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in
Boston with a specialty in cardio¬
vascular and thoracic surgery.

After two years at the Heart, Lung
and Blood Institute of the National
Institutes of Health, he was on the
staff at Massachusetts General for
several years before becoming chief
of cardiac surgery at Sinai Hospital in
Detro. He is survived by his
wife, Patty, two daughters and five
grandchildren. (See Obituaries.)

Finally I am deeply saddened to
report the death of my wife, Jac¬
queline. We met while I was in the
College, and in the decades that
followed Jacqueline always felt a
close affinity with the Class of '64.
She edited and proofread my Class
Notes, and after each monthly class
lunch in New York she was always
eager to hear news of the class.
The loss for me and our son, Alexander,
is immense. Many of you have sent
messages of condolence for which I
am very grateful. 

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Seeking news for this column, I’ve
been asking classmates for their
thoughts on retirement, if ever.

Here is Michael Schlanger's res¬
ponse: "Now in my 43rd year of unremit¬
ting toil in the law, I am receptive to
teaching thoughts of retirement.
If any classmates have suggestions
about what a person as eccentric
as myself might do in my golden
years, I’m open to hearing them. I
only want ‘serious’ suggestions, so,
Mike Cook, you need not apply.

“I’m happy to report that my
three ‘boys’ (all of whom still call
me ‘Daddy’), are having a good
time. Teddy (27) — following a
satisfying academic and baseball
career at Davidson College (Division
I), two years teaching and tutoring
fifth-graders at the Simon Elemen¬
tary School in Anaconda (Wash¬
ton, D.C.), and one year taking the
accounting and finance courses not
available at Davidson — is complet¬
ing a master’s in accounting at
Vanderbilt and will begin working
at Deloitte in the fall in Philadelphia
(where his longtime girlfriend/
 fiancée lives and works); he recently
returned from a six-week Deloitte
internship in Hyderabad, India.

Nicholas (24) — following his
recent graduation from Gettysburg,
where he was active in student
government, intramural sports and
keeping regular company with his
serious girlfriend — is taking a two¬
three-year break from academia
being, an M.S. He is a
member consultant at Tenley
Sport & Health Club (Washington,
D.C., where he spent the past
several summers as a lifeguard.

Tenley being five minutes from the
Schlanger house, Nicholas keeps
me company while I ponder this
golden years’ stuff."

"Ben (22), at the University of
Michigan, is obtaining a double
degree in mechanical engineering
and computer science while also
serving as a lead writer and senior
editor for The Greygoose. Michigan’s
120-year sibling rival of Columbia’s
Jester; Ben performs as a stand-up
comic in local clubs in Ann Arbor
(for profit; as he says, he ‘doesn’t
give it up for free’). Ben has had
summer and school-year intern¬
s at General Motors, Toyota and
General Electric. Upon graduation in
2014, he aspires to do his part to
help save Planet Earth."

Michael can be reached at:
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Stan Sesser wrote, "After 25
years in Berkeley, interrupted by
more than a decade in Asia, I’ve
now come full circle, back to Berke¬
ley. My partner, Yai, who teaches
philosophy at Ramkhamhaeng
University in Bangkok, has been
granted a leave at full pay to get

What is the future of energy use? The reviewer frames his highly readable, assertive about friends and family; and to find exactly where and how to sign off.
were from various classes. I waited around Columbia until they gave me a Ph.D, so I had friends across quite a range of classes. If others experienced a similar lack of class, it might relate to our low write-in rate.

I’ve had a good life. It’s been quite a ride. A short marriage, and no kids, but I’ve lived and worked in Australia, Japan, Puerto Rico and various U.S. and European cities. There’s been lots of other travel, lots of laughs, lots to think about. At the moment I’m living in Brooklyn and teach part-time at NYU-Poly, formerly Brooklyn Polytechnic University. It’s all fine by me.

“I have an attitude, which may have congealed into permanent form during my college years, so I’m curious to find out if other ’66 alumni are comfortable in this attitude.” (If they are, that also might relate to our low write-in rate.) The attitude, in simple vernacular, is “nothing matters.” Variations include “it’s all lies” and “it’s all a joke.” Naively, “nothing matters” might seem a negative attitude but actually it’s a great freedom, not for positive or negative, but for eliminating that duality. It makes me laugh, with the sheer joy of it. Do whatever you want, for as many of us, this meant family and career. Wonderful. For others, maybe... other lives. Like most people, I was raised a certain way; it was to try to be cheerful, helpful, constructive. So, I try to do that. In fact, I live by a great many rules, way too many probably. But they’re just my rules; I wouldn’t even try to defend them.

"I’m in the physics racket, so I’m too close to the life cycle of solar systems, galaxies, our universe. From a purely technical perspective, who really cares if I don’t do it, it doesn’t matter. But the attitude feels much deeper than just a technical calculation. Maybe it’s genetic. Both my parents were bent the same way.

“Anybody else out there care to comment? Not that it matters.”

Tom Beeler ’67 GSA SAW writes, “I stayed on at Columbia for a master’s in English and for a doctorate, but though I finished the dissertation, I never filed it. Reason was I got sucked into the book publishing business as a result of the 1968 protests; I worked on The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language and became editorial director of two scholarly reprint publishers, the second of which moved to Boston to become a division of G.K. Hall & Co. By 1978 I was president of Halls, which published scholarly books... I later left to run a British large print and audio book publishing subsidiary in New Hampshire, [which I did] until 1995, when I started my own large print publishing company, which lasted 10 years. In 2006 I got involved with a community newspaper, the Granite State News in Wolfeboro Falls, N.H., which I now edit along with the Carroll County Independent. I publish books on the side at The Large Print Book Company.

“I eloped with my sweetheart, Sue, in 1965 while still at the College and we have two children and one grandson.”

Daniel Gardner, who among other roles is a professor of astrophysics and biophysics and head of the Laboratory of Neuroinformatics with Well Cornell Medical College, writes, “There often is that intermediate stage in which you’re not sure whether you are alive or dead. This is not a plea for money, but Well Cornell Medical College is most appreciative of the donors who support its mission of advancing medical care and scientific understanding, and training new generations of physicians.”

“I’m here in my last decade, in a nutshell: In 2004, after having lived in and raised our two kids in southern California for 27 years, my ombudsman wife, Jan, was becoming frustrated by her long commute to work. She was looking for a job closer to home and took a job in Manhattan, where she could walk to work across Central Park. We were bicoastal (practicing bi-coastals, as our friends described us) for a couple of years, then I decided to take a somewhat early retirement from my professor gig at UCI Medical School and join her in New York. Jan retired in 2011 and we bought a car and took off on a 4-month road trip back to our home in Costa Mesa, Calif., which had been rented out for this time.

“I continued teaching after my retirement (until this year) and am pursuing research on a couple of long-standing projects in computational biology, work which doesn’t require a laboratory or grant applications. I’ve been compiling and organizing family history and stories, particularly those of my parents’ experiences as refugees in wartime France, which I’ve been posting on gutmanfamily.org.

“Jan, too, seems to be restless, and she’s signed up as a reservist for FEMA as part of its Alternate Dispute Resolution cadre; she’s been deployed for month-long stints in Connecticut and New Jersey, helping FEMA in its role of providing assistance to victims of Hurricane Sandy.

“Our son, Dan, finished a B.A. in history and business at Brooklyn College and moved back to California; he’s looking for a job in finance research. Our daughter, Elizabeth, founded the Brooklyn-based company Liddabit Sweets a few years ago with her friend and business partner, Jon King. They produce artisanal caramels, candy bars and other wonderful confections, retailing them at various NYC markets and online, and wholesaling them to a number of stores in the Northeast and other spots across the country. They’ve recently also published The Liddabit Sweets Candy Cookbook, which has been well-received.

“Perhaps I’m too close to the life cycle being close to our longtime California friends again, and Jan is especially happy to have her garden back, yet we miss the energy and excitement of life in Manhattan. We figure it’ll take us a while yet to decide where we want to live when we grow up.”

From Gene Leff: “In 2011, I became a deputy commissioner in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and moved to Albany. I supervise the study of fracking, the cleanup of toxic sites, the regulation of pesticide use and the regulation of solid waste disposal.”

Gene’s latest work is of current interest to many of us. Perhaps you could offer some insight?

William Roach writes, “OK, Robert. Perhaps you can make up much more interesting stuff, here’s a snapshot of what I’ve been up to for the last few years.

“At the end of 2010, I retired from my law practice at McDermott Will & Emery but worked part-time for one of my large hospital system clients, setting up its in-house office. That took about 18 months, after which I retired for real and assumed the chairmanship of the American Heart Association’s national board. The AHA’s current focus is community service time for the last 20-plus years and remains a labor of love. When I rotate off the national board in June I’ll assume the volunteer leadership of the AHA’s joint advocacy initiative with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to combat childhood obesity. Combating childhood obesity has been an AHA goal for many years and still seems a bit like sweeping back the sea, as a third of the nation’s children are overweight or obese. But with the foundation’s funding support, the AHA will marshal other organizations that are active in the fight at the grassroots level and intensify the effort to reduce the problem substantially by 2015. I suspect this will keep me out of mischief for the next few years.

“Otherwise, I keep a hand in one construction project or another and luxuriate in the general enjoyment of retirement. My spouse, Deborah Rosenberg Roach ’66

Barnard, remains busy with her multimedia business and with helping our daughter, Lydia ’04, with August wedding plans (I remain in my bunker, doing what I’m told). So, we’re all busy and reasonably productive.”

My correspondence with Robert Meyerson began with the following email from him: “I’m killing time waiting for my wife and have an idea for a Class of ’66 Notes. Which would you rather hear about: how decrapt NYC seems when I return there for a funeral, my life with Hegel or my decision to work forever?”

I suggested he do it all, and Bob responded with this:

“OK. So let’s start with Hegel. What would you like to hear—my first impression of his mad philosophy in CC, where a huge Sasha Zill opposed from the back of the room and I never knew anyone before or since named Zill, let alone Sasha? Or how I wrote my master’s thesis about him and wound up liking Hegel?” (If they are, that also might relate to our low write-in rate.)

“Perhaps my run-in with the idiot local school superintendent who misquoted Hegel in our local weekly and whose defense was that he was actually quoting Dennis Green, that great Hegel scholar and later US Senator from Minnesota. Or my spying a portrait of the handsome devil in Berlin’s National Gallery, after attending our son’s show there at the Galerie Michael Janssen Berlin? Or my experience, firsthand, of Hegel’s concept of quantity transforming into quality in his Phenomenology of Geistes, after buying another bank this past December? I hardly know where to begin!”

Geoff Dutton writes, “If you hanker to be in touch, send an interesting memo or ask about our next production. And check out http://ppproductions.net and I will surely respond. All the best.”

 Gathering for lunch on April 2 at Evergreen restaurant (East 38th Street) were a peripatetic and ever-shifting group of ’66ers, nosing and catching up as they have for a number of years. Present were Michael Garrett, Mark Amsterdam, Herb Hochman, Richard Zucker and Richard Forzani. Regulars who were not there this time are Gene Leff, Bob Gurland, Dan Gardner, David Tilman and Rick Reder. Many others have showed up from time to time, and anyone who is interested is invited. Let me know and I’ll put you on the mailing list.

From your correspondent: I am involved in managing my employer’s top software clients, in terms of keeping them happy and spending. My son, Rich, is completing his first year at the University of Richmond School of Law and,
Artie was bom in Brooklyn and has been battling Stage 4 melanoma for his engineering student. Art earned a B.S. at the College Beta Theta Pi and captained the 1967 rugby team at George W. Hewlett H.S. At the College he joined Beta Theta Pi, hosted a memorable Columbia College Beta reunion in South Lake Tahoe 10 years ago.

"Dave Filipek '67 QS, Bob Donohue '65 and I visited art often in recent months at his Pleasanton home in the East Bay. I saw Artie three days before he died; aside from tiring easily, there was no indication that his time was near. He went out a winner — he had picked the Baltimore Ravens to go all the way and he won the jackpot in a Super Bowl pool run by fellow California Beta Dave Filipek (who else?)." He wasn't so lucky on the health front, however. He had a tumor last year. He was courageous under difficult physical duress; he accepted his situation with grace and rueful philosophy. The worst thing, Artie said to me a couple of months ago, 'is that I am going to miss out on a lot of the fun.' We are certainly going to miss having fun with him."

Martin Goldstein, who lives in Culver City, Calif., sent this note to CCT: "The crew cohort pictured in the Spring 2013 CCT — The Royal and Ancient Order of Boofnoses mourns the loss of a friend, mentor and fellow crew mate, Norman Hildesheim '60."

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I'd hoped to persuade Mas Take-tomo to write the column, as he had received numerous notes from you about our recent reunion, but reunion itself had him swamped with work. Pete Janovsky, meanwhile, was working on the class bio book. So, I decided to await the book and then do something using that work of art as a starting point. Thus, I will be brief — this time.

By all accounts, it seems that the turnout for the 45th reunion could be record-breaking. I hope so. We will know by the time you read this column. I hope that I will have seen lots of you, well, energetic and in good spirits. A full report may be in the Fall issue. If you attended, please share your thoughts and stories with me to put in this column. The class photo, however, may be found on the CCT website (college.columbia.edu/cct) as part of this issue's reunion follow-up article.

As an aside, we sent Paul de Bary's wine book, The Persistent Observer's Guide to Wine, to all classmates to entice them to come to reunion, or at least to enjoy some wine more than usual. Paul, your book is wonderful! And with its Core relevance, it is especially special.

John Chee was in NYC from May 29 – June 1, 2014

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Joel Greenberger writes, "I am an associate professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh and live there most of the year. However, I am in Boston every summer and at M.I.T. I play the trumpet in several professional and vocational groups and frequently have brass quintet rehearsals at my other house in Lincoln, Mass."

Joel hopes to entice Mark Schlesinger to join one of those brass sessions. Both are alumni members of the Cleverest Band.

Anthony Sciolino has authored a book, The Holocaust, the Church, and the Law of Unintended Consequences: How Christian Anti-Judaism Spawned Nazi Anti-Semitism. Both are alumni members of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Los Angeles and the diocese accepted his situation with grace and hopefulness.

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Hank Reischman reports: "I'm now halfway through California State University's early retirement program, which is limited to five years, teaching for six months each year. But to fill the time I've become active in the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). In April 2012, I was elected national first v.p. and last summer I also was..."
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 prohibited from representing government 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 chapter is in flux on 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.

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 the 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 a graduation 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 have 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 1963, before I lost my train of thought, at the bottom 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.”

“Of 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 and Chaptes: Physico-mathematics, Method and Corpuscular-Mechanism, 1618–1633. Details can be found at the publisher website, 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 more modern 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 History of Science, Technology and Medicine. 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, to the point that the University of Sydney has developed a lifelong love affair with me, and I have received a number of offers to return to the mainland (though I remain loyal to Sydney).”

Joseph Contigliagia 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 Disease Control and Prevention’s Center for Public Health Preparedness and Research. He is a veteran of the Air Force and Alaska area, having served as a clinician in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. After retiring from the military, he remained in the U.S. as a medical officer in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. He is a graduate of UConn School of Dental Medicine and serves as the chief resident in the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He is at work on a book on the history of early modern science research team in the Sydney Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine. 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, to the point that the University of Sydney has developed a lifelong love affair with me, and I have received a number of offers to return to the mainland (though I remain loyal to Sydney).”

Finally, here is the first notice of evolution 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&G. 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 spend one day at Columbia while taking in a couple of shows, and spend the next. 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 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 criminal misconduct. I authored a report for John Jay College of Criminal Justice in the fall. I am grateful to report that my wife and children are doing well. Warm regards to classmates.”

Lennard 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 and will be starting this fall. Her academic advisor is John Eichenthal, in the fall. I am grateful to report that my wife and children are doing well. Warm regards to classmates.”

Trustee Michael B. Rothfeld ’59, ’71L, ’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/columbiacollegel754.

PHOTO: MICHAEL DAMES
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 Metcalf, 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.

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 chô), 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 chocolate 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...
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 on 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 5th.”

“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 Zoa, 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 Coulston & Stone, LLP, in New York City (April 11).

“I am chair of the Board of Directors for 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 Leven Gym to the rafters,” Richard reports, as the Lions hosted Princeton on February 22. At the annual Burgers and Bubblegum event, the class talked a lot about kids, adolescents, 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 Coffee, is looking for an agent for several completed manuscripts. He describes the novels as: “Simon Magnus: The First Vampire, a truly original, historically based story of a figure
mentioned in the New Testament as a cult leader, a magician with Mes- sianic ambitions and a rival of St. Peter. The story takes him through the centuries, from Rome, to Tran- sylvania, to Basque and finally to England.

“Manci’s Girl,” an updated noir thriller in which a beautiful, young, ambitious woman manipulates the men surrounding Manci, the crime boss of the Philadelphia mafia, only to be finally undone by her love for the big man.

“Expiration Date,” a Christian science-fiction adventure thriller, in which Galahad Jones, a super-secret agent, is called out of retire- ment to combat a psychotonic, ren- egade, brilliant cardinal who plots to use viral agencies to achieve control of the Catholic Church and, ultimately, the world.

“The Case of the Missing Ronbrondi,” an action mystery set largely on the Columbia campus in which a philosophy professor is drawn by circumstance into acting as a top-flight detective. It is the first book in a projected series, *The Columbia Mysteries.*

As for your correspondent, I saw that computer security expert Mark Selden was again quoted in The Philadelphia Inquirer’s *Philadelphia Inquirer* (March 27), which identifies him as “a member of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee of the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, which oversees the domain name system.”

Philadelphia has vibrant theatre, and I attend. *Sennett,* a sharp, witty play by Theresa Rebeck, is about, as the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted, “four aspiring novelists enrolled in the private weekly workshops of rock- star literary editor Leonard.” In the lobby afterward, out of the blue, Leonard, who had obviously nailed the portrayal. After complimenting him, I mentioned that because the play was set on the Upper West Side and I went to Columbia, it reminded me of some Columbia professors who were sophisticated and wanted the best from their stu- dents. He smiled and replied, “Oh, I went to Columbia, too.” Turns out he is Rufus Collins ’84 (who has acted in five shows on Broadway, says the playbill), and we had some of the same professors.

When I included that item in our class’ eNews, Ray Gaspard respond- ed: “I’m one of the producers on *The Trip To Beautiful* on Broadway, which stars Cicely Tyson, Vanessa Williams and Cuba Gooding Jr. Always great getting the eNews.”

If you are not receiving the ’71C eNews and would like to, please email me.

Remember back 46 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. We are still connected.

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Keith Luis (or at least his alter ego, Dr. Louie) recently had a new CD released by Tain-Hamilton Records. *Fillir the Billie,* a rockin’-n’-rolled, deeply emotional record, features guest artists Evan Johns (two guitar parts) and Leean Thetherson (one vocal). Keith performs the other vocals and plays the guitars, mandolin, wash- board and additional percussion. The genre is bluesrock, incorporat- ing elements of urban and country blues, rockabilly, New Orleans R&B and zydeco. You can find the title track at most online stores. Or you can hear it free at reverbnation. com/drlourue.

Richard Avila brings us up to date on the graduation from Columbia, he told me, of a young man from school but was prompted by Watergate to attend Harvard Law. He earned a J.D. in 1978, then returned to Southern California (where he’d grown up) to clerk for a federal trial judge, after which he moved to San Francisco in 1980. Richard is a bankruptcy lawyer—"an expert in debt, so to speak." After working for private firms, large and small, and for the government collecting debt in Bankruptcy Court, he started his own bankruptcy debtor practice, in 1995.

Married once and divorced once, Richard is the proud father of Patrick, a freshman at UC Berkeley, and "a serious and disciplined young man, all of good courage," with an unusual set of intersecting politics, history, drama and boxing. Patrick won a regional theatre competition in high school with Marc Antony’s funeral oration for Julius Caesar, and he scored a TKO in his first intercollege boxing bout.

Richard notes that his hobbies are tennis—I am a ranked player for my age group—and restoring the 1966 Oldsmobile Cutlass ‘muscle car’ I got my parents to buy for themselves when I was in high school, and my now 95-year-old mother has decided to entrust to me to restore. It’s a real piece of American industrial archaeology as well as a lot of fun to drive on a Sunday afternoon. Think of the Beach Boys singing ‘Good Times!’ and you’ll get the idea.

Richard sends best wishes to all his classmates and especially his fresh- man suitemates in Carman, Jon Berlin ’74 and Brooks Ballenger, saying, "Guys, it would be so great to hear your news!"

On a sad note, I received word that Richard A. Arcaro died in Laurens, N.Y., on January 9, 2013. He was a retired electrical engineer and computer analyst. CCT will publish a more complete obituary in a subsequent issue.

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By the time you read this, our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend will be history; such is the timing of the world of Class Notes. I hope every- one had a terrific time. A full report will be included in the Fall issue. If you attended reunion, please share your thoughts and stories with me. The class photo, however, may be found on the CCT website (college. columbia.edu/cc) as part of this issue’s reunion follow-up article.

Joe Seldner was happy to see so many classmates at the pre-reunion event held at the Holder, among them Marc Jaffe and Ray Vastola.

Joe regretted not being able to attend reunion; he and his brother were climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, courtesy of the artificial hip manufac- turer that made both of their hip replacements. Joe is developing and producing movies and TV, giving workshops and trying to find a home for The Parenting Channel (see: Food Channel, Travel Channel and so on). His son, Dan, left Califor- nia for Europe after 11 years, and his daughter, Laura, has been in and out of Ecuador with granddaughter Liliana in tow; a grandson is on the way. "Hasn’t always been easy or smooth," says Joe, "but it’s always been interesting." Ain’t it the truth …

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014**
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During our four years on campus, society, the economy and world politics were in a state of turmoil. Feminism, abortion, gay rights, Kent State and Watergate all fought against state laws against abor- tion in Roe v. Wade. The oil embargo marked the start of the Arab oil embargo that led to smaller cars and the 55 mph national speed limit. That year also brought about the end of the draft. (Need I remind you of that terrifying day the previ- ous February 2, when the drawing was held—a la Shirley Jackson’s book *The Lottery*—to determine priority numbers for conscription? I was No. 35; do you remember your number?) In 1974 we saw India success- fully test an atomic bomb and, after the withdrawal of U.S. forces, we saw the birth of a new superpower that profoundly changed our world.

A really big year was 1973, when we saw the Supreme Court rule against state laws against abor- tion. "The Court ruled in Roe v. Wade," says Joe, "and so on). His son, Dan, left Califor- nia for Europe after 11 years, and his daughter, Laura, has been in and out of Ecuador with granddaughter Liliana in tow; a grandson is on the way. "Hasn’t always been easy or smooth," says Joe, "but it’s always been interesting.” Ain’t it the truth …

This little walk down memory lane highlights the significant world events that we shared four decades ago and is meant to ac- complish two things: First, I hope it brings back memories of our bygone days on campus and re- minds you to make plans to return to Morningside Heights Thursday, May 29—Sunday, June 1, for our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend. Second, it’s my hope that you share this thumbnail history lesson with your kids to assure them that all of the chaos we are witnessing at home and abroad is nothing new. We experienced all of these historical moments, which echo those of today, while enduring an economic crisis that bears little resemblance to the one we are just coming out of. Forty years later, most of us are looking back on a pretty good four decades. As we said in the ’70s, “Keep the faith!”
Speaking of kids, this column features a lot of updates about what our classmates as well as their kids are up to these days. While we continue in our careers of multiple decades, our kids are moving on in bold new directions. Understanding how our biddies of yesteryear and today are doing often means understanding what is happening in the lives of their offspring.

Let me shamelessly start by announcing that my daughter, Katie, has recently been admitted to Columbia University’s Teachers College Preparatory School in NYC, where she will start ninth grade next fall. She is following in the footsteps of the children of Larry Silverman, George Van Amson and the late Jeff Rosecan (among others). Some of you may know that Columbia Prep was started in 1764—a decade after the creation of Columbia College—to “prepare” the young men who were going to attend the College. Nowadays, it has no affiliation with the College and is co-ed. And no doubt my Columbia connections had any influence.

An update came from Dr. David Melnick (senior medical science director for AstraZeneca, the British pharmaceutical company in Wilmington, Del.). He relates that his daughter, Nancy, is working on the development of new antibiotics and recently received approval for a new treatment of MRSA (the antibiotic-resistant bacteria increasingly found in hospitals). David plans to continue research into other “highly antibiotic-resistant pathogens,” including drug-resistant tuberculosis.

His daughter, Katie ’03, is an ADA in Manhattan and is married to a Columbia P&S professor. Son James is busy buying and selling companies at a private equity company. David adds, “We used to joke that James would come work for me when I set up my own company. It now seems considerably more likely that I will end up working for him.”

Stewart Levy sends greetings. He writes, “I am a partner in an NYC law firm, Eisenberg Tanchum & Levy, specializing in litigation and entertainment law. All three of my kids are in New York City: Son Greg works for an NYU library and daughter Elizabeth works for Carnegie Hall. At least three classmates have kids who have gravitated to some of the biggest names in the “dot-com” world. While Kevin Ward trails away in his fourth decade as a Merrill Lynch financial adviser in New Jersey, his son, Matt, is living the good life in the YouTube division of Google in Silicon Valley. (Notes Kevin, “My son is not being at the center of the earth!”) Matt’s brother, Mark, is a senior at Fordham, and sibling Jamie is a sophomore at Holy Cross and active on its varsity lacrosse team. Brian, Kevin’s youngest, is a junior at Bergen Catholic H.S.

Also out in Silicon Valley is Henry Knapp (29), son of Rob Knapp, who is an attorney at his Manhattan commercial litigation law firm Mulholland & Knapp. Henry is in Facebook’s mobile app group. Rob’s eldest daughter, Esther (32), is a doctor at Montefiore Medical Center in NYC in the (depressing but important) specialty of pediatric oncology. Aaron (28) studies graphic design at Parsons in NYC.

Rounding out the Internet trio is Scott Kunst’s son, Dave. Scott runs Old House Gardens (his heirloom bulb company) in Michigan. Dave seems to be a rising star at Groupon in Chicago. (I’ve lost track of what Scott’s other son, Scott Jr., is up to these days.)

Update: In a recent column I mentioned that Roger Kahn’s elder daughter, Amanda ’10, was “completing the post-bac, pre-med program at Columbia.” Roger emailed news that Amanda has been admitted to medical school.

The support for these Internet careers doesn’t only come from today’s youth. A recent news item said that 57 percent of Baby Boomers have used social media. As proof, I am introducing “Facebook Factoids” (short items pulled from my Facebook Wall — don’t worry, I have done my best to fact-check them). In future columns I hope to give more details about these classmates’ posts but until then, here they are:

- Ralph Coit: Announced he has moved his law offices from the Wall Street area to a posh East 61st Street location between Park and Lexington Avenues. He’s just a stone’s throw from Trump Tower! (“The Ralph” has a nice ring to it.)
- Dr. Reginald Manning ’78: Last we knew he was an assistant professor of clinical surgery at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at P&S. Now his “timeline” on Facebook has been updated to show him at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn. He also has offices on Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem.
- Raouf Abdullah: (while on campus you knew him as Ralph Williams): Had been an attorney at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., for many years. In December, he posted that he opened law offices in Lanham, Md.
- Les Bryan: Posted last February: “I just received my first Navy retirement check — 27 years of active and reserve service is going off. Full retirement looms closer.”

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Stewart Levy sends greetings. He writes, “I am a partner in an NYC law firm, Eisenberg Tanchum & Levy, specializing in litigation and entertainment law.
ing spiritual advice and celebrating the sacraments, CJ takes time to run and play squash — he placed second in a recent squash tournament. And today, when I submit these notes, Fidelma Papatyn, "we have a pope" — Pope Francis. CJ was far too busy to offer comments for CCT, but he has been much in the press. To read one of the interviews, go to hughhevitt.com/father-cj.mdclokey-reacts-to-pope-francis.

Randolph M. McLaughlin and his wife, Debra S. Cohen, are co-chairs of the Civil Rights Practice Group of Newman Ferrara, a New York City-based litigation firm. They handle cases involving employment discrimination, voting rights, police misconduct, fair housing and marriage equality. Randolph also is a tenured law professor at Pace Law; Debra is an adjunct professor at Pace.

In addition to the daily grind, Bob Schneider and his wife, Regi- nna Mulhaly ’75 Barnard, have been running the roads. Bob and Regina have been going back and forth to the Washington, D.C., area to visit son James and his fiancée, Claudia Patone (both Penn grads), and to Philadelphia, where daughter Meg is a senior at Penn and where James and Claudia’s wedding is being planned. Back to the grind — in January, American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell named Bob one of the 2013 Top Rated Lawyers in Health Care.

In January, Robert Sclafani participated in a memorial service at the University of Colorado School of Medicine for George Eisenbarth ’69. George was a pioneer in diabetes research and had been the director of the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, on the medical school campus, for many years. George passed away on November 13, 2012. As his colleague in Colorado, Robert spoke frequently with him about his time at Columbia and in New York. He was always warm and personable. He will be missed by all.

It’s always good to hear from classmates who read these notes! Jeffrey Shapiro read that the Columbia University Marching Band is looking for its former members. I’ll pass on Jeff’s note to the band. And next issue, expect to read more about what Jeff’s been up to for the last almost-40 years!

And now, what are classmates reading these days? A sample: The Dark Monk: A Hangman’s Daughter Tale (Olivier Pötzsch). Young Thurgood: The Making of a Supreme Court Justice (Larry S. Gibson) and The Book of Mychael: The Surprising Life and Heroic Death of Father Mychal Judge (Michael Daly). Lots of people are reading just about anything from one of our former professors, Elaine Pagels. Other biographies, including ones about Lincoln and Truman, also are on the list. Please share what you are reading; some of us might want to read it, too.

I began this column writing about what we can accomplish when we work together. If you’re reading this, please consider the following: First, it’s never too late to make a donation to the Columbia College Fund. You can give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline (up until midnight EST on Sunday, June 30) or by calling the Alumni Office at 212-851-7488, or by mailing a check, payable to Columbia College Fund, to Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4380, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025. Keep in mind that Columbia’s fiscal year ends on June 30. So if you are calling in your donation or mailing a check, please do it before that day.

Second, there is another advantage — date when the end of the tax year rolls around, at the end of December. (I schedule my annual donations around those two dates!) Third, our 40th reunion is approaching (Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015). Who will stand for class and vote? Reunion Committee member? Our work starts soon. Contact me! Finally, and this is the easiest, keep the cards and letters coming, so I can continue to love writing Class Notes! We can and do make a difference. Go Lions!

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Congratulations, Kevin and Stephen!

As news from the rest of you was sparse this time around, I’ll catch you up on what’s happening with me. After 11 years as an administrator at Delaware and Stanford, I moved back onto a tenure line at Boise State. It’s been a good move. I direct a writing center and teach writing and translation in the English department. I received tenure this spring, got a Faculty International Development Award to study in Spain this summer and will take next spring semester off on an Arts and Humanities Research Fellowship (from Boise State University’s Arts and Humanities Institute) to translate the poetry of contemporary Catalan writer Pan Pons.

My wife, Nancy Buffington, who has a Ph.D. in American literature and 20 years of experience in university teaching, has started a business in public speaking coaching. My son, Jesse, will graduate from high school this year and will enter Whitman College next year. We have seven more years before we cross that bridge with my younger boy, Gabriel.

Please send news to me using the email at the top of the column of CCT’s easy-to-use webform (college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note). Your classmates want to hear from you!

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Things seem to be running a bit behind here at the column. I failed to acknowledge friendly greetings I received from Jamie and Joseph Cornelius in 2012. About the same time, Sheldon Deluty wrote to say that his daughter, Danielle, will graduate from Barnard in 2014, and that his son, Jonathan, was accepted into the Class of 2017. (His graduation should coincide with our 40th reunion.)

It also was in 2012 that Andy Sama was appointed president of the American College of Emergency Physicians. Andy earned an M.D. from Cornell in 1981 and interned at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, where he is now head of emergency services as well as being s.v.p. of emergency services for the North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Nor is this all: Andy has held a number of academic positions and currently has an endowed professorship at the medical school of NYU.

I was on the Christmas card list of our ambassador to Belgium, Howard Gutman; the card included a picture of himself, wife Michelle, ’78 Barnard and son Collin with Hillary Clinton on her visit to Brussels, and another of son Chase. Howard quotes a column from a Belgian newspaper pointing out that, during his time as ambassador, the approval rating for the United States in Belgium has risen dramatically: from a low of 8 percent in 2007 (two years prior to his appointment) to 46 percent. It added that Howie has become “such a well-known personality in Belgium that there is no doubt that he would be elected if he were to run at an election.” For more information, see his Wikipedia page or — and this is truly awesome — his IMDb entry.

Please share your news; classmates want to hear from you! You can contact me at the addresses at the top of the column or send a note via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

Matthew Nemerson
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A record number of notes for his column and I have squeezed you all in, so sorry for lots of edits. A full reunion report will be in the next issue. If you attended, please share your thoughts and stories with me for this column. The photo, however, may be found on the CCT website (college.columbia.edu/ct) as part of this issue’s reunion follow-up article.

One person who couldn’t make it to our 35th was Dr. Steven Wexner, who was installed that weekend as an honorary professor of I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, only the third foreigner to be so honored.

John Crabtree always supports the class by hosting great events at his Chappaqua, N.Y., home. He writes, “Having owned and operated Crabtree’s Kittle House for 31 years, I am now opening a restaurant in Tarrytown on the Hudson River. Rivermarket Bar & Kitchen will feature fresh products from local farms, a greenmarket and a shop featuring the greatest organic, bio-dynamic wines and spirits under one roof. Opening was scheduled for late May.”

Marc Bogatin, an attorney in NYC, reports that son Jacob finished his sophomore year at Syracuse and son Joshua finished Stuyvesant H.S., with plans to head to Oberlin next year to study filmmaking, a passion his father shares. Their trip to the New York Film Festival is an annual tradition.

Victor Leong is an orthodontist in Palo Alto, Calif. He writes, “My oldest son is graduating from UC San Diego this summer. It’s hard to believe how time has gone by but I am enjoying life out on the coast.”

Larry Friedman is a lawyer at the St. Louis law firm Thompson Coburn: “I’ve been a partner since 1991. I’m also anempty-nester, with a daughter (elementary school teacher) in Austin and a son (musician) in Boston; I told them they had to live in cities that rhyme. I would be happy to see classmates who...”
find themselves in the Gateway City.

Don Guttenplan writes for The Nation and lives in London; he wrote, however, from Chicago, "the first stop on the college tour for my daughter, who will be applying in the fall. We're staying with Don Share, my Carman roommate (and best man at my wedding). Looking forward to seeing Morningides Heights [during reunion] and particularly pizza at V&L with Steve Achen '79, Sid Holt '79 and Jeff Klein. The whole campus visiting thing makes me realize yet again how lucky I was!"

Bruce Steinberg, also from London, gets the class legacy award: "It's a wonderful time for our family, as our son, Kyle, is entering Columbia this September. He is incredibly excited and we are very proud of him! He will be the fourth generation of our family to go to Columbia. In addition to myself, there is my grandfather, Max, enrolled at Columbia in 1909; my father, Herbert '52; and my brother, Neil '83. Kyle has lived his entire life in London, so it will be interesting to hear his thoughts on the American university experience."

Richard Schloss of East Northport, N.Y., writes, "I run a busy private practice in general psychiatry in Huntington, N.Y. My wife, Meredith Jaffe '82 Nursing, has a dental practice and is also at the Developmental Disabilities Institute in Smithtown, N.Y. My older son, Bradley, is attending Touro Law Center in Central Islip, N.Y., and my younger son, Jason, was to graduate from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in May."

My buddy Jerry Marshall, of Memphis, is a rare Columbia cotton king. "Elizabeth and I have been married since 1980 and we are still going strong; two kids are in high school: Ben, a senior, plays lacrosse and is a St. Louis Cardinals fan, and is a St. Louis Cardinals fan. My older son, Peter McAlevey, is attending Touro Law Center in Central Islip, N.Y., and my younger son, Jason, was to graduate from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in May."

"Things are working well in the world of self-employment. I started my own business in 2008 after spending 29 years with Cargill as a cotton trader. I manage several private trading accounts and consult." Jerry writes. "Talented kids, their age.

"It's a wonderful time for our family, as our son, Kyle, is entering Columbia this September. He is incredibly excited and we are very proud of him! He will be the fourth generation of our family to go to Columbia. In addition to myself, there is my grandfather, Max, enrolled at Columbia in 1909; my father, Herbert '52; and my brother, Neil '83. Kyle has lived his entire life in London, so it will be interesting to hear his thoughts on the American university experience."

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"Things are working well in the world of self-employment. I started my own business in 2008 after spending 29 years with Cargill as a cotton trader. I manage several private trading accounts and consult in commodities. I have a thriving commercial arbitration practice, a sorry symptom of the lack of legal discipline in the international cotton trade. Leaving Cargill was the best trade I ever made — at 36 I absolutely love being in control of my own life."

Laurence J. Quinn reports, "It's now 30 years that I have been teaching high school science and am finishing 10 years of civic duty, first as school board and then village board trustee. Son Tom will finish Cornell next year and son Brendan is starting engineering school in the fall. Looking forward to another great 35-plus years (lost my parents last year, both in their mid-90s). Paul Phillips writes, 'Just returned with the Brown University Orchestra from a successful tour of Ireland, with concerts in Dublin, Limerick and Wexford.'

Also in the music biz is Henry Aronson. "I'm director/keyboards at Ace of Spades, which is approaching its fourth anniversary on Broadway and is now among the 50 longest-running shows in Broadway history! My wife, Caitlin Heffernan, and I have our fingers crossed for a workshop of our musical, Loveless Texas, this summer (lovelesstexas.com). I'll be playing piano and keys with the Rockettop project, blending symphonic music with classic rock; we kicked off a tour in May."

Robert Murhead reports, "The big news from Manchester, Como, is the arrival of our first grandchild, Celeste, to our oldest daughter. My wife, Susan, and I are proud and happy!"

Nicholas J. Serwer writes, "For the last few years, I've been general counsel of Anxoria Capital Management, a fund management company. We manage a private equity fund that invests in Indonesia. I commute between Singapore and Jakarta. This year marks my 20th working in Asia."

Dr. Deepak Awasthi '82 accomplished his lifelong goal of traveling to all 24 time zones by visiting Samoa/American Samoa last July.

"Defence' and serving as the deputy commander of the U.S. Africa Command. Got here just after the Benghazi attack and it's been interesting. As someone said, the United States may have pivoted to Asia but the action has moved to Africa."

"I spent three years in Kosovo as ambassador. Challenging and fun, to say the least, keeping the Kosovars on track, the Euros in line and the Serbs at bay. Before that, two years in Kabul. Not recommended (even my wife doesn't like it, as she's there again, not happily). Not sure what's next, as I'm thinking about winding up this career, after 30-plus years, and trying something new. My daughter and stepson are both first-year undergrads in the United Kingdom (the advantage of being EU citizens)."

Maybe with adjoining offices to Chris in the Columbia ring of the Pentagon, we find Jeff Canfield, who is "returning from Afghanistan and retiring after 30 years of military service and about to commence service as a defense intelligence senior leader at the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Celebrating 36 years of marriage and the addition to our family of our first grandchild."

Bob Crochet's life sounds like a catalogue of the Bernard Berenson fellowship at the Villa I Tatti. It is a collaborative"..."
Marc Mazur '81 and his family spent the holidays with Clayton Jones '81 and his family in Jupiter, Fla. Left to right: William Mazur '12, Mazur, Jones, Madison Jones '17, Jamie Mazur '15 and Mazur's wife, Nora Mazur '81 Barnard.

a grant; however, this is the year of the sequester, and the NIH has not released any grants yet. My younger daughter is finishing a graduate program at Hunter to become a teacher; she will student teach this fall.

My report: Daughter Joy (19) is a freshman at Pace, where she finished a year as a national officer of NFTY, a Reform Jewish leadership group. Daughter Elana (23) graduated from Clark and plans to go to grad school in Boston. Wife Marian was named Female Litigator of the Year - Midwest by Benchmark Litigation, so I never even try to win arguments at home. I wish the best to all classmates, and good luck to the Lions."

Robert C. Klapper: "My thoughts for this column go to the part of my Columbia education that did not take place in the classroom (and I am not referring to the two years at Barnard). What I am referring to, rather, is the financial burden my education placed on me. My mother and father made it very clear that the American dream was there for me but I would have to figure out how to pay for it myself."

"This journey led to many hours working at hotels in the Catskill Mountains. Many of the guests and their insufferable demands would make you crazy, but there were a few who took me under their wings. One such individual taught me a life lesson more valuable than any I learned in the classroom. He said, 'Robert, whenever you’re in a room with a bunch of folks trying to make a deal, remember one thing: there is always a sucker — and, if you look around the room and you don’t see who the sucker is, it’s you!'"

"So remember, fellow Classmates, the Core Curriculum was our most valuable jewel from this great institution but the other lessons from that four-year period of time also helped shape who we are today — along with, of course, those late nights at Barnard. Roar, lion, roar!"

Please send news to me using the email at the top of the column or submit _class_notes_. Your classmates want to hear from you!

Michael C. Brown
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It was a pleasure watching our baseball team once again this season. Coach Brett Boretti had our squad playing against the best competition in the country and proved that we can hold our own. Their feats included a big win against Arizona, the defending NCAA champs, and an Ivy League championship sweep over Dartmouth. Eric Blattman and I visited with the team in Miami and watched two well-played games.

The football team had its annual golf outing and the Class of '80 was well represented. Our fivesome of Scott Stankiewicz, Eric Blattman, Joe Giulla, Shawn FitzGerald and myself carved our way around the course. Joe was especially prolific with his 3-wood and Scott sank some big putts. A.J. Sabatelli joined us for dinner, where we honored longtime football supporter Tom Nevitt '82.

Lanny A. Breuer has returned to the law firm of Covington & Burling as vice chair, working closely with senior leadership on the firm’s long-term strategy. He rejoins the firm after serving four years at the Justice Department. Haven, a job that I had a distinguished career in the legal profession.

Drop me a line at mbcu80@yahoo.com.

Kevin Fay
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Marc Mazur and Clayton Jones spent the winter holidays in Jupiter, Fla., with their families. Jupiter in December is a tremendous place to be.

John Luisi writes from Staten Island: "When the Spring CCT arrived, I wondered which classmate had won a Nobel Prize or become leader of a sovereign nation (or outer borough, at least). When I realized that a haiku would have amounted to a feature in our Class Notes, I felt compelled to write.

Anything. And since my excitement of late pale in comparison to my son’s, I figured I would share that the overachieving but well-grounded kid who shunned alma mater (for that place out west with an endowment that rivals the GDP of Austria) stayed in Palo Alto, Calif., after receiving a B.S. last year and will receive an M.S. in alternative energy policy and finance as we read this. If nobody else writes in this summer, I’ll tell you about my bicycle trips in the next edition."

As the correspondent for a class whose average age is well past 50, I’ve noticed the column is dominated by certain themes: professional accomplishments (we hope well deserved), transitions (early retirement, new spouse, etc.) and with increasing frequency, the death of one of our classmates. It is always difficult to report on the death of a classmate, but in this case, it is especially difficult in that it involves not the classmate but his daughter. Martha Ochoa of Kansas City, the daughter of George Ochoa, jumped to her death from the 14th floor of her dorm (John Jay) on the first day of orientation at Columbia last year, on August 27. She was 18 and a member of the Class of 2016. Her obituary was noted in the Winter 2012-13 issue of CCT, and she was unquestionably an incredibly bright, talented and motivated young woman. My heart goes out to George and his wife, Melinda Corey ’95 Arts, as I can only imagine the grief they must feel. George sat next to me in several Latin classes and was a brilliant student (summa cum laude), a quiet but friendly guy. Since hearing this, I have prayed for the Ochoas but also for all freshmen at Columbia, as the transition to college, especially a highly competitive college, is not easy.
American Samoa last July. He also is a member of the Travelers’ Century Club, having been to 125 countries. Deepak practices neurosurgery in the New Orleans area.

Deepak, don’t forget to make your 13-D filing, as you probably have more than a 5 percent stake in one or more airlines as a result of all your frequent flier miles.

The other exciting event this quarter, which I’m proud to announce, is that our highly accomplished colleague, Mike Schmid¬berger, was the recipient of Other Class of ’82 notables (Frank Lopez-Balboa, Tracy Maillait, Jamie Rubin, Charles Santoro and George Stephanopoulos) by being honored with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. The award was presented on March 6 at a black-tie dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street. A number of classmates attended, including Joe Cabren and Charles Santoro (each of whom was a dinner co-chair; Charles also delivered a wonderful, heartfelt speech). Also on hand were Dave Filosa, Frank Lopez-Balboa, Lloyd Green, Alex Moon and Tom Nevitt.

Mike, on behalf of all our classmates, I wish you a hearty congratulations! For those who were unable to attend, you can view the award ceremony here: youtube.com/watch?v=F257025iJmU.

Let’s keep those emails coming! You also can send news to me via CCT’s easy-to-use webform (college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_notes).

I thoroughly enjoyed class cor¬respondent Dennis Kleinberg ’84’s 50th birthday celebration at his home in Manhasset (Long Island), N.Y. Among the guests was attorney Michael Ackerman ’84, who lives in Los Angeles. As a former CU Marching Band member, he gave rave reviews of the Marching Band exhibit that was on display in the Columbia Alumni Center. Chronicling decades of perfor¬mances by the “Cleverest Band in the World,” Michael is in contact with fellow band members Harlan Simon ’81 and Jim Reinish ’82E.

Joe Halfo ’74, Dennis’ neighbor, also was in attendance. He is a family physician in Long Island. Joe spoke about the enor¬mous influence Professor Peter Pouncey ’69 CSAS had on his life. Professor Pouncey left Columbia to become president of Amherst College and now is back in NYC.

Joe KP ’62 has been a friend of Dennis’ father for decades, and we shared many Columbia stories. Stan’s son, Jonathan ’89, ’92L, also was at the event. Jonathan recently founded the law firm Rakower Lupkin in Manhattan.

Stan also was in attendance. He is a tireless Columbia sup¬porter and was a tremendous friend to the late Professor Karl-Ludwig Sellig. In fact, Dennis arranged Pro¬fessor Sellig’s last visit to Columbia. KLS met with Dean Michele Moody-Adams at Faculty House. I was delighted to be joined by my three children, and I have a memo¬rable videotape of the gathering.

My wife, Debbie, our children and I attended the Columbia/Yale basketball game March 1. After having dinner at V&I, we arrived late and, incredibly, had to settle for “standing room only” tickets. Moreover, dozens of Columbia students stood on their feet for the entire second half. Columbia won the game, and it was great to see the enthusiasm and energy of the Col¬umbia students. Debbie and her three children, and I have a memo¬rable videotape of the gathering.

I attended the John Jay Awards Dinner on March 6, where four class¬mates from the 1960s were honored. Kai-Fu Lee’s achieve¬ments were noted in the dinner brochure as he was unable to attend.

Kai-Fu founded Innovation Works, a company devoted to investing in and building Chinese businesses specializing in the Internet, mobile Internet and cloud computing. When he finished his time as president of Google Greater China in 2009, Google’s search and translate had all advanced to No. 1 in the market. An expert in his field, Kai-Fu not only cultivated innovation in the workplace but also inspired the next generation. He taught at Carnegie Mellon—from which he earned a Ph.D. with a groundbreaking thesis project: the world’s first speaker-independent continuous speech-recognition system, which Business Week named “Most Important Innovation of 1988” — and his lectures have been attended by half a million students in China. In addition, he has shared his knowledge in seven books, with two becoming best-sellers in China: Be Your Personal Best and Making a World of Difference: The Kai-Fu Lee Story.

Kai-Fu also is known in China as its most influential microblog¬ger on Sina weibo, China’s Twitter. His commitment to education was clear from his time at the College as a computer science major.

Kai-Fu is married to Sheng-Ling and father to Cynthia and Jennifer ’12.

Another John Jay Award recipient was Michael Schmid¬berger, ’82L, my friend for more than 30 years. Mike was a campus leader. He played JV basketball, co-founded the Columbia Guide to New York, of which he was editor-in-chief, and was a resident counselor. He was elected to the University Senate, casting his vote to admit women to the College.

Mike’s son, standing a few rows away from the recipients, is Michael Schmidtberger ’82, ’86L, my other son. Ross, is Mr. High School as a junior and continues to be as busy as can be.

Kai-Fu was on the planning committee for our 50th reunion and has consistently been one of the most active members of our class.

Kevin Chapman submits this report: “Ken heads the banking and finance practice at his firm, and continues to be ranked as a Super Lawyer and a Best Lawyer for bank financing in various published lists. I have been in contact with fencing information when it comes to fencing topics to groups at the New York City Bar, the American Bar Association and the Practising Law Institute. Ken also is chairman of the Board of Directors for the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center and is sitting on the school board members. His wife, Lisa, is senior counsel at Empire State Development, New York State’s primary economic development agency. His son, Nicholas, is a freshman at the University of Michigan in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. His other son, Austin, is a sophomore at Legacy H.S. They were looking forward to seeing everyone at reunion.”

Teddy Weinberger writes, “Through the years I’ve brought a lot about the Columbia Wind Ensemble and our conduc¬tor, Bob Freeberg ’78. The truth is that, in terms of actually learning something at Columbia that has been helpful in my life, I would have to rate my years with the ensemble at the top. Unlike most of the other people in the ensemble, I did not come from a high school marching band. My Jewish high school (Yeshiva of Flatbush) had an orchestra but somehow I managed not to learn how to sit in a band until I got to Columbia. My technical skills were good but it was tough hanging in there freshman year while I struggled with matching my reading of the music to Bob’s waving of the baton. I loved being with the band, and I am proud of the fact that, thanks to Bob and the wind ensemble, I became an accomplished band player, going on to play in bands in Atlanta, Miami and Jerusalem.”

Jonathan Adams writes with
Michael Caruso '83 Shoots Down Bogeys at Smithsonian Magazine

By Jamie Katz '72, '80 Business

A s an editorial sappling 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 wallop 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 W.S.J. 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, ’67, 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.

“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 course load — possibly, he thinks, a record (33 credits in his peak semester) — and graduated summa cum laude. His favorite professors were Joseph Baude ’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 antithesis of Giant, played by James Dean).

Caruso is only the fourth editor-in-chief of Smithsonion’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 Bulletin is a former senior editor of People magazine and deputy editor of Vibe who has frequently contributed to Smithsonian.

class photo in the online version of that article at college.columbia.edu/ctt.

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014**

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84...85

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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 Seelig (Spring 2013). Yossi and his wife, Kochava — aka, the couple with nine children — welcomed their second grandson, Yossy 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, Kossinov Real Estate.

Congratulations to Fred Fisher! He writes, “Our daughter, Talia ‘13, graduated with a degree in psychology. As Talia prepares to enter the real world, our younger daughter, Rebecca ‘15, 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 is practicing dental 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.

**85...86**

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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 Palestrina, a piece for solo piano. It’s a completely monophonic work containing only seven pitches that remain registral, 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 1864 while Frank was at the College.

Frank also wanted to write at the time was diatrically 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, Staci, 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 the Stellas 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 am healing and living longer. Bring it on! Best regards to all my classmates!”

Mark Rothman helped Democratic mayoral candidate Eric Garcetti win the 2013 L.A. mayoral election, reach out to the Los Angeles Jewish community during his campaign. Eric had won the most votes in the field of eight candidates
Gary Klein reports that after decades of living on the Upper West Side, minutes away from campus, his family (wife, Courtney, and children, Madelyn and Owen) are moving to Montclair, N.J.

Christopher Mount wrote from Los Angeles: “I will curate an exhibition devoted to the prolific and often radical architecture designed in Southern California during the last 25 years. The exhibition, ‘A New Sculpturalism: Contemporary Architecture from Southern California’, has been in the works for more than a year and is part of the Getty Foundation’s 2013 initiative focusing on architecture in Los Angeles. To take place in the main space of The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, the exhibition will focus on the most inventive and experimental architecture built by architects and firms such as Frank Gehry, Hodgetts & Fung, Franklin D. Israel ’71 Arch., Thom Mayne, Michael Rotondi, Eric Owen Moss, Coy Howard & Company, Daly Genik Architects, fence cites, Robert Adler, Patrick Tighe, LOHA, Michele Saee, Greg Lynn, Ball-Nogues, Neil Denari, Hagi Belzberg and Michael Maltzan among others.

“The exhibition commences with work built in the mid-’80s as postmodernism was waning and examines the reasons that Los Angeles became the birthplace of a new way of practicing and thinking about building, ultimately, a more formalist and less unifyingly coherent form of architecture than elsewhere. The exhibition follows this trajectory until the present, when the city has arguably become the creative heart of American architecture. This exhibition will discuss the geographic, political and socio-economic conditions for this development as well as highlight how the early work of Gehry, Israel, Mayne, and Rotondi allowed for an ‘expanding of possibilities’ for form. First acknowledged by Charles Jencks as the ‘LA School’ in the early ’90s, this ‘movement’ has transformed into a larger ‘galaxy’ encouraged by the many theoretical and practical aspects of the Los Angeles environment. These include an inherent willingness to explore and to manufacture by hand; an affordability that supports the use of inexpensive building techniques and materials; the impermanent nature of the city as a whole; its variety of industries and clients; the benign weather; and the confluence of premier academic institutions in one place. This liberalized vision toward ideas includes the profession’s and academia’s early embrace of digital technologies and current exploration by many of the newer firms. In the construction of five to six full-scale pavilions, we hope to highlight the near future of architecture as well as look at innovative formal solutions in addition to exploring new building techniques. The exhibition runs from early June to early September.”

We extend our condolences to the family of Nicola Tanelli, an attorney from North Caldwell, N.J., who passed away on January 4, 2013. A quick note: Please make sure to update your email addresses with the College (college.columbia.edu/ctt/update_contact_info) and with me. As I send email reminders prior to my submission, my lack of your current email address will preclude your receiving a request to submit your information. Too many emails bounce routinely, so thanks for keeping your information current.

We have no news to report this issue. Please send your updates on your family, work and personal lives to me at the email address above or via CFT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ctt/submit_class_note. You know that you always check this column, so please help me make it more interesting — we all want to hear about our classmates’ doings. Don’t be shy! And in the meantime, have a great summer!

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It’s hard to believe that a year has passed since we gathered for our 25th reunion. It does really seem like yesterday, except for the fact that our classmates have all been quite busy!

Esther K. Chung, a professor of pediatrics at Jefferson Medical College at TJU in Philadelphia, is beginning work on the third edition of Visual Diagnosis and Treatment in Pediatrics, for which she is editor-in-chief. If you have photos of pediatric conditions that you’d like to contribute to the book she asks that you please contact her at ekc16@columbia.edu.

Irene Tucker, my former Spec colleague who is a professor in the English department at UC Irvine, has published a new book, The Moment of Racial Sight: A History. Irene says the book brings together race studies, philosophy, history of medicine and literary criticism, and engages work ranging from the thought of Immanuel Kant, Wilkie Collins, John Stuart Mill and Charles Darwin to the HBO television series The Wire. It seeks to locate the most familiar critical understanding of race — the idea that it is “socially constructed” — within a longer historical trajectory. "What might we learn about the social, political and epistemological functions of race, the book asks, by noticing that it is only at the end of the 18th century that skin in particular came to be privileged as the primary designation of race? Our classmates are not just producing books, however. Sandy Asirvatham has been working on a project, MOBTOWNNmoon.com, which has been described as “The Dark Side of the Moon like you’ve never seen it before.” More than 40 musicians, all from Baltimore. Classic Pink Floyd, thoroughly reimagined.

Sandy says, “It’s a dream come true for me. I’m very excited and proud.”

Thomas Duval reports on a career change. “After producing Westminster, Mass., singer-songwriter LuAnne Crosby’s new CD, Ceremonies and Celebrations; Songs for the Rituals of Life, I left my day job with Nuance Communications in March 2009 and accepted an invitation to join the U.S. Foreign Service. I completed my training with the State Department and have been at my first assignment for the past year as a vice consul in Vancouver, B.C. I was fortunate enough to work there during the 2010 Winter Olympics (which were rather good) and (unfortunately) not enough to be present during the 2011 Stanley Cup final riots.“

“Now, following a year of language training in Washington, D.C., I took up my current assignment in Tokyo, where we’ll be until 2014. My wife, Carole, and daughter, Kate (9), are enjoying the adventure so far.

“I’m still working in dubs and drabs on music, mostly producing and playing on recordings for friends using the Internet to transfer things back and forth. I’m also digitally recovering things from tapes I have, including the song I did with Todd Sheaffer ‘86 for the Blockade (‘You Can’t Hide Me’), and the first gig of our band, The Dogs (which later became Sheaffer’s band From Good Homes), at First Avenue in Minneapolis in 1987.

And with Tom creating the unlikely link between the worlds of music and government, we can easily transition to great news from Sharon Block: She was renominated by President Barack Obama ‘03 to serve as a member of the National Labor Relations Board. Sharon had been serving a recess appointment to the NLRB since January 2012. This nomination is for a full term.

And last, but certainly not least, a hearty congratulations to Jim McKnight, who along with his wife, Betsy, welcomed their second child, Thomas James, on Thanksgiving Day. Little Thomas joins his sister, Katherine (2). Jim says that both kids are “keeping us very busy (and happy).”

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It would be hard to find a more professionally diverse cross-section of Columbia alumni than the classmate who wrote this month. The Class of 1988 includes a rocket scientist, an independent producer and head writer. We are in our fifth season. If you’re not familiar, the show follows the exploits of the ruggedly handsome mystery writer Richard Castle as he consults on New York’s strangest homicides.

“As a fun addition to the TV series, our fictional writer Castle has released four very real mystery novels through Hyperion Books, each of which has become a New York Times bestseller, with the third in the series, Naked Heat, debuting at #1.

Closer to Morningside Heights, Steve Cohen and his wife have established themselves in the New York legal community. He writes, “I am married and the very proud father of two beautiful children, Nina (5) and Leo (3). We live on the Upper West Side, not far from Columbia, and have watched the changes in the neighborhood with interest and joy. It is a whole new world up here. I am a partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, doing mergers and acquisitions; I love it and work hard. My lovely wife is English and a lawyer; she does cross-border M&A. I am pleased to report that our kids are not old enough to know what corporate lawyers do.”

Another Manhattan attorney, David Stoll, also weighed in: “I live in the Carnegie Hill section of Manhattan and am a trusts and estates partner at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. This past semester I
taught a course on estate planning at Yale Law. It was my first time back in an academic setting since graduating from law school in 1991, and it was a real pleasure. Blake Allen wrote, “This Ivy League-educated molecular biologist is still working in real estate. I am sole proprietor of Allen Realty and somehow I have survived the economic crisis, at least so far! I got my license in the summer between freshman and sophomore year at Columbia and I still use it every day. My primary focus is on exchanging (essentially trading) any real property anywhere for other real property. I live and work in Colorado Springs but do some business in Denver as well. I do just about every kind of real estate, from houses to commercial property to property of their dreams.”

Blake represented Columbia in the fall at “the inauguration of the president’s program” and in the Springs. Those who know me well, including how I took a nap rather than walk at graduation, will be happy to know that I finally donned the Columbia blue for this event. It was a pleasure and I encourage you to represent Columbia whenever possible. No tradition is stronger than ours! Of course I may be biased. My pride in the University seems to grow year after year.”

The Fall column will have a full report on Alumni Reunion Weekend. In the meantime, this issue has a follow-up feature with photos, plus you can see our class photo in the online edition at college.columbia.edu.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to your emails. I also encourage everyone to join the Columbia College Class of 1988 Facebook page; it’s a convenient way to stay in touch with classmates (facebook.com/88/groups/415004051893008/?fref=ts).

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014
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I ran into Bill Walsh and his brother, Larry Walsh ‘86, at the Columbia/Harvard men’s basketball pre-game reception last winter. We commiserated about how none of my children, nor theirs, have witnessed a Columbia sports “win” in their lifetime and are beginning to lose hope. We were as optimistic that night as Lions fans can be but, alas, the long-awaited victory proved elusive yet again. Still, we cheered for the Lions, who really did look like the better basketball team.

A few weeks after the game, Bill wrote with this update: “It’s hard to believe, but it’s already been 15 years since I left Lehman Brothers and New York to come up to Boston to work at State Street. Although it’s a painful reality that my children, Pete (14) and Matt (12), are tried-and-true Boston sports fans, I have managed to get them to occasionally root for Columbia teams. Even though we lost that basketball game, it was one of the best teams I have seen since the Matt Shannan and John Dwyer ’86 era. My brother, Larry ‘86, and his son, Patrick (12), also were at the game. Larry has two other boys as well, Joe (10) and Stephen (8), and his team were appreciative of our support; we saw some excellent matches, especially the rematch of last year’s individual championship-match between Ramil Tandon ‘15 and the Harvard No. 1. “As three of my siblings also went to Columbia (Larry along with Jon ‘93 and Fiona ‘00), I get a lot of alumni updates from them. My black sheep brother, Eamon, played football at Cornell. I keep in touch with Paul Childers and get my West Coast updates occasionally from Matt Sodl ‘88. Larry and I hoped to return to the victory podium at the Columbia football golf outing this spring, assuming Chris Deia Pieta and John Alex don’t sandbag their scores too much.”

If you have had the good fortune to dine at Taste at the Palisades in Southern California, you’ve seen the interior design of Kirk Pereira ‘90, who started with our class. Kirk’s company, Kirk Pereira Design, does commercial, residential, and even set design. Perhaps there is an aesthetic gene for fine design, as Kirk’s grandfather is the famous architect William Pereira, whose firm, William L. Pereira and Associates, designed San Francisco’s Transamerica Pyramid building as well as the master plan for the city where I grew up, Irvine, Calif. Of his work Kirk says, “My most recent restaurant design project, of which I am also one of the owners, is Tortilla Republic, a modern Mexican grill and tequila bar on Robertson Boulevard in West Hollywood (tortillarepublic.com). We have been open a little more than a year and have become a favorite for celebrities. It is a modern take on Mexican cuisine and this is our second location. The first opened two years ago in Piru, Kauai (Hawaii). We are in the planning stages of taking the concept international, with the first to be in London. I wish I had this when we were all students in NYC. Back then all we had was Lucy’s.”

Personally, Kirk also has a lot to celebrate. He writes, “Ray Munoz and I will soon celebrate our 10-year anniversary. We are one of the 1,800 same-sex couples who were legally married in California before the decision got reversed with Prop 8. We are grandfather!”

You can find Kirk on Facebook or, for more information, go to kirkpereredesign.com.

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Hold onto your hats and have a seat — this column is long! In December, Dave Hunt proudly informed me that his son, Andy, was admitted early decision to … Princeton. Folks, this is no easy feat, so even though it’s not Columbia, I’m sure you all join me in congratulating Andy (and his parents).

According to Michael Kinstlick’s tally, he is in good CC ‘90 company in the Bay Area, where he frequently sees fellow transplants Luis Andrade; Theo Hartman ‘92 and his wife, Anne Hayes Hartman; Ethan Rafferty ‘92; and Gabe Kra. Michael reports: “After working mostly in insurance and finance, I took the entrepreneurial plunge in 2011 and started Coppersea Distillery, a craft distillery based near New Paltz in the Hudson Valley. It has been a challenging project but well worth the effort. We’re distilling spirits, focusing on whiskies and eau de vie (or eaux de vie for the Francophiles out there). We’d love to see folks for a visit.”

Wayne Stollenburg has an update, too. “After a 15-year career in investment banking with Credit Suisse and Bear Stearns, focused on the domestic energy sector, I became the s.v.p. and CFO of Cinco Resources, a private, U.S.-focused independent exploration and production company. Cinco’s financial backers include Yorktown Partners and affiliates of KKR. Cinco engages in hydraulic fracture stimulation of its wells, a process highlighted and horribly misrepresented by the film Gasland. I am happy to report that Cinco has safely fracture-stimulated dozens of wells, adding to the industry’s total of more than one million wells completed this way without incident.”

“I am active with the Columbia golf program’s alumni committee and [at this writing was to] help host the men’s team on its spring trip to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. I am married with two children, Cassie (12) and Blake (10), and reside in Westlake, Texas, which is in the DFW area and in close proximity to active gas well development.”

Sara Wasserman and her husband, Eric Fuller, also have two children (9 and 11), boys they adopted in 2006 after becoming their foster parents in 2003. The family has lived in Eugene, Ore., since 1999. Sara works part-time as a database specialist for Lane Council of Governments, and Eric works for the University of Oregon.

In January, Sam Bloom ’88 (right) traveled to China to visit Michael Langer ’88, then based in Beijing for his work with Cross-Border Communications. Bloom teaches at Barnard and FIT. The two are seen here on a side trip to the Forbidden City.
Karin Small Wurapa has been whisked away to the scenic byways of Columbus, Ohio, since finishing her medical training in New York. She is a mother of three munchkins (daughters Sydney and Jordan, and son Christian) and married to Ray, an orthopedic surgeon. Karin has taken a hiatus from clinical medicine and has been focusing her attention on family, public health initiatives and the publication of her daughters’ book, Mini the Mermaid and The Pearl Necklace. As a board member of the United Way of Central Ohio, Karin also works to promote wellness and good nutrition.

Heading east, Greg Palega dropped a line from North Carolina, where he recently was named medical director of regulatory affairs at HIMM. He’s able to combine his medical and law degrees daily to help clients respond to Medicare fraud investigations and other Medicare audits. Greg says work is busy, challenging and always enjoyable but not so busy that he doesn’t also spend time with his three daughters. Centrally located in the D.C. metro area, Melissa Steiman and Liz Poston often play host for Columbia-on-the-Fotonac reunions, when friends such as Claudine Wolas Shiva, Chris Alexander and/or Laura Schiele Robinson roll into town. Visitors, please call if you’re in the area and thirsty.

Melissa notes, “I’ve been busy in both my personal and professional life. My boys, Charlie (14) and Jamie (11), are growing by leaps and bounds (as in, literally … Charlie just hit 6 ft.). Charlie is a high school freshman and a champion debater who also plays banjo and sings lead in his band. Jamie recently got his bar mitzvah date, so we are looking forward to that with both joy and apprehension as we start the process again. I run my busy advertising and marketing law practice as a partner at Venable, and I recently was elected to a second term on the board at the Promoting Marketing Association, now the Brand Activation Association, having recently co-chaired it 34th Annual PMA Law Conference in Chicago. I’m hoping to stop to draw breath soon, but for now I’m just holding on to all the sights and enjoying the ride.”

Lori and Peter Spelt relocated in 2010 from Manhattan to Boca Raton, Fla., where Pete has a solo law practice representing victims of financial adviser misconduct and other clients involved in general business disputes. Their children, Benjamin (3) and Julia (1), enjoy the local pursuits of sandcastle building and strawberry picking. Sounds like quite the life! Checking in from Harrison, N.Y., is Mary D. Zinman. “In my high-end residential counseling practice, I’ve been busy,” wrote Mary. “I closed a three-year, $10 million condo purchase in the city and closed on a farm community in Putnam County, N.Y.”

Rick St. Hilaire is celebrating his 20th anniversary as an attorney. He is in private practice after having served for 15 years as a prosecutor, with seven of those years as an elected chief prosecutor. He writes that the group blogging at: “Legal Heritage Lawyer Rick St. Hilaire (culturalheritagelawyerblogspot.com) and focuses his legal practice on cultural property and museum law, government relations, criminal justice and nonprofit counsel. Rick recently was named affiliate associate professor at Plymouth State University, where he has been teaching cultural property law since 2007. He presented a panel in October 2012 at the International Association of Prosecutors meeting in Bangkok on global antiquities trafficking and serves on the Archaeological Institute of America’s Cultural Heritage Policy Committee.”

George was Linden’s best man a few months later.

Noreen Whyse was a vacation to Ireland planned shortly after she sent me this news, and I’d say she deserved it! “On February 9, I planned, co-produced and MC’d the second annual Information Architecture Institute’s World IA Day (worldiday.org) at Bloomberg in NYC, part of a single-day, 21-city festival of the Information Architecture Institute (iaiinstitute.org), a professional association for which I have been consulting for almost 10 years. My sophomore World IA Day (10th grade) and Hunter College H.S. (7th grade), I went back for a master’s at the Pratt School of Information and Library Science, where I study digital humanities and cultural informatics. My poster presentation on ‘Folksonomies in Museums’ was accepted at the IA Summit in Baltimore in April.”

Nicholas Stern lives in Greenwich Village with his wife, Courtney, an interior designer, and their three children. He runs his own Stern Construction, which specializes in the renovation and construction of both tall and high-end restaurants and apartments. Outstanding news! 

We can also find Gregory Torbenson in New York, where he is a sports and corporate lawyer. After working with several NYC law firms, he founded a law firm and a sports consulting firm. It represents a number of MLB clubs in a variety of areas, including salary arbitration, and represents individuals and ownership groups in the acquisition, sale and day-to-day operations of professional sports franchises. He and his wife, Karen, have a son and daughter, Jeff (12) and Kelly (9), and they live in Manhasset, N.Y. My birthday twin John Vincenti (of Six Mills fame) and his wife, Robyn, can be found in Glen Rock, N.J., along with their sons, who finished third and first grades. I could hear a chuckle in his email when he wrote, “Both of our sons are doing well and making their parents proud, although my younger one, clearly to punish his father for some unknown transgression, has become a Philadelphia Phillies fan. Still, we must love our children, no matter what their faults.”

“I practice law, partnered with my brother and father, in lower Manhattan. I’ve been working a lot with Italian clients through the years, which helps me practice what little language skills I have. Our offices were closed for two months after Hurricane Sandy but we are re-opened and getting back to normal, and planning to relocate—still downtown, but uphill. We are planning to visit Italy this summer.

Margie Kim 1923 White Oak Clearing Southlake, TX 76092 margiekimkim@hotmail.com

Greetings, all.

Nahel Elkin has big news: “My first book, Mobile Marketing: An Hour a Day, was published in December. Co-authored with Rachel Pasqua, it’s packed with proven techniques and strategies that teach how to successfully build your business and brand with...”
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Hello again! I asked for more news, and you were kind enough to oblige. Let’s get right to it.

Our own Eric Garcetti has been elected mayor of Los Angeles! Following a protracted campaign, he defeated city controller Wendy Greuel in a run-off election held on May 21.

Eric held a campaign event in New York City on March 22, hosted by Peter Hatch and his wife, Hilary Hatch, at their apartment. Several of our classmates were in attendance, including Jean-Luc Neptune and Dana Holmes. Although we have a class with diverse political leanings, there is nonetheless something tremendously uplifting about being able to say we knew the mayor of a major metropolis back when he took it.

Congratulations, Eric!

Ken Hayes recently became a published author under the nom de plume K. Scott. Listed as a self-help text, Amazon describes Ken’s book, Drive Me To Think, as a good read for anyone “who isn’t using their drive time to make their lives flourish.”

Congratulations on publication, Ken!

Rebecca Johnson ’06 GSAS wrote in via CCT's online note submission form: “Cooking, among other things and my extensive knowledge of entertainment industry issues from my years of production work. Would love to connect with any Columbia lawyers in SoCal for networking.”

Elizabeth Wollman was awarded tenure at Baruch this past year as well as a promotion to associate professor of music. Her second book, Hard Times: The Adult Musical in 1970s New York City, was released in October.

Finally, Melanie Jacobs writes, “I wanted to share that as of July 1, 2013, in addition to my regular professorial duties, I also will be associate dean of graduate and international programs at Michigan State University College of Law. This is a relatively new position and I am excited to interact with LL.M. and J.S.D. students from around the globe through my travels, teaching and recruitment as well as by working extensively with our foreign students on campus in East Lansing. In other news, my son is 2 and I enjoy motherhood more than I could ever have anticipated!”

I hope you have a fun and happy summer. Until next time... cheers!

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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 Grade, 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 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, that’s something I could do.’” A member of the John W. Kluge 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 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 Presbyterian/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 Gutmann 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!”

Elena Hecht ’09 Barnard, editorial assistant at CCT, is a writer and a dancer based in New York.

Fletcher wrote that Allyson Baker, a friend since College orientation, signed the petition. Jessica is a rabbi who works for Next Door, 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 (nee Ross) 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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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 Hisch and Michael Bell as well as Joseph Hvalley ’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 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 Berkholz) lives in Tiburon, Calif., outside of San Francisco, with her husband, Greg Chiate, and their children, son Max (5) and daughter Benton (2). For Christmas, 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 Nicholas (15). 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 Tesla 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 outsourcing and optical character recognition).
Her son, Fitzgerald Arthur Lewis-

Anonymous (7) and Jack (3) have been in Lon-
don for more than 11 years. They miss parts of life in New York and go back frequently to visit fam-
ily and friends (including Mark Levine, Alexandre’s godfather). Sam Shanks works at Briar Cliff
University in Sioux City, Iowa. He recently was granted tenure, promoted to the rank of associate
professor of theatre and appointed as the division chair of General Education and Honors.

Taariq Lewis lives in San Fran-
cisco and writes that he avoids Bry-
and Jenkins as much as possible.
Taariq recently founded a software startup, Orb, which is working hard to replace group email software for university alumni. Taariq writes that he misses New York City very much and hopes to come back soon — go back to snow and the bare streets out to all the CC ’96 folks with new babies whom he sees on Facebook.

Kay Park had her second baby (a girl, Phoebe Kaplan) last No-
ember. Son Sydney is 3.

Jonathan Meyers got married in
Savannah, which is what she did in March. Sister Kiera is apparently
reconciled to her married state.

Tina Fey was nominated in 2008 for a Primetime
Emmy for Outstanding Special
Story in Costa Mesa, Calif. Beau
and his wife, Pauline, and sons Alexandre
and Elana (4) have been in Lon-
don for more than 11 years. They
still married for the last 11 years.

Dennis says, “I think she’s too
modest to ever raise the subject
of such nominations but I think
having someone nominated for an
Emmy deserves some attention!”

According to IMDb, Melinka has been a visual effects producer on 17 film and television projects,
including Skyfall, Captain America:
The First Avenger and Black Swan.

Congratulations, Melinka!

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CC ’97 Where is the love? I find
it very hard to believe that none of
you have started new families. Some
babies, gotten hitched or otherwise ac-
ccomplished great things during the
last several months. You just don’t
seem to want to share the news
with the rest of us. Please send in
your news for the next edition of
CCT. Send me an email or use
CCT’s webinar: college.colum-
bia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

I do have one piece of happy
news to share: Cindy Warner gave
birth to a son, Eli, on November 11,
and he is adorable and loved by all.
Cindy is a food lawyer at PepsiCo.

Look forward to hearing from all
of you soon.

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Happy summer, Class of ’98. You
are reading this after our 15th
Alumni Reunion Weekend but
CCT went to print right after the
reunion. I couldn’t include a report
in this issue. The full report will be in the Fall issue but the
class photo may be found on the
CCT website (college.columbia.
.edu/cct) as part of this issue’s
reunion follow-up article. Also,
whether or not you attended the
reunion, please send me an email
to update us on what you’re up to
all these years post-graduation.

Chas Sisk was proud to an-
nounce wonderful news about his
wife: The Rev. Cathy Chang was
ordained as a Unitarian Universal-
alist minister in a ceremony on
February 24 at their church, First
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Nashville. Congratulations to
Reverend Cathy on, as Chas put it,
“reaching her goal after 11 years of
hard work.” What wonderful news,
and perhaps Cathy will one
day have the opportunity to give
the invocation or benediction at a
Columbia event!

Dennis Machado had nothing
new to add about his life (he
lived “Working at TIAA-CREF
the last six years. Still have
close friends for the last four years.
Still married for the last 11 years.
I’ve had a nice streak of con-
sistency!”). But he did have an
update about a friend, Melinka
Thompson-Godoy, whom he
met up with during her recent
visit to NYC. She does visual ef-
facts for movies and TV and was
nominated in 2008 for a Primetime
Emmy for Outstanding Special
Visual Effects For A Miniseries, Movie Or A Special for her work on the History Channel film Life
After People, and again in 2011 for a Visual Effects Society Award for Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Broadcast Program for her work on the TV show Lost.

Beau Willimon ’03 Arts is in
rehearsals for his play The Parisan
Woman at South Coast Reper-
tory in Costa Mesa, Calif. Beau
also is the creator, producer and
show runner of House of Cards, a
Netflix original series starring
Kevin Spacey and Robin
Wright. As producer, Beau also is
working on two documentaries:
Odyssey, Takes Talor and Karl Bushby’s quest to circum-
navigate the world on foot, and
Westerly, about surfing legend
Peter Drouyn’s mid-life choice to
become a woman.
The Alumni Office reports that our class raised $68,497 from 131 donors as of the beginning of June. Congrats to our class for its continued support of the College.

Gideon Yago was profiled in April in New York magazine for his new project; the article noted, “Former The Newsroom writer and MTV News correspondent Gideon Yago will write a drama for Starz. ... Airborne is about the early days of the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of the young men in a helicopter unit, and according to Starz’s statement, the show will be ‘both surreal and stylized.’ Spartacus: War of the Damned’s Rob Tapert will executive-produce. ...”

In August, Eric Yellin and his wife welcomed daughter Helena Sarah (they call her Lena). Eric writes, “She is beautiful and already madly in love with her older brother, Nathan.” Eric was promoted to associate professor of history (with tenure) at the University of Richmond in February and, in April, his book, Racism in the Nation’s Service: Government Workers and the Color Line in Woodrow Wilson’s America, was published.

Sarika Doshi launched Rank & Style (rankandstyle.com), a new fashion/tech website, in March to “revolutionize the shopping experience for consumers of fashion and beauty products. Rank & Style is the first web and mobile platform to use science and technology to simplify how women shop via ‘top 10s,’ which are created utilizing an algorithm that methodically researches and aggregates relevant data from the most popular department stores, boutiques, fashion blogs and style magazines. Relying on this data, each list captures the 10 best items within a fashion or beauty product category based on their popularity, quality, value and stylishness.”

“Situated at the intersection of fashion and technology, Rank & Style fills a void in a growing market and is focused on mimicking the best of research brands such as Yelp, CNET, Consumer Reports and Zagat and applying it to the fashion and beauty space to empower and inform consumers.”

Sarika is the CEO and co-founder. Congratulations to Lauren Sobel for making partner at Shutts & Bowen in Miami.

Jonathan Gordin
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I hope everyone is enjoying the summer! My Facebook feed has been humming with lots of baby news. Keep all the good news coming.

Vanessa Hutchinson-Szekely and her husband, Jack Doyle, are proud parents of Marcelle Jean H5-Doyle. Marcelle was born on January 7 in San Francisco.

Jorge Herrera and his wife, Victoria Moreno-Herrera, welcomed their third child (wow!), a daughter, Carolina, on January 20, one day after Jorge’s birthday.

Ronen Landa and his wife, Yael Levi Landa, welcomed their daughter, Adi Zohar Landa, on February 13 in Los Angeles. Adi weighed 6 lbs., 5 oz.

My year started off with some big events for my next one to soniah57@gmail.com. Thanks!

Agnia Grigas’ (née Baranauskaitė) book, The Politics of Energy and Memory Between the Baltic States and Russia, was released in January. It has received excellent reviews from a number of Columbia faculty members.

Charlie Katz-Leavy and Michelle Leavy (née Bertagna) welcomed Emily Rose to the world on December 30. As the daughter of two Lions, she is already preparing for CC Class of 2033!

Rajan Bahl, a child and psychiatry fellow at UCSF who will graduate in June, has opened a private practice at 2477 Washington St. in San Francisco.

Michael Novielli
World City Apartments
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Thank you to all who attended our big 10-year reunion. Stay tuned for the next issue of CCT for a full recap. If you attended, please share your thoughts and stories with me. The class photo, however, may be found on the CCT website (college.columbia.edu) as part of this issue’s reunion follow-up article.

For now, let’s get right to the updates.

Edmund Wagoner writes, “As it has been a decade, I figure I ought to check in. I completed law school at Ohio State and worked for 3½ years in litigation at Steptoe & Johnson. I left the law firm world in time to ride the early wave of the shale gas boom and performed oil and gas work throughout Appalachia. In 2012, I partnered with a mentor from Steptoe to form our own firm, Goddard & Wagoner. We have a fairly diverse litigation practice based in Clarksburg and Grafton, ...
through her blog, valedictoriansguide.com, or follow her on Twitter @StefanieWeisman.

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**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014**

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I hope that you are all doing well and enjoying the warmer weather, which here in New York took longer than usual to grace us with its presence. As always, here’s a friendly reminder to send in your news and updates — don’t be shy! Feel free to email me at aog90@columbia.edu or via CFT’s webform: www.columbia.edu/cft/submit_class_note.

Eric A. Smith has been named COO at Crowdnetic, a provider of transparency-enabling technologies and data to the private investment and crowd-funded securities industry. Previously, he was employed at Union Bancaire Privée, a Swiss private bank.

Congratulations also go out to Roy Altman, who was recently awarded the Federal Prosecutor of the Year Award in the Southern District of Florida.

We have a slew of job news.

Anjlee Khurana practices entertainment law in Nashville. She writes that the local music scene is second to none.

Jon Schlitt was married in November 2012 and is an associate corporate attorney at Blank Rome in Los Angeles.

Jax Russo is senior counsel, director for Heinkeen USA, and Matthew Abrams recently was promoted to partner at the law firm of Russo & Burke.

Crystal Proenza moved to Miami in 2008 and recently was promoted to v.p. of marketing for Colliers International South Florida Commercial Real Estate Services. In March, Oleg Ilitchev accepted a role as s.v.p. and CFO of U.S. operations of Argo Group, a global property and casualty insurance and reinsurance business.

Jenn Martinez recently joined Converse (a Rockford, Ill.-based company) as sales director for retail, CPG and technology. She looks forward to providing customers with digital behavioral insights and media measurement solutions and welcomes inquiries or emails from classmates who want to catch up.

Jenn planned to complete her first half-marathon in April in Washington, D.C. — the Nike Women’s Half Marathon — with friends and family, including Diana Tyson McCallum, cheering her on!

Eric Cho graduated from St. George’s University’s School of Medicine in April and will spend the next three years completing an emergency medicine residency at the University of Connecticut.

C. Colin Brinkman wrote, “I married Juliana von Zumbusch in 2009. I received a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from the University of Virginia in 2010 and now am a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore working on regulatory T-cell migration and function in organ transplant tolerance.”

Congratulations to Allison Sudol Bechtel and her husband, who welcomed twins Cassidy and Chase on October 3 and are enjoying life as a family of four. She welcomes her anesthesia residency at UVa and will start a cardiothoracic anesthesia fellowship at Emory in July.

Eva Gardner ‘06 GSAS graduated from NYU Law in 2011 and promptly moved to Alaska. She in her second year clerk ing for a federal district court judge in Anchorage and spends her free time engaged in backcountry skiing, mountain biking, ski marathons, glacier-gazing and other perfectly ordinary Alaskan activities. She encourages anyone planning a trip north to reach out.

After five years in finance, Esther Chung decided to do a post-bac and apply to medical school; she now is at Weill Cornell Medical College. She also had her first child as she was applying to medical school.

Congrats, Esther!

In February, Tricia Byork Shemo and her husband, Joseph Shemo, welcomed their first child, Charles Miles. They live in Jersey City and Tricia has been a litigation associate at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York for the past five years.

Katie Zien writes, “In August, I defended my dissertation and joined the faculty at McGill’s English department. I’ve had an excellent year teaching theatre and performance studies to undergraduate and graduate students in Montreal, and I am preparing for a summer of research and conferencing in various locales throughout the Americas. I am looking forward to transforming my dissertation, which treats theatre history in the Panama Canal Zone throughout the 20th century, into a book manuscript.”

David J. Johns ’06 TC is now the executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. Previously, he was a senior education policy adviser to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and also was a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellow.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of Class Notes. Keep them coming!

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**CLASS NOTES**

W.Va. In addition to the boring stuff, I married my wife, Alana, and have a son, Benji (2). I live outside Morgantown, W.Va.; would love to connect with any Columbians who find themselves in northern West Virginia. I can be reached at eddie@godardlaw.com.”

Michelle Schwartz writes, “I live in Manhattan with my husband and two kids, a boy and a girl (the second born in October). I’m a trusts and estates attorney at Fulbright & Jaworski.”

Lisa Bearpark (née Petersson) writes, “I gave birth to a son on April 7, and [at this writing] my husband and I are planning to move to Stockholm, Sweden, in June, leaving New York after 13 years. Still going strong with theatre, producing and acting but taking a break to be a mother for the next couple of months. I was sad to miss the 10-year reunion but with everything going on, it was not possible. I’m sure it was a blast and I send my best wishes to everyone who went.”

Anne Melzer writes, “I’m a pulmonary and critical care fellow at the University of Washington. I’m working on my master’s of epidemiology, doing research in smoking cessation. I spent last year with my husband working at a rural hospital in Alaska.”

Joshua Marks writes, “I am completing my general surgery residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital this June, after having spent this past year as an administrative chief resident. In July, I will start a fellowship in trauma, surgical critical care and emergency general surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.”

Leah Rorvig writes, “I spent a weekend recently in Huntington, Ind. While there I celebrated with Leah Miller-Freeman, who recently got an M.F.A. in painting from Indiana University. Her students made this segment about her: journalist.indiana.edu/classwork/210_stayton_spring2013/living-outside-the-lines.

‘I have one year left toward my M.D. at UC San Francisco and I’ll apply to residency in family medicine this fall.’”

Stefanie Weisman is thrilled to announce the publication of her first book, The Secrets of Top Students: Tips, Tools, and Techniques for Acing High School and College, a guide for the high school and college set on how to achieve academic success. It’s based on her own experience — she was valedictorian of Stuyvesant and received the Albot Asher Green Memorial Prize for the highest G.P.A. in our Columbia class — as well as the insight of 45 other outstanding students. You can get in touch with Stefanie through her blog, valedictoriansguide.com, or follow her on Twitter @StefanieWeisman.

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**SUMMER 2013**

**CLAIRE McDONNELL**

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Whether it’s chicken coops, art museums, new babies, operas or endodontics, the Class of 2005 has been up to some big things lately. Perhaps that’s not so surprising in this year that many of us turn 30!


Kristian Hansen has been busy building chicken coops — his company, Laughing Chickens, makes rustic coops from reclaimed redwood fences and sells planting boxes, composters, chalkboards and doghouses nationwide through Williams-Sonoma.

Luis Saucedo earned an M.B.A. from Yale in 2012 and is a Presidential Management Fellow at Ginnie Mae, where he works on housing finance policy and government and industry communications. Ginnie Mae provides a government guarantee on mortgage-backed securities backed by government-insured mortgages. It is a federal agency within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Steve Mumford reports, “In 2012, I moved from Seattle to Washington, D.C., to begin a Ph.D. program in public policy and administration at The George Washington University, concentrating in program evaluation. So far, I love being back on the East Coast, despite the superstorms, and look forward to reconnecting with Columbians in the area.”

Michelle Kraics was promoted in January to director at Citigroup in the Municipal Securities Division. Ru Hockley writes, “At Clabe’s urging and out of a desire to support her foray into Class Notes correspondence, I am submitting my first updated Condensed life summary: In the shockingly large number of years since Columbia graduation, I have lived in NYC,
Laos and San Diego. I worked at The Studio Museum in Harlem, taught English and traveled widely, and pursued (OK, am still pursuing) a Ph.D. in art history at UC San Diego. This year, I happily re-acclimated to NYC (in itself a full-time job), life is a little hectic, but I couldn’t be happier to be here doing what I love at one of NYC’s great institutions. Come visit!

Dan Binder reports, “Aside from my day job at Episcopal H.S. in Houston, I’ve been volunteering at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the nation’s largest rodeo. I also am a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Stephen’s Episcopal School in Houston.”

Brendon-Jeremi Jobs says, “I’m listening to Invisible Man on Audible for the first time and it’s blowing my mind. ‘Remember, your power is in your invisibility!’ I’m only sorry that it took me so long to find the time to [discover] this hallmark of the Renaissance. My life as a teacher continues to grow more complex and purposeful with each year. I was recently voted onto the Board of Directors at Germantown Unified Community Development Corp. I also am on the teacher advisory board for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.”

Michael Sin writes, “I’m a real estate agent at TOWN Residential in the 730 Fifth Ave. office, focusing on sales and rentals in Manhattan and Brooklyn. I can be reached at mms@townrealstate.com if anyone is interested in getting an update on New York real estate or just wants to catch up over coffee.”

Syga Thomas has launched MAONO, a luxury clothing design and manufacturing company. “We create luxury staples to outfit the movers, shakers and influencers of the world, kicking the middleman out of the process. Be the movement,” Syga says.

Hao Tran is engaged to Elizabeth "Lizi" Chorney ’05E. Hao proposed to Lizi on December 12 on the Low Steps, where they met. Lizi is a radiology resident at Mt. Sinai Hospital, having graduated from Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in 2010. Hao graduated from NYU College of Dentistry in 2012. He is a dental resident at Yale-New Haven Hospital and will pursue an endodontics fellowship at Temple thereafter.

Bhindi Suresh inquires, “I’m a newly minted medical doctor and am starting a residency program in pediatrics in Ottawa in July — that’s a major life event, no?” Yes, Bhindi, it is! As are some Class of 2005 babies.

Rebecca (Pollack) Kee announces, “Another John Jay 11 baby has been born! Bill Kee and I, who met on John Jay 11, recently had our second son, Benjamin Michael, born in San Francisco, with a focus in New York and San Francisco, with a focus in the new next generation of enterprise software companies.

Ross Gabrielson ’12 Business writes, “Well, 2012 was a big year. My wife and I are proud to announce that our daughter, Madeline, was born on October 13. Madeline is already a real character and has a great sense of humor. It is so much fun being a dad. A special thank you to those of you in the Class of 2006 who helped welcome Madeline into the world — especially Danny Concepcion, who was at the hospital even before my parents arrived! Earlier in 2012, I graduated from the Business School and started working at a fund called Eachwin Capital.”

Ganesh Betanabhatla recently joined Talara Capital Management as a managing director. He will assume primary responsibility for building the firm’s E&P private equity investment platform and will be jointly based in New York City and Houston.

Talibah L. Newman ’13 Arts’ thesis film, Sweet Honey Child, debuted at the Columbia University Film Festival. Her short film, Busted on Brignal Lane, recently was on HBO On Demand and HBO GO. She is working on her first feature, which she will direct and write.

The new Vampire Weekend album, Modern Vampires of the City, was released on May 14. The band features our own Ezra Koenig, Rostam Batmanglij and Chris Tomson, as well as Ezra Balboa ’07. [Editor’s note: See Alumni in the News.]
The Varsity Show honored Kate McKinnon with its annual I.A.L. Diamond ‘41 Award for Achievement in the Arts on May 5. Kate (who was Kate Berthold during her time at the College) has been on Saturday Night Live since last April.

Thanks, everyone, for sharing. We’re happy to celebrate your successes!

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I hope that everyone is having a great spring! We have a number of exciting updates from our classmates.

On March 6, many came out to celebrate the College’s annual John Jay Awards for distinguished professional achievement. CC ’07 attendees included Anna German, Allison Baiger, Dan Baiger and David Chait, among others.

After six months in Chicago working on the Obama campaign’s digital team and four months of travel (and recovery time), Leah Sands has returned to New York and joined Global Health Strategies, a consulting firm serving international health organizations.

Whitney Wilson joined The Corcoran Group and is focusing on residential sales in South Brooklyn. She teaches weekly yoga classes at YogaWorks and enjoys spending time with Igor Zelenberg ‘07E and their dog, Bean, in and around Cobble Hill.

Simeon Siegel shares, “Little Liam Siegel celebrated his first birthday on February 21!”

Very exciting.

Dan Wang reports, “This year looks to be a busy one for Marisa Sires and me. We will get married this summer with many of our Columbia friends in attendance. Jonathan Wegener and Ali Rohrs will even serve as officiants. After that, we’ll move back to New York City (it’s been six years in the Bay Area). I am finishing my Ph.D. in sociology at Stanford this spring and, in the fall, I’ll start as an assistant professor of management at the Business School. Marisa will continue to be the director of product strategy for Giga, a Silicon Valley-based social media company.”

Kasia Nikhamina writes, “My husband, Ilya (aka Redbeard) and I invite everyone to visit Redbeard Bikes at 165 Front St. in DUMBO, Brooklyn, for bicycles and accessories. We launched the shop last November and are enjoying the challenges and joys of being a mom-and-pop. We carry, among other brands, Brompton folding bikes and Lynskey titanium road bikes. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/redbeardbikes.”

Olivia Roszkowski is the executive chef of La Nuit Restaurant & Tapas Lounge in NYC. Check out her blog: oliviathetchef.com.

Kelvin Jiang ’08E, Tanya Lindsay and Earnest Sweat will have to say “so long” to the case study discussions and ’80s theme parties as they get ready to graduate from Kellogg School of Management in late June.

By the time you read this, we will have held the Young Alumni Fund Spring Benefit (scheduled for May 10). The benefit host committee was full of classmates including Allison Baiger, Dan Baiger, David Chait, Samantha Feingold, Arvind Kadaba, Geo Karapetyan, Andrew O’Connor and Dan Shapiro.

Finally, the new Vampire Weekend album, Modern Vampires of the City, was released on May 14. The band features our own Chris Baio as well as Ezra Koenig ’06, Reem Batmangjli ’06 and Chris Tomson ’06. (Editor’s note: See Alumni in the News.)

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For those who made it to our five-year reunion, how amazing was it?! I hope you had a chance to reconnect with friends, meet a few new faces and catch up on life! Milestones like these are phenomenal reminders of the common history we share as well as the remarkably different paths we are embarking on. Please send me notes about your reunion experiences for the Fall issue of CCT!

The class photo, however, may be found on the CCT website (college. columbia.edu/cct) as part of this issue’s reunion follow-up article. And now, the notes...

On back-to-back weekends in May, Allison Halff, Greg Legor-
first EP, which is in Spanish, with
back to New York City and will
his three years of law school but is
The Green Leaf Academy, an
job in finance, Lauren co-founded
a Goldendoodle puppy, and live in
July 7, 2012, at the Harvard Club of
wonderful!
many members of the Columbia
ensemble for ceremony music; and
ushers; Maryam Parhizkar and her
from the Class of '09 were, left to right: Eva Fortes, Holly Chung, Cyrus Ebnasajjad and
Soo Han.
PHOTO: SOLI PHOTOGRAPHY
Lindsey Cleary '09 (née Frost, center) married Jonathan Cleary on October 6 in Chattanooga. Friends in attendance from the Class of '09 were, left to right: Eva Fortes, Holly Chung, Cyrus Ebnasajjad and Soo Han.

Jacob recently started a job as an investment analyst for Amici Capital, a hedge fund based in New York. Annie works for Google, where she is an enterprise partner manager. They enjoy the West Coast lifestyle and would love to see you if you’re ever in San Francisco.

Last September, Lauren Accor- dino (née Shearer) and Michael Accordinio '07 walked down the aisle. They traveled to the Maldives and Dubai thereafter. They recently added a new member to the family, a Goldendoodle puppy, and live in Los Angeles. In addition to her day job in finance, Lauren co-founded The Green Leaf Academy, an education enrichment company for elementary students.

Anastasia Pao (née McIvichie) and Nick Pao were married last summer. Many Columbia and Barnard classmates traveled to Washington, D.C., to help them celebrate, including Ben Reininga, Cailtin Hodge '08, Liz Gordon '08, Lan Wu '08, Cailtin Martin '09 Barnard, Stephanie Dumanian '07 Barnard, Nicklas Volbi '07E and Greg Pupo. More recently, Anastasia left teaching and New York City, and moved to Cambridge, Mass., where she studies at Harvard Law School.

Maxie Harnick (née Glass) and Evan Harnick were married on July 7, 2010 at the Harvard Club of New York City.

Alidad Damouei graduated from Yale Law in May. He enjoyed his three years of law school but is excited to start the next chapter of his life. This summer he will move back to New York City and will start his legal career at Sullivan & Cromwell, where he will gain experience across different areas of corporate law.

David Cooper graduated from St. John’s School of Law this spring. He has accepted a job offer from the New York City Law Department. David will start work in the fall in the Special Federal Litigation Division as an assistant corporation counsel.

Giselle Gastell is working on her first EP, which is in Spanish, with producer Alejandro Jaen. In March she performed on America Tevé’s “El Happy Hour.” You can check it out on YouTube: youtube.com/watch?v=BoDU1OEnys. She also performed at the Calle Ocho-Miami Carnival on the stages of Telefun- do and Cabana de Televisión.

Giselle hopes her classmates will support her by liking her artist page on Facebook or following her on Instagram or Twitter @sisellegastell. She will let you know when she officially releases her first single, “Mienteme.”

Daniel Duzdevich earned an M.Phil. in biology from Churchill College, Cambridge, studying the gross structure of DNA sequences that cause Huntington’s Disease. He has returned to Columbia in pursuit of a Ph.D. from the Department of Biological Sciences. In 2011 he received the departmental teaching award and in 2012 he received an award from the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, which is funding two years of his graduate research. His first book, Darwin’s On the Origin of Species: A Modern Rendition, will appear in early 2014. Excitingly, it will feature a foreword by evolutionary biologist and journalist Olivia Judson.

Joanna Sloan left her job as a multimedia editor at the New York Daily News last May to move to Los Angeles to pursue comedy writing. That summer she started working at Jimmy Kimmel Live! as the digital media coordinator. She maintains the show’s social media presence, website and YouTube page. On the side, she has been learning improvisation at Second City though its Conservatory program. Her sketch comedy group, The Living Room, recently wrapped filming on its first short and will soon be launching a YouTube channel. Joanna also has started doing stand-up comedy.

Stephanie Lindquist left New York in September to live for a year as a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome with her partner and Rome Prize winner, Glendalys Medina. Stephanie’s work can be viewed at stephanieleandquist.com. She also recently co-founded MasterDabblers (masterdabblers.com), which shares tips on how to expand your creative practice and develops mailings with successful contemporary artists to give people materials and instructions to push their creative boundaries.

After graduation, Mark Holden was a research associate in international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations in NYC for a year. On leaving CFR, he applied to law school and then for most of a season was a ski lift operator at Vail Resorts in Colorado. He started at Harvard Law in fall 2011 and expects to work in Houston after he graduates.

Rebecca Feinberg has begun a Ph.D. in anthropology at UC Santa Cruz, where she will learn all there is to know about Italy, EU immigration and foodways while living in a tree house by the sea cliffs.

Elia Bilan recently completed his first year at Virginia’s Darden School of Business in Charlottesville. He is excited about working in the private sector this summer after three years in the nonprofit world.

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I hope all of you are well as we reach our three-years-out-of-college milestone. For the first time since graduation, I have some news of my own to share. After working in corporate strategy and development at Time Inc. for 2½ years, I joined the marketing team at 1stdibs, an online marketplace for high-end luxury goods. I am enjoying the challenge of learning SEO marketing, an entirely new field for me. I live in the West Village with my boyfriend, Gregg (a non-Columbia grad, I’m ashamed to admit).

After seven amazing years on the Morningside campus, Matt Amsterdam ’13L is done with Columbia (at least for now). He looks forward to joining most of the rest of his College classmates in the “real world” for the first time.

Mary Ann Bonet shares, “For the past year, I’ve been teaching gallery and studio-based programs for school, youth and family audiences at several museums, including the Brooklyn Museum, MoMA, the Museum of the City of New York and El Museo del Barrio. I’m excited to head back to Morning- side Heights this summer to start the Art & Art Education Program Ed.M. at Teachers College. I look forward to juggling work and school in the months to come!”

Earlier this year, Joseph Johnson

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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 team's games. He will return to the United States soon, hopefully in time for Triple Crown season.

Heidi Bonilla ’13 PH1 writes, "Hello CCTint. I found 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, Michail Cohen ’11, Miriam Wise—man ’11 and Jordan Katz ’11 shared a magical weekend getaway in the East Bruns, 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. Sarah Bodrow, "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 Knižnik 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 Late Revue (it’s like The Varsity Show but lawyerly). Also, congratulations to Frances Feldman, who is presenting the short film she wrote and directed, Bonesaker, at film festivals all over the country, including Sundance. Bonesaker stars Quvenzhane 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 (ucclass.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 helping the classrooms 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 keep me warm 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!

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.

Sarah Chai
c/o CCTColumbia Alumni Center622 W. 113th St., MC 4530New York, NY 10025sarahbchmail.com

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 nationwide — and spending time abroad! It’s been 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 WCRK alumni who have found 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!

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 spent 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 you can stay up to date with your classmates and friends.

Congratulations on this immense achievement and have a great summer, wherever it takes you!
Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig

It was with deep sadness that I read of Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig's passing [Spring 2013]. 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 epicures. 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 whom my influence on me is enduring.

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
St. Louis*

Norman Dorsen '50

It was good to read the article about Norman Dorsen [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 penicillin, as appears to be commonly believed. Wikipedia has a good account of the history.

*Bill Mink '55
Napa, Calif.*

**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.

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*Bill Stark '69
St. Louis*

Norman Dorsen '50

It was good to read the article about Norman Dorsen [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 penicillin, 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 BAMROOD
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