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Features

Sheena Wright '90, '94L is breaking ground as the first female CEO of United Way of New York City.
By Yelena Shuster '09

As a Columbia teacher, scholar and alumnus, Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, '53 GSAS has long exemplified the highest standards of character and service.
By Jamie Katz '72, '80 Business

After 25 years in NOLA, Scott Aiges '86 is dedicated to preserving and promoting its musical traditions.
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WEB EXTRAS
Thank you to our Fiscal Year 2013 donors.

View a photo album from Convocation.

Watch a concert by the ensemble L'Arpeggiata featuring music by Claudio Monteverdi and his contemporaries.

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last year, I traveled around the world to meet alumni, parents, students and friends of Columbia College and to introduce myself formally as dean. I attended College alumni receptions in London, Los Angeles and San Francisco; met newly admitted early decision students in Boston; visited current students studying at Reid Hall in Paris; and attended “Columbia 101” summer advising events in Beijing, Hong Kong and Seoul. And during my travels, I became more and more impressed by the passion, intelligence and achievements of our current and former students — all 51,803 of you.

I met two alumni in Beijing who were so inspired by their study abroad experience in Asia that they returned to China to start a college advising company. I spoke to one in Paris who started out as a waiter and now owns a film company. And I visited another in San Francisco who began his career as an assistant football coach and has been the CEO of several major software companies.

That’s what this issue of Columbia College Today is about: the amazing accomplishments of our outstanding former students. This issue includes three features about College alumni: Wm. Theodore “Ted” de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS, an East Asian studies pioneer, longtime professor and all-around distinguished Columbian; Sheena Wright ’90, ’94L, the first female CEO of United Way of New York City; and Scott Aiges ’86, director of programs, communications and marketing for The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation.

This issue also features an article about how we are preparing our current students to become the alumni that a future issue of CCT may highlight — through one of our ongoing internship programs, Columbia Experience Overseas. Sixty-four students worked abroad in eight cities this past summer, including 11 in CEO’s new destinations of Mumbai and Bangalore, India. With support from Citi and the State Department’s Passport to India program, students were provided internships at Aap Women’s Collective, AZB & Partners, Infosys Limited, Kotak Mahindra Bank, the Marg Foundation, Mumbai Mobile Creches and Spencer Stuart. Several of these students had the opportunity to attend a U.S. State Department event with Secretary of State John Kerry in June and one of these students, Doreen Mohamed ’15, a human rights major and pre-med student, was featured on a segment about the Passport to India effort on BBC Hindi in early August (bbc.co.uk/hindi/multimedia/2013/08/130802_passport_sr_ak.shtml).

My goal for the College this year, starting with this issue of CCT, is for us to celebrate the outstanding achievements of all our students, current and former. We are building a new feature on the College website that will be populated with stories, photos and videos by students that showcase the creativity, talents and accomplishments of our student body, and we are enhancing the alumni section of our website to better feature and connect College alumni. (Stay tuned for details on both.) We are also busy updating our Columbia College and Columbia College Alumni Facebook pages and Twitter feeds with photos, news items and posts related to members of our unique and distinctive community, so please “Like” and follow us if you have not done so already (see box at left), and continue to share news about your own successes with us via email at ccalumni@columbia.edu.

You may have heard me say that Columbia College is the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world. I want us all to celebrate what makes us the best — the best students, current and former, in the world. Roar, Lion(s), Roar!

MESSAGE FROM DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

Celebrating the Achievements Of Current and Former Students

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

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FALL 2013
Letters to the Editor

The Pony Ballet
What a pleasant surprise to turn to page 57 [Summer 2013] and come face to face with that bunch of bums from the 1940 Varsity Show! We look better than I remember — I am second from the left.

The Pony Ballet ruled in those days ... nobody bigger than we were. And when we threw them a bump, the whole audience would cave in.

Thank you for the reminder, and for your great magazine!

C. Ogden Beresford ’43
Alendale, N.J.

Remembering Peter Darrow ’72
I recently had a flashback to Columbia, circa 1970, when a young alumna recently recalled how Peter Darrow ’72 had addressed the Delta Delta Phi house while she was in charge.

Darrow, who died last spring after a distinguished law career, “camed out us very much as the steady hand,” recalled Caylei Vogelzang ’03. The former AD president told the undergraduates they owed a legacy to future generations at Columbia.

That’s the kind of Darrow pep talk that once drew jeers from those of us college buddies who were too cool to wash the windows or sweep the front stoop.

But Darrow defeated our cynicism with his relentless generosity. He kept up with the retired cook at our fraternity until the old man died. He campaigned for the admission of women to AD in the 1990s. He helped transform the faded brownstone into “the jewel of 114th Street.”

Seven years ago, Darrow reunited his college crew at rowing’s answer to the Boston Marathon. Younger rowing alumnii have followed, including, by happenstance, Vogelzang. “My heart leapt” at the chance to race again at the Head of the Charles Regatta, she said.

Thanks in part to Darrow’s inspiration, the Columbia women’s varsity has a new boat to race in Boston this year — another fruit of Darrow’s knack for inducing others to give back to the sport and the school they love. As many as four alumni boats will be used by Columbia crews.

The moment will be joyful but bittersweet, laden with the memory of our friend.

John E. Mulligan III ’72
McLean, Va.

Help Out the Band
The Columbia University Band Alumni Association has launched a drive to help the CU Marching Band beef up its store of instruments for student musicians.

If you’re ready to admit that you won’t be playing the old horn any more, or if you have a spare, CUBAA would love to have it for the band. We’re also hoping to fund repairs for some of the band’s limping instrument inventory and buy some needed instruments as well as band supplies such as drumsticks, reeds, mouthpieces and music folders. CUBAA recently received its 501(c)(3) charitable organization status and can provide a tax letter for all donations.

For more information or to donate, go to columbiaandalumni.org.

Samantha Rowan ’96 Barnard
New York City

WWII & NYC
With interest, I read “Columbia Forum: WWII & NYC” [Summer 2013] by Professor Kenneth T. Jackson. It mentions “Todd Shipyards in Brooklyn’s Erie Basin had 19,617 employees in 1943 ...”

My grandfather, Charles Gilbride, worked at Todd’s through the Depression; most of his sons also worked at Todd’s. In the 1970s, the chairman of the board of
Recalling a Member of the CCT Family

When I was younger, the phrase “untimely death” always struck me as off-kilter. Are not all deaths untimely, I thought? Wouldn’t everyone want to wake up to another remarkable sunrise, listen to a favorite piece of music one more time or celebrate another family milestone?

As I grew older, I realized that as sad as it seems and as painful as the loss might be in the moment, some deaths are timely. My mother lived to be 99, but by the end she had outlived all her friends, was in constant pain and could no longer get out of bed and to her wheelchair without assistance. She couldn’t even read the pages of her son’s magazine, and had reached the point where every night she prayed for God to take her. When I got the call that she had died, I was saddened, of course, but somehow relieved that she was at peace.

In August I read of a colleague/mentor who at 90 had to be moved to a nursing home by his loving wife, having been robbed by Alzheimer’s of any memory of the myriad books he edited/published or the countless lives he touched. I can only wonder about the so-called quality of his life at this stage.

The passing of Jean-Claude Suares on July 30, after a brief illness at 71, was a most untimely death. JC, as everyone called him, was the design consultant for this magazine for nearly two decades. More than that, he was a force of nature, a man who changed the air pressure in a room upon entering. “What have you got?” he would ask when I’d call to discuss the cover of an upcoming issue, but whether I had something good for him to work with or not, he invariably came up with a strong cover and continually “tweaked” it until it was just what he envisioned.

Suares was a designer and illustrator who seemed to know everyone in the publishing world, and worked everywhere. He was the first art director of The New York Times’ Op-Ed page, bringing illustrations to the editorial pages of The Gray Lady, and his work “helped guide the paper into a new visual era and influenced other newspapers and magazines,” according to his Times obituary. He was the design director for New York Magazine, founder and creative director of 7 Days and POZ, magazines, and oversaw redesigns for Variety, Publisher’s Weekly, Broadcasting & Cable and Military History. His drawings appeared on the covers of The New Yorker and The Atlantic Monthly, and he designed countless illustrated books, including many about cats and dogs. He worked with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis at Doubleday, designing Michael Jackson’s autobiography, Moonwalk, and later writing (with J. Spencer Beck) Uncommon Grace: Reminiscences and Photographs of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis.

Suares was introduced to this magazine, according to former editor Jamie Katz ’72, ’80 Business, after photographer Arnold Browne ’78 convinced Katz that it was time to bring in a pro to give CCT a better look. Another photographer, Leslie Jean-Bart ’76, ’77, recommended Suares, and his first cover for CCT appeared in Winter 1992–93 and marked the 10th anniversary of coeducation at the College. Suares became CCT’s design consultant with the Winter 1994–95 issue and, working with our art director, Gates Sisters Studio, had been responsible for the look and design of the magazine ever since.

Suares’ sudden death came as a shock; at the time, he already was working on several of the stories that appear in this issue. The CCT family extends its condolences to Nina Duran, his wife of 33 years, and to all who were affected by his passing. We hope he is riding one of his beloved polo ponies right now in a better place, and thinking about his next design project.

Alex Sachare

Todd’s, John T. Gilbride ’39 Penn, handed me a history of Todd Shipyards. Like the Gilbride family, Todd Shipyards had its roots in Brooklyn. While Todd’s also had yards in Charleston, Mobile, New Orleans, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Tacoma and Portland, the main yards in Brooklyn traced its history to John Ericsson’s creation of the Monitor at the Delameter iron works.

The Brooklyn yards are now history. I still live in Brooklyn but will never forget how when I returned from Columbia, people in Brooklyn knew my name because they had been employed at Todd Shipyards during WWII. It’s good to recall the tremendous work ethic of that generation, with hope that leaders in Washington realize the contributions work and jobs have on society.

John T. Gilbride wrote in Todd Shipyards In Peace and War: “We subscribe to the American dream of a contented and prosperous family of nations.”

Michael Gilbride ’76
Brooklyn, N.Y.


Dr. John Dunning (pictured, page 45), associate dean of physics at Columbia, recruited my father, Khatchik O. Donelian ’36E, ’37E, to join the scientific staff in 1941 in what became known as the Manhattan Project.

My father worked on an early version of Dunning’s cyclotron and, later, as the chief project engineer on the development of the gaseous diffusion process that was (Continued on page 103)
2013 Alexander Hamilton Medal To Be Presented to Klein

Joel I. Klein ’67 will be presented the 2013 Alexander Hamilton Medal on Thursday, November 14, 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.

Klein, CEO of the Education Division (now called Amplify) and EVP at News Corp., as well as a member of News Corp.’s Board of Directors, received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2002.

Klein became Amplify’s CEO and News Corp.’s EVP in January 2011. Prior to that, he was chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, where he oversaw a system of more than 1,600 schools with 1.1 million students, 136,000 employees and a $22 billion budget. In 2002, as chancellor, Klein launched Children First, a comprehensive reform strategy that has brought coherence and capacity to the system and resulted in significant increases in student performance.

A former chairman and CEO of the U.S. arm of Bertelsmann, a global media company, Klein was Assistant U.S. Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from October 1996–September 2000 and was Deputy White House Counsel to President Clinton from 1993–95. He entered the Clinton administration after 20 years of public and private legal work in Washington, D.C. (See feature, Fall 2012 CCT.)

Klein graduated magna cum laude from the College and earned a J.D. from Harvard Law in 1971, also magna cum laude. He has received honorary degrees from Amherst, Columbia, Dartmouth, Duke, Fordham Law, Georgetown Law Center, Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, Manhattanville, New York Law, Pace and St. John’s School of Education. He was selected by Time Magazine as one of “Ten People Who Mattered” in 1999, by U.S. News & World Report as “One of America’s 20 Best Leaders” in 2006, and was given the prestigious NYU Lewis Rudin Award in 2009 and the Manhattan Institute’s Alexander Hamilton Award in 2011.

Klein has been and remains active in Columbia University affairs. While chancellor of NYC’s public schools, working with President Lee C. Bollinger, he opened a new secondary school in Harlem that Columbia is supporting. He also served on the University’s Manhattanville Ad-Hoc Planning Committee and is currently helping to develop the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute.

He is married to Nicole Seligman, EVP/GC of Sony Corp. and president of Sony Corp. of America, and has a daughter, Julia, who is pursuing her doctorate in philosophy.

For more information on the dinner, contact Robin V. Del Giomo, associate director, College events and programs: robinv@columbia.edu or 212-851-7399.
Columbia College Fund Exceeds FY13 Goal, Raises $17.2 Million

The Columbia College Fund exceeded its $16.8 million goal for Fiscal Year 2013 and set a record for giving to the College, raising more than $17.2 million. A total of 11,908 alumni, parents, students and friends of the College contributed to the fund, which raises money for financial aid, the Core Curriculum, student services and summer internship stipends. The FY13 total includes donations received from July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013.

The College community participated enthusiastically in Columbia’s first Giving Day on October 24, with more than 900 donors raising $1.28 million, the most of any school at Columbia. This helped the College win the Giving Day Trustee Challenge, earning an additional $98,000 in matching funds.

The reunion Class of 1988 gave the largest reunion gift ever: $2.7 million in unrestricted support and $19.88 million in total gifts to Columbia. The reunion Class of 1963 presented a $1.98 million Class Gift to the fund — the largest reunion Class Gift ever given by a 50th anniversary class. The reunion Class of 1993 set a reunion record as well, for most funds raised by any 20th reunion class.

The Class of 2013 Senior Fund raised more than $25,700, the most of any senior class in Columbia College history. More than 750 students donated to the Senior Fund and 293 signed up for the Dean’s 3-2-1 Challenge, pledging to give for three years, to ask two friends to do the same and to have their gifts matched 1:1 by an alumnus/a.

To make a gift to the Columbia College Fund in FY14, give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline or by calling the Alumni Office at 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.

Convocation 2013

Columbia College welcomed 1,098 new students and their families to the Columbia community at Convocation on August 26. The ceremony featured remarks by President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini, among others. The ceremony began with a parade of students carrying the nearly 200 flags of the home states and countries of the entire College and Engineering undergraduate student body, including the 48 states and 51 countries represented in the Class of 2017. It was followed by the Alumni Procession at Convocation, in which alumni marched with banners representing the decades of their graduation.
Giuseppe Gerbino is an associate professor of music, specializing in Renaissance music, and also chairs the Department of Music. Born and raised near Brescia, Italy, Gerbino earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Pavia, and both his master's in music and Ph.D. in musicology at Duke. He has worked at Columbia since 2001 and was honored this year with a Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award.

How did you become interested in music? I began to study piano when I was pretty young but my training in high school was in classics, Greek and Latin. Partly because of that, I developed an interest in the legacy of classical antiquity and therefore the Renaissance as a historical period during which classical antiquity provided the foundation of a body of knowledge and philosophy that affected the way European thought developed from that point on. I began to study musicology in college, which allowed me to combine these two passions, music and classical antiquity, in their historical convergence in the Italian Renaissance.

What characterizes music of the Renaissance? My work focuses on the century and a half from 1500 to 1650. Probably the most important type of music that was in fashion at the time was a rather complex form of polyphony — which is to say, music for multiple independent voices, both secular and sacred. Later, as you reach the end of the Renaissance and the beginning of the 17th century, a renewed interest in the expressive power of the human voice led to the emergence of a new style of solo singing and vocal virtuosity. This is also the time when opera emerged as a form of musical theatre.

What do you enjoy about teaching Music Humanities? First of all, the fact that you have students from so many different backgrounds. It's very satisfying to discuss music with them in a way that doesn't necessarily require knowledge of music theory and instead explores music as a fundamental aspect of the human experience. The sheer object that cannot be observed the way a painting can, or whose temporal directionality cannot be controlled the way we do with a book when we flip back and forth between pages.

One advantage, though, is that the emotional response to music allows you to get into contact or in touch with it in an instinctive and profound single act of perception. At that point you can begin to ask yourself: "Why am I reacting to this piece this way?" The music may sound alien at first but what is important is that it was meaningful to the people who created it, shared it and performed it. And that's when the discussion takes off.

What other undergraduate courses do you teach? One that I love — which is open to all undergraduates regardless of their musical background — is called "Music and Myth." It is a study of the musical adaptation of classical mythology in Western culture. I usually choose five myths to study in detail, for example, Stravinsky's post-WWI, neoclassical oratorio "Oedipus rex" or Prometheus and Beethoven's third symphony. I also teach the first semester of the music history survey for the major and a course on Bach's vocal music, one of my favorite composers.

What music on your iPod would students be surprised to know you have? Perhaps the most unusual item on my playlist is a collection of songs from the former Soviet Union, especially by the Red Army Choir and Band. Their performance style and repertory can be hauntingly evocative and terrifying at the same time.

What's your favorite place to be? I've always had a bit of an attraction for the mountains. But if I were to pick a city I would say New York. I find the synergy between Columbia and the city to be unique. The experience of living in a city like New York changes you deeply — the same way a great piece of music or a great book can change you forever. I fell in love with the city and the institution from day one and, after 12 years, I think it's still the honeymoon.

To watch a concert Gerbino recommends, by the ensemble L'Arpeggiata and featuring music by Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) and his contemporaries, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/ctt.

Interview: Alexis Tonti '11 Arts Photo: Eileen Barroso
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ **Peter Zimroth '63** was chosen in August as the court-appointed monitor for the New York Police Department’s controversial stop-and-frisk policies, charged with ensuring they are conducted in accordance with Fourth Amendment rights barring illegal searches. Zimroth, a former chief deputy prosecutor with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors, will develop and oversee near-term reforms, including changes to the NYPD’s policies and training.

  Zimroth was quoted in *The New York Times* as saying his work as the city’s top lawyer gave him “tremendous respect for the Police Department, not just the department in the abstract but for the people who serve the city and protect us.” But, he added, “at the same time, I have always believed that effective law enforcement is very important — it’s crucial — but so is the need for law enforcement officials to act within the law and the Constitution. And I don’t think they are in conflict.”

■ **Milagros “Milly” Silva ’96** has been named labor leader Milagros “Milly” Silva ’96 as her running mate for lieutenant governor, forming just the third all-female gubernatorial ticket in U.S. history. Silva is the e.v.p. in charge of New Jersey for Service Employees International Union Local 1199, the largest health-care local in the country, with nearly 20,000 members who live or work in the state. In that role she represents mostly nursing home workers who are negotiating contracts, lobbying the Legislature for health-care funding and directing political donations.

  The previous all-female gubernatorial tickets were of Illinois Democrats in 1994 and Kentucky Republicans in 1999. Neither was successful.

■ **Tom Kitt ’96** (music) and **Brian Yorkey ’93** (book and lyrics), who wrote the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning 2009 musical **Next to Normal**, are scheduled to be back on Broadway in Spring 2014 with **If/Then**, a romantic musical about “how choice and chance collide and how we learn to love the fallout,” according to its website, ifthenthemusical.com. The show also will mark the Broadway return of Idina Menzel, who won a Tony Award for **Wicked**.

  **If/Then** focuses on a woman about to turn 40 who moves to New York intent on making a fresh start, and how even small decisions and random occurrences have an impact on her world in ways she never dreamt possible. It is slated to begin preview performances in Washington, D.C., in November.

■ **Andrew J. Ceresney ’93** has been named co-head of the enforcement division of the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC chair Mary Jo White announced. Ceresney previously worked with White as both a corporate defense lawyer at Debevoise & Plimpton and earlier as a federal prosecutor in Manhattan. He will share the SEC enforcement role with George S. Canellos, who had been acting as interim enforcement chief.

■ **Victor Cahn ’69** has written a new play, **A Dish for the Gods**, which will be presented Off-Broadway at The Lion Theatre on Theatre Row, 410 W. 42nd St., from Saturday, September 14–Saturday, October 5. Produced by Rachel Reiner Productions, the play, which is about a celebrated writer and the challenges she faced, the painful choices she made and the tumultuous relationship she shared with the man she loved, is directed by Adam Fitzgerald and features Margot White and Kevin Cristaldi.

■ **Carly Hugo ’06**, an independent film producer and the co-founder of the film production company Loveless, recently produced Andrew Dosunmu’s acclaimed film, **Mother of George**. The film portrays the struggles of a West African immigrant living in Brooklyn and won the Cinema-
Zahra Bhaiwala ’14 Combines Interests In Health and the Middle East

By Nathalie Alonso ’08

ike so many who discover new callings as undergraduates, Zahra Bhaiwala ’14 enrolled in the College looking to prepare for medical school but now has a new dream of addressing conflict-related public health issues in the Middle East.

Bhaiwala took a transitional step in that direction this past summer as a paid analyst at Pfizer’s Global Outcomes Research department, where she reviewed existing literature on the worldwide incidence and financial burden of bone demineralization and renal problems in HIV patients. Using economic modeling, she projected the cost of such complications. Ahmed Shelbaya ’01 PH, director of global outcomes research at Pfizer and a lecturer at the Mailman School of Public Health, was impressed with the approach Bhaiwala brought to her assignment. “Zahra is passionate about global health,” he says. “She is concerned about the underserved and vulnerable of the world. She is engaged with what is happening politically, economically and culturally around the world, and she is culturally fluent.”

After three years of scientific research as an intern at P&S and Harvard Medical School, Bhaiwala sought more macro level analysis at Pfizer. “I realized my interest in healthcare is not the scientific aspect,” she says. “The questions I was asking had to do with structural problems. How does poverty contribute to a healthcare system? What problems do vaccine campaigns run into?”

While with P&S during her first three years in the College, Bhaiwala investigated noninvasive diagnostics techniques for glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive type of malignant brain tumor, and researched the role that T cells and their receptors play in the cancer’s development. In 2012, she received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the department of biological sciences to support that research. Bhaiwala, now editor-in-chief of the Columbia Undergraduate Science Journal, also spent summers 2010 and 2011 as a paid intern at Harvard, where she searched for correlations between genetic mutations and birth defects in mice.

The Andover, Mass., native, who majors in biological sciences and Middle Eastern, South Asian and African studies, chose the College largely due to her regard for those departments. “My interests in politics, international policy and culture, combined with my interest in health care, have grown,” says Bhaiwala, citing the recent prevalence of birth defects in Iraq, which some believe is the result of war pollutants, as an example of an issue she hopes to delve into. “I’ve realized that the health of a population is not just heart rate or blood pressure; you have to look at the whole person, the whole society.”

Bhaiwala, the daughter of a Pakistani mother and an Indian father, has been fascinated by the Middle East since her early school years, when she, her parents and younger brother embarked on a leisure tour of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel. During her freshman year in the College, while on winter break, she accompanied her family on a pilgrimage to the Imam Ali Mosque and the Shrine of Imam Hussein ibn Ali in Iraq. “I managed to sneak out when we weren’t doing anything and talk to people, which was fun,” recalls Bhaiwala, who attended an Islamic grade school where she achieved proficiency in Arabic.

“I felt really at home in a lot of those countries. That sparked an interest for me and I started following politics and international affairs in that region.”

Bhaiwala, who grew up speaking Urdu and Hindi and is fluent in Spanish, also spent her freshman and sophomore spring breaks taking patient information and performing triage at free medical clinics in La Antigua, Guatemala and Cusco, Peru, respectively. Both volunteer trips were organized by the Columbia University American Medical Students Association—Premedical Chapter.

As co-chair of the chapter’s global health committee, a position she has held since her junior year, Bhaiwala helped create a global health curriculum that chapter members teach to middle school students at the Double Discovery Center of Columbia College once a week during the school year. She also is active with the Columbia University Muslim Students Association and, since June 2012, has tutored recently incarcerated young men for the GED exam through Getting Out and Staying Out, an NYC nonprofit.

Several times a semester, Bhaiwala performs at campus events with CU Surf, a South Asian student a cappella group. During her free time, she enjoys exploring the city’s ethnic neighborhoods. “I love that you can step on the subway and every few stops you are in a different demographic,” she says.

Nathalie Alonso ’08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website.
Hugo ‘06
PHOTO: KRISTIN GLADNEY

tography Award in the U.S. Dramatic Competition of the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. Hugo also co-produced Academy Award nominee Vera Farmiga’s 2011 directorial debut, Higher Ground, and is currently in production on HBO Documentary Films’ documentary about the late Nora Ephron, Everything is Copy.

Robert Reffkin ’00, ’03 Business has been named to First Company magazine’s “100 Most Creative People in Business” list for 2013. Reffkin is the founder and CEO of Urban Compass, an online real estate search startup, after previously working at Goldman Sachs, Lazard Frères and McKinsey & Co. He helped found a charter school in the Bronx and launched a not-for-profit, New York Needs You, which finds mentors for students who are the first in their families to go to college.

A company founded by two alumni was named winner of the TechCrunch Disrupt NY 2013 competition. Marc DaCosta ’06 and Hicham Oudghiri ’06 founded Enigma in 2012 along with Jeremy Bronfman and Raphaël Guilleminot. The web service allows users to search data from more than 100,000 publicly available but hard-to-obtain sources. TechCrunch, a news website focused on information technology companies, has hosted TechCrunch Disrupt annually since 2011 in San Francisco and Beijing as well as New York. In this year’s New York competition, 30 technology startups competed before a panel of venture capital investors and media.

Eli Lehrer ’99, former development v.p. at Bravo, is now heading Lifetime’s nonfiction development in the newly created position of s.v.p. and head of non-scripted development. Lehrer, who assumed the position on July 8, was responsible for developing the Bravo series Flipping Out, The Real Housewives of New York City, The Rachel Zoe Project and The Real Housewives of D.C. and was executive producer of Watch What Happens: Live, The Millionaire Matchmaker and Tabatha’s Salon Takeover. Prior to joining Bravo, Lehrer managed East Coast development for VH1, was executive assistant to Michael Ovitz at Artists Management Group and was executive assistant to George Stephanopoulos ’82 at ABC News. In 2008, Lehrer was named as one of Multichannel News’ top executives in its 40 Under 40 issue.

John Martin Cochran ’09 won the CBS reality show competition Survivor: Caramoan, defeating Dawn Meehan and Sherri Biethman in an unanimous 8-0-0 vote in the season finale on May 12 to become the Sole Survivor. Cochran, who previously competed on Survivor: South Pacific and is a self-described superfan of the series, was only the second player in Survivor’s 26 seasons to play a “perfect game,” receiving no votes against him at Tribal Council and winning the jury vote unanimously.

Nicholas Fox Weber ’69, executive director of the Josef & Anni Albers Foundation since 1979, has been named a chevalier in France’s Order of Arts and Letters and will receive the honor in a ceremony in Paris on Wednesday, October 16.

In 2005, Fox Weber and the Josef & Anni Albers Foundation established the American Friends of Le Korsa to further the work by Dr. Gilles Degois, a Paris-based physician, to improve the quality of life in Senegal, one of the world’s poorest countries. Since 2011, AFLK has expanded the scope of its activities to help construct medical centers and educational facilities that provide health services and learning opportunities to villages deep in the African bush where such facilities and programs were previously nonexistent.

Alex Sachare ’71

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FALL 2013
Roar, Lion, Roar
Football Unveils New Look

The 2013 Columbia football season brings with it something old and something new. As the revitalized Baker Athletics Complex celebrates its 90th anniversary, the 2013 Lions will be sporting a mix of veterans and new players under second-year coach Pete Mangurian — and unveiling new uniforms as well.

“History tells you that your second season is when you make your biggest jump in a new program,” said Mangurian during the Ivy League Media Day teleconference in August. “Your players understand what you’re looking for and develop a work ethic. I think we’ve created competition at every position. ... I also think we’re bigger, faster and more explosive than a year ago.”

Columbia opens its season at Fordham on September 21, followed by the home opener against Monmouth on September 28. The Lions begin their Ivy schedule at Princeton on October 5, with Homecoming as a highlight on October 19 against preseason Ivy favorite Penn.

Seeing as the Lions seek to improve on last year’s 3-7 record (2-5 in Ivy competition) and will be doing so in new uniforms, we thought it would be a good time to take a look at Columbia uniforms through the years.

CAMPBELL SPORTS CENTER SCOREBOARD

10 Columbia student-athletes in spring sports who earned Academic All-Ivy honors
17 Ivy League individual titles won by Columbians in 2012-13
90 Ivy League Individual titles won by Columbians since 2008-09 — the most in any five-year span in Columbia history
Homecoming 2013
Saturday, October 19, Columbia vs. Penn

PICNIC, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Enjoy a barbecue buffet under the Big Tent before cheering the Lions on to victory. Picnic tickets are $20 for adults, $10 for children under 12 if purchased online at college.columbia.edu/alumni/homecoming by Thursday, October 17. Tickets also may be purchased on Saturday at the Big Tent ($22 for adults, $12 for children under 12). Each ticket includes an all-you-can-eat buffet, soft drinks and admission to the Columbia Homecoming Carnival. Beer, wine and cocktails will be available at an additional cost. There will also be limited cash-and-carry items.

CARNIVAL, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
All members of the Columbia community, young, old and in between, are invited to participate in face painting, balloon-making, magic shows, games and interactive activities.

FOOTBALL, 1:30 p.m.
To purchase tickets to the game, call 888-LIONS-11 or visit gocolumbialions.com/tickets. Premium chairback seats are $25; reserved bench seats are $15. Tickets also may be purchased at the Athletics Ticket Office on the fourth floor (campus level) of the Dodge Fitness Center or on game day at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium ticket windows 1, 2, 3 and 4. Tickets can be held at will call and picked up on game day at the stadium.

GETTING THERE
Baker Athletics Complex is located at 533 W. 218th St. (west of Broadway). Neighborhood parking is limited and preferred parking is available only to those making qualifying gifts to Columbia Football. By subway, take the No. 1 train to 215th Street or the A train to Inwood–207th St. (Note: Due to occasional service interruptions, we suggest you check the MTA website prior to travel: mta.info.) Complimentary shuttle buses from the Morningside campus will depart from the main gate at West 116th Street and Broadway starting 90 minutes prior to kickoff and will return to campus immediately following the game.

Save the Date!

SEPTEMBER 21
Football opener at Fordham

SEPTEMBER 28
Football home opener vs. Monmouth

OCTOBER 3
Women's Leadership Council Fall Event

OCTOBER 19
Homecoming, football vs. Penn

NOVEMBER 8
Women's basketball opener at LIU

NOVEMBER 9
Men's basketball opener vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore

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

Lionswear through the years: Opposite, lower left to right: 1905 team picture; Cliff Montgomery ’34; George Kisiday ’48 TC. Above, clockwise from upper left: Lou Kusserow ’49; Bruce Stephens ’78; Brian East ’14; Wes Root ’01.

PHOTOS: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
Sheena Wright '90, '94L reads The Hungry Caterpillar during a United Way program at the Mott Haven Public Library in the Bronx.

PHOTO: NATALIE KEYSSAR
As a 7-year-old, Sheena Wright ’90, ’94L, watched on TV as her mother was arrested for protesting what she saw as racist tenure policies at Hunter College. A decade later, Wright followed in her mother’s marching footsteps and chained herself to Hamilton Hall to protest perceived racial inequality at Columbia.

Now, at 43, Wright is still fighting to make a difference, except she’s traded in placards and chants for fundraising goals and board meetings. She no longer protests for social justice; instead, she executes it every day as the recently appointed CEO and president of United Way of New York City. Wright is the first female to hold the title in the charity’s more than 70-year history.

“The great thing about United Way is that it’s citywide. We touch about a million New Yorkers,” Wright says from her midtown office, which is decorated both with printouts of new mission statements and her 5-year-old son’s crayon drawings. “We are able to not only identify, fund and co-create significant programs but we’re also able to change policy that has an impact on systems and really can cause huge, wide-scale social change.”

Wright knows the importance of such relief programs. She grew up in the impoverished South Bronx during the height of the ’70s ...
crack epidemic with a single teen mom, who stood guard on their stoop so that Sheena and her older sister, Tanya, could play outside. Undeterred by hardship, their mother, Debra Fraser-Howze, not only finished high school but also earned a bachelor’s from Hunter and a master’s from Baruch.

Fraser-Howze recalls asking herself, “Are you going to wind up a statistic or are you going to get up and make things happen for you and your family?”

She chose the latter.

“My mom’s trajectory was just inspiring,” Wright says. “Most people would think that’s it, your own life and your own success are over. Through her own striving, she demonstrated to us that no matter what your obstacles, you can persevere and reach your goals.”

Fraser-Howze devoted herself to activism, working first at the New York Urban League and then founding the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. “My mom took the issue head-on and said, ‘This will not be a death sentence for these members of our community.’ That’s just who she is,” Wright says. “And to me, that’s an example of what I was supposed to do: to stand up for those who have obstacles put in their path.”

As early as 3 years old, Wright stood out.

The precocious toddler sat in the back of her mother’s Hunter College lecture, fitting right in at the “big people school” and even raising her hand to participate. “I remember touching her hair and saying ‘No, baby, you can’t answer the questions,’” says Fraser-Howze, laughing. “She loved it. She was always excited to be there. She was very wide-eyed and ready to learn.”

So much so that Wright woke up every morning grabbing books to read. “I had to make her stop reading so she would get dressed,” recalls Fraser-Howze, who herself cooked with a pasta ladle in one hand and a book in the other. “We all knew she was particularly gifted. She could breeze through something and go in and ace the test. It was really remarkable.”

Fraser-Howze didn’t intend to let her daughter’s gifts go to waste. Wright was a student in the worst-performing school district in the city until her mother intervened. Both sisters had outpaced their peers in reading scores and Fraser-Howze petitioned another school district to let them attend a high-performing middle school in the North Bronx. The sisters commuted three hours a day for the privilege of experiencing quality education for the first time. Both also signed up for a free after-school tennis program sponsored by Pepsi. Wright turned out to be as skilled with a racquet as she was with her No. 2 pencil.

The Pepsi executive leading the program, John Hoffman ’79 GS, also happened to be recruiting a more diverse student body for George School, a Pennsylvania Quaker boarding school he had attended. He met Wright, who was already a year ahead of her peers in school, and was immediately impressed. “She was this pint-sized little girl. She must have been 4-ft.-10, if that, brimming with energy, bright-eyed, bushy-tailed,” he says. “It was extraordinary how vibrant and mature she was for an 11-year-old, so I was sold.” The director of admissions hesitated because of Wright’s age, but changed his mind after interviewing her. At 12, Wright enrolled in the high school with a full scholarship and quickly found her footing. In addition to her strong academic performance, she became the best runner on the girls’ varsity cross country team two weeks into her first year despite no prior experience.

Wright enrolled at Columbia before she was old enough to get a driver’s license. “She started at 16 and nobody would have guessed it from the way she behaved. She’s quite something,” recalls Roger Lehecka ’67, ’74 GSAS, who worked at the College for more than 30 years, the majority of the time as dean of students. “My main memory of Sheena is as a student leader. She brought people together because she was so charismatic. The ball of energy she is now, she always was.”

In addition to lettering in varsity track and field and cross country, the history and sociology major was president of Delta Sigma Theta and head of the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Black Students Organization. Wright also co-founded the Pan-African House, a special
interest housing community devoted to raising awareness of diversity across the globe, especially apartheid in South Africa. “It was a great way to learn about organization and leadership — how do you organize a collective around an issue and achieve results?” Wright says. The specific results she was after included more diversity in the Core Curriculum and pushing Columbia to divest from companies that conducted business in South Africa. “We believed economic sanctions were a big driver in social change,” Wright says. After a brawl outside student center Ferris Booth Hall in 1987, she and fellow activists chained themselves to the entrance of Hamilton Hall — a hallowed Columbia protest tradition. Their efforts spotlighted the need for greater multiculturalism, and Columbia announced an African-American studies major in 1987, a policy of complete divestment from business in South Africa in 1988 and the Major Cultures (now Global Core) requirement in 1990.

Maurice Coleman ’91, a fellow protester and student-athlete, remembers Wright’s influence. “Sheena was an important part of pushing the University in thinking about how it could become better and how it could leverage its own backyard — the cultural richness of Harlem — to enhance its offerings while also enhancing the relationship with the community.” Coleman, an SVP at Bank of America, adds, “I just thought she was a leader, and she proved herself to be exactly that.”

Despite her prep school and Ivy League bona fides, Wright never forgot her roots, volunteering at Community Impact and the Double Discovery Center to support underprivileged teens in Harlem. “She was an immediate personification of what youth who are walking around the greater Columbia community could aspire to,” Coleman says. “Those of us who were behind her saw her as a role model that we would strive to emulate. She was strong and fiercely competitive on the track field, and she was equally competitive and equally strong academically, and just as socially conscious.”

Wright’s Columbia education didn’t end at the College. She returned to the Law School after a stint at The New York Times as an editorial assistant. Despite enrolling with a 1-year-old son in tow, she graduated as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar for outstanding academic achievement. “Most people would have been defeated by that set of circumstances and she was not, which makes me think nothing will ever defeat Sheena,” says Lehecka. “If I ever needed a lawyer and she was practicing law, I’d want her.”

His was not a minority opinion. In 1994, Wright landed a coveted position at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, a prestigious firm famed for handling high-stakes transactions of Fortune 500 companies. There, she was the second black female lawyer in the firm’s history. “I started thinking about how business is connected to inequity and how economic empowerment and access to capital can really level the playing field,” she says.

In 1999, Wright became a senior associate at Reboul, MacMurray, Hewitt, Maynard & Kristol, where she negotiated, structured and executed financial deals for clients such as Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe. A year later, she became general counsel and EVP of business development at Crave Technologies, focusing on
product patents and negotiating investment partnerships. But after nearly a decade of mergers and acquisitions, Wright yearned for more fulfillment. “I needed to be doing work that was more closely connected to the community that I came from and helping people who started out with more similar circumstances to mine,” she says.

Wright pursued her higher calling at the 205-year-old Abyssinian Baptist Church’s nonprofit arm, the Abyssinian Development Corp. (ADC), one of Harlem’s largest affordable housing developers focusing on community and economic enrichment. In 2002, she was tapped to be COO and later that year was promoted to president and CEO. As a member of the church and a longtime Harlem resident, she brought new life to the role. During her 10-year leadership, ADC 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, the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change, creating more than 1,000 jobs in the process.

Additionally, Wright spearheaded the creation of the Abyssinian Schools division, which annually serve 2,100 school children and their families. Wright developed an award-winning workforce development program that has helped 200 high school dropouts obtain their GED or high school diploma. She also developed a neighborhood-based Naturally Occurring Retirement Community that annually serves more than 1,000 seniors.

“It was wonderful to be working on the ground in the neighborhood I came of age in,” the mother of three says. “Looking at the young people we served in our schools or through our youth programs was like looking at me and my friends and my neighbors growing up and being able to give them what I was able to get. It was very, very fulfilling.”

During Wright’s tenure at ADC, then-chairman Larry Dais ’76 Business—who had been Columbia’s assistant v.p. and director of the Office of Government and Community Affairs for 37 years—witnessed firsthand the impact she had on the community. “ADC provided the vehicle for her to bring about meaningful and measurable changes in the Harlem community,” Dais says. “Sheena’s commitment to community and public service has been the core of her professional life. I think she’ll be focused on doing that for the rest of her life.”

“Expect that people will underestimate you as a woman, and use that to propel you forward,” advises Wright.
“It was wonderful to be working on the ground in the neighborhood I came of age in. Looking at the young people we served in our schools or through our youth programs was like looking at me and my friends and my neighbors growing up and being able to give them what I was able to get. It was very, very fulfilling.”

On her first day at United Way of New York City, Wright hit the ground running — literally — as the Northeast was struck by Hurricane Sandy. Without access to electricity or the office, she led relief efforts by mobilizing hundreds of volunteers to check on the elderly and disabled living in Coney Island’s high-rise apartments. She also created and managed the United Way Hurricane Sandy Recovery Fund, which has raised more than $10 million.

Since then, her days have been spent on strategic planning sessions, fundraising and managing the execution and operations of the organization. Thus far, she has already revised its mission and vision statements, and looks forward to helping the national United Way campaign double the number of kids reading proficiently by 2020 in some of the toughest neighborhoods.

“Right now in New York City, only 30 percent of kids are reading at grade level by the end of third grade,” she says, explaining that such a deficiency at a young age leads to higher drop-out rates. “It puts us in a scary place as a city without having a well-educated population that is going to innovate and drive the economy and be successful citizens.”

Wright’s fierce work ethic is what impressed Robert J. Kueppers, chairman of the Board of Directors and chief volunteer officer of United Way of New York City. “Her vision and her intensity were clearly very appealing, which is impressive particularly given that she’s 10-15 years younger than your typical CEO,” he says. “Her track record is impressive. She is the next-generation woman to move us forward in our 75th year.”

Kueppers is not alone in singing Wright’s praises. Everyone from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) to Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz has lauded the nonprofit star. Hoffman, who recruited Wright for prep school years ago, believes she can end up like another illustrious College alum with a background in community service. “I wouldn’t be surprised if you told me she was running for President of the United States,” he says. “She’s as brilliant as they come. She’s a phenomenal person. She’s very energetic, very driven. She’s got all her ducks in a row.”

Wright is open to the general idea of political office: “It is extremely important who holds political power and how policies are made and resources allocated. The dearth of women in political office is astonishing, and I would not rule out an opportunity to serve.”

To wit, Wright is passionate about helping women in any office shatter the glass ceiling. “Expect that people will underestimate you because you’re a woman and use that to propel you forward,” she advises. “Don’t be surprised by that, because unfortunately in 2013 in the United States of America, there’s still a lot of disparity and sexism in the workplace that you have to contend with and it’s real.” From her corporate days, Wright remembers meetings with mostly white men, where she would be asked to get coffee or take notes. The words “I’m a lawyer just like you; I’m not the assistant” became routine. “There are always going to be assumptions about who you are and why you’re in the room and what you know and what you don’t know,” she says.

Yet she’s been overcoming that type of prejudice since her days at the mostly white George School, when a classmate said she had three strikes against her for being black, female and poor. That made no sense to Wright: three strikes means you’re out, and even back then, she was very much in the game.

“Other people look at you and say those are strikes against you. I say maybe those are things that make me better. Maybe they make me stronger, more resilient, more focused,” Wright says. “Those experiences of being a person of color in a country that has a lot of racism and being a woman where there are a lot of gender stereotypes — maybe those things make me stronger, maybe better, but they definitely don’t strike me out.”

Yelena Shuster ’09 is a freelance writer living in Brooklyn. Her work has appeared in Cosmopolitan, Us Weekly and New York magazines. Follow her on Twitter @YelenaShuster.
“For more than half a century, Ted de Bary has been the soul of Columbia College.”
— Andrew Delbanco
PHOTO: NATALIE KEYSSAR
Loyal to His Core

As a Columbia teacher, scholar, academic statesman and alumnus, Wm. Theodore de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS has long exemplified the highest standards of character and service. The private man might come as a surprise.

By Jamie Katz ’72, ’80 Business

Wm. Theodore de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS has trod the herringbone brick walkways of the Morningside campus for as long as anyone can remember. One of the towering figures of modern Columbia history, he has always stood out, always risen above the crowd. He has done so mainly by force of character, taking on challenges at every stage with discipline and purpose, loyal to his people and his principles alike. Still teaching at 94, Ted de Bary, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus and Provost Emeritus, may be the most genuinely respected person in the University community.
Those who knew de Bary, say, 25 or 30 years ago, could easily have pictured him in a position of national prominence. Secretary of State, perhaps. Wise and steady, unruffled in crisis, with the bow-tied elegance and comportment of a seasoned ambassador; he certainly fits the part. As one of the world’s leading scholars of Asian thought, de Bary would have added a welcome dimension to the councils of foreign policy. Indeed, he did consider a career in the diplomatic corps when the opportunity arose in 1946.

Returning from duty as a naval intelligence officer in the Pacific during WWII, he was assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, D.C., as head of the Far East desk. “At the end of the war,” he says, “I could have transferred from the Navy to the State Department at a roughly equivalent rank to lieutenant commander, so it would have been a good deal.”

Instead, he chose to return to the academic world, where he had interrupted his graduate studies at Harvard by enlisting in the service in January 1942, soon after Pearl Harbor. After his discharge, however, de Bary switched to Columbia at the urging of his fellow Naval officer and close friend Donald Keene ’42, ’49 GSAS, who felt they would both benefit from advanced study with Ryūsaku Tsunoda, a pioneer of Japanese studies at Columbia. “With the GI Bill and a fellowship, I was able to manage it,” says de Bary, adding, “I have never regretted the choice.”

Columbia hasn’t regretted it either. In the years to come, de Bary — along with distinguished scholars such as Keene [see “Sensei and Sensibility,” Winter 2011–12] — would lead Columbia to the forefront of Asian studies while embodying the ideal of the virtuous citizen in every sphere of university life — as a teacher, scholar, academic leader, parent and alumnus.

There are voluminous records of de Bary’s scholarly and public life — 31 books written or edited, extensive correspondence, the minutes and reports of innumerable conferences and committees, and interviews for Columbia’s Center for Oral History conducted by historian John T. Mason Jr. in 1986 and longtime Associate College Dean Michael Rosenthal ’67 GSAS in 2010 (which have furnished some of the material for this article). For years, de Bary says, people urged him to write his autobiography. Instead, he recently published The Great Civilized Conversation: Education for a World Community, which, he says, “amounts to an intellectual biography.” In it, he shares a central idea that touches on a good part of his career.

“For centuries,” de Bary writes, “a conversation has been going on in both Asia and the West about the values that could sustain a human community, but there has been only limited exchange between the two conversations. Today, the challenges of the contemporary world are such that the civilizing process can only be sustained through an education that includes (at least in part) sharing in the traditional curricula developed on both sides, based on classics now recognized as not only enduring, but world class.”

To understand the full arc of de Bary’s Columbia career, the clock must be turned back to September 1937, when as an 18-year-old freshman out of Leonia (N.J.) H.S., he arrived in Hamilton Hall for the first meeting of his required course in Contemporary Civilization. His OC instructor was the American historian Harry J. Carman (Class of 1919 GSAS), who would be named Dean of the College six years later. “Of course, you know that the title ‘Contemporary Civilization’ so far has only applied to Western civilization,” Carman told his students that morning. “I hope some of you will prepare yourselves to learn what is needed to bring Asia into the picture.”

Seldom has a professorial suggestion been taken more to heart, starting with de Bary’s enrollment in Chinese classes as a sophomore. He added Japanese in graduate school and at the Navy’s Japanese/Oriental Language School.

De Bary’s erudition and leadership potential must have been evident to his CC teacher early on, because in 1949, with de Bary still four years away from a Ph.D., Carman charged him with developing a core program in what was then called Oriental Civilizations and Oriental Humanities.

A key element was the creation of a series of sourcebooks — texts, in translation, of Chinese, Japanese and South Asian classics. De Bary set about recruiting brilliant translators and editors such as Keene for the Japanese texts and historian (and future CC Asian Civilizations director) Ainslie Embree ’60 GSAS for the multiple volumes of Sources of Indian Tradition, an anthology that includes works from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. The first of them was published by Columbia University Press in 1958, and the series has since expanded to include volumes of Korean, Vietnamese and Tibetan classics, with others in development. They are in perennial demand, says Jennifer Crewe, editorial director of Columbia University Press. “Asian Studies is one of the press’ largest and most prestigious lists, and it couldn’t have been without Ted de Bary,” she says.

De Bary chaired the Department of East Asian Languages and...
the ideal of the virtuous citizen in every sphere of university life.

Columbia. In 1960, Stanford approached him about developing its East Asian program. It was an attractive offer from a first-class institution on the rise. "They had a lot to offer in the way of inducements, monetary and otherwise," he recalls. "So I considered it. I went out there, I visited and I saw what the situation was and what would be the situation for my kids."

In part, his decision depended on Keene. De Bary had gone to great lengths to bring about Keene’s return to Columbia from the University of Cambridge in 1955, and felt he could not accept Stanford’s offer unless Keene was also brought on board. So Stanford upped the ante to include Keene. When De Bary still hesitated, Stanford sweetened the pot some more, offering the possibility of a top-level faculty appointment with no expectation of teaching. For de Bary, that settled the matter — and not the way Stanford had hoped. "No self-respecting college or university would offer that," de Bary concluded.

In the decades since, it has become commonplace for universities to lure academic stars by offering reduced teaching loads. But de Bary is having none of it, nor is he happy about the unification of the Arts and Sciences faculties in 1991, a move he feels deprived the College of a faculty body dedicated to its unique curricular issues. As a student, he benefited from a Core Curriculum that was taught, and constantly reviewed and refined, by some of the leading lights of American education — Jacques Barzun ‘27, ’32 GSAS; Mark Van Doren ’21 GSAS; and Moses Hadas ’30 GSAS, among many others. Their examples guide him to this day.

W. Theodore de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS

De Bary has emerged through time as a preeminent champion of the Core. That mission is supported by the Heyman Center for the Humanities, which de Bary established in 1976, and the Society of Senior Scholars, also founded by de Bary — a group of distinguished retired faculty who add their instructional firepower to the Core’s multi-departmental teaching staff. There is a long list of other de Bary initiatives that have added texture and substance to Columbia’s intellectual community, among them the Lionel Trilling Seminars, the University Lectures, the Society of Fellows in the Humanities and the Alumni Colloquia in the Humanities. For all this and more, he has earned the gratitude of students, colleagues and alumni. He has received numerous honors from alma mater, including the College’s Alexander Hamilton Medal, the Society of Columbia Graduates' Great Teacher Award and an honorary doctorate, as well as major recognition beyond the campus gates, such as membership in the prestigious Japan Academy in Tokyo.
after the war, and they already had two kids; two more were to come. They spent four years in renovated army barracks at Camp Shanks, in Orangeburg, N.Y., with de Bary away in China for part of the time conducting his graduate research. In 1950, a group of 32 families formed a cooperative and purchased a former pig farm on a wooded hillside in Tappan, N.Y., in Rockland County. They divided the property into one-acre plots and assisted each other in building California ranch-style homes, roads and eventually, common facilities for get-togethers and recreation. It all took a lot of effort, and the de Bary plot, in particular, presented serious challenges. It was basically a swamp. “Nobody wanted to contend with it,” he says now, chuckling at the memory.

Hydrology may have been one of the core disciplines of Chinese education during the Sui and Tang dynasties more than a thousand years ago, but it was never part of the liberal arts curriculum at Columbia. So de Bary had to puzzle out the swamp problem for himself. It was not so different, at heart, from many of the tasks he has taken on in life.

He first cut trenches with a backhoe to drain down to an artificial pond. The next part was tougher, he says. “I had to lay the pipe at the bottom of the trench, at a bad time of the year, in December. The trench would freeze up and then thaw, so the sides of the trench would collapse. I had to shovel out a lot of mud to lay the pipe. You have to put a bed of gravel down. It took some doing.”

Yet he didn’t give in to any of the obstacles, and his family soon had a comfortable place to live — three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and basement. De Bary still calls it home. The provostial, bow-tied dignitary people saw on campus was, in private, a man of great modesty and simplicity. At home on a Sunday afternoon, he greets visitors at his screen door in an untucked work shirt. He was, and remains, a dedicated vegetable gardener, growing lettuce, cabbages, kale, collards, string beans, tomatoes and squash. “We didn’t have a lot of money, and there were four kids in the family,” says his son, Paul ’68, ’71L, ’71 Business, a retired Wall Street lawyer and oenophile who lives in Cos Cob, Conn. “There were times when it was even difficult to put food on the table, so the garden was a big deal for my father.”

The de Barys also had three daughters: Brett ’65 Barnard, a professor of Japanese literature and film at Cornell; Catherine de Bary Sleight ’73 Barnard, ’77J, who succumbed to breast cancer three years ago; and Beatrice de Bary-Heinrichs ’84 GSAS, who graduated from Williams and is a junior high school teacher in Springfield, Mass. So far, there are 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

There are many things people are surprised to learn about de Bary. All of his teaching in retirement has been on a pro bono basis. He donates his publishing royalties to an endowment fund supporting Asian Studies, and hopes to steer the funds more specifically to instructional support for Asian Humanities. He was born in the Bronx to a German-born father and an American mother, who divorced while he was a child, and his first name was abbreviated to “Wm.” because his father was also William. One of his great-uncles, Heinrich Anton de Bary, was a celebrated botanist who discovered symbiosis.

As a teenager in the 1930s, de Bary was active in the Young People’s Socialist League. He jitterbugged in Harlem and Greenwich Village to Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong and Bud Freeman. After Britain came under German attack, de Bary

“I have thought of myself as engaged in a continuing conversation...
was one of a group of student leaders invited to visit with Eleanor Roosevelt in the White House to discuss ways of supporting the Allies. As a Fulbright Scholar in Beijing in fall 1948, he was among the Americans airlifted out by the U.S. ambassador when the city was surrounded by Mao's revolutionary troops.

Raised as a Protestant, de Bary converted to Roman Catholicism in the late 1940s. He is a registered Democrat. He cared about the civil rights movement and took part in the 1963 March on Washington. He saw his first Columbia football game in 1927, rooted for Hall of Fame quarterback Sid Luckman ’39 at Baker Field, and, as an alumnus, attended every home game for more than 50 years (with the exception of sabbatical leaves). He has never learned to type. “I don’t think Ted approves of any modern device,” says Keene.

“Sometimes Ted is very forbidding,” Keene adds. “He comes to the point very quickly and he doesn’t have the charm of some people. But when I first knew him, he was crazy about jazz. It was I who made him listen to classical music. His first book was a translation of a book by [Ihara] Saikaku, Five Women Who Loved Love: Amorous Tales From 17th-Century Japan. He is not stuffy, not cold, although sometimes he might give that impression.”

Keene met de Bary in the Navy’s Japanese/Oriental Language School. In college de Bary had been manager of the Debate Council and chairman of the student governing board. “He was a year ahead of me, and he was a big man on campus — everyone knew what he was doing,” Keene says. “I was a very little man on campus. Nobody knew about me.”

De Bary says they bonded almost immediately in the Navy because of their shared experience in the Core. They roomed together in Hawaii when both were assigned to the headquarters of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet. De Bary landed on Okinawa and served in the Aleutian Islands and elsewhere. All the while, he and Keene maintained a correspondence, later published as a book, War-Wasted Asia: Letters, 1945–46. De Bary describes Keene as his “Columbia soul brother.”

The feeling is mutual. “I knew I could always talk to him,” Keene says. “At times when I was depressed or something, I would turn to him for help. It wasn’t that I needed him to say everything is OK, but just being with him, I felt better and stronger.” He adds, “I know my own faults, but I don’t know Ted’s, because I don’t think he has them.”

Keene was a frequent guest of the de Barys — “like an uncle in our family,” Paul de Bary says — and he was delighted by the warmth of their home. “They never had a television set, and never

wanted one,” Keene says. “Instead, they sang songs of every kind together. I can’t imagine a happier, closer-knit family.” Fanny and Ted were the perfect married couple,” he says. “Her death [in 2009] was, I think, the worst thing that ever happened to him.”

De Bary has suffered other painful losses — among them his close faculty colleague Irene T. Bloom ’76 GSAS, who chaired Barnard’s Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures for many years; classmates such as Joe Coffee ’41, who founded the Columbia College Fund, CCT and many other staples of alumni life; and of course, his daughter Catherine. But losing Fanny meant losing the great love of his life.

Dawn Ho Delbanco (who is married to Andrew Delbanco) has taught Asian Art Humanities for 20 years, and her late father, Wai-kam Ho, knew de Bary in Canton (now Guangzhou) 65 years ago. She was among the many who were moved when de Bary sang “When It’s Springtime in the Rockies” at Fanny’s memorial service in St. Paul’s Chapel.

In her course, Delbanco explains some of the differences in the aesthetics of traditional Asian cultures.

“Whereas Chinese artists often present things in the ideal, the way they should be,” she says, “Japanese artists are more likely to find beauty in the seemingly unimportant, the broken, the aged, the imperfect. For them, true beauty lies not in perfection but in the sensing of its evanescence. It’s when something is almost gone that you most treasure it: so, beauty and melancholy are closely intertwined.”

As a student of Asian culture and a man who has lived a long and full life, de Bary understands the transience of beauty and the melancholy of loss. There is an inner grace to him, a sense that he has experienced and considered many things and must act on his beliefs. Though his age and health no longer permit him to move about the campus with the spryness of years past, he is still teaching two College courses this fall: his colloquium in Asian Humanities and his seminar in Eastern and Western classics, “Nobility and Civility” — words that many feel describe de Bary personally. He demurs at the characterization. “I don’t think of that necessarily in connection with myself. Nobility and civility represent two aspects of the human ideal: personal virtue — intellectual and moral — and social conduct, especially in the form of dialogue and civil discourse.”

More simply, he says, “I have thought of myself as engaged in a continuing conversation that started long ago and will, I hope, go on long after me.”

Former CCT Editor Jamie Katz ’72, ’80 Business has held senior editorial positions at People and Vibe, and now writes for Smithsonian magazine and other publications.
New Orleans’
Music Man

After 25 years in NOLA, Scott Aiges ’86 is dedicated to preserving and promoting its musical traditions

By Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts
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ring to producer Quint Davis, Aiges says, "Quint's job is to make

The multi-stage music and food extravaganza pumps about $300 million a year into the local economy, and though
drums was hardly preparation for the
time festival workers laid out metal barricades to create an alley for the bands to parade through, more than 600 people had gath¬
ered. Each band performed a five-minute program that opened with a dirge before shifting to a medley of up-tempo num¬
bers. The energy was infectious, uplifting. The audience clapped and bounced and stomped and sung.

Microphone in hand, offering color commentary from his on-stage spot next to the judges’ panel, was Scott Aiges ‘86. The competition is his brainchild, designed to promote both mu¬

Middle and high school students carry on the New Orleans-style brass band tradition in the Class Got Brass competition.

The multi-stage music and food extravaganza pumps about $300 million a year into the local economy, and though Aiges’ focus during Jazz Fest is on managing a complementary business conference, his overall work relies on its success. Refer¬
ing to producer Quint Davis, Aiges says, “Quint’s job is to make the money and my job is to spend it.”

Aiges is well suited for his position. He has lived in New Orleans since the late ’80s and was a longtime music writer for The Times-Picayune, the city’s daily newspaper, as well as the di¬
rector of music business development under Mayor C. Ray Na¬
gin from 2002-05. He also has been a band manager, a booking agent and an independent events producer, through it all making himself into one of the most versed, and versatile, people on the local music scene. In the crucible of the Crescent City, known for jazz in all its many forms as well as for soul, R&B, Cajun, zydeco, bounce and hip-hop, that’s saying a lot.

Watching Aiges backstage while the Class Got Brass votes were tallied, it was clear he wears his role comfortably: A self-described Type A personality, he seemed in constant motion — attending to details, phone pressed to his ear more often than not. When the closing act arrived, he pointed them toward barrels of ice water and Abita beer. Next came his production manager, wielding a decibel meter and concerns about noise levels. A stranger wandered over to suggest an act for Jazz Fest. A text message arrived and he tapped out an answer. For his wife, Lisanne Brown ’86 Barnard, he stopped and shared a dance.

O

n the Thursday before the Congo Square festival, Aiges is driving along Chartres Street through the Bywater neighborhood, where he has lived for 15 years. To the right are industrial lots and the broad expanse of the Mississippi River. To the left, houses, retailers and restaurants in pastel shades and various states of renovation speak to the neighbor¬

hood boom of the past five years. Aiges keeps up a tour guide patter, in between talking about his background: He was raised in Fort Lee, N.J., graduated from Deerfield Academy, a boarding school in Massachusetts, and chose Columbia so he could be closer to home. He met Brown while studying at Butler Library in December of his senior year. He’d been noticing her for weeks and one afternoon, when they were at the same table, she posed the open question of whether anyone wanted coffee. Aiges offered to go with her. “My one smooth move,” he says with a laugh.

After graduation, the political science major spent time as a freelance journalist in Nicaragua before moving to Washington, D.C., to write for the States News Service. “Their sh#t was they hired these really young reporters who were willing to work for no money, and we acted as the Washington bureau for regional papers in different states.” (His was Pennsylvania.) It was solid training, but after nearly two years he craved a livelier milieu. He and Brown, then still his girlfriend, pulled out a map and drew up lists of towns with decent newspapers where he might be interested in trying to get a job.

Not on the list was New Orleans, although Aiges, a guitar player since childhood, had lately found his way to the city’s music through a friend with whom he played in a band, The Wires. “He’s the one who turned me on to The Meters and Dr. John, The Neville Brothers, zydeco — all that. I’d known nothing. I hadn’t even known about Mardi Gras.” During lunch one day with a different bandmate who also was a journalist, Aiges started agita
ting about his need for a change. The friend mentioned that the Picayune was hiring.

“It was like I was hit with a bolt of lightning. And what I said to him was, ‘You mean, people actually live there?’ New Orleans was just a fantasy place to me.”

The city also appealed to Brown, for whom Tulane offered a fit for her public health interests. (She earned an M.P.H. and a Ph.D.
Aiges learned some hard lessons about trying to be an objective journalist while being part of the community.

in epidemiology.) Aiges applied and landed an interview. With the meeting scheduled on a Monday, the couple flew down on Friday for a long weekend: “The Neville Brothers were at Tipitina’s on Saturday night, and we were hooked. That was it,” Aiges says.

The Picayune assigned him to St. John the Baptist Parish, part of the River Parishes Bureau. Because the paper required reporters to live in the area covered by their bureau, he rented an apartment in Destrehan, often driving the 40 minutes into the city to go out at night; Brown stayed a while longer in D.C. “I had no idea that I was in the most obscure bureau in the most obscure place in the world and that nobody really cared what I was doing,” says Aiges. “I was taking it seriously. And I was having a great, great time.”

“This was the industrial corridor along the Mississippi River, upriver from New Orleans,” says then-bureau chief Ron Thibodeaux, an editor with the newspaper for 25 years. “Not the most scenic place you’ve ever been, but a great place to be a journalist. The politics are nasty and the dynamics of power — the way the industries influence everyday life and the day-to-day operations out there — are interesting to sink your teeth into.”

He recalls Aiges as “talented but not at all a prima donna” and recounts the time when Aiges and a photographer staked out a public official’s vacation home, on the southwest corner of Lake Pontchartrain, on a tip that the official was using public equipment to make improvements to private property. The official spotted and confronted them, and “the next thing we knew, Scott and the photographer are being hauled off to jail for misdemeanor trespass on this guy’s property — they hadn’t [trespassed], of course, but it was happening.” Thibodeaux posted bail, the article documenting it all was published and caught the attention of the EPA, and the public official eventually was indicted. “He ended up going to prison for violating the federal clean water act based on the story that Scott wrote, which he had to work pretty hard for; that’s a pretty good indication of his determination to get the story and to go full throttle at anything he did.”

Thibodeaux adds that Louisiana is different from any other place in the country — “with a rich and exotic history and peculiar ways about a lot of things” — and that it can be a challenge to adapt. “But Scott was excited about landing here and he did great work. He was very open to my direction and guidance about not only the professional stuff and how to do his work better but also getting attuned to the rhythms of what makes Louisiana different and special. He certainly embraced it and never let go.”

After about a year, a posting went up for the position of music reporter — the first in the Picayune’s history. “It was incredible that a daily newspaper in New Orleans up until the late 1980s didn’t have its own full-time music writer,” says Thibodeaux, who often spoke with Aiges about their shared interest in rock music. “Scott sheepishly came to me and said ‘I’d like to apply’ and I said I thought he’d be perfect for it.”

Aiges imagined he’d be competing against established music writers from outlets like The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and Billboard, and thought his chances slight; the Picayune’s editor viewed the beat differently. “He told me to come down to the main office and we went for coffee and he said — I’ll never forget this — ‘You have a perfectly promising career as a newspaper reporter, what are you doing? Music? Seriously?’”

Aiges made the case that music coverage could encompass more than show previews and reviews; he wanted to treat it as a cultural phenomenon as well as explore the business side, addressing, among other things, why the local industry wasn’t prospering the way everybody thought it should. “And he bought it,” Aiges says.

Aiges’ first byline as a music writer was in October 1989 — about a series of surprise shows by Harry Connick Jr. at the jazz club Snug Harbor — and for the next six years he attended almost every major concert and club show, going out on the local scene six nights a week. Along the way he met musicians, club owners, producers, record label owners and just about everyone involved in the industry. He wrote album criticism and show reviews, features, musician profiles and industry news; his articles appeared in the news, living and business sections as well as Lagniappe, the Friday entertainment section. In 1993 Aiges garnered a Louisiana Press Association award for a series he co-wrote about the passing of the last generation of jazz musicians who were old enough to have seen Buddy Bolden, the “king” cornet player and progenitor of jazz, firsthand.

“It was my graduate school and the place where I learned about everything that goes into the music and culture of New Orleans. I gained tremendous respect for it, and I enjoyed it tremendously,” Aiges says.

When Jazz Fest rolled around each April, he filed daily reviews from the fairgrounds, connecting to a dial-up modem from an early portable word processor in the press trailer. “I was dumb enough to think I was reporting for The New York Times, so I would try to see every act. I would carry my schedule around with checkmarks on the ones I’d seen and the ones I’d missed,
and then at 5 p.m. I’d go into the trailer and say, ‘Of all this stuff, how do I put together one piece?’”

Aiges also learned some hard lessons about trying to be an objective journalist while being part of the community.

“I was meeting all of these people — some of them I really admired; some of them were actually my heroes,” he says. He relates a story about The Meters, the legendary funk band including two of The Neville Brothers, vocalist Art and drummer Cyril, bassist George Porter Jr. and others. The group had reunited in 1989 after more than a decade apart, and through the year Aiges had interviewed band members individually, and in December reviewed their reunion concert, and in between he joined them for Thanksgiving.

Come January 1990, Aiges dropped by Ultrasonic Recording Studios one aimless afternoon. A group was working on the track for Aaron Neville’s Star Spangled Banner, recorded ahead of time per CBS so he could lip-synch for the Super Bowl. In the process of layering in orchestral music, the engineers had discovered a lyrical slip-up: Neville sang “gave proof to the night” rather than “gave proof through the night.”

“I walked in right when they finished fixing his mistake,” Aiges says. “This was before digital editing technology, and basically someone had to go ‘thr’ into the mic. They told me this whole story, none of us thinking it was going to be in the paper. But after I left I realized what I had and wrote it up, not thinking anything of it.” After the article ran, Aiges received a phone call from Art Neville. “He said, ‘Aren’t you the same man who came over and ate gumbo with us at Thanksgiving? Who do you think you are?’” Aiges was speechless, crushed at the thought of having angered the entire Neville family, New Orleans’ music royalty.

“In the end, it’s probably things like that that contributed to my feeling that I didn’t want to write anymore. I didn’t want to be that guy with the notepad in the corner and have to maintain this distant relationship; I wanted to be in the mix and have real relationships with people.”

Other factors were at play. Aiges felt wrung out by the demands of his reporting schedule. Also, after years of 360-degree exposure to the music scene, “I thought that I was a lot smarter than I actually am; I just thought this whole thing was not that difficult, so I had this genius idea to quit a perfectly well-paying job to be a band manager and get into the music business and see if I could do it for real.”

Aiges left the paper in October 1995, and the reality check followed quickly. From the challenges of getting club owners to return a phone call, to lining up gigs for a tour, to working with studios and recording budgets, to advocating for support from a music label, “It was not as easy or obvious as it seemed,” he says. Still, he persisted for six years. Notably, he worked with the Continental Drifters, named in a 1994 Rolling Stone critics’ poll as one of the two best unsigned bands in the country (“They made this incredibly cool, rootsy, pop-rock sound that was a cross between The Band and The Mamas & the Papas”). Later clients included Royal Fingerbowl, the New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars and a contemporary jazz band, Astral Project.

Looking back, he speaks with a weary wistfulness: “Managing a band is the best education about how to find your way around the business because you are literally involved with every single aspect of a professional career. I learned a lot. ... All the bands that I worked with, none of them got rich and famous and it wasn’t for lack of trying. It’s an extremely competitive business and everything has to line up in the right way.”

The experience also crystallized a question that has driven
"How can we help musicians learn to work smarter, to take advantage of technology, to help them access the global market?"

Above, audience members join Diblo Dibala on stage during a Congo Square New World Rhythms Festival. Opposite, a dancer with N’Fungola Sibo.

PHOTOS: COURTESY NEW ORLEANS JAZZ & HERITAGE FOUNDATION/ERIC SIMON

him in one form or another ever since: “How does one go about earning a living as a musician, not becoming rich and famous but just being sustainable, being able to make a career out of your chosen craft? How can one do that?”

One afternoon in early 2002, a friend of a friend was looking for someone to prep a mayoral candidate, C. Ray Nagin, on the music industry for an upcoming debate. Today the mention of Nagin’s name to New Orleans residents is enough to elicit a sour reaction (he was indicted in January on 21 corruption charges); then he was just a businessman, an executive with Cox Communications, president of the New Orleans Brass hockey team and one of 15 candidates in what the Picayune billed early on as “the most unpredictable mayor’s race in more than 20 years.” Aiges frankly didn’t even know the name, but he put some notes together and went to meet him. “I really liked him. I thought he was cool. He was young, he was funny. It was the first time I had ever seen a BlackBerry.”

At the debate the next night, Aiges recalls, the moderator asked a music question and most of the candidates’ flubbed their responses; then he saw Nagin reach into his pocket, pull out his notes and study them. “He took three things that I had told him and put them together in his own way that was very funny and very clever and got a standing ovation, and I was like — this is the guy!”

The next day, Aiges volunteered for the campaign. (“I didn’t have a job and I used to watch The West Wing — I figured that was how these guys get their gigs.”) Folding tables and plugging in telephones turned into writing email blasts to voters and, after Nagin was elected in March 2002, writing press releases and responding to constituent mail in the press office. In August, Aiges was hired to the newly created position of director of music business development in the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development. The following summer, New Orleans Magazine cited him among its “People to Watch,” part of the city’s arts and entertainment dream team “dedicated to elevating the visibility of New Orleans as a viable place for artists, musicians and filmmakers to live and work.”

“What I liked was his perspective,” says Beth James, who ran the economic development office. “Typically you’re either an artist or a business guy in the music industry, but Scott had a unique understanding of both sides. Because of that, and because of his personality, he was able to bring people together who had never even been in the same room, much less working toward a common goal.” She adds that his moral compass is unshakable. “He tells people the truth; they can take his word for it.”

Aiges advocated a trickle-up theory founded on the premise that the key to developing the local music business lay in putting more money into the hands of the musicians, who would then spend it on entertainment lawyers, booking agents and management companies. Then there were the nightclub owners, radio stations, record producers, recording studios and others in the industry who stood to benefit from a core of strong musicians. The idea, says Aiges, was, “How can we help musicians learn to work smarter, to take advantage of technology, to help them access the global market? If they can develop more revenue streams by licensing their music to film and TV, by getting more gigs in Europe, by getting more teaching jobs or whatever else it may be, then hopefully little by little it will start to snowball.” Among the initiatives that came under this umbrella was a deal to supply XM Satellite Radio with CDs from the city’s up-and-coming.
“It’s been pretty miraculous getting to do all the things I love to do most. I’ve been very lucky.”

and unsigned, artists, and the New Orleans Music Business Co-Op facility, developed in partnership with Tipitina’s Foundation, which provided artists with computer access, training and other promotional resources.

Most significantly, Aiges led the statewide effort to enact legislation creating tax incentives for the sound recording industry. He based his plan on Louisiana’s film tax credit program, which had been passed in 2002. “Basically, I took a copy of the law, dropped it in a Word document, and everywhere it said film production I substituted ‘sound recording.’”

The work grew more challenging from there, and in 2005 Aiges began lobbying in the state Legislature. As Aiges recalls, the mayor’s office was indifferent to the bill while the governor’s office opposed it, largely because of some financial wrinkles that had turned up in the film program with which it shared DNA. In the course of making daily trips to Baton Rouge he met Sherri McConnell, a lobbyist who had been tracking the progress of the first entertainment tax credits in the United States, and in particular the film law in Louisiana. She “became my crying shoulder,” Aiges says.

McConnell remembers seeing Aiges in committee, struggling with the legislative process. She offered to provide guidance pro bono. “He was really by himself in the effort, working for the city but truly out there and not being helped by whatever resources the city had to offer,” she says. “We became fast friends and have been close ever since.”

Recalling the backdrop of the state’s budget crisis, McConnell points out that it wasn’t easy to suggest “we’re going to spend millions of dollars in providing tax breaks to people who are recording music, or anything for that matter. But Scott is passionate, articulate, convincing. I gave my guidance in terms of who he needed to talk to. But he does his research, and his ability to articulate the potential impact of the legislation and systematically move it through the process, he did that himself.”

Passage remained dicey until the end, with Aiges and one of the governor’s policy directors hammering out details on the last day of the legislative session in late June. In its final form, the Sound Recording Investment Act created refundable tax credits ranging from 10-20 percent for recording projects or infrastructure. N'Gin finally gave his support, and Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco touted it as one in a three-part package of entertainment industry bills (the others focused on expanded film incentives and digital media). Music industry professionals dreamed of siphoning business off from the city’s “big three” competitors, Los Angeles, Nashville and New York. Aiges celebrated with a family trip to his parents’ vacation home in East Hampton, returning to attend the governor’s August 15 ceremonial bill-signing.

Two weeks later, on August 29, Hurricane Katrina hit.

Aiges recalls the surrealism of the time; on Saturday morning prior to landfall, he was at a kids’ birthday party, sitting under sunny skies and chatting with the other parents about what was then the earliest specter of evacuation and whether the storm would amount to anything. Arriving home, he found Brown standing in front of the television. “There was this enormous purple blob over the Gulf of Mexico and we looked at each other and went, ‘Ummmm …’” They spent the next 12 hours packing and battening down the hatches.

The couple and their children, Ella and Ben, then 6 and 3, bounced from New Orleans to Birmingham and Huntsville, Ala., to Nashville and finally back to East Hampton to stay at his parents’ place. Aiges worked remotely as best he could: “I’m trying to stay in touch with what’s going on in my office at the city and everybody’s dispersed, cell phones aren’t working, nobody is replying to emails, nothing is happening — and I was the music guy, right? Everybody’s calling, Bonnie Raitt wants to know what she can do for New Orleans, and I can’t get anybody on the phone.”

In October, he returned to find his immediate neighborhood had been spared the worst of the damage. The water on his property had filled the trunk of the car they left behind, and rose to about a foot-and-a-half in the backyard shed he used as an office. Their house, at three feet off the ground, was largely OK.

About the same time, the state hired Aiges as a short-term consultant, working through the nonprofit Louisiana Music Export Office that he created. His main charge: “to make sure everybody knows that Louisiana is still in business.” (This included executing a major concert at South by Southwest (SXSW) Music Conference and Festival in Austin, Texas, in March 2006.) As for his job with the mayor’s office, he organized a free Thanksgiving weekend rallying event with Kermit Ruffins and the Barbecue Swingers and other bands. Not long after, the work sputtered out altogether, part of the city’s vast cutbacks.

The offices of The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation are on North Rampart Street in the Tremé, in a converted house full of hallways and small rooms — rumored to have been a brothel, Aiges says. His office is large and light-filled, with an L-shaped desk covered in papers and with awards clustered in one corner. Tacked onto a bulletin board are concert passes and crayon drawings by his children. The other available surfaces — walls, table and shelves,
The backstage view of Rebirth Brass Band; says Aiges, "When I look out and see Congo Square like that, that to me feels like a win."

PHOTO: COURTESY NEW ORLEANS JAZZ & HERITAGE FOUNDATION/ERIC SIMON

fireplace mantel — are covered with music-related photos and paraphernalia from his years with the foundation. He indicates a photo above his desk from last year’s Congo Square New World Rhythms Festival, taken from the band’s point of view and showing the shoulder-to-shoulder audience: “When I look out and see Congo Square like that, that to me feels like a win.”

Aiges was hired at the foundation in November 2006. “Scott had done something very dynamic and visionary in helping the state establish the tax incentives for the recording industry,” executive director Don Marshall says. “And he’s always been a strong, passionate voice in the community for the music industry and the arts. After Katrina we really wanted to do more for the community, with a focus on helping rebuild the music and arts community. I was interested in creating new events and festivals to employ our musicians, helping them to get back here and survive, and Scott had had a lot of experience in that.”

“It was the first time in my life where I got to a place where I wasn’t the one music guy in the corner of the building. Everybody around me was focused on the same thing, and it was all about music,” Aiges says.

His first task was planning and executing the Crescent City Blues Festival, one in a new series of smaller festivals (including Congo Square) designed to spotlight different niches in the city’s musical culture. The production of these and other festivals and concerts, like the rest of Aiges’ responsibilities, comes under the umbrella of education, economic development and cultural enrichment. He also coordinates lecture series, workshops and conferences, including Sync Up, the entertainment industry conference that takes place during Jazz Fest; oversees a grants program that distributes more than $300,000 annually to educational and cultural programs throughout Louisiana; and is the spokesman and marketer for the foundation.

“I never saw someone who could handle five projects simultaneously as he does and with the professionalism and creative vision that he does,” Marshall says.

Aiges also oversees administration and curriculum development at the Don “Moose” Jamison Heritage School of Music, a free after-school program that teaches technique and theory of jazz to kids ages 11-17. Leaving the foundation office, Aiges points out the building next door — a former funeral home, paint-cracked and Gothic-columned — that is being refurbished as the first permanent home for the school. Plans call for seven state-of-the-art classrooms including drum and piano labs and technology for capturing audio and video for distance learning. The building is also to serve as a community center, with a 200-seat auditorium for concerts, lectures and other events, and a recording studio for local musicians. Aiges estimates it’s two years from opening.

Reflecting on his work with the foundation, Aiges says, “It’s been pretty miraculous getting to do all the things I love to do most. I get to throw these incredible parties and hire all of these musicians who are talented and inspiring, and we get to teach all these young people how to play, and to try to help people in the community figure out how to deal with issues, whether it’s zoning and noise ordinances or accessing computer technology for the arts — it’s an incredible platform. And we’ve got money to do all of this.

“All the time people say to me, you have the best job in the world, don’t you? And I’m like, yeah, kind of. I don’t want to gloat but yeah, I kind of do. I’ve been very lucky.”

Alexis Tonti ‘11 Arts is CCT’s managing editor.
Passport to India

College students intern in Mumbai via Columbia Experience Overseas

By Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA

Hannah Sotnick ’15 is interested in foreign languages and cultures and says she has always wanted to work abroad after graduation. Last year, as a sophomore, she started looking for a way to work or intern abroad for the upcoming summer. “I was having difficulty finding a way to do so that would allow me a source of income to pay for housing and so forth,” she says. Then a career counselor told her about Columbia Experience Overseas (CEO), a Center for Career Education (CCE) program that sends students to foreign cities to live together and work in eight-week internships. Sotnick applied for a position in Mumbai, was interviewed by her would-be supervisor over Skype and was offered the job.

“I was extremely excited after learning more about the Marg Foundation — a nonprofit art publisher that promotes Indian art and culture — and the internship,” Sotnick says. She was a marketing intern and shared a corporate apartment, provided by Columbia, with the seven other Columbia interns in Mumbai. With some others in the group, she extended her stay to travel for nine days in the northwest state of Rajasthan. She returned to the United States with valuable international work experience and says she has clarified her career vision: “The experience affirmed my interest in writing and publishing and working abroad as well as expanded my interest in working in a nonprofit.”

Since 2007, CCE has been connecting with employers and alumni in international locations to secure summer internships for rising juniors and seniors. CCE’s role includes internship development, arranging for housing and connecting with local alumni in cities including Amman, Beijing, Hong Kong, London, Shanghai, Singapore and, new in 2013, Mumbai and Bangalore. This year 64 students worked abroad through CEO.

“The CEO program was designed to provide students with accessible international internship opportunities that leverage Columbia’s growing global presence,” says Kavita Sharma, dean of CCE. “Employers are looking for candidates who are adaptable and can relate to people from all walks of life. Interning abroad contributes significantly not only to students’ professional development but also to their personal and social development. They become cross-culturally savvy and aware, skills that they leverage when they return to campus and in their future professional lives.”
The CEO program was extended to Bangalore and Mumbai as part of the U.S. Department of State’s Passport to India initiative, which seeks to increase the number of American students going to India for study and work. President Barack Obama ’83 has declared India a defining partner of the 21st century yet, as the State Department website notes, “The pool of Americans ready to manage the growing political, economic and cultural ties between the U.S. and India is small. This is in part due to limited opportunities for American students in India.” In 2009–10, 2,690 Americans studied abroad in India, while 104,879 Indians studied in the U.S., according to the State Department. Citi provided start-up funding for the CEO Mumbai and Bangalore program.

After CCE’s outreach specialists develop relationships with employers that yield internship opportunities, students are recruited to the CEO internships through listings in the campus’ online jobs database, LionSHARE, and through a marketing campaign that includes email, in-person information sessions and one-on-one counseling meetings. The information sessions help students understand the available opportunities and the realities of working abroad, and feature a panel of past CEO participants. “Students love to hear firsthand accounts from their peers,” says Heather Perceval, CCE’s associate dean for experiential education. “Knowing that their peers have navigated international internships and listening to their successes and challenges makes others feel that they, too, can take up a CEO internship.”

Students apply directly to employers and are interviewed by telephone or Skype. CCE arranges and pays for housing for all interns, and covers visa and travel costs according to financial need. Before departure, CCE holds an all-day orientation that reviews health and safety, offers tips on having a successful internship and discusses cross-cultural communication skills. Breakout sessions are city specific.

Among the 11 students who interned in India through CEO this summer were one from GS, two from Engineering and eight from the College. The College students were all in Mumbai, including Doreen Mohammad ’15 from Jamaica, Queens, who had never left the United States; Shrey Chandra ’15, who was born in Mumbai and hadn’t been back since his family emigrated when he was 8; and David Kang ’15, a Korean-American who envisions someday running for Congress. “If the stipend were not available or housing not provided, I certainly would not have been able to have my experiences in India,” says Kang. “Moreover, Jill [Burya, associate director of experiential education] and the dean of CCE herself [Sharma] came to India to see how we were. At every moment, they did the hard work of providing chances for networking at least twice a month.”

“I had a chance to meet some truly amazing people: one of India’s biggest economic advisers, several alumni — from bank CEOs to restaurant pioneers — and the bosses of my fellow CEO interns as well,” Chandra says.

Leeza Mangaldas ’11 was a CEO intern in Hong Kong in 2010 and says that the alumni mentors there formed a community for all the interns “that exposed us to some of the best social, cultural and intellectual experiences the city had to offer.” She stays in touch with several of them, and now that she lives in Mumbai and is exploring a career as an actress, she was inspired to become a CEO mentor herself. “I’m thrilled, as I had benefited greatly from the mentorship equation,” Mangaldas says. “What a privilege to be able to carry it forward.”

She says of her mentee, Mohammad, “She seemed to really make the most of her summer in India and to make a meaningful contribution to the organization she interned with. It was a pleasure being her mentor and I look forward to hearing what she does next.”

Rahul Jain ’08 never had an overseas experience as a student but credits the Columbia community in Mumbai with getting him settled in India, where he works in private equity, within two weeks of arrival. Part of his giving back was to mentor Sotnick this past summer, when he also connected with the other mentors and interns. He says of the latter, “I’m very impressed by their independence, their enthusiasm to absorb every part of work and tackle their internships, and their openness to India. They were fearless and took full advantage of exploring Mumbai and adapted easily to life. They also walked away with a fresh perspective of what it means to live and work in an emerging market — a first for many.”

Upon their return to the U.S., students participate in a follow-up reflection session, run by CCE, where they discuss their expen-
Reflecting on CEO Mumbai

Allison Kammert ’15 majors in economics and political science. This past summer, through the Center for Career Education’s Columbia Experience Overseas (CEO) program, she was a communications intern at Mumbai Mobile Creches, a nonprofit that provides day care for children of migrant construction workers. While still in India, she took time out to write about her experience.

I applied to CEO positions that interested me in several cities and ultimately accepted my position in Mumbai because I wanted to go somewhere very different. And it worked! Mumbai is really, really different, in a great way.

Everyone I talked to about India, from my future supervisors at MMC to my friends from India, kept telling me that Mumbai is a “city of contradictions.” I didn’t fully understand what they meant until my first days here.

There are the more obvious contradictions, like the fact that one of the most expensive malls in India is built approximately 50 ft. from the edge of Asia’s biggest slum. But there are also the less apparent contradictions. For example, in an office setting here, people will rarely give a definitive no to a request you’ve made. They might avoid the request, or say maybe, or talk around the point they’re trying to make until you finally realize you’re being denied. Similarly, people can answer questions very indirectly here. You’ll rarely get a succinct answer to a question you’ve asked, and it usually takes a while to get the information you really want.

These sort of subtler, indirect behaviors contrast sharply with the not-so-subtle ways people will push you out of the way if you’re not getting onto the train fast enough, or the bright colors of saris or super-spicy foods.

Life here is completely different from life in the United States, from the food, clothing and weather to the way people drive, interact on the train and view life in general. When you live in the same place for a long time, you develop a strong sense of what you think “normal” is. Being here has made me realize that there is no normal, and that maybe I should more often question why I do things the way I do at home.

For example, when I first got here, Mumbai’s inefficiencies drove me insane. When I’m in New York City and need to go to an event or meeting somewhere I’ve never been, I’ll look up the address and use street signs and smartphone maps to find my way there. It’s entirely possible to get to a location you’ve never been without talking to anyone about it.

Here, there are few visible street signs, and people navigate the city via well-known landmarks. In order to get somewhere you’ve never been, you need to ask at least six people on the street to point you in the right direction, and eventually you’ll get there. As I’ve spent more time here, I’ve realized that while it can, in many ways, be easier to just put an address into your iPhone, I’ve loved navigating Mumbai and seeing how everyone here works almost like an 18-million-person team to get one another to where they’re going.

Outside of work, the other interns and I have traveled to and explored various destinations in and around Mumbai. Outside of Mumbai, people in our group have traveled to New Delhi, Goa and Agra, and people will be traveling after their internships end as well. Within the city, we’ve visited the Gateway of India, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Elephanta Island, the Dharavi slum and many other places. Socially, we’ve met a lot of young expats and people originally from India through co-workers and some of the younger mentors to whom we’ve been assigned.

We’ve met a number of truly amazing Columbians through this alumni mentor program. All the CEO mentors live in Mumbai; our group consists of the owner of several world-famous restaurants, several high-level business executives, a Bollywood actress, a research studio owner and many others who have gone far, far out of their way to welcome us to Mumbai and to make our stay here as enriching as possible.

Networking this summer has benefited us in ways far beyond just meeting potential business connections — we’ve made great friends with and through these alumni, picked up advice that made life in Mumbai so much easier and met people with extraordinary life experiences that have been inspiring to hear about. Meeting our group of mentors made me realize how willing to help a fellow Columbian so many alumni are, which has definitely motivated me to find other ways to engage with the alumni network upon graduation and even before that.

Mohammed looked at all the CEO cities for any internship in human rights or public health before choosing to work at AAWC as a marketing intern. “This was my first time outside of the U.S. and it was quite a transformative, as well as eye-opening, experience,” says Mohammed, who speaks Bengali and has a working knowledge of Hindi. “Living through and experiencing the injustices, inequalities and realities that I grew up hearing about, reading about and learning about, in India and across the globe, only continues to put things in perspective for me. Not a day goes by without me realizing my privilege and what it means to be an American.”

Kang says his internship at the law firm was “a crash course in econ, Indian law, corporate networking and market analysis — all

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at the same time,” and says that after working in Mumbai and observing the local work ethic, he understands why India is poised for rapid growth. “The hunger and the desire that I saw every day at the office is something I’ll always remember,” he says.

Ben Harris ’14 was a fundraising intern for Mumbai Mobile Creches, a nonprofit that runs daycare centers for children of migrant construction workers who live on the construction sites (a common practice in India). “The staff was incredible,” he says. “From day one, they treated us like co-workers instead of foreign interns.” He adds that meeting Columbia alumni living in Mumbai showed him a possible new path: “It hadn’t really occurred to me that picking up and moving to India after graduation is a real option.”

Harris also was one of three CEO Mumbai interns selected to go to New Delhi at the end of June to attend a U.S.-India higher education summit, where Secretary of State John Kerry was a keynote speaker. Harris, along with Kang and Mohammed, met three interns from Honeywell, who subsequently visited the Columbia enclave in Mumbai. Kang and Mohammed reciprocated with a return trip to New Delhi, where they were shown the Taj Mahal and introduced to local restaurants.

Experiencing the local culture and sampling its cuisine is a mainstay of the CEO experience. Living together gives the interns a community and support network from which to navigate the foreign city, and they typically eat out and sightsee together as well as attend Columbia-organized events.

The Mumbai interns commuted by train, which several noted was a harrowing experience, with cars overflowing with people jostling for scarce space. Mukherjee notes that everything in Mumbai was unpredictable, including the weather, the people and the animals. About the last she says, “Cows, bulls, oxen, goats, dogs, cats, chickens, ducks … it’s like a little farmyard on the streets.

They get in your way, stop traffic and wander around on pedestrian streets and congested roads — and no one seems to mind.”

Sotnick noted in her blog that local women’s habits of wearing Western dress does not extend to shoes, hair or makeup: “It’s refreshing to go to work without worrying about makeup or frizzy hair, and wearing harem pants that would be considered pajamas in the U.S.,” she wrote.

Another entry describes being at a restaurant and ordering Dahi Pakoda Chaat, following Mohammed’s observation that the dishes with the longest names usually turned out to be the best. “When I ordered, the waiter, who spoke very little English and didn’t even know the word water, whipped this phrase out of his back pocket unexpectedly: ‘It’s very spicy. Order another dish!’” Nonetheless, Sotnick wrote in the blog, “I didn’t, though … and I was fine!”

Kang describes walking through “the slums of Santacruz that are right beside the five-star accommodations Columbia has provided for me” and every day walking past a family using a tarp hung next to a wall as a home. “The poverty is jarring, and the skyscrapers built next to it even more so,” he says. “It has definitively been an eye-opening experience.”

All of the interns return from overseas enriched by their experiences, and many cite new career goals, including returning to the countries they worked in, which in the case of the Passport to India program is a main objective. “That’s not something I considered before this,” Mukherjee says. “Even being Indian, I had no idea what this country had to offer. If I were to come back here after graduation to work, it would be to Bombay, which I only figured out after living and working here through the CEO Mumbai program.”

Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA is contributing writer for CCT. Her most recent feature, in the Summer 2013 issue, was about the Columbia College Alumni-Sponsored Student Internship Program.
Neil Shubin ’82 explores the common history of rocks, planets and people

Neil Shubin ’82 is the Robert R. Bensley Professor, organismal biology and anatomy, and associate dean for academic strategy at the University of Chicago. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2011.

A distinguished paleontologist, Shubin has developed expeditionary research programs in realms as far afield as Asia, Africa and Greenland. In his first book, the best-selling Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body [see cover story, March/April 2011], he traced the links between human anatomy and that of the fish that first came onto land hundreds of millions of years ago. His latest volume, The Universe Within: Discovering the Common History of Rocks, Planets, and People, provides an even broader map of our vast existence. Shubin, as The Wall Street Journal points out, “tracks the very atoms in our bodies back to the Big Bang ... What is special about the book is its sweep, its scope, its panorama.”

In the following excerpt from The Universe Within, Shubin describes the high drama of a scientific expedition in the frozen ridges of Greenland.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard
viewed from the sky, my companion and I must have looked like two
black specks perched high on a vast
plain of rock, snow, and ice. It was
the end of a long trek, and we were
slogging our way back to camp on a
ridge sandwiched between two of the
greatest ice sheets on the planet. The
clear northern sky opened a panorama
that swept from the pack ice of the
Arctic Ocean in the east to the seemingly boundless Greenland
ice cap to our west. After a productive day prospecting for fossils
and an exhilarating hike, and with the majestic vista around us,
we felt as if we were walking on top of the world.

Our reverie was abruptly cut short by a change in the rocks
beneath our feet. As we traversed the bedrock, brown sand¬
bigger than a sesame seed. I spent the better part of five minutes
ice cap to our west. After a productive day prospecting for fossils
Arctic Ocean in the east to the seemingly boundless Greenland

Imagine arriving at a vista that extends as far as the eye can
see, knowing you are looking inside it for a fossil the size
of the period that ends this sentence. If fossil bones can be
small, so too are whole vistas relative to the surface area of
Earth. Knowing how to find past life means learning to see rocks
not as static objects but as entities with a dynamic and often vio¬

The playbook that fossil hunters use to develop new places to
look has been pretty much unchanged for the past 150 years. In
tellectually, it is as simple as it gets: find places on the planet
that have rocks of the right age to answer whatever question interests
you, rocks of the type likely to hold fossils, and rocks exposed
on the surface. The less you have to dig, the better. This approach,
which I described in Your Inner Fish, led me and my colleagues,
in 2004, to find a fish at the cusp of the transition to life on land.

As a student in the early 1980s, I gravitated to a team that had
developed tools to make headway finding new places to hunt
fossils. Their goal was to uncover the earliest relatives of mam¬
mals in the fossil record. The group had found small shrewlike
fossils and their reptilian cousins in a number of places in the
American West, but by the mid-1980s their success had brought
them to an impasse. The problem is best captured by the jest,
“Each newly discovered missing link creates two new gaps in the
fossil record.” They had done their share of creating gaps and
were now left with one in rocks about 200 million years old.

The search for fossil sites is aided by economics and politics. With
the potential for significant oil, gas, and mineral discoveries, there
are incentives for countries to catalog and map the geology exposed
inside their borders. Consequently, virtually any geological library
holds journal articles, reports, and, one hopes, maps detailing the
age, structure, and mineral content of the rocks exposed on the sur¬
face of different regions. The challenge is to find the right maps.

Professor Farish A. Jenkins Jr. led the team at Harvard’s Muse¬
um of Comparative Zoology. Fossil discovery was the coin of the
realm for him and his crew, and it started in the library. Farish’s
laboratory colleagues Chuck Schaff and Bill Amaral were key
in this effort; they had honed their understanding of geology to
predict likely places to make discoveries, and, importantly, they
trained their eyes to find really small fossils. Their relationship
often took the form of a long, friendly argument: one would pro¬
pose a new idea while the other would relentlessly try to quash
it. If the idea held up under their largely amiable tit for tat, then
they would both line up behind the proposal and take it to Farish,
with his keen logistic and scientific sense, for vetting.

One day in 1986, while chowing the fat with Chuck, Bill found
a copy of the Shell Oil Guide to the Permian and Triassic of the World
on Chuck’s desk. Pacing through the volume, Bill spotted a map
of Greenland, with a little hatched area of Triassic rocks on the
eastern coast at a latitude of about 72 degrees north, roughly that
of the northernmost tip of Alaska. Bill kicked things off by pro¬
claiming that this could be a prime next area to work. The usual
argument ensued, with Chuck denying that the rocks were the
right type, Bill responding, and Chuck countering.

By dumb luck, Chuck had the means to end the debate right
on his bookshelf. A few weeks earlier, he was trolling through the
library discs and pulled out a paper titled “Revision of Triassic
Stratigraphy of the Scoresby Land and Jameson Land Region, East
Greenland,” authored by a team of Danish geologists in the 1970s.
Little did anyone know at the time, but this freebie, saved from the
trash heap, was to loom large in our lives for the next ten years.

Farish’s exuberance made me forget the near absurdity of feel¬
ing excitement at finding a tooth not much bigger than a grain of
sand. We found what we had spent three years, countless dollars,
and many sprained ligaments looking for: a 200-million-year-
old link between reptiles and mammals. But this project was no
miniature trophy hunt. The little tooth represents one of our own
ancestors and many sprained ligaments looking for: a 200-million-year-
old link between reptiles and mammals. But this project was no

How does such a big world lie inside this tiny tooth, let alone
inside our bodies? The story starts with how we ended up on that
frozen Greenlandic ridge in the first place.

magazine arriving at a vista that extends as far as the eye can
see, knowing you are looking inside it for a fossil the size
of the period that ends this sentence. If fossil bones can be
small, so too are whole vistas relative to the surface area of
Earth. Knowing how to find past life means learning to see rocks
not as static objects but as entities with a dynamic and often vio¬
lent history. It also means understanding that our bodies, as well
as our entire world, represent just moments in time.
the ocean from Iceland, were the perfect kinds of rocks in which to find early mammals, dinosaurs, and other scientific goodies.

The maps looked exotic, even ominous. The east coast of Greenland is remote and mountainous. And the names evoke explorers of the past: Jameson Land, Scoresby Land, and Wegener Halvø. It didn’t help matters that I knew that a number of explorers had perished during their trips there.

Fortunately, the expeditions that transpired ultimately rested on Farish’s, Bill’s, and Chuck’s shoulders. With about sixty years of fieldwork between them, they had developed a deep reservoir of hard-earned knowledge about working in different kinds of field conditions. Of course, few experiences could have prepared us for this one. As a famed expedition leader once told me, “There is nothing like your first trip to the Arctic.”

I learned plenty of lessons that first year in Greenland, ones that were to become useful when I began running my own Arctic expeditions eleven years later. By bringing leaky leather boots, a small used tent, and a huge flashlight to the land of mud, ice, and the midnight sun, I made so many bad choices that first year that I remained smiling only by reciting my own motto, “Never do anything for the first time.”

The most nerve-racking moment of that inaugural trip came when selecting the initial base camp, a decision made in a fleeting moment while flying in a helicopter. As the rotors turn, money flies out the window, because the costs of Arctic helicopters can be as high as three thousand dollars per hour. On a paleontology budget, means wasting no time. Once over a promising site revealed by the aerial photographs, and ended up setting down on a beautiful patch of tundra in the middle of a wide valley. There were creaks from which we could draw water. The place was flat and dry, so we could pitch our tents securely. It even had a gorgeous aerial view from camp turned out to be a series of cliffs, ridges, and hillocks of the exact kind of rock we needed. With any luck, bones would be weathering out of the rock’s surface.

The goal now became to return with Farish and Chuck, doing the hike as fast as possible to leave enough time for bones before having to turn back home. Arriving with the whole crew, Bill and I felt like proud homeowners showing off our property. Farish and Chuck, tired from the hike but excited about the prospect of finding fossils, were in no mood to chat. They swiftly got into the remainder of the week. Some days, when the light was right, it seemed to be a series of ridges ideal for fossil work.

It was decided that Bill and I would scout a trail to get to the rocks. Since I didn’t know how to walk in the Arctic, and had made an unfortunate boot selection, the trek turned out to be an ordeal — first through boulder fields, then across small glaciers, and pretty much through mud for the rest of the way. The mud formed from wet clay that made an indelicate glurp as we extricated our feet from each step. No footprint remained, only a jiggling viscous mass.

In three days of testing routes, we plotted a viable course to the promising rocks. After a four-hour hike, the red sliver in our binocular view from camp turned out to be a series of cliffs, ridges, and hillocks of the exact kind of rock we needed. With any luck, bones would be weathering out of the rock’s surface.

The goal now became to return with Farish and Chuck, doing the hike as fast as possible to leave enough time to hunt for bones before having to turn back home. Arriving with the whole crew, Bill and I felt like proud homeowners showing off our property. Farish and Chuck, tired from the hike but excited about the prospect of finding fossils, were in no mood to chat. They swiftly got into the paleontological rhythm of walking the rocks at a slow pace, eyes on the ground, methodically scanning for bone at the surface.

Bill and I set off for a ridge about half a mile away that would give us a view of what awaited us even farther north. After a small break, Bill started to scan the landscape for anything of interest: our colleagues, polar bears, other wildlife. He stopped scanning and said, “Chuck’s down.” Training my binoculars on his object, I could see Chuck was indeed on his hands and knees methodically crawling on the rock. To a paleontologist this meant one thing: Chuck was picking up fossil bones.

Our short amble to Chuck confirmed the promise of the binoculars.
lar scan; he had indeed found a small piece of bone. But our hike to this little spot had taken four hours, and we now had to head back. We set off, with Farish, Bill, Chuck, and me in a line about thirty feet apart. After about a quarter of a mile something on the ground caught my eye. It had a sheen that I’d seen before. Dropping to my knees like Chuck an hour earlier, I saw it in its full glory, a hunk of bone the size of my fist. To the left was more bone, to the right even more. I called to Farish, Bill, and Chuck. No response. Looking up, I knew why. They were also on their hands and knees. We were all crawling in the same colossal field of broken bones.

At summer’s end, we returned boxes of these fossil bones to the lab, where Bill put them together like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle. The creature was about twenty feet long, with a series of flat leaf-shaped teeth, a long neck, and a small head. The beast had the diagnostic limb anatomy of a dinosaur, albeit a relatively small one.

This kind of dinosaur, known as a prosauropod, holds an important place in North American paleontology. Dinosaurs in eastern North America were originally discovered along streams, railroad lines, and roads, the only places with decent exposures of rocks. The eminent Yale paleontologist Richard Swann Lull (1867–1957) found a prosauropod in a rock quarry in Manchester, Connecticut. The only problem was that it was the back end. The block containing the front end, he was chagrined to learn, had earlier been incorporated into the abutment of a bridge in the town of South Manchester. Undeterred, Lull described the dinosaur from its rear

Who knows what fossil dinosaurs remain to be discovered deep inside Manhattan? The island’s famous brownstone town houses are made of this same kind of sandstone.

end only. When the bridge was demolished in 1969, the other fragments came to light. Who knows what fossil dinosaurs remain to be discovered deep inside Manhattan? The island’s famous brownstone town houses are made of this same kind of sandstone.

The hills in Greenland form large staircases of rock that not only break boots but also tell the story of the stones’ origins. Hard layers of sandstones, almost as resistant as concrete, poke out from softer ones that weather away more quickly. Virtually identical staircases lie farther south; matching sandstones, siltstones, and shales extend from North Carolina to Connecticut all the way to Greenland. These layers have a distinctive signature of faults and sediment. They speak of places where lakes sat inside steep valleys that formed as the earth fractured apart. The pattern of ancient faults, volcanoes, and lake beds in these rocks is almost identical to the great rift lakes in Africa today — Lake Victoria and Lake Malawi — where movements inside Earth cause the surface to split and separate, leaving a gaping basin filled by the water of lakes and streams. In the past, rifts like these extended all the way up the coast of North America.

From the beginning, our whole plan was to follow the trail of the rifts. Knowing that the rocks in eastern North America contained dinosaurs and small mammal-like creatures gave us the aha moment with Chuck’s geological reprint. That, in turn, led us north to Greenland. Then, once in Greenland, we pursued the discoveries on the ground like pigeons following a trail of bread crumbs. It took three years, but clues in the red beds ultimately led us to that frozen ridge I trekked with Farish.

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From the top of the ridge, the tents of camp looked like tiny white dots just below the horizon. The crest was windswept, but the bluff of pink limestone on which we were seated formed a quiet shield for Farish and me to assess the discovery. Farish’s jubilation confirmed my hunch that the white spot in the rock was indeed a mammal tooth. With the characteristic pattern of three cusps and two roots, it was a dead ringer for one of these beasts.

Armed with confidence that came from this first discovery, the team looked widely across east Greenland, eventually finding better mammal fossils in subsequent years. The fossils came from a small shrewlike animal about half the size of a house mouse. Although it lacks the sort of awe-inspiring skeleton that would grace a museum rotunda, its beauty lies elsewhere.

This is one of the first creatures in the fossil record with our kind of teeth: those with cutting surfaces defined by cusps that occlude on upper and lower teeth with a tooth row subdivided into incisors, canines, and molars. It has an ear that is like ours also, containing little bones that connect the eardrum to the inner ear. Its skull pattern, shoulder, and limb are also decidedly mammalian. We don’t know for sure, but it likely had hair and other mammalian features such as milk-producing glands. Every time we chew, hear high pitches, or rotate our hands, we use parts of our anatomy that can be traced through primates and other mammals to the structures in these little creatures from 200 million years ago.

The rocks also tie us to the past; rifts in Earth, like those that led us to find fossil mammals in Greenland, have left their traces in our bodies as much as they have in the crust of the planet. The Greenlandic rocks are like one page in a vast library of volumes that contain the story of our world. Billions of years of history preceded that little tooth, and 200 million years have followed it. Through eons on Earth, seas have opened and closed, mountains have risen and eroded, and asteroids have come crashing down as the planet has coursed its way through the solar system. The layers of rock record era after era of changes to the climate, atmosphere, and crust of the planet itself. Transformation is the order of the day for the world: bodies grow and die, species emerge and go extinct, while every feature of our planetary and celestial home undergoes gradual change or episodes of catastrophic revolution.

Rocks and bodies are kinds of time capsules that carry the signature of great events that shaped them. The molecules that compose our bodies arose in stellar events in the distant origin of the solar system. Changes to Earth’s atmosphere sculpted our cells and entire metabolic machinery. Pulses of mountain building, changes in orbits of the planet, and revolutions within Earth itself have had an impact on our bodies, minds, and the way we perceive the world around us.

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Freshmen line up in 1955, their heads adorned by the infamous freshman beanie.

PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
MESSAGE FROM CCAA PRESIDENT KYRA TIRANA BARRY ’87

Fund Volunteers Link Alumni to the College

At the Columbia College Alumni Association Board, we’ve spent the better part of the last year examining alumni engagement and building connections between students and alumni. We’re thrilled with the progress we’ve made, yet it wouldn’t have been possible without another part of the CCAA’s mandate — our leadership of the Columbia College Fund. Together, these complementary roles contribute to students’ experiences and Columbia’s ability to achieve excellence.

The College Fund’s extraordinary growth during the past 15 years has paralleled all external markers of the College’s ascent. This year was no exception. Thanks to several hundred alumni fund volunteers — including Class Agents, members of the Fund Development Council, Reunion Committees and young alumni committees — we are able to report remarkable results this year:

More than 11,000 College alumni (including the Class of 2013) made a financial gift to the College.

The College won the Trustee Challenge on Columbia Giving Day 2012, held last October, when alumni across the University showed their support for their school by giving on one day. This year it will be held on Wednesday, October 23.

The College earned the full matching gift in the University’s April fundraising drive, A Million Reasons to Give.

After years of surpassing all participation levels for Senior Fund participation among its Ivy League peers, the Class of 2013 Senior Fund broke records for commitments to Dean James J. Valentini’s 3-2-1 Challenge: Make a gift for three years, ask two friends to join in and have your gift matched 1:1 by an alumnus/a.

While the dollar figures are important, just as central is the fund’s role in connecting alumni to the College and to students. Speak with fund volunteers and you realize that their passion for Columbia, for their classmates and the College’s students drives their involvement. Each contact with an alumnus/a is an opportunity to renew Columbia connections or make new ones. Most importantly, it’s an opportunity to find ways to better students’ experiences in the same way that alumni before us enriched ours.

Fund volunteers provide a critical link between the College and its alumni. They stay up to date on what is happening on campus and with students and frequently return to Morningside Heights for special events. Their feedback helps the CCAA shape its agenda and advise the dean on College priorities. Fund volunteers are a diverse group of alumni who have given back to Columbia in a variety of ways. Here are but a few examples:

Zila Acosta ’11 provides a unique perspective as a recent graduate. She sees the College’s dedication to its students and the difference every dollar can make in enhancing the Columbia experience.

Former CCAA board member Don Margolis ’63, ’65 Business always has been passionate about financial aid, giving as generously as he could. Until five years ago he was not involved in asking for money but for his recent 50th reunion he pursued first gifts from classmates. Not only did he reconnect with his fencing teammates and peers, bringing some back to campus, but by reaching out he also helped classmates reconnect to alma mater.

Chuck Callan ’78 hosted a pre-reunion party, bringing together classmates and building excitement for reunion, and he also re-engaged with his fraternity, ZBT. He says he has had more contact with Columbia and Columbians in the last five years than in the previous 30 years since graduation.

Gerald Sherwin ’55 has connected more students and alumni through volunteering at Columbia than anyone, which is why Columbia College Young Alumni created an award in his honor. The Gerald Sherwin ’55 Young Alumni Service Award is bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated exceptional service and has enhanced the community, well-being or engagement of the College’s young alumni. The inaugural awardees are:

Nathania Nisonson ’03: A champion of the fund, Nat is a consistent leadership donor, a Class Agent and a CCAA board member, and she has been co-chair of the Young Alumni Fund Spring Benefit since its inception seven years ago. She also was a member of her 10th Reunion Committee.

Michael Novielli ’03: Known as the “grandfather” of CCYA, Novi is credited with reenergizing the group 10 years ago. His classmates call him “Mr. Columbia.” He is an Alumni Representative Committee member, a Class Agent, a CCT class correspondent and a CAA board member; and he was a member of his 10th Reunion Committee.

The next time an alumnus/a reaches out to you, turn the tables. Ask why he or she makes a difference for a student. Whether it’s joining ARC, making calls for the fund, mentoring a student or providing an internship, you can make a difference. Consider joining the team; this is Our Columbia. Together as alumni, we make the difference.

CCAA Columbia College Fund Leaders

Michael Behringer ’89
Ira Malin ’75
CO-CHAIRS
Columbia College Fund

James Gerks ’80, ’83L
Ted Schweitzer ’91, ’94L
CO-CHAIRS
Fund Development Council

Francis Phillip ’90
Dan Tamkin ’81
CO-CHAIRS
Class Agent Program

Randy Berkowitz ’04
Julia Feldberg ’10
CO-CHAIRS
Young Alumni Fund Advisory Board

Kyra Tirana Barry ’87
PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSSO

FALL 2013

45
The Great Civilized Conversation: Education for a World Community

De Bary advocates of Asian civilizations to American modern core curricula, bringing Eastern and Western traditions into students and vice versa (Columbia

Holding the Center: In Defense of Political Trimmings by Eugene Goodheart ’53. Goodheart argues that non-parliamentary democracy requires compromise and humility to address crisis in a time of divided government (Transaction Publishers, $49.95).

Heart of Wisdom by Alan N. Clifford, pen name of Dr. Peter F. Cohen ’58. The author illustrates the conflicts and moral complexities of medical research in this novel about a cardiologist and the professor he meets through a prestigious fellowship (Lion Publishers, $8.95).

To Sing Away the Darkest Days: Poems Re-imagined from Yiddish Folksongs by Norbert Hirschhorn ’58.

This collection, a poetic account of Jewish life in the Diaspora, is the culmination of a five-year project in which Hirschhorn drew on more than 1,000 Yiddish songs (Holland Park Press, $14).

The Little Champ: A Different Kind of Novel by Arthur M. Louis ’59. Immigrant boxer Abe Washington seeks redemption for his role in fixing the 1919 World Series. Recounting his life as he is close to death, he provides a rough picture of Jazz Age America and early 20th-century prizefighting (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, $16.95).

What’s Going on at UAardvark? By Lawrence S. Wittner ’62. A university becomes the site of rebellion in Wittner’s satiric novel addressing the corporate takeover of higher education in contemporary America (Solidarity Press, $14.95).

The Race for What’s Left: The Global Scramble for the World’s Last Resources by Michael T. Klare ’63. As resource extraction methods become more complex and dangerous, Klare warns of the disputes and environmental risks made inevitable by the rush to secure oil, gas and other resources (Picador, $17).

Of Time and Place by B.R. Freemon, pen name of Ben Freiberger ’64. Set during the 21st-century global energy crisis, the novel follows the career and love life of James Lendeman, whose experiences call into question the future of maintaining a viable U.S. economy (Two Harbors Press, $16.95).

Growth and Turbulence in the Container/Contained: Bion’s Continuing Legacy edited by Howard B. Levine ’64 and Laurence J. Brown. This book surveys current trends in Bionian psychoanalytic scholarship, covering topics from the historical/biographical to the clinical, theoretical, cultural and more (Routledge, $49.95).

Thomas Hauser on Sports: Remembering the Journey by Thomas Hauser ’67. The author, best known as a boxing journalist, brings together an array of his articles on sports. Subjects include tennis pioneer Arthur Ashe, the NFL overtime rule, the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and more (University of Arkansas Press, $24.95).

The Holocaust, the Church, and the Law of Unintended Consequences: How Christian Anti-Judaism Spawned Nazi Anti-Semitism by Anthony Scialino ’67. Scialino holds the Catholic Church accountable for bigotry and authoritarianism, highlighting its marginalization of Jews as the precursor to the Holocaust (iUniverse, $20.95).


100 Years of Soccer in America: The Official Book of the US Soccer Federation edited by Neil Baetie, Jim Trecker ’67 and Jacob Lehman, with an introduction by Swirl Guidi, senior lecturer in economics and president of the U.S. Soccer Federation. Illustrated with striking photography, this official USSF publication is a centennial history of soccer in the United States (Rizzoli/Universe, $45).

Endless Empire: Spain’s Retreat, Europe’s Eclipse, America’s Decline edited by Alfred W. McCoy ’68, Josep M. Fradera and Stephen Jacobson. These essays discuss the history of empire that has dominated the globe for the past four millennia (University of Wisconsin Press, $29.95).

The Persistent Observer’s Guide to Wine: How to Enjoy the Best and Skip the Rest by J.P. Bary, pen name of Paul de Bary ’68. Informed by extensive interviews with wine consumers of all levels, de Bary uses his vast knowledge of wine to write this comprehensive guide (Neon Press, $19.99).

After Tocqueville: The Promise and Failure of Democracy by Chilton Williamson Jr. ’69. Challenging the assertion that democracy
Behind the Farrar Straus & Giroux Imprint

By Justin DeFreitas

Boris Kachka ’97, ’98J touched a nerve when “The End,” his New York magazine story about the state of the publishing industry, hit the stands in September 2008. It was a time of great financial uncertainty. Banks were crashing, unemployment was rising, the foreclosure crisis was in full force — and the publishing world didn’t look much better. With independent publishing houses and retail bookshops flirting with extinction and e-books and online retailing upending the traditional business model, pessimism was rampant.

The story received a lot of attention, and to Kachka’s eye it was a topic worthy of further consideration. Now, five years later, his first book, Hothouse: The Art of Survival and the Survival of Art at America’s Most Celebrated Publishing House, Farrar Straus & Giroux (Simon & Schuster, $27), takes a deeper look at the industry by focusing on one of the country’s greatest and most idiosyncratic purveyors of the written word.

The book traces Farrar Straus & Giroux (FSG) from its founding by John Farrar and Roger Straus Jr. in 1946 and provides compelling portraits of the people who made it an inimitable success. Together, publisher Straus and editor Robert Giroux ’36 set the standard for literary publishers, bucking the trends set by increasingly corporate houses by publishing, in Kachka’s words, “what they loved, and little else.” In the process they helped define post-WWII literary and intellectual America with a roster that included T.S. Eliot, Flannery O’Connor, Joan Didion, Philip Roth and Tom Wolfe.

Kachka’s original New York article was spurred in part by Wolfe’s decision, earlier that year, to leave FSG after four decades for Little, Brown and Co. — and a $7 million advance. “It seemed to signal the end for FSG’s kind of publishing,” says Kachka. Coupled with the death of Giroux that same September (Straus died in 2004), the time seemed ripe to take stock.

Kachka’s friend Lorin Stein, editor of The Paris Review, helped him get started by pointing him toward the FSG archives at the New York Public Library. “He didn’t know where the bodies were buried,” Kachka says, “but he knew there were bodies.” FSG’s current president and publisher, Jonathan Galassi, put him in touch with the Straus family, notably Roger Straus Jr.’s son, Roger III ’67, the onetime heir apparent whose working relationship with his father was often strained. The younger Straus, in addition to agreeing to be interviewed, gave Kachka access to his father’s unpublished reminiscences, held in the Columbia Center for Oral History. “There was plenty of untouched material,” says Kachka.

Though a behind-the-scenes tale of a literary publishing house ran the risk of drawing a small readership, Kachka believed the story amounted to more than literary shop talk. “It’s a family story, about generations and about how mores change, and it’s a family business story. And it’s a story about the rise of corporate culture, and about how you make culture, as opposed to commerce.”

The book centers on Straus and Giroux, whose differing skills, methods and temperaments served the publishing house well yet made for a sometimes precarious balance. Straus was larger than life, a wealthy and gregarious man-about-town in a Mercedes convertible, his ascot trailing in the wind. He was charismatic, brash, arrogant and profane, yet he radiated warmth and earned his writers’ trust by demonstrating the courage of his convictions; he was more than willing to lose money for the honor of publishing great literature. Not that he read much of it. Straus flattered and coddled authors, but he read quickly and selectively in order to get a feel for a manuscript: “I didn’t read your book, he’d say, ‘I read in it.’

Giroux, too, inspired faith in his writers — several named him executor of their estates — and he did more than his part to care for them, stroking their egos and acting as confidante, adviser and nursemaid. And though some said Giroux’s own ego was just as formidable as Straus’, his demeanor, personality and talents couldn’t have been more different. At his funeral, friends eulogized him for his humility, “for his turkey-sandwich-and-Jell-O lunches at his desk” and for “a dearth of personal photos that could be used at the service.” He was studious and erudite (he was mentored at the College by Mark Van Doren ’21 GSAS), a thorough and sensitive editor who immersed himself in his authors’ manuscripts. Occasionally, though, he was troubled by the notion that the old adage was true: that every editor was a failed writer.

Both men had lives outside the office — Straus was married and Giroux had a longtime partner — but neither maintained a clear boundary between the personal and the professional. They socialized with authors, vacationed with them and spent much of their personal time nurturing them and bailing them out of jams. They lived and breathed FSG, and for Kachka this was part of the appeal of the story. Essentially it’s a portrait of “people who are at their best while working,” he says.

It was fitting that Kachka should be the one to write this book, and not simply by virtue of the Columbia connection. His first job was as a fact checker at New York; and soon he took over the magazine’s culture listings. Then, in 2004, Adam Moss came in as editor-in-chief and expanded the culture coverage, giving Kachka a shot at writing. He’s now been writing about literature, publishing and theatre for the magazine for about a decade.

Kachka spent five years researching and writing Hothouse in his spare time — “a marathon,” he says, compared with magazine writing. But his experience and his contacts made him well qualified to tell the story of FSG. “It’s a good marriage of subject, access and me.”

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

HOTHOUSE
The Art of Survival
and the Survival of Art
at America’s Most Celebrated Publishing House, Farrar Straus & Giroux

By Boris Kachka
was globally inevitable following the fall of communism. Williamson looks at the post-de Tocqueville world of socio-political organization and questions the future of democracy (ISI Books, $27.95).

I Invented the Modern Age: The Rise of Henry Ford by Richard Snow 70. Historian Snow delivers a fresh account of Michigan’s Ford and the way he revolutionized American industry through the invention of the Model T (Scribner, $30).

Financial Justice: The People’s Campaign to Stop Lender Abuse by Robert N. Mayer 71 and American industry through the invention of the Model T (Scribner, $30).

A Map of the Winds by Mark Satin '80. In his latest book of poems, the author investigates what it means to look at the world, to live in the world and to wonder about it in ways that are at once speculative and specific (Lavender Ink, $15).

Manhattan Equinox by Lou Orfanella '82. Orfanella’s novel introduces the reader to the denizens of a Manhattan bar, The Golden Grotto, and reflects on what it means to feel fulfilled when looking back on one’s life (Fine Tooth Press, $12.95).

The Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream by Thomas Dyja ’84. Windy City native Dyja re-creates the story of Chicago in its postwar prime and explains its profound impact on modern America (The Penguin Press, $29.95).

Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish: A Novel by David Rakoff ’86. The late humorist, essayist and actor’s final work, written in verse, surveys characters whose lives are linked by acts of generosity or cruelty (Doubleday, $26.95).

Bodies in Formation: An Ethnography of Anatomy and Surgery Education by Rachel Printage ’87. The author shows how medical students become physicians through interactions with colleagues and patients (Duke University Press, $24.95).

Take Up Your Pen: Unilateral Presidential Directives in American Politics by Graham C. Dodds ’88. The author explores the constitutional and historical development of this executive prerogative and questions its permanence (University of Pennsylvania Press, $69.95).

The Heavy: A Mother, A Daughter, A Diet — A Memoir by Dara-Lynn Weiss ’92. Against the backdrop of current debates on childhood obesity and parenting, Weiss recounts her efforts to help her 7-year-old lose weight and become healthier (Random House Publishing Group, $26).

Half-Life: Reflections from Jerusalem on a Broken Neck by Joshua Prager ’94. In this story of mental growth and indomitable will, journalist Prager reflects on the bus accident that left him paralyzed and describes the struggles of the second half of his life (Byliner, e-book $3.99).

Dancing the New World: Aztecs, Spaniards, and the Choreography of Conquest by Paul A. Scolieri ’95. The author, a Barnard professor, examines the transformation of the Aztec empire into a Spanish colony through the visual and written representations of dance in colonial discourse (University of Texas Press, $55).

The Sports Gene: Inside the Science of Extraordinary Athletic Performance by David Epstein ’02. The author, a Sports Illustrated senior writer, asks why top athletes excel and examines how individual biology combines with external factors to influence ability (Current Hardcover, $26.95).

The Secrets of Top Students: Tips, Tools, and Techniques for Acing High School and College by Stephanie Weisman ’03. Taking a holistic approach that covers subjects from diet and exercise to test-taking strategies, the author advises students on how to achieve academic success (Sourcebooks, $14.99).

Our Naked Lives: Essays from Gay Italian-American Men edited by Joseph Anthony LoGiudice ’04 and Michael Carosone. This collection of essays addresses history, religion, childhood and more, tied together by the authors’ shared cultural background and sexual identity (Bordighera Press, $15).

High Price: A Neuroscientist’s Journey of Self-Discovery That Challenges Everything You Know About Drugs and Society by Carl Hart Ph.D., associate professor of psychology. Hart recounts growing up in one of Miami’s toughest neighborhoods and how it led to his research on the effects of drugs on the brain and human behavior (HarperCollins Publishers, $26.99).

China’s Search for Security by Andrew J. Nathan, the Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science, and Andrew Scobell. The authors explain China’s international security concerns regarding countries such as Japan, North Korea, Taiwan, Iran, Sudan and the United States as well as internal security concerns and the communist party’s future (Columbia University Press, $32.95).

To Move the World: JFK’s Quest for Peace by Jeffrey D. Sachs, the Quetlet Professor of Sustainable Development and director of the Earth Institute. Sachs recalls the year between October 1962 and September 1963 when Kennedy worked to establish more peaceful relations with the Soviet Union and slow down the proliferation of nuclear arms (Random House Publishing Group, $26).

Rewiring the Real: In Conversation with William Gaddis, Richard Powers, Mark Danielewski, and Don DeLillo by Mark C. Taylor, professor of religion and chair, Department of Religion. Taylor discusses the title authors’ perspectives on new media, communications, information and virtual technologies, their transformative effects on the self and society, and their spiritual influences (Columbia University Press, $27.50).
George W. Hoyns Jr., retired real estate broker, Sugar Land, Texas, on September 29, 2012. Hoyns was born in New York City in 1916. In 1945 he moved to Montvale, N.J., where he served on the Board of Education. Hoyns worked at Ford Instrument Co. and then in real estate. After founding George Hoyns Realty he was manager for Lewis & Haring Realtors in Newton, N.J. Hoyns moved to Texas in 2011. He loved science and was a member of the Audubon Society. He was preceded in death by his brother, Alfred; twin sisters, Harriet C. Bogert and Elba R. Reily; wife, Gloria; and former wife, Muriel. Survivors include Lawrence S. Hoyns, George W. III, Jonathan C., Elsbeth M., Andrew; twin sisters, Harriet C. Borries at Sandy Hook and then in the radar section of Camp Evans. The war interrupted his studies and he returned to New Jersey to train in the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. He was an avid tennis player, photographer, bridge player, gardener, Redskins fan and reader. Baum is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jesse Scullen Baum; daughters, Kathryn Meyer Yavervaun and Nancy Lohman; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Warren C. Baum, retired economist, Bethesda, Md., on August 22, 2012. Baum was born in New York City on January 1, 1922, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College. During WWII, he served in the Office of Strategic Services, where he was based in London and worked with intelligence gathered from the "Ultra" project. He earned a Ph.D. in economics at Harvard and then worked for the Marshall Plan and the RAND Corp., where he authored the book The French Economy and the State. In 1959, Baum joined the World Bank, where he rose from staff economist to v.p. for projects, policies and research. In addition to writing books for the bank, he chaired the award-winning Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. After his 1987 retirement from the World Bank, Baum was active in several public and private organizations in the Washington, D.C., area and on Martha’s Vineyard. He was an avid tennis player, photographer, bridge player, gardener, Red SKins fan and reader. Baum is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jesse Scullen Baum; daughters, Kathryn Meyer Yavervaun and Nancy Lohman; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Anthony E. Ventriglia, retired professor of mathematics, Bronxville, N.Y., on August 28, 2012. Ventriglia was born in New York, on June 20, 1922. He earned a master’s in applied mathematics from Brown in 1943 and continued his studies at Cornell until 1944. Ventriglia served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Langley Field, Va., employed by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, from 1944 until the end of the war. He was an associate professor of mathematics at Manhattan College for 45 years and retired in 1995. Ventriglia was a member of the Mathematical Association of America, American Society for the Advancement of Science, American Mathematical Society and Reformed Church of Bronxville. He enjoyed travel, golf and baking. Ventriglia is survived by his wife, Lois; daughters, Pati Maguire and Linda Carella; five grandchildren; and two nieces. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

David Norr, financial analyst, investment adviser, CPA, Scarsdale, N.Y., on August 19, 2012. Norr graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia, from which he also earned an M.B.A. from the Business School (1949). He served in the Army in WWII. Norr intertwined careers as a financial analyst, investment adviser and CPA. He was the only analyst to serve on the Accounting Principles Board and was active on several SEC committees on reporting problems; he appeared before a Senate subcommittee on stock options. Norr devoted much effort to improving disclosure for investors and was a frequent speaker and the author of several articles and pamphlets on financial matters. He fought for exposing unsuccessful wells in the oil industry and for exposing the cost of stock options, and was early to advocate stock buybacks. As an activist, he ridiculed meager stock holdings of outside directors prior to their being given generous stock options. Norr established eight scholarships in honor of family members at their respective universities. He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughter, Amy Norr; and her husband, Jeff Metz; daughter, Susan; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Americans United for the Separation of Church and State or the New York Public Library.

Francis P. King, retired attorney, Denver, on July 19, 2013. King was born in Pocatello, Idaho, where he and his brother were raised by their mother, a native of Pretoria, South Africa. Growing up in Idaho, he found a spiritual connection to the mountains that lasted throughout his life. King developed a lifelong love of skiing and during high school he swept the floors at his uncle’s printing shop to earn money.
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.

1939 George A. Delatush, Tequesta, Fla., on October 14, 2012.
1942 Edwin W. Bright, banking executive, Scarborough, N.Y., on June 14, 2013.

Harold Gabel, physician, Oakhurst, N.J., on August 12, 2013.
Michael G. Kovach, priest, Millersville, Pa., on July 12, 2013.

Gordon Cotler, author and producer, New York City, on December 20, 2012.

1946 A. Joseph Foo, retired insurance agent and real estate salesperson, Montgomery, Texas, on January 13, 2013.

Leonard Ornstein, cell biologist and professor emeritus, White Plains, N.Y., on May 7, 2013.


Donald R. Lawrence, attorney, New York City, on June 5, 2013.

1951 Martin L. Katz, professor, Carolina, P.R., on October 29, 2012.


Jehid Orenstein, rabbi, South Orange, N.J., on May 5, 2013.


1986 Kevin A. Hall, attorney, San Francisco, on November 12, 2012.


Richard A. Koerner, attorney and judge, Toms River, N.J., on August 10, 2012. Koerner was born in Elizabeth, N.J., and raised in Union. He served in the Army, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He and his wife, Elizabeth Torrance Koerner, were married in Hawaii and returned to New Jersey, where Koerner graduated from Rutgers Law, Class of 1959. They lived in Hillsborough Township for 35 years before retiring and moving to the Lake Ridge community, Toms River, in 1997. Koerner was deputy attorney general during the Richard Hughes administration and practiced law in Hillsborough for 35 years; he was of counsel to Koerner & Crane at the time of his death. He was an attorney for the Hillsborough Township and East Amwell Township Board of Education. He later became the municipal court judge for Hillsborough Township and the Borough of Rocky Hill. He leaves his wife of 56 years; children, Allison and her husband, Mark Neary, Andrew and his wife, Josiane, and Gretchen and her husband, Michael; brother, Joseph, and his wife, Julie; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Van Dyke Hospice & Palliative Care Center; 99 Rte 37 W, Toms River, NJ 08755.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY

1960

David S. David, nephrologist, Beverly Hills, Calif., on April 9, 2013. Born in Baghdad in 1938, David immigrated with his family to New York City, arriving in 1950. He was placekicker for the Lions and served in the Army Reserves, from which he was honorably discharged following a brief call to active duty. After graduating from P&S in 1964, he was attending physician and professor of medicine at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Well Cornell Medical Center and the Rogosin Institute in the departments of medicine, surgery and biochemistry. David published more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals and was a member of the team of professionals who cared for the first dialysis and kidney transplant patients in New York. After moving to Los Angeles, he was a nephrologist and internist in private practice and professor of clinical medicine at UCLA. David is survived by his wife of 45 years, Vera; daughter, Lisa; son, Dr. Eric ’96, ’02 P&S, three grandchildren; brother, Dr. Sami ’67, ’71 P&S; sister, Karen Chilowicz ’72 Barnard; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Norman E. Hildes-Heim, architect and international hotel developer, Fairfield, Conn., on February 20, 2013. 2013 Hildes-Heim was born in Fairfield on February 20, 1938. He was educated at Andover and earned an A.B. in history from the College, where he rowed crew. He spent a year at Cambridge University and earned a master’s in architecture from Harvard. Hildes-Heim designed and developed hotels at John Carl Wamecke & Associates for InterContinental Hotels Group and Bechtel’s International Division and later as a partner with Hotel Development Associates. He covered rowing around the world.
as a freelance writer for *The New York Times*. He also coached the Columbia lightweight rowing team while shuttling between New York and Boston, counting the time when he taught at Harvard. He was a “teaching visitor” at the University of British Columbia School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and was awarded the UBC Honorary Alumnus Award for his significant contribution to UBC. He was a liason in Fairfield each summer for the past 54 years, loved gardening and raised long-haired Highland Cattle. Hildesheim is survived by his adopted son, David Kardos. Memorial contributions may be sent to Robert J. Berta, Hildesheim Foundation, c/o McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, Attorneys at Law, 30 Jelliff Ln., Southport, CT 06890.

1961

David M. Blicker, attorney, Sacramento, Calif., on October 26, 2012. After earning a J.D. at Boalt Hall, Berkeley Law, Blicker practiced for 34 years, specializing in nonprofits. In summer 1963, he worked for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in Memphis, Tenn. In 1967-70, he was executive director for the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento. He was also special counsel to Planned Parenthood for 15 years and taught part time at the Division of Social Work at Cal State-Sacramento. In 1967, Blicker created Child Action, Inc., a nonprofit that links poor families seeking childcare with the state of California. He also was a hearing officer for the Sacramento County Employees’ Retirement System. In 1999, Blicker closed his practice and moved to Las Vegas, where he joined the Peace Corps, a lifelong dream, going to Kenya. He formed a company owned by seven women’s groups that sold bags, baskets and carvings internationally, bypassing the middleman. He also raised more than $16,000 to train Kenyan electrical engineers to install solar energy systems. Blicker also was executive director of Opening Doors, a nonprofit helping survivors of human trafficking and refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan and war zones in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Among his survivors is his wife, Terrie Lind.

Edward R. Hotelling, retired pilot, Somis, Calif., on May 21, 2012. Hotelling was born on July 28, 1929, and grew up in Chapin Hill, N.C. He was educated at Phillips Academy prior to matriculating at the College. Hotelling served in the Vietnam War as a Navy fighter pilot from 1961–66, with tours of duty on the carriers U.S.S. Constellation and U.S.S. Ticonderoga. After the Navy, he briefly worked and Constellation U.S.S. Ticonderoga tours of duty on the carriers Academy prior to matriculating. Hotelling was bom on July 28, 1929, in New York City, Littell was a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, School of Business (M.B.A.). A managing director of CVC Credit Partners in London, he was responsible for European loan and bond trading. He is survived by his wife, Brooke Russell; daughters, Grace and Catherine; father, Walter; stepmother, Leli Sudler; sister, Frances Littell; and her husband, Adam Heath; brother, Matthew, and his wife, Sheila Gallagher; stepcousin, Isaac Black; and two nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Citizens Who Care, 1017 Wetherell; they were married in 1970. Shack worked for several years in southern New Jersey as a rural legal assistance lawyer. He moved in 1972 to California and worked for 10 years in the antitrust section of the California Office of the Attorney General in Los Angeles. In 1982, he retired from the state in 2003 and was of counsel to Manatt, Phelps & Phillips until his death. In addition to playing the piano, harpsichord and recorder, he sang in productions of the Santa Monica Civic Light Opera, the Davis Comic Opera, the Sacramento Opera and the UC Davis Choir. Shack was survived by his wife, son, Steven; niece, Lori; and a grandniece and grandnephew. Memorial contributions may be made to Citizens Who Care, 1017 Main St., Woodland, CA 95695.

1964

Peter K. Shack, attorney and singer, Davis, Calif., on July 3, 2012. Shack was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 14, 1943. He graduated from Georgetown Law in 1967 and then was a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala, working with small credit cooperatives in rural Maya Indian areas. There he met Kathryn Wetherell; they were married in 1970. Shack worked for several years in southern New Jersey as a rural legal assistance lawyer. He moved in 1972 to California and worked for 10 years in the antitrust section of the California Office of the Attorney General in Los Angeles. In 1982, he retired from the state in 2003 and was of counsel to Manatt, Phelps & Phillips until his death. In addition to playing the piano, harpsichord and recorder, he sang in productions of the Santa Monica Civic Light Opera, the Davis Comic Opera, the Sacramento Opera and the UC Davis Choir. Shack was survived by his wife, son, Steven; niece, Lori; and a grandniece and grandnephew. Memorial contributions may be made to Citizens Who Care, 1017 Main St., Woodland, CA 95695.

1968

Barry Deutsch, attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 29, 2012. Deutsch grew up in Liberty, N.Y., and earned a degree from the College in political science. Fluent in Spanish, he began his career teaching at a public bilingual school in Manhattan for two years. He graduated from NYU Law and became the staff attorney for the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs for four years; next, he was an immigration lawyer for one year. In 1979 he published a book, *How to Avoid TV Repair Rip-Offs*. In 1981, Deutsch moved to Brooklyn and started a broad law practice that he continued to some degree until a few years before his death. For the last 23 years Deutsch was engaged in a variety of ventures unrelated to his law practice. He ran in the Democratic Presidential New Hampshire primaries in 1992 and in the guise of a persona called “Dr. Sherlock Litter” argued against “the evils of globalization,” campaigned for economic patriotism, especially for the U.S. auto industry, and was a proponent of environmental cleanup. He was married twice but was not married at the time of his death. He is survived by three older siblings, Ronald, Dale and Elaine Malbaum.

1992

Andrew Littell, banker, Boston, on December 17, 2012. Born in New York City, Littell was a graduate of Middlesex School and Chicago M.B.A. In 1970, he joined American Airlines. He flew as a freelance writer for *The New York Times*. He also coached the Columbia lightweight rowing team while shuttling between New York and Boston, counting the time when he taught at Harvard. He was a “teaching visitor” at the University of British Columbia School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and was awarded the UBC Honorary Alumnus Award for his significant contribution to UBC. He was a liason in Fairfield each summer for the past 54 years, loved gardening and raised long-haired Highland Cattle. Hildesheim is survived by his adopted son, David Kardos. Memorial contributions may be sent to Robert J. Berta, Hildesheim Foundation, c/o McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, Attorneys at Law, 30 Jelliff Ln., Southport, CT 06890.

Robert B. Glassman ‘62

ous intersections of these and other areas; his friendships; his fatherhood and grandfatherhood; and his long marriage. In summer 2012, he and his wife of 51 years, Harriet Newman Glassman, attended his 50th College reunion. His wife survives him, as do his children, Jill R. Glassman Mendivil, Mark and Dan, and five grandchildren.

1968

Barry Deutsch, attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 29, 2012. Deutsch grew up in Liberty, N.Y., and earned a degree from the College in political science. Fluent in Spanish, he began his career teaching at a public bilingual school in Manhattan for two years. He graduated from NYU Law and became the staff attorney for the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs for four years; next, he was an immigration lawyer for one year. In 1979 he published a book, *How to Avoid TV Repair Rip-Offs*. In 1981, Deutsch moved to Brooklyn and started a broad law practice that he continued to some degree until a few years before his death. For the last 23 years Deutsch was engaged in a variety of ventures unrelated to his law practice. He ran in the Democratic Presidential New Hampshire primaries in 1992 and in the guise of a persona called “Dr. Sherlock Litter” argued against “the evils of globalization,” campaigned for economic patriotism, especially for the U.S. auto industry, and was a proponent of environmental cleanup. He was married twice but was not married at the time of his death. He is survived by three older siblings, Ronald, Dale and Elaine Malbaum.

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No news from classmates to report for this issue. If you have updates to share, please send them to me at rzucker@optonline.net or the University.

I begin with memorial tributes to several deceased classmates: Anthony Ventriglia, William J. Scharfenberger and Dr. Maurice Goodgold.

Anthony Ventriglia died on August 28, 2012, in Bronxville, N.Y., where he had lived for 59 years. He was a retired associate professor of mathematics at Manhattan College. Anthony earned a master's in applied mathematics from Brown in 1943, with additional studies at Cornell in 1943–44. Anthony then served in the Army Air Corps, stationed at Langley Field in Virginia, as a member of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics until the end of the war. He was a member of the American Mathematical Society and the Reformed Church of Bronxville, N.Y., and enjoyed golf and travel. At Columbia, Anthony was manager of the freshman baseball team and was later a loyal alumnus, coming to many of our reunions. He is survived by his wife, Lois; daughters, Linda and Patricia; and five grandchildren. We send condolences to Mrs. Ventriglia and her daughters.

William J. Scharfenberger died on December 12, 2012, at 91. Bill was born in Queens and came to Columbia from Jamaica H.S. He was a member of the International Honor Society Beta Gamma Sigma and, immediately after graduating, enlisted in the Army. As a member of the 81st "Wildcat" Infantry Division, Bill served in the South Pacific, earning numerous decorations, including a Bronze Star for heroism in combat. After WWII, Bill began his career as a CPA with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, where he worked from 1946–51, and later joined West Virginia Pulp and Paper, where he worked from 1951–55. He became a specialist in corporate reorganizations, working with Wheeling Steel (1955–63), Riegel Paper (1963–66), Penn-Dixie Industries, Saxon Industries and Avnet. He finished his career in Pittsburgh as CEO of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel and as Chapter 11 Trustee for the Allegheny Health, Education & Research Foundation. Bill was one of the most prominent business executives in our class and remained active until April 2012, eight months before his death. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; a son, F.F. (Dallas); a daughter, Elizabeth Watson Scharfenberger; and several nieces and nephews. Our sympathy and condolences go out to Bill's family.

The New York Times of March 17, 2013, published a memorial tribute to Dr. Maurice Goodgold that was written by his daughter, Iris. Maurice, who died in 1996, was one of my dissecting partners in the anatomy lab at the NYU School of Medicine, so we were more than casual friends. He was ethical and serious, and often expressed his concerns when I took frequent breaks in the smoking room at the back of the lab rather than work at the dissecting table with my three partners. In those years I smoked Camel cigarettes, and I did not stop until 1949. I credit Maurice with helping me become healthier and more devoted to my studies. At Columbia, Maurice won Silver and Gold Crowns as associate business manager of both Jester and Spectator, and was a member of the Columbia Theater Associates. He also was president of the Pre-Medical Society and was co-editor of Sputniks. How he accomplished all this while completing his pre-medical studies is still a mystery to me. I thank his daughter for arousing some fond memories of my old friend.

Arthur E. Smith died in Venice, Fla., on April 10, 2013, at 92. Art's son, Arthur E. Smith Jr. '71, sent me a memorial tribute to his father, describing him as a member of a proud lineage of several generations of Scottish blacksheets, blessed with a unique blend of intellect, physical strength and moral fiber.

Art grew up in Queens and in rural N.Y. before coming to Columbia, where he majored in history and was captain of the varsity crew, which won major cup races in 1940 and 1941. Art earned his Varsity C, was a member of Crewsisters and was awarded the Bluestem Medal. In WWII, Art served in the Coast Guard in Alaska and then commanded the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Agassiz in the Atlantic campaign. After the war, Art took graduate courses at the Business School, then earned an M.B.A. in 1948 at NYU's business school. He owned and managed A.F. Smith Iron Works in New York City and on Long Island before his death. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; his son, Arthur E. Jr. '71, of Northampton, Mass.; his daughter Elizabeth Klein of Pittsford, N.Y.; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Nancy and by his sister, Dorothy. He maintained a lifelong friendship with Bob Kaufman, who was coxswain of the crews on which Art rowed as captain. As I write this, Bob is doing well at 92 in Scarsdale, N.Y., and maintains an active interest in Columbia crew and other sports.

On May 15, Dr. William Robbins reported that he and his wife, Dagny, moved from Grand Island, Fla., to Waterman Village, a retirement, assisted living and skilled nursing facility in Mount Dora, Fla. Bill described the move as stressful, and he relaxed by reading the autobiography of Columbia professor Mark Van Doren '21 CSAS. Bill said it was an interesting account of Van Doren's life and career, to which he added, "I don't care much for his poetry."

This news aroused memories of a course I took with Professor Van Doren in 1941, "A History of Hardy and Yeats," in which we had to read the very long Hardy classic *The Dynasts*. The class was full of my friends, and at the end of the term everyone received grades of A or A-, except me, who received a B+. I never learned why Professor Van Doren gave me that grade but after the last class he shook my hand and thanked me warmly for my participation in the discussions.

Classmates and friends can reach Bill and Dagny at 2831 Mapleton Ln., Mount Dora, FL 32757; 352-729-6455 or send email to will diameter@wmconnect.com. Best wishes to them for comfort and happiness in their new home.

As I write these notes in Northampton, Mass., there is a lot of discussion among football fans about the signing of controversial quarterback Tim Tebow by the New England Patriots, a team owned by Robert Kraft '63. Six Columbia quarterbacks have played on various professional football teams since the 1930s, a remarkable record for an Ivy League school and surely more than most other colleges or universities, though I have not done exhaustive research on this fact. Columbia's great quarterbacks who played professional football were Cliff Montgomery '34, Brooklyn Dodgers (Columbia 7, Stanford 0 in the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1934); Sid Luckman '39, Chicago Bears (I Hall of Fame); Paul Governali '43, Boston Yanks, New York Giants (Maxwell Trophy); Archie Roberts '65, Cleveland Browns, later a car-

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.
June 1 was bright, sunny and hot in Morningside Heights — a great day for the 70th reunion luncheon of the Class of ‘43. It was held in the Core Conference Room in Hamilton Hall, a fitting venue for the three of us old-timers: Immanuel (Manny) Lichtenstein ‘43E and also CC ‘42; Bernard Weisberger and me. We shared the long table with men of the Class of ‘48 and their family members, so we numbered about 35 in all. The tasty main dish was a variant of chicken Florentine. All three ‘48ers spoke briefly about the 70 years since graduation, and all extolled the Core Curriculum. A ‘48er quite properly rose to point out that the courses were memorable because of the guidance and stimulation provided by the section instructors and professors. Without them, the mass of information crammed into such short bursts would have been more confusing than instructive. Amen to that valued observation.

We three then broke up to attend different Dean’s Day lectures; I went to one by famed volcanologist Terry Plank ‘93 GSAS. She gave a most informative talk on the what, where, when, and why of volcanic activity.

All told the experience was most gratifying, and I urge everyone who can to come to the next Columbia event.

Bernard Weisberger sent the following note after reunion: “I’ll quickly sum up the past 12 months, which have been relatively active and decidedly pleasant. In July 2012, I took an eight-day trip to France with my mid-20ish, oldest granddaughter. We were guests of longtime French friends of mine at their summer home in Provence and topped off a four-day visit to sunshiny cities with a long weekend in Paris, which has no equal for museum-going, boulevard-strolling, cafe-lolling and dining. “I came home in time to enjoy a bang-up party given me by my family for my 90th birthday in August. Thereafter, I got involved marginally in the presidential campaign. I was lucky enough to share authorship of an online article in The Huffington Post with Bill Meyers during the Republican National Convention as well as a subsequent joint publication of a short piece in The Nation. Then, a website for historians, History News Network, invited me to be one of several panelists posting articles on the presidential and vice-presidential debates. It gave me a chance to pose as a journalist, my original life’s ambition, and even to sit up until the wee hours following each debate, posting my piece to make a morning deadline. “Things got antclimactically quiet after that, and so far there’s no major news to share with CCT readers in 2013; truthfully, the reunion (and a family wedding in New York) that weekend) has been the highlight. But as we Chicago Cubs fans have sadly learned to say, ‘Wait till next year!’ at this time when I’ll speak up again.”

The son of Dr. A.L. Peterson reports that his father is well at 93-plus. A retired radiologist, he previously was on the staff at Penn’s hospital.

In sad news, Harold C. Vaughan, a retired history teacher from Fort Lee, N.J., died on September 22, 2012.

Dr. Cleomenes A.D. Generales died on December 31, 2012, in La Jolla, Calif. This news was particularly sad for me, as we were close friends during our college years and had corresponded by yearly Christmas cards ever since. His two brothers, and sister, Helle, became my friends, too; each had a colorful life. Constantine, a physician like Cleo and their father, had been a classmate of Wernher von Braun in Zurich, for example. His other brother I recall as Eugene, and he was recruited by the OSS during WWII (I surmise this from the few snippets of those times that he recounted); Eugene eventually became a faculty member at UC San Diego.

Body identified collectively as “The Commuters.” They are those unsung, usually exhausted scholars who arose at an early hour, traveled endlessly to reach campus, often were late for classes, were pressed for time to squeeze in homework and couldn’t retire until late at night. I commuted daily from Yonkers, first boarding a trolley, then taking the subway at 242nd Street and Broadway, finally arriving at 116th Street more than an hour after leaving home. I was a glutton for punishment. After Columbia and the war, I commuted to Fordham Law for my J.D. and then again to NYU Law for my LL.M.

When we all enrolled in Columbia in 1940, the percentage of freshmen who commuted was far higher than that of the Class of 2017, as the Great Depression established the doctrine that it was more economical to live at home than to enjoy the luxury of dormitory living.

There was an item in the CC ‘45 Class Notes in the Summer 2013 issue noting that Dr. Samuel Henley ‘45 recalled coming in second as a freshman at a cross country race in Princeton and that he later won a gold at a cross country race in Annapolis, Md., in which all Ivy League schools took part. I communicated my chagrin to Sam that he failed to mention a memorable JV dual cross country meet with NYU in 1941. Our coach, Bob Pitkin ‘34, announced before the race that the Alumni Association would
award medals to the first three Columbians to finish. Sam took the gold, I took the silver and Robert Roman '44E, '45 took the bronze. Sam may have forgotten that race but I didn't, as it was my only medal that year. I heard from Paul Sandhaus, now retired. He and his wife, Helen, divide their time between Santa Fe, N.M., and Manhattan. They have two children, son Richard, born in 1949, and daughter Ellen, born in 1952. During WWII, Paul served in the Army as a lieutenant in a Bomb Disposal Unit in the Pacific, a rather precarious assignment, and he also did Post War Occupation Duty in Japan. In the "small world" department, I recently discovered that Paul's wife is my cousin's cousin's cousin. (Lack of space precludes me from reciting the endless details.) Never an idle one, Paul earned his pilot's license at 70. He recalls his childhood contact with Oscar Har- kavy. "Oscar, who was so tall, so friendly, enough, I met Oscar when we were toddlers. His father owned a neighborhood pharmacy/drug store and I have a dim memory that my parents were friendly with his. The store had a ladder on wheels that rolled from side to side through high shelves and I used to play on it between admonishments not to. I wonder if Oscar has any memory of that?"

Coincidentally, I enjoyed a lengthy conversation with Oscar, better known as Bud, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday at a party in which Alan Hoffman and Ted Jackson were among the invited guests. Bud and his wife have been busy preparing for the sale of their home in Boynton Beach, Fla. They still have their home in New Rochelle, N.Y. After Columbia, Bud earned both his master's and Ph.D. from Syracuse and served on the faculty of its business school. One of his main claims to fame, which is well documented on the Internet, is his 35 years as an expert on population programs with the Ford Foundation. Bud was the author of Curbing Population Growth: An Insider's Perspective on the Population Movement, and also wrote a widely read article in The Journal of Finance titled: "The Relation Between Retained Earnings and Common Stock Prices For Large, Listed Corporations." I also was in touch with Bruce Mazzlish, Professor of History Emeritus at M.I.T., whose numerous books include one on Richard Nixon and another on Henry Kissinger. He says, "My book Reflections on the Modern and the Global is scheduled to be published in September, along with reprints of two of my other books. On the more personal front, my wife, Neva Goodwin, and I are celebrating 32 years of a wonderful marriage. From previous marriages I have one daughter and three sons. Between my last two sons, one in Maryland, the other in Colorado, I have four grandsons and one granddaughter. My cup runneth over. Next week I am scheduled to have heart surgery. Whatever happens, it's been a great run."

Since that message, we learned that all went well with the surgery. As Bruce put it, "Now my task is to recover." Like all 90-year-olds, I frequently gaze at old photographs, recalling "the good old days," including one of the Class of 1944 freshman track team. In that picture, shown nearby, was my good friend Griffith Hart- well, first row, second from the right, who ran the 440. If my eyes do not deceive me, you can also see John Breeroton, George Floros, William Nornco, John Spitznagel, Roy Kallop '46, George Miller, coach Bob Patinkin '34 and me. Sadly, Griffin died in action on April 26, as being in Purdy's Station, N.Y. The way this was done showed ingenuity. We tore a telephone book apart, passed sections around and learned the address. Next we bounded up two flights off for Purdy's. We surprised the kidnappers — shocked them really — and freed our classmate. I have always remembered most fondly that fall.

Sunday, December 7, was a shock, but not a surprise. Most college-bound teens knew for years it was coming!"

Martin Kurtz, who calls himself the "Class of '44½-'45" and lives in Great Neck, N.Y., writes: "A prime motivation for this correspondence is to bring to mind that the Class of '45 includes a small group labeled as such but really weren't! I/aren't. I suspect it is not very well remembered that in fact, and 75-100 others (the exact number escapes me) of the Class of '45 started at Colum¬bia, as freshman, in a precedent-setting mid-year class, i.e., '45½. The

Dr. William Robbins '42 and his wife, Dagny, resided from Grand Island, Fla., to Waterman Village, a retirement, assisted living and skilled nursing facility in Mount Dora, Fla.

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Charles Gilman shared a memory: "The September 1941 freshman class was the largest ever to that point — I believe 681! We had an experience that fall that I shall never forget: The sophomore class kidnapped one of our class officers. A group of 10 or 12 of us met at the Delta Phi House for a "What do we do?" meeting. One frosh had uncovered an out-of-town phone number. We identified the number

Columbia College formed the class following Pearl Harbor and the nation's entry into the war. Later, we were folded into the '45s. There never was, as far as I know, another mid-year class."

"It was a hectic time for all of us and most, including myself, ended up in the armed services before being able to earn a degree. Those that did not remained in the colleges, and those happy evenings in the Lion's Den, after the war."

"I was a pre-med and got into medical school (NYU) early in the summer of '42 because of the war, acceptances were accelerated, to say the least) and very shortly after that volunteered for the Army; the Infantry. I remained in the States, on maneuvers, everywhere and anywhere until suddenly I was discharged to join my medical school class (46). In retrospect, it was planned this way by (the powers in order to keep a supply of physicians and dentists) in the pipeline for the duration of the war."

"After medical school, my residency training awaited, then, several years teaching at NYU Medical School and finally into practice on Long Island. I maintained a teaching position at NYU Med throughout my working years. Sadly (I really do regret it), I never did get a chance to return to Columbia to complete my college education."

"I married, after medical school graduation, a rather wonderful medical school classmate who very sadly passed away about 2½ years ago. We have three great kids and they have their own happy families, but all three of us graduated tired about 14 years ago and remain on Long Island. I have been quite healthy, happy and, if I can be excused, engaging to children, the kids, traveling, playing tennis and learning how to cook." We also heard from Dr. Arnold Ritterband '50 P&S: "Served 15 years as an electronic technician in the USNR after leaving the College in December '44. Still friendly with Ira Shein '46, '48 GSAS and was a lifelong friend of Bob Lipsy '61 GSAS, who died a year ago. Graduated from P&S and served internships, residencies in medicine, fellowship in pathology at Mount Sinai and assistant residency in neurology at the Neurologic Institute."

"I introduced Phyllis Rosenthal of Schenectady by P&S classmate Dr. Jason Tepper '50 P&S and his brother Dr. Clif 'Chuch' Tepper '46 P&S and Babies & Children Hospital pediatric residency. They were (Jason) and are (Clif/Chuch') my best friends, family pediatricians and colleagues. Fortunate enough to marry Phyllis, to whom I have been happily married for 56 years. I practiced internal medicine in Schenectady from 1959 until retirement in 2004. And yes, I would go into medicine again, in a heartbeat."

"Have three great children, Alan, Vicki and David; and eight magnificent grandchildren. Oldest three are at Villanova, Tufts and the entering freshman class at Yale. Lauren, our Tufts girl, is interested in medicine."

"Phyllis was a trustee at her alma mater, Russell Sage College. I was a clinical professor of medicine at Albany Medical College, and helped develop (Cluch Tepper and I were medical directors) the Schenectady Free Health Clinic. Sadly, at the end of July, after 10 years of providing excellent primary care to uninsured Schenectadians, the clinic shut down for financial reasons."

"I thought that my 2½ years at Columbia College provided an excellent education, and I [had] accomplished, impressive and likeable classmates (one of whom I remember particularly). Dr. Irwin Nydick '46, '48 GSAS, I learned is still teaching bedside medicine as a volunteer), but I did not love the College, which I attended as an undergraduate, immature subway commuter during the war. However I did and do love and am grateful to P&S."

"I offer a brief story of the changing times," writes John M. Khoury. "Recently, my grandson, who is a college freshman, visited me and I thought he might be interested in
looking at the Columbia College yearbook of 1942. It was given to me by a friend who was graduating and was going into the military service. He saw pictures of a freshman wearing a beanie every student wore a sports jacket, shirt and tie; The Varsity Show had male students dressed as girls and so forth. My grandson found that time very interesting, I find his world interesting, too.

Thank you to these classmates for getting in touch!

CCT needs a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts, managing editor: atl2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, 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 can also send news via CCT’s website and then attach a copy to cct/submit_class_note. This column is a wonderful way for the class to stay connected, and we, and your classmates, want to hear from you!

Bernard Sunshine
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bsuns1@gmail.com

Richard Heffner is creator and host of the weekly Public TV series Richard Heffner’s Open Mind. I asked Dick to reflect on some of the incidents and personalities he interviewed that stand out in his 57-year radio and TV broadcasting career. He wrote:

“Open Mind went on the air live — with no repeat except for videotape — on May 12, 1956, and surely seemed then very much a Morningside venture, for its very first guests were Columbia College Dean Lawrence H. Chamberlain as well as Columbia professors David Epstein, Marvin Frankel, Jack William Leuchtenberg and Allan Nevins (the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian hidden much of the time behind a screen of cigarette smoke unwittingly blown by this comparatively green producer/host still addicted to the filthy weed).

“Many others associated one way or another with Columbia have joined me for conversations on the air during the 57 years since then, including Margaret Mead, Ernest Nagel, Fred W. Friendly, Arthur Levine, Marvin Frankel, Jack Greenberg ’45, Norman Podhoretz ’30, Lionel Trilling ’25, David Denby ’65, Charles Frankel ’37, Max Frankel ’52, Nicholas Lemann, James Wechsler, Herbert Wechsler, Herbert Pardes, Harry W. Jones, Donald Barr ’41, Lawrence Cremin, Millident McIntosh, Henry Wris-...
Howard Stein ’47 lives in Hyde Park, Chicago, and has been retired from a professorship in the Department of Philosophy at Chicago since summer 2000.

October 24, in New York. Details may have reached you already. As before, wives and friends are invited and we have also asked members of the Class of ’45 to join us. The war years at Columbia disrupted the make-up of those classes (ours included) and many ’45ers are well known to us. The idea had positive responses from both classes in the small survey I made.

John McConnell’s recent request for Gene Rogers’ address prompts my welcoming contact information inquiries for classmates you would like to catch up with.

Columbia College Today’s Summer 2013 issue caused me surprise and smiles. When I turned to page 42 I thought I recognized the two photos taken in 1942 as mine and, sure enough, the photo credits carried my name. Photographers, like elephants, usually remember pictures they have taken. If you have the issue, see the photo essay “WWII & Columbia,” which begins on that same page. Sure to bring back memories. [Editor’s note: Or go to college.columbia.edu/cct/category/image_galleries/wwii_columbia.]

With regret I report the passing of Irving Sher. Irv and his wife, Anne, have been strong supporters of the College through these many years. I am also sorry to advise of the passing of Leon J. Quinto ’52 GSAS on July 25. Leon also was a member of the Class of ’20 GSAS. He was an economist with IBM.

Howard Stein writes: “Since summer 2000 I have been retired from a professorship in the Department of Philosophy and am associated with the Conceptual Foundations of Science at Chicago. I live in Hyde Park, Chicago. I have two children — a daughter who lives in the Bay Area (of California, that is — not to be confused with the Bay State), and a son who lives in Chicago. My previous career was rather winding, from a B.A. at Columbia to Chicago, where I earned a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1958 while teaching natural sciences in the undergraduate college; to a year at the University of Michigan, where I earned an M.S. in mathematics; to three years at Brandeis, where I taught mathematics; to five years in the computer industry; to a professorship of philosophy at Case Institute of Technology (then about to merge with Western Reserve University) from 1967–73; to a professorship of philosophy at Columbia from 1973–80, then back to Chicago in 1980.

“As it looks back on my undergraduate years at Columbia (1944–47), what I treasure most is the combination of the wonderful courses — Humanities and Contemporary Civilization (two years each in those days). Above all, for me, was the revelatory Humanities A, on literature, and the freedom to explore a wide range of interests. As to the latter, I was able, in three years, to take a yearlong course in art history; a marvelous two-year sequence (a graduate course open to undergraduates) in Jewish history with the great scholar Salo Baron (a course which, and a teacher who, opened my eyes to what scholarly research in a humanistic discipline can be); six courses in philosophy (counting J.H. Randall [Class of 1918]’s yearlong course in the history of philosophy as two semester courses), ranging from Ervin Edman [Class of 1916, Class of 1920 GSAS] ‘Introduction to Philosophy,’ through the wonderful course by J. McIntyre [equivalent of a double major, with honors, in mathematics and philosophy. This combination of rigorous courses, extremely good teachers (at least a few such), with a small degree of useful constraint but great liberty to follow one’s bent, has ever since seemed to me pretty close to the ideal of what a college education should offer a student.”

Thank you to Howard for writing in! CCT still needs a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-854-1733.

In the meantime, 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 CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_classnote. This column is a wonderful way for the class to stay connected, and we, and your classmates, want to hear from you!”

George Woofle got in touch: “I am constantly amazed at how active Class of ’48 [members are] in their professions or communities despite our advanced years. Some of us are still teaching or lecturing or practicing. Others are traveling to exotic places, or may be just to see our offspring.

“[My wife, Elaine] ’47 GS, and I recently returned from Mexico and are planning a cruise in September. Bill Farren ’49 spent all of April touring on a cruise by bus and river cruises. Golf is still an alternative for me and, when I can find a partner, duplicate bridge.

“Along that line, if anyone has an address for Andy Gabrilovich ’49, please pass it on to our editor.”

Bob Shiffman ’45 has been thinking and discussing some thoughts on Alumni Reunion Weekend, which took place in early June: “About 10 of our classmates made the 65th reunion of our graduation. It was a grand affair. [Attorney] Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, ’76L was one of the speakers [at Dean’s Day on June 1]. We shared our luncheon with the graduates of the Class of 1943. Our impression was that everybody seemed to be having a great time. It was very enjoyable and people seemed genuinely familiar with each other on campus. Everybody extolled their Columbia experience, particularly the Core Humanities courses in the first and second years. Everybody met we seemed very happy to be back on Morningside Heights, especially some 90-year-old alumni. It was impressive to see so many fairly elderly graduates appear so happy to be back at Columbia, and the genuine appreciation all of them had about the Humanities courses.”

Heywood Shelley ’50L, of Brooklyn, writes, “As I am retired on my time, I’ve written a history of my family at Columbia University. My father, Robert Shelley Class of 1919, attended Columbia College in the WWI era. His friends included Irwin Edman (Class of 1916, ’20 GSAS), who went on to become a philosophy professor of note at the College. My brother, Edwin ’40, ’41E, may have been named after him. My father was a successful real estate developer. He built several apartment buildings including the Holland House in Forest Hills which, at the time, was the tallest building in Queens.

“I recall my father’s excitement when the College won the Rose Bowl, the then-equality of today’s Super Bowl, in 1944, by a score of 7–4, won with the Statue of Liberty play. My whole family attended the rematch at Baker Field in 1936, which Columbia again won 7–0. My mother was unusually quiet during the game; when I asked her afterward why she said she wondered why the clock ran backward.

“After service in the Army during WWII, I entered the Law School. I graduated from the College in 1948 and from the Law School in 1950, the two-year interval being by virtue of a professional
option,’ which allowed for my first year of law school to count as the last year of college. During the academic year following my law school graduation, I held the paying position of ‘associate,’ a teaching position, at a meeting with the freshman class in groups of 20 (the class was about 300). I went on to practice law for more than 50 years with a Wall Street firm and my clients included George H.W. Bush (the first President Bush) and the New York Mets. The law firm is Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, and one of its alumni was Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

On December 8, 1941 (the day after Pearl Harbor), Ed was working for Curtis Wright, a manufacturer of airplanes for the military. His job was testing propellers and he was on a test flight when an Army plane flew alongside and motioned for him to land. At that time the U.S. Army — there was no separate Air Force then — was using WWI aircraft for test flights. And these had markings not unlike those of the Japanese Air Force.

“When Ed got home, his wife said, ‘We had an air raid alert today.’ Ed said, ‘I was it.’”

“Ed’s wife, Florence Dubroff Shelley ’40 Barnard, ’41J, was editor-in-chief of the Barnard Bulletin. ‘My sister, Phyllis Jaffe ’49L, served in the Women’s Army Corps (the WACs) during WWII and upon her return from service entered the Law School as one of three women in a class of 103, all of whom were WWII veterans. She had a distinguished career as a lawyer specializing in school law, ultimately representing many of the school boards in Westchester County and points north. ‘My daughter, Carolyn LeBel ’69 Barnard, had a long career with the New York school system that included teaching English as a Second Language.

“My daughter, Alexandra Shelley ’96 Arts, broke family tradition by going to Yale as an undergraduate but redeemed herself by getting an M.A. in 1999 at the School of the Arts. For two years she taught logic and rhetoric at the College. She now teaches fiction workshops and edits books, among those the bestselling novel The Help (published under the name of a penname).’

“My 9-year-old granddaughter shows all the signs of following the family tradition.”

Leonard Ornstein’s daughter, Cindy, wrote to CTC with the news of his death at 87 on May 7, 2013. Leonard, who resided in White Plains, was a renowned cell biologist and a professor emeritus at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He earned an M.A. in 1949 and a Ph.D. in 1957, both from GSAS and in biological sciences. In addition to his daughter, Leonard is survived by his wife of 68 years, Theresa Rollier Ornstein; sister, Norma G. Goldstein; sons, Avi and Tad; son-in-law, Charles Johnson; daughters-in-law, Bernice Nowak-Ornstein and Lyanne Labelle Ornstein; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by another daughter, Rani Simoff. A full obituary will be published in a future issue in the Obituaries column.

Thanks to George, Bob and Heywood CTC needs a class correspondent to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Tonti ’11 Arts, managing editor: alt212@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, 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 CTC’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ctc/submit_class_note. We, and your classmates, want to hear from you!

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29–JUNE 1, 2014 ALUMNI OFFICE Contacts Alumni Affaires Vanessa Scott vs2470@columbia.edu 212-851-9148 DEVELOPMENT Esfir Shamilova es3323@columbia.edu 212-851-7833

Summer heat and humidity are upon us at this writing, but the Class of ’49 can be proud of the spirit and vitality it exhibits as an example for all.

This correspondent experienced a number of problems along with a computer crash that delayed the writing of this column two weeks beyond deadline. There is an upside to this: an outburst of understanding of the city we live in. We have an appreciation for the work of the public service workers, including the people who keep the sidewalks clean and the streets in repair. And we have a better understanding of the city we live in.

John Weaver 2629 E. 11th St. Brooklyn, NY 11235 wudchpr@gmail.com

Bud Kassel took a tumble on the final day of the ski season at Stowe, VT, last spring, and suffered a fractured pelvis. He managed to ski to the bottom of the slope, and after weeks of hospitalization, rehab and wheelchairs, was ready for the tennis courts and looking ahead to the next ski season.

Arthur Thomas values his experiences as an oarsman at Columbia and recalls the 1947 Intergalactic Rowing Association Regatta at Poughkeepsie, NY, memorable for the tennis courts and looking ahead to the next ski season.

Mario Palmieri 50 Indian Lake Ave. W. Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 mpal@bestweb.net

Joe Russell ’52L has once again enhanced our knowledge and understanding of the city we live in. He says, “Extraordinary! If anyone had told me of this I would have believed it — those damn fools are jumping off into the Harlem River Ship Canal, dug in about 1913 to connect the Harlem River with the outlet of Spuyten Duyvil Creek (the latter coming down from the north, roughly along the bed of what is now Kingsbridge Avenue (in the Bronx), resulting in the physical separation of the northernmost part of Manhattan — Marble Hill — from the island itself, but the political boundaries unchanged.”

Arthur Westing: Pioneer on the Environmental Impact of War. A companion volume now has been published, Environmental to Comprehensive Security. Both books are published by Springer as part of its series Springer Briefs on Pioneers in Science and Practice. For information online, go to springer.com.

FALL 2013

CLASS NOTES

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

WWI ended on November 11, 1918, and our country eventually began honoring its veterans on that day. Our class’ WWII veterans swapped khatami, numbers, and tales of the FBI’s interest in blue beans as they began their freshman year in the College in 1947 alongside bright-eyed recent high school graduates. How many members of our class Surrendered their light blue cap and gown after graduation for the appropriate attire of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines? Your class correspondent does not have a list of all those who served our country during the Korean War and later in Vietnam. It would certainly be appropriate if class members would volunteer to share this information from their own records or known archives; you can send it to us at either address at the top of the column.

Our class yearbook, The Columbian of 1951, points out the significance of having an Ivy League school like Columbia involved in military training. During WWII, more than 23,000 officers trained on our campus. During the time we received our education on Morningside Heights, about 10 percent of the Columbia enrollment was midshipmen. Classmates such as Don Beattie, Richard Boyle, Len Stoehr and Jim Lowe, and the late Jay Battenberg, Ken Birdsell and Paul Coogan, to name a few, were among that distinguished group. Although the list of survivors is thinning, the cadre of veterans who remain is tight-knit and tries to meet annually. Plans are under way for a meeting in Jacksonville, Fla. NROTC members should keep in touch with Jim and Don. By the way, Don’s father served in the Navy in WWII. Don was with the USAF during Korea; his son, Tom, became an Air Force fighter pilot; and now grandson Travis is a Marine who recently completed his third deployment and is getting married to celebrate.
If you are aware of classmates, or anyone from other classes, who deserve to be in the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame, please get in touch with Tom Powers. He is anxious to submit the names of deserving Lions: selections are made every two years. Tom can be reached at 937-497-1929.

Finally, I’d welcome help from a classmate who wants to be my associate Class Notes writer, and who has some fresh ideas for this column. Don’t be bashful! Volunteer! Again, you can write me at the addresses at the top of the column.

Your reporter says “hello.” I am writing this in the month that is busting out all over, as I like to think of June. This month is great for leaving. We all could stay together for the finalizing of a to-do list of more than 500 pages of my memoirs. I know it was probably going to be a fine weekend and I would be ever so glad I came. It was and I was.

“Friend had said it would likely be no more than an assembly of old men. Nothing could be wider of the mark! ‘Just a gathering of old men’ can hardly describe the lun-

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Columbia School Designations

In Class Notes, these designations indicate Columbia degrees from schools other than the College.

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Carol, and I have lived in Washington, D.C., since 1992, when she was promoted and transferred to Associated Universities, which manages radio astronomy facilities for the National Science Foundation. She has now retired after 40 years. We met in 1989; two children for each, boy and girl.

“Your column and those of prior reporters confirms what we all have known: that Columbia produces many men and women of professional distinction but also many who realized that a life of learning, experience and interests can be very fulfilling.

“I graduated from Cornell Law and followed that by a brief practice with Milbank Tweed, followed by 22 years in the law department of Bethlehem Steel. Paper pushing became arduous; I went back to New York to real estate management, where I felt rewarded. The year 1987 was difficult. My third cancer was most challenging. My late wife Maxine, a wonderful woman, surrounded me with love and guided me until her death in 2012. After that, I retired and I have been living in D.C. to be pleasant and rewarding. I think Columbia prepared me well to bring many issues, values and ideas together. In addition, the arts and especially jazz have kept me good company for more than 70 years, and photography has joined other passions. A firm of civic service is a firm foundation.”

Your reporter wishes all the members of the Class of 1952 good luck and good health!
chefs and receptions and dinners where the food was outstanding and a bar was always present offering first-rate wines and spirits. Nor can it cover talks by faculty (Henry Graf ’49 GSAS in particular); tours of the campus and the new campus north of 125th Street; a choice of attending a Broadway show, a bal¬let performance or an evening at Lincoln Center with excellent seats at reduced prices; or [the experience of] having reunion staff on hand to bring a chair to someone needing to sit down, to produce a new identification badge to replace one left behind in a hotel room or to tell one how to get to one of the many buildings built or renamed since we were there.

And as for the old men who came, I have to say I found them interesting, both to talk with and to listen to. I wanted to know what they had done since graduation and I was most impressed with their rich and varied lives. To de¬scribe as no more than ‘a bunch of old men’ would be just plain wrong because it does not begin to describe the esprit found at the gathering and the skill with which it was organized. I attended and returned home to Atlanta raving about the good time I had. I could not be more pleased that I went.”

Thanks to George Lowry’s persuasive efforts, Michael Ryan, director of Columbia’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library, spoke to our classmates Thursday evening in a fascinating reception in Butler Library. He talked about some of the library’s rare manuscripts, including a copy of James Joyce’s Ulysses that was used in the original trial to ban the book in the United States in 1920. Dean James J. Valentini spoke about the importance of the Core Curriculum in the lives of Columbia College graduates.

On Friday we gathered under a tent on South Lawn for a sumptuous dinner and to hear Mike Severson’s anecdotes of some of the difficult moments he faced as president of the University, a post he held from 1980–1993.

Our special guest at Saturday’s luncheon in the library of Casa Italiana was Professor Emeritus of History Henry Graf ’49 GSAS, the renowned scholar who has known and advised every president since Harry Truman. Many of us remember the story about one of our classmates that Professor Graf shared in his address. The professor’s recollection went something like this: “One day, I was walking up Amsterdam Avenue when I saw General Eisenhower [then president of the University] waiting for the light to change from red to green so that he could walk across the street. At the time, I couldn’t see a single car up or down Amsterdam Avenue. Stand¬ing behind General Eisenhower was a freshman member of the Class of 1980 wearing a red satin blazer.

After the light changed and the general successfully crossed the street, your class¬mate turned to me and exclaimed, ‘It makes you wonder how he ever crossed the English Channel.’

Our Saturday class dinner was another special occasion in Butler. After we finished dinner, our toastmaster, Jay Kane, introduced the evening’s speakers. Ken Hey¬man, the renowned photographer who collaborated with Margaret Mead on a number of books, was enthralling. Larry Harte, who has written a number of humorous autobiographical books, was delight¬ful, and we all appreciated his bringing free copies of one of his books to distribute. Allan Jackman talked about the unfortunate life of his fraternity brother Jack Molinas. Lastly, Bill Frosch announced that, thanks to the generosity of our classmates, we had exceeded our goal of $70,000 and donated more than $173,000 to the Columbia College Fund.

The following is a list of class¬mates and their guests who at¬tended one or more of our reunion events: Joseph Aaron and his wife, Jane; Stanley Alt and his wife, Susan; Richard Auwarter; George Barth and his wife, Claire; Ann Belknap; Peter Carbonara and his wife, Jean; Edward Clark; John Condemi; Joel Danziger and his wife, Joan; John Huneke and his bride, Claire Feger-Huneke; Morton Freilicher and his wife, Yseult; William Frosch and his wife, Sarah; Larry Harte; Eliot Hirst; Seymour Hendel and his wife, Patricia; Gordon Henderson; Arthur Hessinger and his wife, Helen; Ken Heyman; Mohammad Hussan; Allan Jack¬man and Evelyn Topper; Jay Kane; Richard Kleid and his wife, Rhoda; George Lowry and his wife, Judith; Pete Pellett; Kathy Phillips; Gerald It was a spectacular reunion and I hope we’ll all be around in five years to celebrate the next memorable occasion.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Vanessa Scott vs2470@columbia.edu 212-851-9140 DEVELOPMENT Esfir Shamilo¬va es3233@columbia.edu 212-851-7833

Howard Falberg 13710 Paseo Bonita Poway, CA 92064 westmontgr@aol.com

Looking at the Summer 2013 CCT, I was happy to see the list of all alumni classes who will be celebrating Alumni Reunion Weekend from Thursday, May 29–Saturday, June 1. Lo and behold, there we were. Both Brian Tansey and Jerry Gordon have said they are planning to attend, which makes me feel great, as I intend to go, too, along with my wife. I hope that we will get a great turnout.

Speaking of events, I had the pleasure of attending Larry Gan¬ner’s birthday gathering. It was beautifully done with family and friends. The evening was lovely. Some of the children put together a great group of slides that included Larry’s wife, Carol, and their children. There also were a couple of slides that included several of our classmates on campus.

I received a nice note from Jim Niver, who was a member of our wrestling team. I asked Jim via email whether all was well with his wife, Shyla; Harry Rice; Lewis Ross; Elaine Rousseau; Nicho¬las Samios and his wife, Mary; Stanley Sklar and his wife, Margot; Michael Soven and his wife, Pat; James Steiner; Robert Walzer and his wife, Anne; and William Won and his wife, Margaret Lai.

Jim Niver ’54 quoted True Grit’s Rooster Cogburn:

“I’m RE-tired; RE-laxing; and RE-joicing.”

Pinsky; Martin Rabinowitz and his wife, Anna; Steven Reich and his wife, Shayla; Harry Rice; Lewis Robins and his wife, Saralee; Jules Ross; Elaine Rousseau; Nicho¬laus Samios and his wife, Mary; Stanley Sklar and his wife, Margot; Michael Soven and his wife, Pat; James Steiner; Robert Walzer and his wife, Anne; and William Won and his wife, Margaret Lai.

It was a spectacular reunion and I hope we’ll all be around in five years to celebrate the next memorable occasion.

Reunions FAL 2013

haft. Peter was an outstanding member of our class and he will be missed by many classmates. His background and achievements were listed in the Summer 2013 CCT Obituaries (college.columbia.edu/obituaries).

I hope that our class members stay well and look forward to our 60th reunion. Thank heavens for our class president, Bernd Brecher, who is working on the planning and could use help. If you want to be involved, contact him (berndbrecher@alumni.columbia.edu or 914-961-4101) or one of the Alumni Office staff members listed at the top of the column. Otherwise, be sure to save the date!

As you might have guessed by now, Columbia is an institution that takes the lead in many areas, ranging from dealing with its alumni to getting involved in new ventures. The school is still explor¬ing the Online Learning Initiative plus it is building up its Global Centers. Columbia is definitely a force in international education. All this became evident in a special panel discussion in early June, when deans and faculty spoke at the Columbia Alumni Center to an overflow crowd.

The tours through the Alumni Travel Study Program, which have been second to none, continue into the late fall. In early October will be “Undiscovered Greek Islands,” a cruise through the Aegean Sea; “China, Tibet & the Yangtze River”; and “Vietnam: An Exploration of Cete, Santorini & the Peloponnesse.” This is good stuff.

Closer to home base, the Admis¬sions Office is prepared for the onslaught of applications to the Col¬lege and Engineering. One key ele¬ment of this process is the Alumni Representative Committee, for which alumni like our own Larry Baliful interview applicants. Larry is chair of the Nassau County ARC. All alumni should take advantage of this opportunity to meet prospective students and see firsthand the quality of the applicants.

From near and not so near, many ’55ers attended the last supper of the season before we broke for summer recess in June. Don Laufer made the arrangements with Alfred Gollomp, who came into Manhattan from the borough that houses the Barnes Center (this is where the men’s basketball team will play St. John’s in late December). Dick Kuhn was there (without
It’s less than two years until we reach another milestone — our 60th. Great things are happening. Get set for 2015. It’s going to be a reunion better than ever. Love to all! Everywhere!

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Stephen K. Easton
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Englewood, NJ 07631
tbal8000@earthlink.net

The 2012–13 College year ended with two events that Class of 1956 members participate in with regularity. The first was Class Day on May 21. In attendance and marching in the 10th annual Alumni Parade of Classes were Danny Link, Len Wolfe, Ron Kapon and myself. This is both a privilege and an experience that I recommend to all class members. Ron Kapon, who had an unfortunate fall last year before the march, was good form as he joined in carrying our Class of 1956 banner. We all enjoyed the good weather (a little hot but definitely better than what the weather bureau had predicted). When you march down College Walk to the cheers of almost 1,200 graduating seniors, it makes you feel young again as well as inspired by the enthusiasm and diversity of the graduates. The Class Day keynote speaker was Terrence McNally ’60, the well-known playwright. In his talk, McNally relived his days at Columbia, from the time he moved in to the dorms and the surprise of sharing a room with an engineering major (“What the hell was that all about? I thought young men went to college to become great writers”) to relating how the experiences of attending a college in the City of New York affected and shaped his adult life.

The second event was Dean’s Day, held during Alumni Reunion Weekend on June 1 and attended by Jordan Bonfente; Bob Siroty; Peter Klein; Stan Soren and his wife, Ruth; John Censor and myself. In addition to listening to lectures by some of the most illustrious of Columbia professors and alumni, it gave us a chance to visit and exchange old stories and anecdotes over breakfast and lunch. Dean James J. Valentini spoke at Saturday’s breakfast and shared an outline on Manhattanville and how it relates to the College. Presumably, there will be more housing in connection with the society’s awards and the other on College Walk (a barbecue) that most of our classmates attended. I guess Columbia wanted to make sure graduates had enough lunch locations.

The afternoon lecture I attended was given by comparative literature professor Julie Crawford, who was equally brilliant in discussing the dramatic historical and political development of Shakespeare’s plays. "Lear." Her lecture was a trip into the world of 17th-century Shakespeare and how theatre interacted with politics at that time.

It should be added that our attendance this year was reduced by the fact that notice of Dean’s Day to non-reunion classes was never sent by snail mail. Note to the Alumni Office: Some of us are too "old" to rely strictly on email. And we still like to open letters. As I have lived in more than one place, I often wonder if it makes a difference. Columbia events has greatly improved. We can only look forward to more of the same as we plan for our 60th reunion.

Now for the class news: In line with the sentiment that “It’s a time in our lives and it matters, and the retirement home is looking better,” Bob Sirety and his wife, Margo, have sold their Randolph, N.J., residence of 40-plus years. “I couldn’t believe it was on the market for only a week,” Bob said. They are moving into a retirement community in Somerset, N.J., in a townhouse community where all ground and structural matters are provided for. Of course, the master bedroom will be on the ground level in case of incapacity.

Mark Novick, one of our class’ practicing psychiatrists, is busy planning his older daughter’s fall wedding. His experience should help us in planning our 60th reunion.

John Censor is repositioning his company of note to PCI Global, based in New Jersey and a provider of management training to Global 500 Companies using business games he developed. This method, according to John, both accelerates and gives participants a more complete learning experience. Good luck to John.

On the travel front, Alan Press, who has traveled to more unusual places than any other classmate (write to me if I am wrong) recently returned from two weeks in North Korea and has written a lengthy article on his trip.

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a college in the City of New York affected and shaped his adult life. The second event was Dean’s Day, held during Alumni Reunion Weekend on June 1 and attended by Jordan Bonfente; Bob Siroty; Peter Klein; Stan Soren and his wife, Ruth; John Censor and myself. In addition to listening to lectures by some of the most illustrious of Columbia professors and alumni, it gave us a chance to visit and exchange old stories and anecdotes over breakfast and lunch. Dean James J. Valentini spoke at Saturday’s breakfast and shared an outline on Manhattanville and how it relates to the College. Presumably, there will be more housing for Columbia students as well as graduate research facilities that will enhance undergraduate education through availability of graduate study courses to College undergraduates. [Editor’s note: Also, when graduate school fees are relocated to Manhattanville, it is expected to free up space on Morningside Heights for the Arts & Sciences and thus benefit undergraduates.]

The lectures included one given by former general Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, ’76L. Interestingly, when asked by Dean Valentini about his more memorable experiences in the College, he said that one of his most satisfying occurred as a lightweight football player, when he caught a pass and ran into the end zone against Penn. As a member of our lightweight football team, I can attest to the positive experience that I had with teammates including Jordan Bonfente; Larry Cohn; Bob Lauterbom; my brother, Maurice Easton; and many others. That experience, as Holder also related, turned many “city kids” into teammates and solidified our bond at Columbia.

As always, the other topics and indeed demonstrated the talent of the Columbia faculty. Stan and Ruth reported that the morning lecture by biology professor Stuart Firestein was most brilliant and funny; he addressed how ignorance and uncertainty in the sciences, in particular, can lead to increased scientific discovery and illumination. Professor Firestein was a recipient of a 2013 Great Teacher Award at the Society of Columbia Graduates luncheon that followed at Low Library and which, as Stan noted, was well deserved. There were actually two lunches, one at Low Easton Faculty Club and the other at the Law School archives by Bob’s grandson. As Bob tells it, aside from his son liking the move to killing their longtime dog, the transition went rather smoothly.

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On the travel front, Alan Press, who has traveled to more unusual places than any other classmate (write to me if I am wrong) recently returned from two weeks in North Korea. You may ask, “Who wants to visit North Korea?” Well, Alan has written a lengthy article on his trip, which I plan to have presented with pictures at one of our fall class lunches. Hope many of you will be able to attend.

Also, as you may know, my wife, Marlene, and I are “Mexican file virgins,” having invested enough of our retirement savings in resort Mexican timeshares that we work hard to use every week available to us. At this point, we own units equal to the space we have in our
scores in the heavens, I'd like now to make amends. Our daughter Rebeca has been all of the following: Hebrew teacher, Judaica librarian, artist, and poet. Her art and music work has appeared in the journals Bridges and Judaism. Her best-known publication is Alef is Silent: A Hebrew Alphabet. It was praised by writer Cynthia Ozick for ‘bringing to mind those traditional Victorian alphabet books, with their lovely tone of entering the child’s world.’ Rebeca also has published several botanical articles in the Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin. Her most recent publication is Raising Gladlied in Peshavn, a poem occasioned by the barbaric Woolwich murder in London. It appears in the July 2013 issue of the British monthly Standpoint.

“My wife, Leah, and I have not escaped the wounds inflicted upon those who pass their allotted biblical threescore and ten, but we soldier on.”

Bob Alter gave a presentation of his latest book, Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings, at the 92nd Street Y on May 13. Irish poet Seamus Heaney, a member of the Nobel Fast Group at Queen’s University and a recipient of a Nobel Prize in literature (1995), has called Bob’s work “a godsend — immediately readable, immensely learned, an education and a restitution.”

Bob is professor emeritus of Hebrew and comparative literature at UC Berkeley and also a professor in the graduate school there; he still teaches and works with graduate students. He has been teaching at UC Berkeley since 1967 and is working on a new edition of the trilingual volume of Yehuda Amichai’s poetry. Bob earned master’s (1958) and doctoral (1962) degrees from Harvard in comparative literature. His career began as a writer at Commentary Magazine, where for many years he was a contributing editor. He has written 23 books and most recently has been noted for his translation of sections of the Bible. His Wikipedia page lists six of his translations of the Hebrew Bible as well as selections from his other works. See also his professor web page at nes.berkeley.edu/WEB_After/Alter.html. Bob lectures on topics ranging from biblical episodes to Kafka’s modernism and Hebrew literature. The subjects of his writing are varied, including European novels from the 18th century to the present, contemporary American fiction and modern Hebrew literature.

Bob’s honors and awards include the Knute Schulek Award of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 1986); senior fellow of the National Endowment of the Humanities; fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies of Jerusalem; Old Dominion Fellow at Princeton; editorial board, Jewish Review of Books; National Jewish Book Award for Jewish Thought; Robert Kirsch Award (Los Angeles Times) for lifetime contribution to American letters; and doctor of humanities, Yale (2010).

Ward Armstrong received the Utah Sports Hall of Fame Foundation Distinguished Service Award on March 19 in recognition and honor of a lifetime of “oustanding leadership and service in school, community, recreation and sports activities.” The presentation was at the South Towne Expo Center in Sandy, Utah.

Ward has been involved with sports much of his life. His family had a sporting goods business in Utah. At Ogden H.S., Ward was captain of the swimming team and co-captain of the football team. At Columbia he was a member of the varsity swimming team and co-captain of the Men’s Swimming Team. After stints with Kaiser Aluminum in St. Louis and Denver, he returned to Utah to enter the family business. He later was a school supply salesman for Wolves, Stevens & Brown and Universal Agency.

Ward had a distinguished career as a volunteer in local and regional activities. He says, “I always felt that as a volunteer I could pay back to the various sports that had been so good to me. Virtually all of my volunteer activities — sports, arts, and special needs — have been unpaid except for the great pleasure I obtained from working with coaches, athletes and gun enthusiasts in the Utah area.”

“None of my volunteer work was as enjoyable as that with the Board of Directors of the Utah Sports Hall of Fame. It is a great organization with a great future.” Ward served 14 years on that board, including two years as president. Ward also was a volunteer official in the following sports: track and field, senior official for 50 years; received the Utah High School Activities Association track coaches’ award for volunteer service; cross country (served as finish chute judge at high school and college meets for more than 40 years); swimming (served more than 30 years as starter and finish judge for high school meets at the regional and state levels); wrestling (was head scorer for several state meets as well as three Big Sky championship meets), football (was certified high school official for Utah and Wyoming for five years); and baseball (served 40 years on the Utah High School All-Star Game Committee, including six years as chairperson). Special award recognition in awards in 1994 and 2007.

In addition to sports activities, Ward served on the Salvation Army Board of Directors (1962–70, chair 1966–68) and on the Board of Directors of the Utah Gun Collectors Association (1967–71). Upon retirement, Ward commenced being a volunteer docent at the Browning Firearms Museum, where he has logged more than 400 hours of volunteer service.

Marty Fisher writes, “We had a record (or near-record; no one keeps score) at our class luncheon on May 29. Ed Weinstein hosted us at the Columbia University Club of New York. The last luncheon had been scheduled for late October and was canceled on account of Hurricane Sandy. We might have engendered some pent-up demand for the informal good fellowship that these events encourage. Ed and I were joined by Pete Anker, Stan Barnett, Art Bernstein, Larry Boes, Joe Diamond, Ted Dwyer, Joe Feller, Jimmy Fink, Bob Fleischer, Sal Franchino, Dave Kinnie, Neil McLellan, Art Meyerson, Mark Stanton and Paul Zola.

“Following are some random tidbits picked up between courses: Paul has moved to Stamford, Conn., where he practices mediation and arbitration. Stan made the longest trip to the lunch, from Rhode Island, where he is emeritus professor at the University of Rhode Island. Art Bernstein, who retired as a professor of computer science at Stanford, has developed a career as an artist, botanist and poet. Her art and skill of a professional sculptor in Setauket on Long Island, where he resides.

“Dave enjoys his volunteer work as a docent at the Met. He and his wife, Kathleen, have retained their country home in Vermont. Ed and his wife, Sandra, divide their ‘baby-sitting’ time between their local son’s children and their daughter’s family in San Francisco.

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/t submit_class_note. MAIL to the address at the top of your column.
There were no medical emergencies at the luncheon but if one had occurred, we had no fewer than a half-dozen qualified medics to take the call: Dwyer, Feldschuh, Finkel, Fleischer, Kinne and Meyerson. This gave us a sense of safety and security at our extremely sociable lunch.

Yours truly attended a special advance screening of the film Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not Be Silent at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., on May 22. It was followed to take the call: Dwyer, Feldschuh, emergencies at the luncheon but if one well remembers Rabbi Prinz's stirring declaration at the civil rights March on Washington on August 28, 1963, where I was on duty with the National Guard.

Rabbi Prinz, spiritual leader of the Jewish community of Berlin, was expelled from Nazi Germany for "speaking out" and for his opposition to the systematic erosion of the civil rights of Jews by the Nazis." On arriving in the United States, where two years later he became rabbi of Temple Emanu Abraham in Livingston, N.J., "the struggles of disenfranchised African-Americans in segregated South reminded him of his experiences in Germany." An organizer of the 1963 march, he stood with his other leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, Floyd McKissick and John Lewis. Just before King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Rabbi Prinz declared: "Bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problem. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic is lack of love among people." In his 1963 Christmas message he wrote: "May the Light of the World reach your home and light up your life, bringing joy and peace and love to all of you and your families.

Earlier in May, I was in Nashville for American Bar Association meetings and my older grand-nephew's graduation from Vanderbilt. Among other things I also visited the full-size reproduction of the Parthenon in Centennial Park. It was built as a temporary structure for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897, the city rebuilt it in 1931 as a permanent one. Inside is a 42-ft. replica of Phidias' statue of Athena. I found the effect of the statue's staring eyes eerie, to say the least. But I thought of the line of Gilbert & Sullivan's Princess Ida's invitation to Minerva: "Oh, goddess wise."

John Giovanni was one of many poets who appeared at the New York Public Library's gathering to discuss the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca's works. García Lorca, who wrote about his 1929-30 visit to NYC in his book, Poet in New York, was murdered by Franco's troops during the Spanish Civil War. García Lorca studied at GS, and his brother taught at Columbia during our school years.

Rick Brous, who along with Paul Gompertz founded the Columbia University College of Northern New Jersey, is now a v.p. of the Columbia University Alumni Association of Southern California, proving, as Rick says, that his love for Columbia stretches from sea to shining sea. He adds that his daughter, Sharon Brous '95, '01 GSAS (whose husband, David J. Light '95, '02 Arts, has appeared in this column) was named by The New York Times as one of America's top 50 rabbis she is the first woman so honored. [See CCT profile of Sharon, May 2005.]

Another '58 doctor has become an author: Peter Cohn, under the nom de plume of Alan N. Clifford, has more recently indulged in writing a novel. His first was The Fatherland Files. The newly published book, Heart of Wisdom, is about a survivor of the WWII Bataan Death March who becomes a renowned medical researcher only to run into scientific fraud in his department. Peter says the books were reviewed favorably, not only by Publishers Weekly but also by two noted literary critics: Bob Levine and Bob Waldhausen! [See Bookshelf.] Like so many '58 "retirees," Peter has kept his day job as a medical researcher at the Rockefeller University Hospital, although only on a part-time basis. Incidentally, his pen name was borrowed from the names of his two sons. He and his wife, Joan, have four grandchildren and live in New York City.

Ed Fettig, professor emeritus of economics at the University of Wisconsin, was featured in James Surowiecki's recent The New Yorker column "The Underground Economy." Ed, a longtime maven on the underground economy, conducted a study showing that $2 trillion of government work which, coupled with distrust of government, has pushed people to work off the books. Ed's solution is a novel system: a single, minuscule tax on all transactions (purchases, sales, bank withdrawals, etc.) to replace the income, payroll, estate and all other taxes. Will it fly? We'll see.

Speaking of Carl Stern, his TV report — which aired on NBC in
1973 and uncovered the FBI’s secret counterintelligence programs to harass and neutralize organizations and individuals whose political activities it deemed undesirable — was selected by the Journalism School as one of “100 Great Stories” produced by its graduates during the past century. An exhibit about the story is on display at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The Newseum recently placed Carl’s 1965–1993 scripts in its permanent archives.

The class lunch is held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Grill Room of the Columbia Club of New York, 15 W. 43rd St. The cost is $31 per person. Email Art Radin if you plan to attend. Up to the day before: aradin@radinlass.com.

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014**

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We begin with a reminder that our 55th reunion is next spring, so be sure to save the date for Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014.

**Morton Kleven** is already thinking about the big weekend. He writes, “With our 55th reunion and my 75th birthday on the horizon, I felt the need to reflect on what Columbia has meant to me, the College’s role in my subsequent career path, and the twists, turns and personal highlights of my professional life. Kierkegaard said that life is lived forward but understood backward. When I think back to my years at Columbia, I remember, of course, the fantastic courses and teachers, particularly Jim Shenton ’49, ’54 GSAS seminar on Recognition and Identity, a seminar in Oriental Humanities taught by professors Arthur Danto ’53 and Wm. Theodore ‘Ted’ de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS. As much as I value the critical thinking skills that Columbia instilled in me and believe that Columbia is a great part of the experience that I am today, I also value the friendships I formed there. Fifty-five years later, I am still in touch with Bennet Silverman, Isser Woloch, Harvey Leifert, Ken Scheffel and Jerry Wacks, even though Harvey is the only one of my “first-year” classmates that I saw regularly in the Washington, D.C. area, my home for the past 40 years.

“As for my professional life, I am a bit bemused as to how it turned out. While in college I intended to become a professor of American history; however, a class with Robert V. Rimini at Columbia Graduate Faculties [now GSAS] showed me that I would have difficulty getting a position at a first-rate university. I received a B+ in the class which is roughly equivalent to a D in an undergraduate course. So, the next semester, I tried my hand at constitutional law with Gerald Gunther ’50 GSAS at the Law School, receiving an A-. Well, I thought this was great; I’d become a lawyer. Being the son of an immigrant plumber from the far reaches of Brooklyn, I was one of the few Jews in NYC who didn’t know what lawyers actually did. I didn’t know that constitutional law was to the practice of law what filet mignon was to a McDonald’s hamburger.

“Looking back on my career, I think the law was a good fit for me and suited to my talents, later on even giving me a chance to fulfill my interest in teaching. After graduating from law school, I bounced around from a Wall Street law firm to a general counsel position at a large privately held firm, to a specialty securities law firm, and then to a real estate developer in the D.C. area, where, as general counsel, I took the firm public. In 1974, with the passage of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), I landed in the Office of the Solicitor at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), as counsel for fiduciary responsibility; I personally drafted or supervised the drafting of the seminal fiduciary responsibility regulations to implement the new law, with a staff that first year of three attorneys straight out of law school. Those regulations have stood the test of time, and have remained virtually unchanged for nearly 40 years.

“I expected to remain just a few years in government service and then return to private practice. But fate intervened in the form of a major illness for my daughter. There was no Obamacare, so I continued at DOL because our family needed the government’s health care, unavailable in a private firm because of my daughter’s pre-existing condition. In the Office of the Solicitor, in addition to the fiduciary regulations, I worked on the agreements that transferred management of the [then-named] Central States Teamsters Pension, Health and Welfare Funds to independent investment managers. Later, in a promotion to senior policy adviser to the assistant secretary, I was given the task of leading the department’s investigation into the pension scandal made by the trustees of those funds before their removal as managers. A prior investigation, which had failed, had been subject to intense criticism from Congress. But my investigation recovered $21.5 million for the plan participants, though it took many years, without any congressional oversight hearings.

“My job in government also gave me the opportunity to teach ERISA law. I lectured extensively for the American Bar Association on the department’s regulations and created the first course in the country on the labor aspects of ERISA at Georgetown Law, where I was an adjunct professor for many years. My years in government were most fulfilling and intellectually stimulating of my career. Upon my retirement in 2008, the editors of Pensions & Investments wrote the article ‘The Man Who Was ERISA,’ describing the impact I had on the interpretation of the law.

“When I retired, I went back to my first passions: politics and civil rights. Living in Manhattan in the 1960s I had been active in local political democrats in Greensboro, N.C., where I was a member of Community Planning Board No. 2 and where I revived a defunct insurgent Reform Democratic Club, the Downtown Independent Democrats. I also ran parts of a successful State Assembly campaign and an unsuccessful State Senate campaign. I was most proud of being an attorney when I volunteered for several weeks in Mississippi during the Freedom Summer of 1964 under the auspices of JFK’s Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Later, as a civil servant, I was barred from participating in these activities. But retirement in 2008 gave me an opportunity to go back to government. I volunteered in the Obama campaigns in 2008 and 2012 in Richmond, Va., registering voters on college campuses, which I enjoyed tremendously.

“By the time this is published, my wife, Carla, and I will have returned from a trip to Italy, where we rented a villa outside Siena with our children, Miriam and David, their spouses and our three grandchildren, all in celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary.”

**John Clubbe** writes, “Norton is giving me a contract for my Beethoven study, provisionally titled Beethoven: The Relentless Revolutionary.” By now, he should have returned from a month in Germany doing Beethoven work.

**Allen D. Klein** writes, “After 35 years as a v.p. of Schlumberger, I am now engaged in international tax consulting. My wife, Carol, and I divide our time among Stamford, Conn., Delray Beach, Fla., and Washington, D.C., where our three grandchildren live with their parents — Todd Stern, who is a special envoy for climate change with the Department of State, and Jennifer Klein, who works for Hillary Clinton.”

**Michael J. Tannenbaum** reports, “My book, High p, Physics in the Heavy Ion Era, co-authored with Jan Raik, was published in June. In conjunction, I gave a new book presentation at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, on June 13. I work full-time and remain productive, including several talks per year at international meetings.”

**Ray J. Raja** writes, “This year has been quite significant for me. I reached 75 years on this earth and recently helped my bride enjoy her 75th as well! She has been a sustaining joy and succor for me and our three children and grandchildren.

“It has been four years since I entered the world of retirement and, to be honest, I don’t miss my 40 years in surgery and teaching students and surgical residents at all — enough is enough! I did several years of volunteer work in a Meals on Wheels program and as a tutor in an English as a Second Language program before my hip and knee arthritis became severe enough that it precluded my continuing these activities (couldn’t get in and out of class).

“In early June I attended a reunion of the Vietnam 312th Evacuation Hospital, where I was stationed in 1968–69 at a place called Chu Lai, as a busy trauma surgeon operating on our wounded GIs. The reunion was held in Greensboro/Winston Salem, N.C.

“I have been asked to serve on the committee for our 55th College reunion, and I have gladly accepted. Speaking of reunions, I also recently attended the 50th for my NYU medical school class.”

**Frank Wilson** was in Washing-
not those for my grandchildren in private school, which now costs an order of significant magnitude more than I ever paid at College.

I keep my mind from atrophy in retirement by doing marketing consulting for a variety of organizations, primary among them an anti-drug effort I helped found in 1986 and The Nature Conservancy, for which I am a Connecticut trustee. Beyond that, I look forward to seeing my classmates next year. Having served as chairman of the costume committee for our 50th reunion, however, I will pass on any responsibility other than attending our 50th. Hope to see you then.”

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Terrence McNally, winner of four Tony Awards and an Emmy Award, among a plethora of honors and recognition as one of America’s great playwrights, was the keynote speaker at Class Day on May 21, 2013. Addressing the Class of 2013 on South Lawn, Terrence allowed as how he was in “an unfamiliar situation.” He continued, “Having spent a lifetime putting words into the mouths of characters I have created...standing here this morning, the words and voice are my own and the character is me. I am used to standing in the dark at the back of a theater listening to actors tell you what’s on my mind.”

Then, crying “curtain up,” Terrence brilliantly delivered his remembrance of his observations as advice to the graduating class. He spoke rhapsodically of the educational opportunity he felt privileged to receive at Columbia. “Contemporary Columbia: The most perfect curriculum ever devised. The Humanities: Core courses taught by brilliant professors. I’m not smarter than everyone I know but I do think I got a superior education to everyone I know. My Harvard and Yale friends would agree.”

And he spoke with more than equal enthusiasm of the cultural wonders of New York to which he was then exposed. His first night as a freshman was spent sitting on the sidewalk outside the darkened Mark Hellinger Theatre, waiting for the line to form the next morning to purchase a standing-room-only ticket to see My Fair Lady. “It would be like that for the next four years. If it was Columbia versus the city and what it had to offer frequently won.”

He spoke poignantly about his experiences as a gay man in the ’50s. “It was an easy time to be a middle-class, white male at a prestigious university. What wasn’t easy was to be gay at one time, more than a decade before Stonewall. I was out but I felt alone.”

He spoke with introspection. “I got through my four years despite the distractions, in large measure and thanks to Mrs. McElroy, my public school teacher, who taught us how to organize our thoughts and put them down on a paper in a cohesive essay. If you can write, you can get away with murder. The difficulty comes when you get good at being glib instead of telling the truth, which is the goal of any artist. Columbia taught me to respect the truth but it didn’t teach me how to write the truth. That’s where the writer’s block and the demons arise to confront us. It will always be hard to be truthful in our work. It’s the only thing that ultimately matters in the arts and, finally, our lives. Is it honest?”

As for advice, Terrence’s remarks were blissfully brief: “Be nice to people and wash your hands more frequently” are fairly representative of the bons mots he imparted to the graduates to satisfy the obligation that befalls the honor of being selected as the Class Day keynoter. [Editor’s note: Read McNally’s full speech here: college.columbia.edu/terrencemcnally]

Joe Giacalone writes that 2012 was a golden year, with four 50th milestones for him and his wife, Marianne. “In May, the occasion was the 50th year of earning my M.B.A. from St. John’s University. In August, St. John’s marked my 50 years as a member of its full-time faculty. Late September marked the 50th year celebration of my wife’s graduation from nursing school at Queens Hospital Center. Twenty-six of her classmates (out of a class of about 52) came to Queens from 13 states for the event. Finally, on December 29, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with 80 family members and friends. Marianne decorated this year’s Christmas tree with gold ornaments and a big ’50’ tree-topper.

“I am now in my 51st year of teaching economics at St. John’s; I write one or two papers a year. Most recently, I published an article on the rare earth minerals market and delivered several talks on the private spaceflight industry. I lean toward microeconomic industry studies and have written articles on robotics, health care, medical tourism, viatical settlements and the market for luxury goods and casino gaming in Macao as well as a book on the nursing home industry. As is evident, my research tastes are eclectic.

“We are not world travelers like some of our classmates. However, with two children and three grandchildren, I have managed to expose them to Europe there a few times each year. As gamblers, however, we are pitiful. We never win but we don’t lose much either. Two years ago, we took a 20-person family contingent on a Disney cruise to the Bahamas. Marianne and I went to cruise to Bermuda in June. Our two Long Island children and several grandchildren keep us busy with getaways to home in Flushing, Queens. A vacation cottage in Sussex, County, NJ, gives us another regular getaway option.

“I have a little email contact with my Alpha Chi Rho fraternity brothers Andy Kubishen in Virginia and Frank Zmorzenski in Florida. Both were career naval officers out of Columbia’s ROTC program. Andy and Frank also cruise and visit each other on a regular basis. Andy has become a prolific cyclist and kayaker and participates in events up and down the eastern seaboard.”

The peripatetic Bill Tanenbaum returned in May from a visit to Jerusalem, Bucharest, the Normandy beaches and Paris, a trip where he often walked 4-6 miles a day.
Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer; most of those buried there were killed on D-Day, June 6, 1944. There are 185 known moons of the planets and dwarf planets in our solar system. In his third astronomy book in as many years, Moons of the Solar System, Tom Hamilton covers them all. To give you a taste, here is one piece of information: As the moon travels around Earth, we can observe its several phases, which take an average of 29.53 days to complete. The phases include the new moon, the waxing crescent, the first quarter, the waxing gibbous, the full moon, the third or last quarter moon, and the waning crescent. So when do we see the half moon? “The only Half Moon,” Tom informs us, “was Henry Hudson’s ship; there is no lunar phase with that name.” The names of the moons and their meanings, discovered dates, orbits, sizes, geology and much else can be found in Tom’s book.

Peter Phillips sends greetings from retirement in Florida: “My wife, Suzy, and I have lived in Venice, Fla., for more than seven years and believe that the best way to avoid our decision to leave the cold weather behind. We also have become active in the community, enjoying a remarkable range of cultural activities (the Sarasota area opens two symphony orchestras, five theatre companies and a variety of individual performers and touring Broadway shows, as well as the Ringling Museum Complex) and working with several local civic organizations. I am co-president of the Jewish Congregation of Venice, president of the Sarasota University Club of Sarasota, parliamentarian of the board of directors of the Sarasota Opera Guild and secretary/treasurer of the Venetian Golf & River Club Property Owners Association.

“We also have engaged in some exciting foreign travel, including trips to South America and the Antarctic in 2009, the Far East in 2010, Israel and Jordan in 2011, the Caribbean in 2012 and the British Isles this year. In 2014, we will sail on the Royal Caribbean’s ship for a month in the Mediterranean and across the Atlantic back to Florida. “Our family is spread across the country. Daughter Debra and her family live in Irvington, N.Y., with one son away at college in California. Son David and his family live in Emmaus, Pa., with one son a junior at Temple and another entering Widener in the fall. Son Larry and his family live in Marin County, Calif. With three grandchildren turning 20 this year, two turning 18 and our granddaughter 14, we are accepting the fact that we are getting older and look forward to meeting the next generation when it arrives.

“In June, we celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary and 53 years since the Class of 1960 graduated from the College. We continue to be amazed at how long it has been and how much we have seen along the way.”

Two sad notes: Norman Hildes-Heim died peacefully in his home in Fairfield, Conn., on March 20. His obituary acknowledges his accomplishments as an architect and international hotel developer. He earned his degree in architecture at Harvard. He designed and developed hotels for InterContinental Hotels Group and Bechtel Corp.’s International Division, and he was a partner with Hotel Development Associates. He rowed lightweight crew at Columbia and later coached the Columbia lightweights, a position he enjoyed because he could get his students teaching a course in architecture at Harvard; he also was the freelance crew correspondent for The New York Times, and a lifeguard at Jennings Beach in Fairfield each summer for some 54 years. But that is only a bit of an understanding of Norman. He was an original; or perhaps he was a gentleman from an earlier era. He lived his life with an easy grace and a driving abundance of energy. If those qualities seem in conflict, Norman managed them in splendid harmony. He carried himself with an elegant self-confidence that was disarming. The legacy of stories he leaves behind are legendary.

There was, for example, the evening when Norman, on 42nd Street, met famous movie actor Cary Grant. Norman had purchased a chauffeured limousine with a recognizable license plate. When a red light stopped traffic Norman strode to the vehicle and inquired whether the occupant was headed for Morningside Heights. Though he did not know Norman at all, the occupant acknowledged that to be his destination, and So Norman got himself invited to return to campus in style, riding beside a somewhat bewildered Grayson Kirk (president of the University from 1953-69). With that, we were united in a lifelong friendship.
The New York Times reported crew races with greater interest than it covered basketball or professional football, so much so that for each race that the newspaper followed, it listed the names of the oarsmen in each competing shell. Eventually that ended, much to Norman’s consternation. Norman, so the story goes, walked into publisher Arthur Sulzberger ’51’s office and expressed his displeasure with the inadequacy of coverage, whereupon Sulzberger offered him a byline as an unpaid correspon-
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From Fethiye, Turkey, a seacoast town on the Mediterranean, Hilimi Torres '63 writes that he spends his time "sailing and writing, if not traveling."" Hilimi retired early, twice. First, from the Associated Press, where he was a reporter, editor, and correspondent in its Miami, New York, United Nations and Rome bureaus, and then as chief of press operations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome. He enjoys being in contact with classmates through email (wordsmithsailor@hotmail.com) or Facebook.

From Durham, N.C., former class president John Garman recently traveled for a month to Venice, Florence and Rome and "actually saw what we only read about in Art Humanities. Four thousand photos later, I'm still trying to understand and absorb it!" John keeps in contact with Dick McKenna, Richard Harbison and Joe Leska, who, he reports, "are all healthy and living life to its fullest." John and his wife have five grandchildren between 2 and 14 who "are growing up fast. What more could a grandfather ask for?"

Andrew Jampoler's fifth book, Congo: The Miserable Expeditions and Dreadful Death of Lt. Emory Taunt, USN, has been published. He says, "It is the sad story of the United States and the Congo during the last decades of the 19th century. I tell the story as a biography of the first resident American diplomat in Equatorial West Africa, Emory Taunt. He died on the river in January 1891. I know Andrew would be especially pleased if his classmates would help him tell readers about his book. Publishers increasingly leave the marketing of their publications to their authors. You may reach Andrew at jampoler@earthlink.net.

Meanwhile, Andrew continues to research and write history and to travel: "My wife and I are preparing for a cruise into the North and Baltic Seas that will require some work over a dozen maritime history lectures." Michael Stone and his wife, Shelley, moved from a condominium into a lovely house in Boynton Beach, Fla. — three bedrooms, family room and a large lanai, plus a beautiful swimming pool. He adds, "The community is Venetian Isles. We are blessed." Their new address is 8848 Via Tuscanie Drive, Boynton Beach, FL 33472, and phone is 561-736-6907. Michael may regret it but he says, "There is plenty of room, so come visit.

Barry Leeds, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at Central Connecticut State University, has continued to teach his Mailer and Hemingway courses for the 10 years since his nominal retirement. This May marked 50 years of university teaching for Barry. He and his college roommate, Howard Felperin, who reunited in New York at our 50th reunion, have discovered that the friendship between two guys in their 72nd years is as rewarding as that between two 19-olds.

Larry Wittner, professor of history emeritus at SUNY Albany, has retired from 43 years of teaching and has used his newly found leisure to write a novel. What's Going On at U'Aardvark? He describes the book as "an over-the-top satire about corporatization of a and rebellion on a modern university campus."

Larry is the author or editor of another dozen books but this is his first work of fiction. When he entered Columbia in 1968 he expected, he was planning to become a novelist, but was sidetracked by his interest in history. Now he has returned to his first love.

Larry Wittner '62 has retired from 43 years of teaching and has written a novel, What's Going On at U'Aardvark?

Be careful with these groups. More than one classmate said, "Consider the book before you call the editor of a class newsletter." We need to be careful in sharing our memories and stories with our classmates. It is important to be respectful and to give each other the space needed to share our experiences and stories.

Missing Class?

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Well, our wonderful 50th reunion is gone but not forgotten. The events leading up to it and the many stories told and heard will fill these notes and probably spill over into the next issue. Many of us on the Reunion Committee worked on this for more than 1½ years, and I have included a salute to all 22 of them in our website, c63ers.com. We owe every one of them our thanks.

A few weeks before reunion there was Class Day, and several of us took part in the Alumni Parade of Classes. Bruce Kaplan and Doron Gopstein held our '63 banner proudly, and Henry Black, Don Margolis, Phil Satow and I had the pleasure of wearing full academic regalia and handing out class pins to the nearly 1,200 graduating seniors in the Class of 2013. It was an honor and a lot of fun to congratulate each of them.

The next day, Henry and Don marched in the academic procession at Commencement and witnessed me acting as the Honorary Hood Marshall through the ceremonies. If you have never come to a Columbia Commencement, you really should try to find an excuse to attend. It is an extraordinarily happy occasion.

Leading up to reunion, we each received a Class of 1963 50th reunion pin in the mail from Dean James J. Valenti and were able to purchase our own Columbia blue 50th anniversary tie thanks to Robert Frenner of the Ben Silver Collection. To complete our spiffy outfits, we were each handed an official Class of '63 baseball hat when we arrived for Alumni Reunion Weekend. With so much branding it was a cinch to recognize classmates throughout the weekend.

Our schedule for the weekend was a full one, and each event has been called "the best" by at least one classmate. It started on Wednesday evening at a reception at Donna and Phil Satow's terrific home at 1015 Washington St., Apt. 50. On Thursday, we enjoyed a picnic lunch on South Field along with the 50th reunion class from Barnard. That evening we were guests, along with the 25th reunion class, at the President's House.

Events began Friday with our class breakfast, and luncheon on the Hudson River, a perfect place to be on the warmest day of the year. That evening, we had dinner at Sparks Steak House. Excellent food, great company and an open bar — what more could you ask for? Saturday brought us to Casa Italiana for our class lunch in the beautiful II Teatro. Here, each class member (and members of Engineering's Class of '63) passed the mic and had an opportunity to share some key moments from their life at Columbia or beyond. It was fascinating; we are interested in the group of guys! It also turned out that a surprising number of us are married to the Barnard girl we met as undergraduates. That evening the class banquet was held in Low Rotunda. Even though we suffered through a hot night in a non-air-conditioned room, we managed to stay awake through the usual speeches as well as greetings from the dean. And of course, we also had great conversations with many of our long-lost friends.

Sunday morning brought the final chance to gather, with our class brunch in Low Library's Faculty Room. And then we said goodbye, until we meet again.

The verdict on the reunion? "Wonderful," "Bravo," "Terrific," "What a great time," "I had a blast" and "Truly memorable" were among the flood of comments I received.

Ben Tua says, "Apart from meeting up with friends and their spouses, one of the things I like about our reunions is speaking with classmates whom I did not know while at the College. I have met 'new' classmates at each of the three reunions I have attended, and this one was especially rewarding in this regard.

"I especially enjoyed learning about the really interesting, creative, courageous and sometimes idiosyncratic things that both new acquaintances and classmates whom I have known for years have done. It was tremendously impressive. As an indication of the quality of the event for our class, my wife told me, without prompting, that it was terrific — and I am quite sure she meant it."

Doron Gopstein writes, "Our reunion was about far more than memories. It was truly memorable. Thanks to everyone who was there for being there, for your friendships and for sharing parts of your life stories with me now."

Sadly, many classmates were unable to attend. Larry Kettner wrote in advance of time: "I had been looking forward to getting together with classmates at the reunion. Unfortunately for me, I'm in the middle of a series of day and/or-week chemo sessions that pretty much knock me out for a couple of days. The reunion coincides with one of those bad periods.

"I was especially looking forward to seeing one of my best friends from Columbia, Ed Coller, who I notice is on the Reunion Committee. I'd love to get together with him in one of my good weeks to catch up on the last 50 years."

Dov Gruschlag wrote, "I was making plans to attend and then my wife broke her ankle (in a very unexciting slip and fall). She had surgery and will have limited mobility for a couple of months, which eliminated all travel plans. I am very sorry to miss the reunion."

Elliott Greber wrote, "I am deeply sorry to the class of 63 to not be there. For various reasons I missed all the earlier ones but I was not going..."
Richard Goldwater (né Goldwasser) writes, “I left Columbia in 1963 feeling like a miserable failure academically and intellectually, and feeling deeply the loss of the friendships for which there was no longer a supportive context.

"LSD use during the 1970s helped me to recover or perhaps discover my wits, the downside of which was the sense that I had a Columbia education lying dormant within me. Not that I understood anything while I was at Columbia; I knew almost nothing just by being there, but I was gathering impressions and collecting data that I might get back to later. The LSD galvanized all that, obligating me to reanimate the investment in my brain that medical school had.mummified. A kind of intellectual rekindling was called for in my psychiatry residency (what else could I do, go into show business?) when I realized that I could think about Hamlet and King Lear as if they were patients of mine. Suddenly, I was no longer an intimidated dolt but a wise counselor to the severely miffed. I loved practicing what is now the lost art of psychotherapy (done in by Big Pharma and the Profit Motive), but in my spare time when not busy being divorced, I have struggled to accomplish what anything at Columbia during those days might want to do over a lifetime: come out with a Theory of Everything. After all, if one thinks that one has figured out Hamlet and King Lear, then figuring out the entire universe is the logical next step...

"So starts a long and fascinating note from Richard. Visit cc63ers. com for the full text and visit his websites, rolenandrules.com and profitandentropy.com, to learn more.

David Hitchen ‘68 CSAS writes, "I was at the Saturday lunch at Casa Italiana but had to leave while the microphone was being passed around, so I had matinee theatre tickets, so I’m taking this opportunity to say a few words here instead.

"Along with quite a number of physics majors in our year, stayed on at Columbia for grad school. The department had, at that time, seven current or future Nobel Prize winners; what better place to be? I got my degree in 1968 and stayed on for a year. Then I spent 10 years as a research fellow before going to Caltech in 1979, where I have been ever since. I am an experimental elementary particle physicist and have led several large international collaborations. I remain active and hope to be a full-time visitor to come. I am married to Martha Mann Slagerman, a psychoanalyst with a practice in Santa Monica.”

Charles E. Miller joined the law firm of Sills Cуммис & Gross as senior counsel and co-chair of the Intellectual Property Law Group in the firm’s midtown Manhattan office, where he continues his practice of counseling, licensing, litigation and dispute resolution, mainly in the fields of chemical and pharmaceutical patents.

Frank Sypher responded to my list of the top 10 moments of 1963, emailed to classmates before reunion. He says, “And yes, there was that strange man who whenever I passed him on the southwest corner of Broadway and 116th, outside of Check Full O’Nine, would shout at me: ‘Yoouoouoo ... YUM-KEE!’ Once I stopped and asked him what that meant, and he said it was all in the leaflet he had. So I asked him if I could have a leaflet, and he said, ‘No! You YUM-KEE!’”

Bill Goebel wrote ahead of time, “I knew the guy’s performance well, and I wrote him into my first novel, which partially takes place on Morningside Heights, but I hadn’t thought about him in a couple of decades or more. Now I’m back there in my mind. Can it really be half a century?

“For the record, I’ve never attended reunions because they incompletely come just when the spring term at Lawrence University (where I spent my career teaching, and which is my favorite campus) is reaching its paper-grading, exam-preparing, student-needy climax. I really would have liked to come to this one but couldn’t manage it. My regards to my old friends from Spectator who are on the Reunion Committee — Dave Alpern, Doron Gopstein and Larry Apple — and give a special hello to Gary Rachelesky, He and I grew up on the same block in Brooklyn.”

Bill Goebel wrote ahead of time, "[My wife] Barbara and I are looking forward to seeing my fellow alumni in Chicago, where we entertained and was entertained many times during my career at TAA. In fact, I had lunch there the day after Paul Castellano’s murder, which Pat Cetta, the owner, liked to call ‘the incident.’ I retired as an associate general counsel and team leader in September 2000 after a career of 28 years. Although it was stressful work, it was intellectually stimulating and rewarding, and I worked on and closed more than $3 billion worth of commercial real estate transactions throughout the United States (the most memorable of which is the famous Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.). I was also fortunate to travel all over the world. We live in Syosset, N.Y., and have two children (Jason, an attorney and clearance officer with First American, and Pamela, who is a director at American Express). We also have two grandchildren who are aspiring athletes.”

It is my sad duty to report the death of Byron C. Cohen, in Kansas City, Mo., on May 10, 2013. He had run an art gallery there and you can still visit his website at byronmchongallery.com.

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 October 10, November 14 and December 12 — it’s always the second Thursday of the month. Check cc63ers.com for details.

In the meantime, let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1, 2014
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The big news lies ahead: our 50th anniversary Alumni Reunion Weekend is next year and runs for five days: Wednesday, May 28–Sunday, June 1, 2014, one day longer than all the other classes’ celebration.

Steve Case has agreed to chair the Reunion Committee. In the past Nick Rudd took charge, but with his passing someone had to step up to take the reins. We are grateful Steve did but are mindful he cannot do it alone.

During the summer, a preliminary organizational meeting was held by some classmates who live in the New York City area. We need broader participation and input, however. We want to fill those five days with programs that are not only fun but also are meaningful to everyone.

If you are unable to participate in NYC planning sessions, please send me your ideas and suggestions. (You can also get in touch with either of the Alumni Office contacts at the top of the column for ways to get involved.) And perhaps most importantly, start speaking to classmates in your area to generate interest in coming so that attendance next year is as high as possible.

Obviously, a 50th reunion is significant for many reasons. Let’s mark it in style.

Ivan Weissman reports that at Class Day in May, he, Howard Jacobson, Peter Thall and Fred Kantor carried our class banner during the Alumni Parade of Classes. The speech by playwright Terrence McNally ‘60 received a standing ovation. You can find it at college.columbia.edu/terrence McNally. It is inspiring and, although intended for the Class of 2013, well suited for a class approaching its 50th reunion. I highly recommend it.

Leonard B. Pack
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Bob Gunn sent a great report on “what’s been happening in my life.” He writes, “After 40 years, I retired from my last full-time church job as a United Church of Christ pastor. I moved to my own apartment in Astoria, Queens, and continued my private practice of psychotherapy in Manhattan (which has been going for about 35 years). Having published one book, Journeys Into Eternity: Dogen, Merton, Jung and the Quest for Transformation, I am reaching its paper-grading... Dialogue and Double Belonging’ at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, ‘Transference and Countertransference’ at the Metropolitan Institute for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy and a seminar in New York Theological Seminary. This is what retirement looks like to me.

‘A couple of years ago, I was delighted to join with fellow Columbia alums who had been members of the Glee Club at Alumni Reunion Weekend. It was a great rendezvous, organized largely through the extraordinary efforts of Nick Rudd ‘64, ‘67 Business, who unfortunately passed away last year. May the music continue! Greetings to all!”

Piqued by this, I asked Bob, ‘Can come be, and are you, simultaneously a Christian and a Buddhist? Are..."
Frank Snepp '65, '68 SIPA Chases the Truth From Saigon to Los Angeles

By Ted Rabinowitz '87

Frank Snepp '65, '68 SIPA stood on the roof of the U.S. embassy in Saigon. It was April 30, 1975. In a few minutes, the last CIA chopper would evacuate him to the U.S.S. Denver. The North Vietnamese were shelling the city. The air was filled with smoke as hundreds of South Vietnamese struggled in vain to enter the embassy and board a flight. Bowing to the inevitable, Snepp boarded the helicopter, knowing that he was abandoning friends and colleagues to the North Vietnamese.

The Fall of Saigon would be a decisive moment for Snepp. Angered by how the CIA and State Department had handled the evacuation, he would become one of the CIA's first whistle-blowers, and his legal battle to publish his exposé would go all the way to the Supreme Court. Afterward, he would become an award-winning investigative journalist, exposing corruption on the national and local levels. Snepp could not have predicted the path his career would take, but he knows that it started at Columbia.

Born in Kinston, N.C., Snepp came to Columbia as a self-described conservative Southern with a taste for "drunken saber duels" with Princeton students. Columbia offered him unique opportunities: He attended lectures by Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, and was a publicity secretary for Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS, I.I. Rabi '27 GSAS and Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS when they went on lecture tours. Most importantly, the Morningside Heights campus exposed Snepp to people with backgrounds he had never encountered. "Columbia is such a terrific institution for anyone who wants to go into government or journalism, because you're always rubbing against the rough edge of reality," he says. "It teaches you to be tolerant, it teaches you to be watchful, it teaches you to understand the values of people who don't look like you ... a willingness to keep your eyes open for other people's truths."

After studying Elizabethan literature, Snepp spent a year at CBS News as a desk assistant for Walter Cronkite and Mike Wallace. He then returned to Columbia to study at the School of International Affairs (SIA, now SIPA).

Snepp's politics and academic specialization made him a strong candidate for the CIA. He was recruited by SIA's Associate Dean Philip Mosely, who had helped shape America's post-WWII foreign policy and was one of the world's leading authorities on Soviet affairs. "[Mosely] said, "Frank, I don't think you're sophisticated enough to be in the State Department. How would you like to be a spy?" Snepp agreed.

After a year in Europe, the CIA detailed Snepp to Vietnam in 1969. Turning down the traditional two-year assignment rotation, he remained in-country, becoming one of the Saigon station's top experts in North Vietnamese strategy and psychology. Unusually for the agency, he was both a desk analyst and a field operative, running a key network of informants. It was difficult, dangerous work that exposed him to the underside of the war and placed him in morally ambiguous situations. He helped South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu flee Saigon in the middle of the night with suitcases full of gold; he was almost killed by an American soldier for providing medicine to a wounded prisoner; and he interrogated high-ranking prisoners, including Colonel Nguyen Van Tal, a top Communist operative who had come south to coordinate North Vietnam's counterintelligence and terror network in Saigon.

As he spent more and more time in-country, Snepp's views on the war and America's involvement began to change. "I loved the people, but I loathed the [South Vietnamese] government," he says. He saw fellow staffers at the U.S. Embassy who "threw up their hands" and descended into booze and drugs, and he encountered spectacular corruption among the South Vietnamese elite.

Snepp's disenchantment was made complete by the evacuation of American forces from Vietnam. The evacuation removed American personnel and some Vietnamese safely, but it left behind hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Vietnamese "assets" who had worked for the United States, often at great risk. Snepp believed that mismanagement, arrogance and political pressure at the CIA and State Department had abandoned these men and women to the harsh treatment of the invading North Vietnamese. For him, the loss was personal. "Some dear friends didn't get out, and killed themselves."

Once stateside, Snepp was awarded the CIA's Medal of Merit for his analyses during the last
months of the war. He pushed the CIA to investigate and report on the failures of the evacuation and to organize a rescue of its Vietnamese partners. After being rebuffed for a year, he quit the agency and wrote *Decent Interval*, a book documenting the evacuation and his time in Saigon. A.J. “Jack” Langguth, chief of *The New York Times*’ Saigon bureau during the war, is unequivocal about *Decent Interval*’s impact. “I’m not particularly sympathetic to Frank’s former employer [the CIA],” he says, “but I think Frank’s book is the single finest record of that shameful episode.”

Published in 1977, *Decent Interval* provided one of the earliest of several revelations about the agency, and the CIA sued Snepp to prevent publication. In 1980, the case reached the Supreme Court; Snepp lost. The consequences were devastating. *Decent Interval* had already been published but the agency seized the book’s royalties. “One day [he] had $300,000 in the bank, the next day [he] had nothing,” says Langguth.

That year, Snepp became an investigative journalist. For the next two decades, he contributed to periodicals such as *The New York Times*, *Granta*, *McCall’s Village Voice*, *The Washington Post*, *Playboy* and *Newday*. With Wallace’s help he returned to broadcast news, working with local news stations in Southern California and nationally with *ABC’s World News Tonight* (1987–92), *CBS* (2003–05) and *NBC*, beginning in 2005. Working for *World News Tonight* in 1987, he confirmed that the Iran/Contra conspiracy was backed by the Reagan administration by getting Eugene Hasenfus, the surviving crew member of a downed Sandinista cargo transport, to confirm that he had signed a government secrecy agreement. Snepp won an Emmy in 1997 for his investigation of Mexican drug trafficking; and in 2006, he won a Peabody award for “Burning Questions,” an exposé of Los Angeles’ Playa Vista housing development, which had been sited over a toxic landfill. Now living in Southern California, Snepp focuses on new journalism projects and on raising his young daughter. (“My hope is that she’ll go to Columbia, and that she won’t become an actress.”)

As a journalist and an intelligence analyst, Snepp says that he sees “information as an instrument of change”; his heroes are Wallace and national security journalist Seymour “Sy” Hersh. He credits Columbia with his belief in the power of knowledge: “Columbia teaches you that seeking the truth is the responsibility of every thinking person. During the worst days of Vietnam, it made me realize that if I could get the truth out, it would make a difference.”

When asked about modern-day whistleblowers such as Julian Assange and Bradley Manning, Snepp is careful to draw distinctions. “You can walk into a newspaper office and blow everything you know and mow down everyone, and I’m not sure that’s worthwhile. The WikiLeaks people and Manning seem to be nihilists, and I don’t understand that.” Nevertheless, Snepp is unwavering in his belief that it is vital to expose the truth, no matter what the personal cost. “If we don’t have genuine whistleblowers who are willing to stand up, we’re in real trouble. But you’ll get trashed. No one loves a whistleblower.” Langguth sees things a little differently. For him, *Decent Interval* is on par with the leaking of the Pentagon Papers by Daniel Ellsberg in 1971. Ultimately, he says, “people will give Frank the kind of acclaim that Ellsberg gets now.”

Ted Rabinowitz ’87 is a copywriter and author. His first novel, *The Wrong Sword*, was published last year by Musa Books under the pen name Ted Mendelsohn.
they fully complementary, or do you have to shave of some edges to get them to coexist?"

Bob replied: "There are two levels to your question: One has to do with whether one can perceive as both a Buddhist and a Christian with integrity. The other has to do with whether institutions of Buddhist and Christianity allow what we often call 'double belonging,' and that has to be answered by specific institutions. In my case, as minister in the United Church of Christ (think Pilgrims), I have not found any problem. Generally, there is no problem with Buddhists having a Christian affiliation; the Christians are more likely to take exception. My answer in both cases is there is no problem being/doing both. That is the gist of the course I am teaching at Union Seminary."

Bob's website is deepjournals.net, and his email address is drwgunn@gmail.com.

I crossed professional paths with Bob Henn recently and coaxed him into sharing. He writes, "At the same age as most of us in the Class of 1965 (I hesitate to mention it in print — it seems so old!), I am still working more than full-time at my chosen vocation as a business/real estate transactional lawyer in Northern California while I and my wife, Rebecca, put our four kids through college — none, alas, at Columbia. At least I still have my healthy one. The principal pleasure is getting on my road bike along the California coast and in its surrounding hills with my friends, an experience that’s all the sweeter for still being able to do it at this age."

"All four kids, Christopher (17), Andrew (19), Laura (21) and Matthew (22), are doing well and may actually earn an independent living for themselves one of these days. My best to everyone."

Bob's email address is lhenn@hennetzel.com.

I emailed Dennis Selkoe (dsselkowpartners.org), who responded: "Life is very good for my wife, Polly, and me here in Boston; we’ve been married more than 45 years, and together since my freshman year at the College. We met at a Delta Phi fraternity party, which I had actually arranged (as a new recruit) with the Dalton School, where she was a junior. Love at first sight (for me).

I am a professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and I continue my career-long study of the molecular basis of Alzheimer’s disease (with a laboratory of about 15 fellows and grad students). The field has moved steadily forward, and company helped to start in 1986, Athena Neurosciences (then called Elan), designed monoclonal antibodies, the best of which is now in advanced (phase 3) clinical trials and has shown some real promise in slowing down the progression of Alzheimer’s. I also do basic research on the mechanism of Parkinson’s disease.

"Polly and I have two married children, a son in Boston’s Back Bay, and a daughter in Santa Barbara, Calif., who have collectively given us three grandchildren thus far. We do some traveling and grandchild care but both of us are very much working full time and have no plans to retire. Polly is an urban planner and is the chief planner of the town of Brookline (and my life!)."

"Best regards to our classmates."

John McDougall (johnmcdougall@earthlink.net) writes, "I practice criminal law and plan to continue for at least a couple of more years. All things considered I’m in great health and my practice is doing fine as well. My two grown sons are pursuing careers successfully at this point. Thankfully, the economy in

alchemical writings.

"The influence of the Core Curriculum at Columbia, which washed over me, was instrumental in causing me to circle back, after forays into investment banking and the health care world, to reengage the basic questions about existence that we addressed as undergraduates. I would be glad to hear from classmates. My email is jmsi@jessie770@yahoo.com."

"I'll bet ours is the only class in this issue of CCT that has two references to Carl Jung in its Class Notes!"

Gene Spiegel (genespiegel@gmail.com) shares, "After graduation I wandered around California for several years before becoming a teacher of transcendental meditation (TM) in 1971. I traveled throughout the United States, lecturing and teaching, for seven years. In ‘77, I became a stockbroker and did that for 25 years, with some occasional extended vacations. I retired in 2004."

"I have lived in Atlanta since ‘74. In 2004, I remarried and have two children, Alexander (8) and Clara (4). My wife, Katrin Kohl, is a deputy director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a funny full-time one. The only persons I am in touch with from my college days are mango Brewer Harrison ‘65 Barnard and Bruce Zimmer. I have tried to get in touch with friend Dodge Elly, to no avail. Because my wife is German, we spend a month every summer in Europe, usually in Majorca, Spain. It’s a good life. As I write, my 70th birthday is coming up in a week, and it does give one pause. It sounds so old, although I am in pretty good health for an old codger.

"Well, that’s the last 48 years in a nutshell. Hope it helps."

If anyone has any information about Dodge, do let us know. Also, I asked Gene whether he has continued with his TM practice, and whether it fit in with his commercial and family life. Gene responded, "I became a TM teacher simply because I wanted to be able to teach people whom I met. I had no intention of making it a full-time gig. But one thing led to another and then you have it. I was actually the Southeast area coordinator, in charge of the whole Southeast minus Florida. I do still practice TM, not so much out of habit but because I continue to experience the benefits I noticed to another and then you have it."

Rich Forzani

Rich Forzani 413 Banta Ave. Garfield, NJ 07026 rforzan11@optonline.net

Rich Forzani, 66, ‘67E is principal partner of Think Strategic Technology Partners, an IT consulting firm in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

John Larson writes, "My wife, Judy, and I (going on 44 years together) retired to Delaware in 2009 after law practice and kid-raising in western Colorado, my home state. She is from New Jersey and liked the idea of coming to her home area. Sometimes the weather sort of sucks, but there is a longer growing season for gardening, plus more frequent golfing and water sports. Son Taylor and family are in Denver, with two kids; daughter Barbara, with boyfriend of several years, is in Maryland. We enjoy our still-rural lifestyle but now with the advantages of big city fixes closer to home. We see Ken Rolleston, El School 1961, and Tom Swanson, El 1962, on occasion. Does anyone have contact info for Gary Fouka?"

Reg Maton ‘66, ‘70E is principal partner of Think Strategic Technology Partners, an IT consulting firm in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He plays a role in development and football at Columbia and was an assistant varsity football coach for Aldo "Buff" Donelli. Upon graduation he worked for AT&T, then CBS in New York from 1970–1982, where he was director, planning and business development and director, human resources. He also was director of information technology for CBS.

Reg joined Tiffany & Co. in New York as v.p. and CIO. He worked at Tiffany from 1983–93, where he joined Olympic America on Long Island as its CIO. He went on to be s.v.p. and CIO of Standard Microsystems Corp., Symbol Technologies and Scholastic. Reg retired in 2008 and moved to Florida.

He and his wife, Cynthia, have been married for 24 years. They
have lived in Greenwich, Conn., and Vero Beach, Fla. They have six children and 10 grandchildren. Regina and Cynthia reside in Fountains Landing in Palm Beach Gardens, where they are active members of Jupiter First Church.

Paul Kastin writes, "Entered with the Class of ’66 but graduated with the Class of ’65, not because I’m smart but because I went to summer school two summers. Played tennis and swam, enjoyed frat party life immensely (Beta house: ‘nuf said), went to Chicago’s graduate school of business. Honestly, absent help from the dean of students, I’d still be there!”

“Thought all the while in college and grad school that I was going to take over my family business, teach art history, live semi-rural and life would be good. A month prior to finishing at Chicago, I learned the family business was history. So I worked for a huge company in Chicago, then a smaller one for four years. In ’74, I relocated to Atlanta to run a still smaller firm. A slump left that company with a Lear jet and a Mitsubishi turbo prop, and I could use the planes anytime the owner didn’t. I ran that company until he sold it four years later, at which time I started my own firm in the perishable protein (meat, poultry, seafood) business. It’s never wonderful, but never awful, either.

“Shortly after moving to Atlanta, I met and married a Romanian woman, educated in Paris and an art history major at Emory. We have three terrific children and four terrific grandchildren. One of my sons, Avery ’01, attended Columbia, where he ran the largest on-campus student organization. In Feinberg’s words, he was a member of the Ivy championship golf team, received the Eisenhower watch as the scholar-athlete of his class and graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. I tell him that between the two of us, we had a cup of coffee somewhere earlier there. He works with me now.

“My wife and I have four children and four terrific grandchildren. One of my sons, Avery ’01, attended Columbia, where he ran the largest on-campus student organization. In Feinberg’s words, he was a member of the Ivy championship golf team, received the Eisenhower watch as the scholar-athlete of his class and graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. I tell him that between the two of us, we had a cup of coffee somewhere earlier there. He works with me now.

“There were lots of things out there, and it took only about three months for me to get busy. At this point, I’ve found enough worthwhile and interesting activities to keep triplets busy. A partial list: I volunteer at the National Museum of Natural History, as a tutor for immigrants learning English, and in a program that does tax returns for free for elderly and low-income people. I’m taking a fistful of courses in Osher programs, a loose network of minimal-tuition courses specifically for retirees. There’s also a Columbia alumni project here in the D.C. area that’s working its way through the classics that are read in CC and Lit Hum. Another book club I’m involved in is composed of alumni of my high school and ‘meets’ by email chat.

“We have five grandchildren, ranging in age from 4-9. We get together every four to six weeks. We much enjoy time with them and wish more frequent visits were feasible.”
away in Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada, on May 7, 2013.

No other news this time. Please do write. You can send updates to me at the email address at the top of the column or via CCT's easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_notes.

Arthur Spector
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Summer in New York City — sweltering hot as I write this.

Our reunion was a success on many fronts though I wish I had more time to spend with classmates. The turnout was very good though the Reunion Committee, headed by Mas Taketomo (salute to Mas), received a number of notes from classmates who wanted to come but had conflicts. I have no doubt that our 50th reunion will result in the best turnout ever.

I hope everyone received Paul de Bary’s wine book, The Persistent Observer’s Guide to Wine, sent out by the committee. Thanks to Paul for the reduction in cost; the book is great. Go buy it for your friends.

And before I forget, the Reunion Committee included (I bet I miss someone so I am sorry in advance): Peter Janovsky, who led the effort with regard to the class bio and remembrances (thanks to him for focusing on this); John Roy and Nigel Paneth, who worked on the programming; and Greg Winn, Jeff Kurnit, Ira Goldberg, Jim Shorter and Buzz Zucker. Ross Ain made the effort to raise funds for the Class Gift.

On behalf of the class, I also thank the Alumni Office for its efforts.

So — onto the weekend itself! The weather was great and the campus activities and lectures were rewarding. (If you want to see the class photo from our Saturday dinner and the list of all registrants, go to college.columbia.edu/cct/sumter13/features43.)

The Thursday cocktail party at John Slattery’s home was a pleasure and many made it (thanks to John and his wife, Kathy). The cocktail party on Friday, at Faculty House, also was fun. My wife and I enjoyed spending some time afterward with Greg Winn and his wife, Vera. They are such fun, full of good cheer and good thoughts, and Greg is just the same, full of infectious laughter and和 always (and forth with a book about to be published, too).

Our Saturday luncheon in Kent Hall was perfect: the elegance of the room, the comments by Nigel, Larry Susskind, Jon Bauman, Jim Shorter, John Roy, Greg Winn, Mas and me were brief enough, and impressive. In addition, Andy Herz talked about spending time outside of work doing good deeds, and Paul de Bary spoke about the value of the Core Curriculum to the College’s unique academic program from which we all benefited.

That night, our cocktail party and dinner with keynote speaker Robert Siegel of NPR was fabulous. Everyone seemed to be in grand humor, looking alert and cheerful and enjoying the evening. Especially fun was a rendition, before we ate, of Roar, Lion, Roar, enhanced by members of the cello ensemble String Theory, including Nathan Chan ’15, a nationally renowned musician and Columbia College/Juilliard student. They were stunningly good and charming and played short pieces before dinner. (My nephew, Ben Spector ’12, performed with Nathan for two pieces; thanks, Nathan, and thank you, Ben — this uncle was happy, indeed.)

Robert was a pleasure to listen to — enlightening, enthralling with that grand voice, and a true journalist. This renowned citizen of the airwaves had much to say about media, media objectivity, newspapers, NPR and so on. (Hamilton, Jay and Columbia’s founders would be proud of him for his dedication to this essential national goal of being informative and objective, and reporting the national and international news.)

My wife and I were pleased to sit with Bill McDavid and his wife at the Saturday dinner. The former rock-and-roll band man from Columbia is still active and has a 10-year-old — so it’s clear he is staying in good health. (Last time I played squash with him I was injured for a couple of years; I am healed now and ready again with a request for two minutes rest between points.)

After dinner, my wife and I danced for a while at the Starlight Reception, held on Low Plaza. The band’s lead singer, a female vocalist, was sensational; she said “I Got Feeling” by the Black Eyed Peas and she liked it. If I may, a brief thought from Henry V.

“He that outlives this day, and comes safe home, / Will stand a tip-Toe when the day is named.” / And rouse him at the name of Crispian

... And gentlemen in England now a-bed! Shall think themselves accursed they were not here! That fought with us upon Saint Crispin’s day.

So to the gentlemen who couldn’t come: We assembled, spirited and vibrant, laughing and clearly curious, surely grateful for the energy and vitality that we brought to the reunion. I hope that you are having a good 2013, and maybe I will see you later this year, perhaps at a football game — Homecoming could be the place (Saturday, October 19; see “Roar, Lion, Roar” in this issue). And by the way, to John Brosnan and the former Lions baseball players: congratulations to the Ivy League Baseball Champs of 2013. The Columbia Lions whipped the Big Green for first place in the play-offs.

Mark Rosenzweig ’69, the Frank Altschul Professor of International Economics and director of the Economic Growth Center at Yale, has been elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
Current grade point average is 3.62. Great college; great experience; great scholarship. I am in reinsurance with THB Intermediaries. THB is now part of AonWINS Group, which is one of the largest wholesale insurance brokers in the U.S. See you at the reunion.

Johan Andersen writes, “I live in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire and am semi-retired. I may be the only member of the class who is a grocery clerk. Looking back at Columbia, my biggest regret is that I took to heart Dean David B. Truman’s advice that Columbia isn’t a trade school. I never did find the perfect career. My biggest happiness is that the theatre experiences I had (mostly at Barnard) led to a lifelong involvement in community theatre that has allowed me to play some of the great parts and to make wonderful friends. Other news: I am single with two wonderful children and two perfect grandchildren. Son Johan IV has son Johan V.”

From Jeffrey Klein, who lives in California: “Late last year, Columbia flew me in to kick off its first Media Day. The former, longtime editor of The Wall Street Journal and I keynoted a panel on investigative reporting. Here is a link to a short report by the moderator, the head of the J-School’s Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism: watchdog-watch.com/2012/11/21/biodiversity-in-the-investigative-ecosystem/#more-842. She accurately characterizes me as the panel’s ‘flame/bomb thrower’ — and why not at our age?”

This second link is to Spectator’s live-tweet-recap: alumni.columbia.spectator.com/2012/11/columbia-media-conference-live-tweet-recap. Backstage with whom I spoke afterward, today’s undergraduates seem very intrigued by the values forged during our era.

Judd Gregg is now CEO of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, trading association for the capital markets business.

Hilton Obenzinger has retired from his full-time position directing honors writing at Stanford and now teaches a few courses, including one in standup comedy (Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, Sarah Silverman and more). He’s working on several books and also is associate director of Stanford’s “Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project.” The work on Chinese building the transcontinental railroad is almost legendary in the U.S. and China but hardly anything is known of the individual workers who labored under very difficult conditions.

Hilton adds, “We’re planning for a conference in 2015 for the 150th anniversary of the start of the Chinese working on the transcontinental railroad; [there will be] scholars, performers and major public figures from both countries, an online multi-lingual digital archive of historic materials, and U.S. and Canadian archives and oral histories of descendants of railroad workers. Stanford was built with Leland Stanford’s wealth and much of that resulted from the railroad, so the project is a long-overdue acknowledgement of the contribution of Chinese labor to establishing the university and the U.S. as a whole. To the university’s credit, the administration is enthusiastically supporting the effort, and we hope eventually to build a monument to those workers on campus.” You can check out ChinaRailRoadWorkers.stanford.edu.

Woody Lewis writes, “After a successful 2012 as an independent Web architect, I joined EMC in January 2013 as a Web architect, I joined EMC in January 2013. I commute between Boston and New Jersey and have offices in both locations.

“There are aspects of academia and academic life that I miss. But I find that the work I do now takes advantage of all my past experiences in medicine. There is the opportunity to have real impact on human health. My responsibilities include representing the interests of patients and medicine inside the company, providing counsel to the CEO, and I recently had to go to Brooklyn back into the city. When we first came back East in mid-2010, we lived on 110th and Morning-side. I was in the Butler and Uris libraries far more than I had been. I had been an undergrad or M.B.A. student, a place to get away from the home office. Recently saw Bob Merlis — who was from in L.A. for a show by his client Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top/ Moving Sidewalks) — and Gregg Geller at a performance by The Nighthawks, the blues band fronted by Mark Weigler ‘71.”

Michael Rosenblatt writes, “My wife, Patty, and I have five grandchildren. We are fortunate to have all of them living in New England. Rose (8), Gregory (6) and Arianna (10 months) are the children of our daughter, Mia, and her husband, Kevork. Mia works part-time as a lawyer in a local firm. They live nearby in Newton, Mass. My son, Adam, and his family moved from Palo Alto, Calif., to Burlington, Vt., 1½ years ago when Adam took his first faculty job at Champlain Col-
lege. Adam and Amanda have two boys: Leo (5) and Sal (3).”

Patty is very involved with grandchildren, friends and cultural activities, so, after having a large show displaying her collected works, created during the last several years, she has decided to take a sabbatical from her work as an artist.

“It is now three years since I returned to Meck after an 18-year hiatus, this time as the company’s chief medical officer. There seems to be a pattern of my leaving and returning to organizations! I am finding the mission of inventing new drugs and vaccines, and getting them to the people who need them, to be fulfilling. The activities and mindset this time around are truly global — a real contrast from my first ‘tour of duty.’ My travel schedule now includes China, India, Brazil and Africa; these are all places that simply weren’t on the map when I signed on to the new joint venture medical school opened by the North Shore-LIJ Health System and Hofstra. I joined the newly renovated and expanded full-time orthopedic department. The key attraction for me was the opportunity for me to work with doctors aimed at emerging medical regions of the world and to the corporate social responsibility programs. And there are several trips per year to Washington on matters of policy.”

Joe Chasnoff writes, “I’ve had a satisfying and financially successful life making cabinets, furniture, gifts and art out of wood. I spend a lot of time on human rights issues and presently I’m involved in promoting Mark Wener’s rule for Monroe County, W.Va., in order to ban hydraulic fracturing here. My two daughters live and work in New York State.”

In a May 16 article on databases used by pharmaceutical companies to track prescribing practices of individual doctors, The New York Times included a quote from Jerry Avorn, who is described as “a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and a pioneer of programs for doctors aimed at countering the marketing efforts of drug makers.”

Mark Rosenzweig, the Frank Altschul Professor of International Economics and director of the Economic Growth Center at Yale, has been elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Mark is a development economist who pioneered the use of microeconomic methods for studying the causes and consequences of economic development.

Good columns require input from classmates, and I’d appreciate hearing from you with personal or professional news, or your views on our College years. Hearing from you now would be a big help.

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I am writing these notes as I look out to the sea on Paros, a Greek island in the Aegean Sea. My wife and three grown children are here and we are enjoying what may be one of our last “only immediate family” vacations together. The weather, food and company are glorious!

Lew Lane reported the following summer news: “While other classmates are toying with the idea of slowing down or retiring all together, I have actually signed on for something new and more to do. Starting in 1980, after I finished orthopedic surgery and hand surgery training, I was a hand surgeon in private practice in an academic setting at North Shore and LIJ on Long Island. That changed dramatically in October 2011, when I signed on to the new joint venture medical school opened by the North Shore-LIJ Health System and Hofstra. I joined the newly renovated and expanded full-time orthopedic department. The key attraction for me was...”

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being appointed program director of the orthopedic surgery residency and the orthopedic faculty member overseeing orthopedic education of students in the new medical school. In this position I do research, oversee hand surgery for the hospitals and residency, mentor residents in many aspects of their training, help put together curricula for the new medical school and, of course, still take care of patients in my job as hand surgeon (got to pay for it somehow).

“Because of this, I’ve also gotten even more involved in the national hand surgery and orthopedic surgery worlds. Technically this means more hours of ‘work’ for me but, honestly, much of this is not work at all. Rather, I am doing many new things that I find exciting and stimulating. I liked what I was doing before I took this position, but I love what I’m doing now. When others our age are talking about slowing down, that’s the furthest thing from my mind.

“I’ve been blessed on the home front too, My wife, Nancy, and I have been married 34 years and are wonderfully happy. Nancy is in her fourth salary career (in addition to the unpaid motherhood career), currently as a toy buyer at a local independent bookstore. Our daughter is a fourth-year ADA in Manhattan and married to, of all people, an orthopedic surgery resident; our son is a business consultant for PWC in its capital market division. We enjoy family time at home, on the golf course, on our little sailboat and by going to ‘hot’ new restaurants that the kids find in Manhattan. Life has been good for us. I feel enriched by and so grateful for the good fortune that we have had.”

Len Levine reported that he attended Dean’s Day in June and particularly enjoyed the informal gathering of alumni on hand.

Semi-retired, having semi-completed a career as an independent, investigative journalist (Rolling Stone, The Nation, Mother Jones and so forth) and author, Bob Dreyfuss lives at the beach in Cape May, N.J., with his wife, Barbara. He writes, “Visitors looking for a weekend at the beach, especially classmates, are welcome. We bounce back and forth between Cape May and New York City. Our son, Justin, lives in Chicago, and our daughter attends Montclair State University.”

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Arvin Levine writes, “I have joined Teradata, a leading data warehouse company, after three years on the other side at Credit Suisse. I took advantage of some ‘enforced’ down time to march with other 71 alumni at Class Day this Spring. We were sampling, I think, mostly sharing our gray hair and memories of CC and John Jay Hall.”

John Borek says, “I’m writing a college memoir called Collegiate. Here’s an excerpt.

“When I was 11, my parents sent me to a Boy Scout camp in the North Country of New York State. Neither nor I knew what summer camp was. To my father, camp was the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, where he was uprooted to the Blue Mountains for nine months because his mother could no longer feed him. To my mother, who never went to high school, it was an opportunity to display her domestic skills to the scoutmasters. Mom packed my duffel bag (1) a folding stool; 2) a well-grown and bejewelled Infant of Prague to watch over me in the woods; 3) a canister set — coffee, tea, sugar and salt in descending sizes; and 4) a cookbook — the kind you give to brides. I quickly fell into a marginal existence.

“Preparations for college were along these lines. The canister set and infant had been replaced by objects with greater functionality — a portable television set, a hernia-inducing IBM Selectric typewriter, three floor lamps, a driftwood-framed portrait of my mother and me that longed for the sea, a calendar and pen set made of marble and brass, a travel alarm, a mantel clock, a cookie jar masquerading as a drum majorette, a black vases with black fabric flowers and several suitcases full of underwear. I was a hick. I was a hick in an Ivy League School. I was a hick in an Ivy League School in the most sophisticated city in the world.

“I was assigned to Carman Hall, the ‘new’ dormitory. The old Columbia dormitories looked like orphanages. You could see the ghosts of desperate abandoned sophomores floating behind their windows. The new dormitory, however, was more closely and more aptly modeled after a state prison. A concrete block structure with a brick façade and interiors painted in an institutional sea foam, it was brutalist in a way that [Ludwig] Mies van der Rohe would never have imagined.

“My shared room was part of a suite, but it was a suite in name only. The suite had a bathroom, a useless hallway and two rooms. The rooms each contained two student prisoners. The prisoners slept on metal cots that were as far away from each other as a lack of desire for intimacy would dictate. In the fronts of the rooms were built-in plywood armoires that were intended to hold our intimates. And there were two plywood closets. The plywood was not the singular element. It was just the cheapest material available in an era before Mr. Seconds. We were not worthy of fine-grained veneer. We were temporary immigrants to this great world of the intellect. We lived in struggle wage.”

Duncan Darrow’s brother, Peter Darrow ’72, was well known to many in our class. Duncan writes, “Peter died on May 19, 2013, of complications related to his four-year battle with multiple myeloma. He died surrounded by his entire family, including me, his daughter, Meredith ‘04, his wife, Denise; son, Peter Jr; and two friends with whom he rowed 40 years ago, Paul DeMartinetti ’72 and John Mulligan ’72.

“After graduating from the College, Peter obtained an advanced degree at Trinity College, Oxford, and then graduated from the University of Michigan Law School, where he was elected to its Law Review. Peter then returned to New York City, where he embarked on a successful career as a corporate lawyer, including a partnership at Mayer, Brown & Platt and, toward the end of his career, at DLA Piper.

“While at Columbia, Peter lived for three years in the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, his beloved ‘AD’. Peter was elected president of AD and in his mid-30s became active in the AD alumni group, spearheading its reacquisition of the fraternity house from the Columbia housing authority. With its independence assured, AD had a renaissance and Peter was actively involved in guiding the house’s renovation.

“Peter also was chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Cambodia Trust, which for some 30 years has treated victims of land mines that continue to explode, unexpectedly, across the Cambodian countryside.

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“In 2001, the Darrow brothers, following our mother’s death from cancer, started Fighting Chance, a free-of-charge counseling center on the eastern end of Long Island for those dealing with cancer. Those wishing to do so may send a donation in Peter’s memory to Fighting Chance, PO Box 1358, Sag Harbor, NY 11963 (fightingchance.org). If you are not receiving the ‘71C eNews and would like to, please email me.

Remember back 46 September’s ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. We are still connected.”

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Several classmates have proud news to report regarding their children. Steve Fleet notes that his daughter Julia graduated as a D.O. (osteopathic physician) from the University of New England and plans to start a family practice residency at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester. Steve’s daughter Jessica is a registered echocardiography technician recently graduated from Bunker Hill Community College in Boston and still looking for a job. So if you know of an opening, …

John Miller is taking his youngest daughter, Becca, to Johns Hopkins this fall, where she will start her freshman year with plans to major in biomedical engineering. His other daughter, Sarah, also is interested in the sciences; she recently earned her doctoral degree in physical therapy at Ohio State, which is where his son, Adam, earned an M.B.A. Notes John, “I can actually understand what he does — ha!”

In June, I spotted Josef Stern around the neighborhood; it was great to see him again. With Josef was his son, Rea, who is looking forward to his wedding the following week. Josef teaches philosophy at Chicago and for several years has lived in Jerusalem (and you think you have a long commute). He works in two main areas: contemporary philosophy of language and medieval philosophy, especially Jewish and Arabic philosophy. Last year, Josef visited Shandong University in China, where he spoke on Maimonides and medieval Jewish thought.

Jeffrey Laurence plays a prominent role in a documentary on the early days of AIDS, The Battle of Amfar, which was selected for Robert Redford’s Sundance Film Festival last December. HBO bought it and will air it early in December this year. It also was selected for the
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Those who missed our 40th reunion (I, unfortunately, among them) missed a great time. We had 50+3ers in attendance, purportedly the most ever. Highlights included a College / Bardard / Engineering 73 reception at the Columbia University Club of New York, in Midtown; a tour of the High Line Public Park led by landscape architect Steven Cantor (see the May / June 2010 CCT); an evening reception at Cellini in Midtown; an address (to all classes) by Eric Holder '76; a luncheon with guest speaker Alan Brinkle, the Allan Nevins Professor of American History and Provost Emeritus, on the presidency of JFK; and a dinner with guest speaker Ronnie Heifetz, who founded the leadership center at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Many thanks to Mike Byowitz for reporting in my stead! Kudos especially to the Reunion Committee — Mike, Steven Cantor, Rich Canzonetti, Steve Flanagan, Greg Gall, Marc Jaffe, Don Jensen, Bob Pruznick, Steve Sims, Jim Thomas, Ray Vastola and Lou Venech. For a photo of those who attended our Saturday dinner and a list of registrants, go to college.columbia.edu/cct/summer13/features4.

Joe Seldner ’73 climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro with his brother.

In non-reunion news, Joe Seldner climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro with his brother. Joe has shifted from movie production into TV but is occupied mostly with writing, speaking and executive communication.

Mike Byowitz’s daughter, Suzanne ’13, joined the ranks of alumni progeny from 73. This also includes the sons of Bob Pruznick and Howard Gould, who both graduated in 2012.

Sam Radin married Sara Nelson in May. Sam is the president of an insurance advisory service in Manhattan and is a founding board member of the Norman Mailer Writers Colony in New York City. I was in Washington, D.C., in June and had lunch with Nat Helmer ’72, a founder of the music group Shabana, former head of the Morningside Heights campus we all know. The 40th Reunion Committee is looking into arranging tours of the area and perhaps even holding an event at the site.

Speaking of our 40th reunion, I hope you have blocked out Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, 2014 (and perhaps a few days on either side) to be back on Morningside Heights with the guys with whom you shared so much. Have you shown your family the dorms and classrooms where you spent your “wonder years?” Where you protested against / for the Vietnam War? The route you used during the “streaking” craze? Tom’s Restaurant is still there, waiting to serve you a delicious cup of “creamo”?

The Class of ’74 also could use your help on the Reunion Committee. We need volunteers to make a small time commitment to contact a handful of classmates, either in your area, your profession or from some group you were involved with while on campus. A short phone call or email to a classmate often makes it possible to get a classmate to show up — and higher attendance makes reunion better for everyone. Send me an email or contact one of the Alumni Office staffers listed at the top of the column if you can spare a few moments to help.

Here is another Class Note where both have remarkable recent achievements. As age has its privileges, it is only proper to start with the father, Dr. Mark Lebowohl. Mark is the chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. He also is chairman of the Medical Board of the National Psoriasis Foundation and was recently elected president of the American Academy of Dermatology.

Mark needs to wear all these hats to make ends meet, but a recent non-tuition payments for his son, Andy Lebowohl ’04, ’07L. Andy’s four years at the College didn’t come cheap, but then neither did his three years at the Law School. All must have seemed worth it when Andy joined the law firm Dewey & LeBoeuf in NYC. Andy discovered, however, that the life of an associate had a “crushing workload” and “there was more I wanted to be doing,” so he left to earn his M.B.A. at Yale — and thus two more years ofivy tuition. (As an aside, ironically, Andy did corporate bankruptcy and insurance regulatory law at Dewey & LeBoeuf — ironic because the firm itself went bankrupt in 2012, well after Andy had left.)

While a fellow at the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute in 2011, Andy developed a business plan that combined two of his interests: karaoke and comic book superheroes. Thus was born, in 2012, Karaoke Heroes, a karaoke bar with a superhero theme in downtown New Haven, Conn. Reviews have been great, and Andy plans to expand as a chain of karaoke bars in other college towns. Sounds like those nine or so years of tuition might actually pay off!

As one of the kids of our classmates leaves the law, at least one other is diving into the pond. Andrew Blumenthal, son of Dr. Steve Blumenthal (pediatrician in Portland, Maine), spent the summer as an intern at Latham & Watkins, the NYC mega-law firm. We’ll have to wait and see how Andrew, who is another son of a doctor, likes the law. (I do seem to recall that Andrew is an accomplished concert pianist, so you never know?)

An update came in from Dr. Alan Rosenberg in Chicago. He
says, “I’m alive, well and recently celebrated my 35th wedding anniversary. I very much enjoy my work in clinical and pharmacy policy for Wellpoint (the parent company of many health insurance firms around the country). I hope to get more info from Alan for a future column.

As some of you guys are too busy or too lazy or too modest (you can choose) to send updates, I’ve taken to checking for leads on my Facebook page. This has proven, especially fruitful of late. Here is this edition of “Facebook Factoids” (mostly fact-checked by getting in touch with the classmate involved):

After seeing a picture of Tim Marcovy, who lives in University Heights, Ohio, at the Western Reserve Rowing Association, I contacted Tim and found he is an active crew member and coach for the group. He remains a law partner with Willacy, LoPresti & Marcovy in Cleveland. Tim adds, “It’s a lot of fun. Thanks for the nod, Tony! I don’t have to troll the obsot yet.”

I also saw a picture of Ed Berliner, who lives in West Orange, N.J., with his granddaughter, and found out she is his fourth grandchild (can anyone beat this?). Ed retired from Bell Labs 10 years ago and has since joined Yeshiva University as director of science management and a clinical professor of physics. He emailed, “Any hope of very early retirement ended after this last Passover, when our daughters-in-law said I needed more bedrooms if I wanted the families of all three sons to join me during the holidays. So I just added onto the house. Now it looks like retirement is still a few years away.”

I thank Ed for his 30 years of interview material dedicated to the College.

Some Facebook postings didn’t require any fact-checking. Ken Krug (CFO of The Asia Foundation in San Francisco) added a picture taken at his son Joshua’s graduation from Harvard Divinity School. Dr. Peter Zeigfuss (dentist in Tarzana, N.Y.) had a photo from his daughter Clare’s graduation from the Taylor Institute for Global Enterprise in Switzerland (she earned an M.S. in international management). Dr. Burt Rochelson (chief of obstetrics at the North Shore University Hospital on Long Island) shared a picture of his son, Ellis, with his new fiancée. Mark Mogul (president of Mogul Technology in Port Washington, N.Y.) posted shots from when he walked his daughter, Perri, down the aisle on her wedding on Long Island in June.

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders (portrait photographer and videographer in NYC) added to his series of HBO documentaries on the lives of minority groups when The Out List aired on June 27, the 44th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in NYC, which many say marks the start of the gay liberation movement in the United States. Timothy, who began the series in 2008, combines portrait photographs and video interviews to give greater understanding of the world; in making the films, he has spoken with prominent members of the black, Latino and, now, gay segments of our society.

Another classmate involved in the arts, but at the local level, is Darryl Downey. As proprietor of the marketing company I-AM-HARLEM, he promotes small businesses and cultural institutions in Harlem. Darryl handles publicity for events from “Silicon Harlem Presents: Gigabit Harlem” (produced by the Harlem Business Alliance) to those sponsored by the Harlem Arts Alliance.

From the Northwest, in the shadows of Microsoft, comes news from Jim Pleasants. Our Okanagan roots, classmate (who runs his own law practice) says, “I’m busier than usual because I am president of the United States Curling Association, important to the roughly 16,000 curlers in the U.S.” Who knew there were so many devoted to pushing massive granite stones across ice rinks?

Since 1998 curling has been an official Olympic sport, which means Jim will be off to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in February. He added that his elder son, Chris, is a programmer for Amazon in Seattle and his younger son, Nick, recently finished his first year of law school at the University of Washington, also in Seattle.

Albie Hecht, who lives in Montclair, N.J., began at WKCR his freshman year. Albie continues to push away from journalism, for example, that this would lead him to a media career that includes founding SPIKE TV (“the network for men”), ing to Wikipedia, is “dedicated to ending the abuse and exploitation of children worldwide through the production of documentary films and other media that raise social awareness and effect political change.”

Shine Global’s first film, War/Dance, tells of the plight of children growing up in a war zone in northern Uganda. It was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 2008. Its second feature-length documentary, Harvest Zone, highlighted the 400,000 migrant worker children in America. Profits from the productions are funneled back to organizations that are dedicated to helping the children featured in the Shine documentaries.

There you have it. Stories of our kids leaving the law while others are just entering. Classmates celebrating the engagement, marriage and graduation of their offspring. And we witness the vibrancy of a classmate, Roundtable member, who lives in New York City. Out and about, and to contribute to our society. Make sure to block off time in your schedules to come back for reunion. You’ll get to hear a lot more stories than I can squeeze into these columns and also see the start of the new Manhattanville campus!

Commencements, reunions and Dean’s Day all have passed, locally or more broadly, depending on your friends, families and others. If you follow Columbia, you see lots about them in the Columbia Daily Spectator, or you can follow them on Twitter. As one of those readers, you already know that Ira Malin was one of the 10 recipients of the Alumni Medal at this year’s Commencement.

Paul Argenti ’75 was recently quoted in the New York Post on NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s advisory choices.

Argenti was president of Nickelodeon Entertainment and producing some of Paramount’s biggest films (such as The Spongebob SquarePants Movie and The Rugrats Movie). His works have received numerous Academy Award nominations. These days Albie splits his time between being CEO of Worldwide Pictures and a digital entertainment studio that creates original multimedia projects, and his work with a nonprofit film production company called Shine Global. Founded in 2005 by Albie and his wife, Susan MacLaury, the company, according to Wikipedia, is “dedicated to ending the abuse and exploitation of children worldwide through the production of documentary films and other media that raise social awareness and effect political change.”

Shine Global’s first film, War/Dance, tells of the plight of children growing up in a war zone in northern Uganda. It was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 2008. Its second feature-length documentary, Harvest Zone, highlighted the 400,000 migrant worker children in America. Profits from the productions are funneled back to organizations that are dedicated to helping the children featured in the Shine documentaries.

There you have it. Stories of our kids leaving the law while others are just entering. Classmates celebrating the engagement, marriage and graduation of their offspring. And we witness the vibrancy of a classmate, Roundtable member, who lives in New York City. Out and about, and to contribute to our society. Make sure to block off time in your schedules to come back for reunion. You’ll get to hear a lot more stories than I can squeeze into these columns and also see the start of the new Manhattanville campus!

Paul Argenti ’75 was recently quoted in the New York Post on NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s advisory choices.
This spring, the American Bankruptcy Institute gave Robert Reilly its publication of the year award for his book, *A Practical Guide to Bankruptcy Valuation*. Reilly received the award in April at the 31st annual meeting of the ABI at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md. Robert has been married to Dr. Janet Steiner Reilly ’75 Barnard for 38 years. They have three children: Ashley ’06 Barnard, Brandon and Cameron. Robert and Janet live in Chicago, and Bob and Regina live in National Harbor, Md.

**After what he characterizes as “a staggering 28-plus years of covering culture” at The Village Voice, Michael Musto ’76 has moved on.**

Samuel M. Shaffer is a partner at the Boston law firm of Burns & Levinson and chairs its International Practice Group. In February he was the sole American speaker in Brussels at the European Private Equity and Venture Capital Association’s kickoff to its new corporate venture capital subgroup. In April he led a panel of “funds of funds” at a Montreal venture capital conference. He hasn’t spoken in the U.S. since June 2012, when he chaired a life sciences venture capital conference in Boston, but has had a speaking engagement scheduled for this fall. Wife Rosalyn Weiss Shaffer ’74 Barnard works for Northrop Grumman. Two of their four children are married (one in Baltimore, one in Israel), and they have five grandchildren.

This was a big spring for Bob Schneider and his wife, Regina Mullally ’75 Barnard. First, they were in Philadelphia for the wedding of son James to Claudia Patane. Eugene Rice ’76 and wife Jeanne Kolva and Dr. Steven A. Fiala ’76 and wife Denise attended. They docked attended and were seated with Bob and Regina. (Geno, Dr. Steve and Bob all lived at Schuyler Hall in their freshman year.)

I couldn’t make the wedding but joined Bob and Regina in Philadelphia for Penn’s Commencement and reunion weekend. Their daughter, Margaret Veronica (always just Meg to me!), was one of the graduates and also won numerous awards. James and Claudia, just returned from their honeymoon in Italy, joined us for dinner. We had an enjoyable day together — and probably the “easiest” day of the weekend for the Schroeders! On Friday, they also attended several of Meg’s events and some of Bob’s reunion events.

On Saturday, in between meals and some of Bob’s reunion events, Bob had a short business engagement, and so Meg took Regina and I to the Institute of Contemporary Art. On Sunday and Monday, they were all over, culminating in the Penn Commencement at Franklin Field with Vice President Joseph Biden giving the commencement address. On a pure business note, Bob’s firm, Cuddy & Feder, was recently named one of the New York area’s top-ranked law firms in 2013, based on overall ratings with Martindale-Hubbell.

**Joseph Tato is the U.S. head of DLA Piper’s Projects and Infrastructure Practice Group and is a partner in the New York office.**

Robert Bressman has become a director at the law firm of Goulston & Stors in New York. He previously was a partner at the law firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher.

**Patrick H. Griffin ’80** P’65 has been appointed chief medical officer at Synergy Pharmaceuticals, a developer of drugs to treat gastrointestinal disorders and diseases. He did a residency in internal medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, then a fellowship in gastroenterology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. Before joining Synergy, he was on the faculty of P’65.

**Tony Anemone writes that after 10 years of mostly administrative work (chair of foreign languages and literature), associate dean for faculty affairs at The College of William and Mary and The New School, “I am happy to report that I have returned to full-time teaching and writing.” The high point of this past year was the publication of _I am a Phenomenon Quite out of the Ordinary_. The Notebooks, Diaries and Letters of Daniil Kharms, edited and translated with Peter Scotto ’75.

“After what he characterizes as “a staggering 28-plus years of covering culture” at The Village Voice, Michael Musto has moved on. He writes, “I assure you my future will still be filled with writing about movies, theatre, nightlife and everything else that I always immersed myself in. I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to run free and explore topics I cared about so passionately.”

**David Gorman**

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DeKalb, IL 60115
dgorman@niu.edu

Once again, it’s been quiet out there. I hope to have things to report soon. Remember, we keep track of such life passages as publications, awards and recognitions; promotions and retirements; kids’ college admissions and graduations; and sightings, memories and reflections, and even better: Ask yourself what you would be interested to learn about your classmates, then send me that sort of info about yourself! You can use either address at the top of the column, or C’CT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ cct/ submit_class_note. Peace out.

**Clyde Moneyhun**

Boise State University
Department of English
200 Liberal Arts Building
1910 University Dr.
Boise, ID 83725

cam131@columbia.edu

I’ll open this installment with a plea for news. Please take five minutes to let the rest of us know what’s happening with you: job, family, your kids’ accomplishments, travel, visits with other ‘76ers, shout-outs to classmates and reminiscences about our time on the campus. Email is best, though you can use either address above or C’CT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ cct/ submit_class_note.

**Matthew Nemerson**

35 Huntington St.
New Haven, CT 06511
matthewnemerson@gmail.com

Kudos to everyone who worked on the 35th reunion; it was better
than ever to see folks and to see the campus shine. I received many comments on the weekend’s activities. Dr. Alex Democ writes, “The reunion was absolutely delightful. The best part was simply connecting with classmates, old friends and new, at the various events. I am grateful to the Columbia staff and Reunion Committee for putting together a fantastic program, from the walking tour with Professor Kenneth Jackson to dancing on Low Plaza. Thanks, too, to Ric Burns for his fascinating presentation at the class dinner.”

Paul Phillips writes, “I pulled an Ivy League hat trick during reunion. That Friday afternoon I left work at Brown, drove down with my family to attend the reunion dinner, then continued on to Princeton where, the following afternoon, we, including my wife, Kathryne Jennings, attended the wonderful production of Into the Woods at the McCarter Theatre Center; many cast members were former students of hers, mine or both of us.”

James “Huck” Hill says, “My wife, Kristi Pfister Hill ’78 Barnard, and I arrived on campus Friday night; Kristi attended her class dinner high up in the Sulzberger building and I joined the 1978 diner crew in Low Library. The CC ’78 faithful at Low had a fun-sized group, and at dinner music man Steve Bargonetti gave us a stellar, solo performance on his ghouges Martin guitar. Steve delivered one killer set after another of jazz, rock and funk anthems, and we just chilled. Steve ended the night with an epic version of The Star-Spangled Banner that drifted into everybody’s inner Hendrix. As his guitar echoed off the walls of Low, I mused, has anyone else ever been apart. The ‘78 bond is strong. Unlike past years, when everything was rushed on Saturday night. Perhaps a burst with history, and definitely a great night. Hope to see you all at our four-year in ’18.”

Tom Bisdale, who is still working at Hearst after 30 years, writes, “I spend a lot of time on several nonprofit projects and playing in our community concert band as well as in Ragtime, Dixieland, sax and big band ensembles. The recent reunion was the best in memory, perhaps because I attended more events than before. The coordination of several events with Barnard was welcome after years of trying to do so. During the three nights I participated, I talked at length with classmates, often several times, unlike past years, when everything was rushed on Saturday night. Perhaps most memorable was talking to some recent alumni at the beverage table who, while being most pleasant, commented to me as an ancient historical figure. I guess we are those guys now.”

Mark Axinn says, “I was re-elected chair of the New York State Libertarian Party at our annual council meeting this past April and I am pleased that my small party continues to promote peace and individual rights in this age of statism and tyranny from state, national and local governments. Otherwise, for my day gig, I am a partner in a mid-Manhattan law firm, specializing in real estate development and commercial litigation.”

Robert Lewton writes, “I will soon celebrate 30 years as a financial adviser with Merrill Lynch. Feeling like a kid again living in beautiful New Jersey, NJ, with my wife and two daughters.”

Tom Marian writes, “Happy 5th of July from Amsterdam, where this morning, in front of our hotel, aptly named Pulitzer, I literally ran into an old friend, David Friend ’77; he and his wife, Wendy, are staying at the same hotel and also will be on my and my wife, Alyce’s, flight back to NYC. And that was just a few hours after Alyce and I were hosted at a Fourth of July party at the U.S. Embassy in Brussels by Ambassador Howard Gutman ’77 and his wife, Michelle. We also had a private visit with him earlier in the week. Regarding reunion, my thoughts are how seamlessly we reconnect with people but the sit-down dinner was not; a buffet would have kept people moving better. All that said, it was a really good time.”

Chuck Meltzer writes, “Attended reunion with some trepidation but am glad I went. It was nice to see my roommates, Fred Stein and David Freiberg friends from 11 John Jay; Ken Rose; Dean Margolis; and Tom Bisdale. And not to forget good friends Claire Tse ’78 Barnard and Amy Gerwitz ’78 Barnard. While time and distance may separate us, the bonds made during our College days are strong, and for that I was happy to reconnect with them.”

Peter Samis, “SFOMA just closed its doors for 2½ years to more than double in size. I spent the summer in Williamstown, Mass., as a Kress Summer Fellow in Museum Education at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute.”

Donald Simone writes, “I joined Hunton & Williams with three of my former real estate partners from Then call Profitt & Wood. We have been incredibly successful and have added eight real estate associates in the last year. I attended the first two nights of reunion and then much of the day on Saturday. The High Line tour with Professor Kenneth Jackson was amazing. He related the changes from NYC in 1978 dinner was not; a buffet would have kept people moving better. All that said, it was a really good time.”

Michael F. Forlenza has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Houston Geological Society for 2013-14. HGS is the world’s largest local geology society and was established in 1923. Michael will be the editor for the HGS Bulletin.

Gary Pickholz writes, “I became a grandfather! Impossible, as we are only 29, correct? I attended the July 4 barbecue of the American ambassador in Tel Aviv, which is always fun and a chance to meet up with many Colombians. Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren ’77 announced at the barbecue he will not seek a second term, and I hope will be down the hall from me at the ambassador’s next book. Recently returned Special Ambassador to the Silicon Valley Akiva Tor, Interim Chairman of the Bank of Israel Kamni Flug ‘86 GSAS and former (and soon-to-be ambassador) Dore Gold ’75, ’79 SIPA, ’84 Columbia, was doing those slurping down chili dogs and enjoying the fireworks.”

Rob Blank says, “It was great to see all who attended reunion. I am settling into my new job at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Month one was spent most entirely to meeting and greeting. Among the faculty I found Jack Kleiman ’64. Month two promised more of the same. “As for reunion, the best events were the Professor Kenneth Jackson High Line walk and the pre-tour reception at Jonathan Freedman’s home. Thanks much to the Freedmans and to Professor Jackson for their generosity in making these possible. Friday dinner was also great, with thanks due to Steve Bargone for the fantastic performance. Saturday dinner’s highlight was the fact that it was the best-attended
## Alumni Sons and Daughters

Sixty-two members of the College Class of 2017 and six members of the Engineering Class of 2017 are sons or daughters of College alumni. This list is alphabetical by the parent(s)' last name.

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<th>STUDENT</th>
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<td>Jemma Armi</td>
<td>Clement Armi ’67</td>
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<td>Santa Barbara, Calif. • Cate School</td>
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<td>Jason Avigan</td>
<td>David Avigan ’85</td>
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<td>Sharon, Mass. • Matimondes School</td>
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<td>Samuel Balzac</td>
<td>Frederick Balzac Jr. ’80</td>
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<td>Jay, N.Y. • Keene Central School</td>
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<td>Olivia Barry</td>
<td>David Barry ’87 and Kyra Tirana Barry ’87</td>
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<td>Hokeheu, N.J. • Riverdale Country School</td>
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<td>Daniel Bergerson</td>
<td>Shawn Bergerson ’87</td>
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<td>Wsegata, Minn. • Breck School</td>
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<td>Rachel Blumenthal</td>
<td>David S. Blumenthal ’81</td>
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<td>New Rochelle, N.Y. • The Frisch School</td>
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<td>Henry Bram</td>
<td>Jonathan Bram ’87</td>
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<td>Samir Canning</td>
<td>Robert Canning ’81</td>
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<td>Wellesley, Mass. • Wellesley H.S.</td>
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<td>Noah Zweben *</td>
<td>Lynn Charytan ’87</td>
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<td>Potomac, Md. • Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School</td>
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<td>Dylan Cooper</td>
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<td>Memphis • Margolin Hebrew Academy • Feinstein</td>
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<td>Ethan Cooper</td>
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<td>William Cornacchia</td>
<td>Thomas Cornacchia ’85</td>
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<td>Darien, Conn. • Darien H.S.</td>
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<td>Bradley Davison</td>
<td>Henry Davison Jr. ’83 °</td>
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<td>Jonathan Deluty</td>
<td>Sheldon Deluty ’77</td>
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<td>Eliza Feinberg</td>
<td>Jack Feinberg ’72</td>
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<td>Manhattan Beach, Calif. • Mira Costa H.S. • East</td>
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<td>Megan Felder</td>
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<td>Ridgewood, N.J. • Ridgewood H.S.</td>
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<td>Rebecca Fisher</td>
<td>Frederick Fisher ’84</td>
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<td>J. Christian FitzGerald</td>
<td>Shawn FitzGerald ’80</td>
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<td>Jordana Fremed</td>
<td>Eric Fremed ’79</td>
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<td>Mira Frenkel</td>
<td>David Frenkel ’83</td>
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<td>Tewsen • Catalina Foothill’s H.S.</td>
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<td>Lauren Haberman</td>
<td>Sinclair Haberman ’78</td>
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<td>Yoon Ji Han</td>
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<td>Brynn Harris</td>
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<td>Houston • Kirkland School</td>
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<td>Carolyn Ho</td>
<td>Geoffrey Ho ’83</td>
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<td>Princeton, N.J. • Lawrenceville School</td>
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<td>Danielle Jacobs</td>
<td>Gary Jacobs ’85</td>
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<td>Nathan Kim</td>
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<td>Joseph Lang ’85</td>
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<td>Vincent Mazzeo ’76</td>
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<td>Mark Momjian ’83</td>
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<td>Annie Ninivaggi</td>
<td>Angelo Ninivaggi ’89 and Anne-Marie Wright ’89</td>
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<td>Salt Lake City • Olympia H.S.</td>
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<td>Alia Padilla</td>
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<td>Isabel Rothberg</td>
<td>Adam Rothberg ’81</td>
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<td>Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. • Croton-Harmon H.S.</td>
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<td>Eitan Rothman *</td>
<td>Los Angeles • Shalhevet H.S.</td>
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<td>Mark Rothman ’85</td>
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### Nine incoming College transfer students are sons or daughters of College alumni.

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<td>Garrett Ryan</td>
<td>Denis Ryan ’87</td>
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<td>Solomon Seckler</td>
<td>Jonathan Seckler ’87</td>
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<td>Boca Raton, Fla. • Pine Crest School</td>
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<td>Jesse Silbert</td>
<td>Richard Silbert ’81</td>
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<td>Weston, Conn. • The Harvey School</td>
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<td>Gabriel Raab</td>
<td>Eric Raab ’82</td>
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<td>Ravi Sinha</td>
<td>Abha Sinha ’88 and Pankaj Sinha ’86</td>
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<td>Bethesda, Md. • Georgetown Day School</td>
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<td>Brian Solender</td>
<td>Michael Solender ’86</td>
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<td>Jeremy Staub</td>
<td>Arthur Staub ’82</td>
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<td>Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. • Ethical Culture Fieldston School</td>
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<td>Kyle Dartnall-Steinberg</td>
<td>Bruce Steinberg ’78</td>
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<td>Amber Sun</td>
<td>Lazarus Sun ’81</td>
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<td>George Van Amson</td>
<td>George Van Amson ’74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan Werner *</td>
<td>Robert Werner ’77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Valley, N.J. • West Morris Central H.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Yodaiken</td>
<td>Victor Yodaiken ’78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin • Westlake H.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Yu</td>
<td>Song Yong Yu ’87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Head, N.Y. • Jericho Senior H.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Zobotin</td>
<td>Mischa Zobotin ’85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larchmont, N.Y. • French-American School of New York</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Member of the Engineering Class of 2017  ° Deceased
event; it was great to see everyone. Low point was campus housing. It was great to see everyone.

Richard Schloss is “working full-time in my private psychiatry practice in Huntington, L.I., N.Y. My wife, Meredith Jaffe ’82 Nursing, has a dental practice in Huntington as well. My older son, Bradley, completed his first year at Touro Law in Central Islip, N.Y., and my younger son, Jason, graduated in May from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn with a B.F.A. in communications art.

Ian Silverman ’79 says, “I have been a rabbi at E. Northport Jewish Center on Long Island for 10 years. I recently negotiated a long-term contract with the congregation. Sons Marc and Alan are in or aiming for grad school.”

Michael Wiltzie ’79 Arch, writes, “I returned to Columbia for graduate school in 2006-07 and worked in NYC for the first time afterward. Prior to that I worked with Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC at Intuit and was on the Oakland, Calif., Jack London Aquatic Center board with Robert Kidd ’70. My relationship with Columbia during the last 39 years has been wonderful. I continue to be supportive of Columbia activities, events and sports programs, and Columbia alumni have been supportive of me. That’s the legacy for you to carry on.”

Robert Muirhead of Resources Global Professionals writes, “My wife, Susan, and I enjoyed the candidate for mayor of my hometown, New Haven, Conn., but decided a few months ago that victory was not possible and subsequently pulled out and endorsed another candidate, joining her campaign as co-chair. The stars were just not aligning with many folks in the race and there are no runoff provisions if one candidate is far ahead out of six or seven.

It was great to catch up with everyone at reunion. As many of you said, it was great to see so many classmates and I hope we can manage to find ways to be together before five years slip by. Think about a larger ‘78 contingent at Homecoming on Saturday, October 19, for starters — we can try to organize a group along with stalwarts Tom Mariam and Fred Rosenberg in a few weeks.”

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014 ALUMNI OFFICE Contacts Alumni Affairs Vanessa Scott vs2470@columbia.edu 212-851-9148 DEVELOPMENT Esfir Shamilova es3233@columbia.edu 212-851-7833**

Robert Klapper 8737 Beverly Blvd., Ste 303 Los Angeles, CA 90048 rklappermd@aol.com

First things first: Our 35th Alumni Reunion Weekend will be held Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, on campus and throughout New York City. It’s never too early to save the date; we want as many classmates there as possible. Also, if you’d like to be involved in planning the weekend’s events or with fundraising for our Class Gift, get in touch with the appropriate

class notes

**Andres Alonso ’79 ended his tenure as CEO of the Baltimore City Public Schools and accepted a five-year term as a professor of practice at Harvard Graduate School of Education.**

Andres Alonso ended his six-year tenure as CEO of the Baltimore City Public Schools on June 30 and accepted a five-year term as professor of practice at Harvard Graduate School of Education; he started in July.

John A. Don practices workers’ compensation law in San Diego. He manages his own firm and lectures to consumer groups throughout the state.

Howard Green ’80 GSAS moved to California in 1989 and is v.p. of marketing at Azul Systems in Sunnyvale. From time to time each year he passes through NYC, either for tech events or change planes. He has been found by a few classmates from the CU Marching Band and the GSAS history program as well as the Classes of ’76, ’78 and ’79, mostly via LinkedIn. Howard remains amazed by how time flies and technology helps people get back in touch after 30-plus years. He was married from 1986-06 and his sons, Mark (23) and Chris (21) have busy lives: Mark is an aspiring bassist and songwriter on the East Coast and Chris is a goalie for his college’s soccer team in Saratoga, Calif.

Robert Darnell is a professor at The Rockefeller University, an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and a neuro-oncologist, and now has the additional role of president, CEO scientific director of the new New York Genome Center. At the time of this writing, he was also busy training for the NYC Triathlon in July and hoping to beat his time from last year. Let’s hope he doesn’t run well for him.

David Hachey writes, “I recently married off my oldest daughter, Lindsay, and it caused me to reflect on many things, including how quickly time passes (it is hard to believe that we graduated nearly 35 years ago). I’m also proud to report that my younger daughter, Carly, began the nurse practitioner program at Columbia after graduating from Hamilton College last year. She’s carrying on the Columbia tradition and I couldn’t be happier.”

“I also recently celebrated my 35th anniversary in NYC as a tax accountant with headquarters in New York City. Larry and Claudia are the proud parents of Baxter, who is a junior at Brown. They welcome old and new friends and can be reached at 646-861-1422.”

Frank Aquila’s daughter, Jillian, will continue the Columbia tradition this fall when she starts her master’s at Teachers College. Frank heads the global corporate practice at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York.

Robert C. Klapper “As of this writing, I have plans this summer to lecture at The Florence Academy of Art. My lecture will be the same one that I gave at The J. Paul Getty Museum to an audience of 1,000 here in Los Angeles and at orthopedic meetings in Boston, Colorado and New York. The talk, ‘Michelangelo’s Sculptures: How He Manipulated Anatomy,’ explains with detailed photographs how the master conveyed complex human emotions by gently manipulating the anatomy.”

“I look forward to all the surprises and wonderful food, lots of sun and sand. Perfect way to celebrate 34 years of wedded bliss with the woman of my dreams.”

Henry Armon says, “Looking forward to beginning pet therapy training with Luna, my 11-year-old Italian greyhound. As a commuter, I didn’t have many close friends among my fellow students, so there was one to one at the reunion so I didn’t attend.”

As some of you know, I was a
Kevin Fay  
8300 Private Lane  
Ammandale, VA 22003  
kfay@northridge  
capital.com

We have three updates.

Michael Strauss reported in from  
Port Jefferson, N.Y., where he runs  
his law practice and where he lives  
with his wife, Marianne, and their  
three children. Their oldest, Eliza-  
beth, graduated from URI this past  
May with a B.A. in theatre. Their  
middle child, Matthew ‘16, is grind-  
ing through Contemporary Civiliza-  
tion and thinking of becoming a  
history major like his father. The-  
ir youngest, Caroline, is a high school  
sophomore studying dance at Cor-  
nell University. (She can dance and  
not only talk a good game!) 

Michael stays in touch with Joe  
Sibroli, who lives in Locust Valley,  
N.Y., and whom he sees at his Mid-  
town club.

Michael’s law practice is on Main  
Street in Port Jefferson, in an office  
building that includes his largest  
client, who is the area’s busiest  
home builder. For recreation, he can  
play golf at Shinnecock Hills. If a  
eraser and a pen are available, he  
can work for hours.

His work, he has been consulted by  
both the State Department and the  
White House. Most recently, Pax  
Christi Metro New York honored  
Dave by creating an annual Maloof  
Family Young Players Award for  
Catholic high school students in  
the New York metropolitan area.

Joe Ciulla’s daughter, Brittany,  
has relocated to San Diego. Jay  
Kutlow and Mike Manuche — be  
on the lookout!

Finally, congratulations to my  
kate, who was married to  
Alexander Creeley (a Harvard  
man) this summer. The Harvard  
Club has never seen so many Co-  
lumbia alums in the room, with  
three decades represented. I thank  
all of my classmates and friends who  
attended.

Write me at one of the addresses  
at the top of the column, or feel free to  
call me at the office: 212-373-1007.

80
Michael C. Brown  
London Terrace Towers  
410 W. 24th St., Apt. 18F  
New York, NY 10011  
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

Congratulations to our baseball  
team on a historic season that gave  
us an Ivy League Championship  
and our first NCAA tournament  
upset. Coach Brett Boretti has built  
a program that we all can be proud  
of, and with a win over New Mex-  
ico, our players have proven that  
we can play with the best of them.

Eric Blattman traveled to California  
to watch the games and reported  
that position-to-position, our team  
matched up equal or better than  
our opponents. In fact, two of our  
guys signed pro contracts, Tim Giel  
‘13 with the Colorado Rockies, and  
Alex Black ‘13 with the Kansas  
City Royals. The honor roll was  
worth the description: Good job!

I received a nice note from John  
Metaas, who can be heard in the  
New York area on WCBS Newsra-  
dio 880. He covers issues on finance  
and other subjects on the  
Core Curriculum. Roar, lion, roar!”

Kevin Fay  
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Ammandale, VA 22003  
kfay@northridge  
capital.com

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call me at the office: 212-373-1007.
John Green is senior counsel for the Department of Law for the City of Chicago. He had a terrific time at the Friday dinner at V&T. He particularly enjoyed reconnecting with Rich Pressman. Jonathan is in touch with President Barack Obama and spoke with him after our 25th reunion. Jonathan reports that Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., '73L, and the President have discussed the comparative strengths of CC basketball in the '70s and '80s.

Matt Stedman has been married for 11 years. He and his wife live on the East Side of Manhattan. Their son, Ben, attends The British International School of New York. Matt is in the Wall Street bond business and is the managing director at Seaport Group.

Thomas Johns is e.v.p. and general counsel for The Hampshire Management Group.

George Wilson reports that Ben Heimssath recently celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary. Ben lives with his family in Austin, Texas, and has one grandchild. Ben is the principal and managing partner at Heimssath Architects. George also noted that Stephen Hendley-Robertson, Dion Macellari and Michael Cataldo send their best wishes to the class.

Anthony Marcus ’83 is the Paris Club representative for the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

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Peter Ripin is a litigation partner at the law firm Davidoff Hutcher & Citron in midtown Manhattan. He lives with his wife, Marianne, and his daughters, Abigail (14) and Isabella (12), in Arcds, N.Y. Peter’s cousin is Peter Simonson. Peter Ripin also attended Stuyvesant with Andy Barth.

Speaking of Andy, his son, Andy Jr., ’16, has been named a team leader for the 2013 U.S. men’s freestyle World Team by USA Wrestling, the national governing body for the sport in the United States. Othon Prounis is a partner at Ropes & Gray specializing in mergers and acquisitions. He is also a member of the firm’s Policy Committee. He has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America from 2005–13. I had not seen him in 30 years but recognized him instantly; he looks the same as he did back then. Othon was a campus leader and tireless Columbia supporter during his tenure at the College. I was thrilled to see him at the cocktail reception and look forward to working with him on class events.

David Klein is a psychiatrist to the medical and surgical ward at Jacobi Medical Center. This was the first CC reunion he attended. He is a numismatist.

Seth Farber works in the Justice Department under New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. Seth was a trombone player in the CU Marching Band.

Erik Wertz is the senior director, international and comparative law programs, at Columbia. Eric comments that with the increase in size of the College and with the College’s enhanced selectivity/prestige, some of the character of CC has been lost. Eric has particularly fond memories of the faculty members’ accessibility and their emphasis on teaching when we were students.

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CLASS NOTES

My 8-year-old son David's Man¬
hattan travel baseball team. The
Spartans, finished its season 16-0
and won the championship game
12-0. His coach is a former profes¬
sional (Chicago White Sox) and
this was his first undefeated team.
The team will compete in national
tournaments this fall with David
playing third base.
Being involved with the 30th re¬
union was a 2013 highlight for me.
I encourage all of you to participate
in our 35th.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014

Weekend ever. I hope to emu¬
late this great success next year.
Speaking of which, the dates for
our 30th reunion are Thursday,
May 29-Sunday, June 1. If you'd
like to be involved with planning,
you can get in touch with one of
the Alumni Office staffers listed at
the top of the column. Otherwise I
encourage you all to block off that
portion of your calendar with a big
"X" and starting planning your
return trip to Momingside Heights.
So now that I'm an alte kocker (old
fart), you'll excuse me as I sprinkle
the following observations with ad¬
jectives from my mamaloshn (mother

ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS Vanessa Scott
vs2470@columbia.edu

tongue) — especially since this
year's National Spelling Bee was
decided on the spelling of knaidel/
kneydl, and Qass Day speaker and

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DEVELOPMENT Esfir shamilova
es3233@columbia.edu
212-851-7833

playwright Terrence McNally '60
harkened back to "Columbia's
reputation as the Jewish commuter

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

college in the Ivy League."
Indeed, this year for what I
believe was the 10th time [Editor's
note: Correct!], Class Day featured
the Alumni Parade of Classes, at
which I was once again honored to

other city government senior staff
in fall 2003 and, never expecting
to stay in government more than
two years, I figured it would be
an interesting, worthwhile local
endeavor that would bring me
back to NYC after years of living
abroad and give me an oppor¬
tunity to deploy my operational
skills in a new context, the public
sector. I was right about all of
that, but I underestimated the

domestic and international mat¬
ters. You can find out more at wglaw.com. Harold resides in Livings¬
ton, N.J., with his wife, Stacey, and
their three children.
Federal Communications Com¬
mission chairman Julius Genachowski stepped down from his
post on May 17. Julius led the FCC
during a time of rapid growth
and transformative change in the

degree to which I would find a
niche in city government as an
operations professional, and the

technology, media and telecom¬
munications sector, particularly
around broadband — high-speed
Internet. In his remarks announc¬

extent to which the Bloomberg
administration would strive to
transform local government, not

ing his decision, he said, "Over
the past four years, we've focused
the FCC on broadband, wired

just through innovative policy or
strategy, but through thorough
and thoughtful restructuring of

and wireless, working to drive
economic growth and improve
the lives of all Americans. We've

the people, processes and technol¬
ogy that comprise service delivery.
I came because I was curious and
optimistic but I stayed because the

taken big steps to build a future
where broadband is ubiquitous
and bandwidth is abundant,
where innovation and investment
are flourishing ...

work was big, impactful, challeng¬
ing and, most of the time, without
precedent or blueprint.
"My first eight years in city gov¬
ernment were spent at the Depart¬

"We adopted a landmark
overhaul of multi-billion dol¬
lar universal service programs,
modernizing them from telephone

represent our class. It's a thrilling
experience, with the graduates
cheering us as we pass through

ment of Small Business Services,
where I held five different positions
leading programmatic units and

and friends, including Columbia
College alums and quasi-family

their ranks with class banner in
hand, giving us the rush of a rock
star (or something similar: must

divisions, strategic planning, and
agency operations and technology.

Mobility Fund, an unprecedented
commitment to broadband infra¬
structure. To unleash the enor¬

members Stanley Lupkin '62;
Jonathan Lupkin '89, '92L; Michael
B. Ackerman (flying in all the way

consult Vampire Weekend). It7s
immensely rewarding when a
classmate such as the aforemen¬

My last two years in city govern¬
ment have been with the Mayor's
Office — helping to institutionalize

mous opportunities of mobile, we
pioneered incentive auctions and
other cutting-edge spectrum poli¬

from Los Angeles!); Manhasset
neighbors Dr. David Godfried
and Dr. Joe Halio '74; and dear
friend Roy Pomerantz '83. Unable

tioned Dr. Godfried agrees to join
and share in what is best described

(across city government) many of
the innovations and programs that
we created and implemented dur¬

cies. To fuel America's innovation
economy, we put in place the first
rules to preserve Internet freedom

ing the last decade. Still lots to do
and not much more time to do it
in! I have worked with some of the

and openness. To drive competi¬
tion and empower consumers, we
opposed and modified transac¬

most amazing, smart, talented and
dedicated people you could imag¬
ine. Never in my wildest dreams

tions where necessary, deployed
technology to drive transpar¬
ency, and took unprecedented

did I think that in government I
would have the longest stretch of
time (in my career) with the same
employer. Ten years! Never say

enforcement actions. We helped
harness the power of digital

Several months ago, yours truly
had the privilege of celebrating
my 50th birthday with neighbors

to attend but generous with their
well wishes were Eddy Friedfeld
'83 (who honored me by tell¬
ing Mel Brooks about my love
of his work!), El Gray (the right
honorable class senator!) and Jim
Weinstein (who honored me with
the responsibility of shipping the
lightweight crew's oars to Henley
Royal Regatta, held annually on
the River Thames near London).
One striking gift presented by
Dr. Halio was a 1975 essay by
Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig that
was published in the Columbian.
So moved was I by this gesture,
and by this remarkable writing (in
which he presents his views on the
superiority of a Columbia educa¬
tion), that I made a similar gift to
Mr. Pomerantz at the class dinner
during his 30th reunion ... and was
it a hit! Hundreds of alums spent a
few moments reading, remarking

as a mechiah (pleasure). It7s even
more divine when a gaggle of
classmates is on hand to represent
the class, and undoubtedly the
highest degree of naches (joy) is ex¬
perienced by those whose children
are attending and/or graduating.

Mazel tov and thanks to Fred
Fisher (daughters Talia '13 and Re¬
becca '17), Kevin Liss (sons Jeremy
'13 and Daniel '16), Arthur Kohn
(son Samuel '13) and John Travis
(daughter Cosima '13) for making
this year's participation the best
ever. Arthur, it should be noted,
plays a leadership role in our class
fundraising and has done a stellar
job in making our class look good!

last five years as an adjunct pro¬
fessor, so while I look forward
to returning to the private sector
in 2014,1 will continue to teach
courses at SIPA on public manage¬
ment and fostering innovation in
the public and nonprofit sectors. If
and when you are in NYC please

Jon White
16 South Ct.
Port Washington, NY
11050

At this point in our careers, many
of us have, or are about to, switch
jobs or careers. And we have sever¬

my classmates — if you didn't get
it, please advise.)

al such stories to share this column.
Kevin Kelly has worked in
the Bloomberg administration
for the last 10 of its 12 years —
"lucky enough to be introduced
to agency commissioners and

say hello: kgkl3@columbia.edu. It
would be great to catch up."
Harold Ullman announced that
he joined the Wall Street-based law
firm of Wuersch & Gering as a tax
partner and will continue to advise

jw@whitecoffee.com

and demanding a copy for their
own. (A copy has been scanned
and emailed to them, and to you,

Speaking of this event, kudos to
the Pomerantz family for hosting
one of the best-attended Thursday
night events of Alumni Reunion

never, folks.
"I have taught at SIPA for the

foreign and domestic businesses
and private clients. WG is a general
practice firm with an international
focus. It provides a broad range of

to broadband and creating the
Connect America Fund and the

technologies to give students a
better chance, people better health
care, and make Americans safer
in their homes and communi¬
ties while also guarding against
digital threats and strengthening
cybersecurity. Today, America's
broadband economy is thriving,
with record-setting private invest¬
ment; unparalleled innovation in
networks, devices and apps; and
renewed U.S. leadership around
the world." [Editor's note: See
feature on Genachowski in Sum¬
mer 2012 CCT.]
President Barack Obama '83
concurred and added, "Thanks to
his hard work and his leadership,
the FCC has made extraordinary
progress on both fronts."
Julius has moved to The Aspen
Institute, a non-partisan organiza¬

legal services to foreign enterprises
and individuals investing in die

tion based in Washington, D.C., as
a senior fellow.

United States or transacting busi¬
ness with U.S. companies and to
U.S. companies and individuals on

Larry Slaughter joined Lazard as
managing director and vice chair¬
man, investment banking, effective

FALL 2013


June 3. Larry was at JP Morgan for 26 years, where he was co-head of North American Investment Banking, having previously been head of European Investment Banking Corporates in London. During his tenure at JP Morgan, Larry led many transformative M&A and capital markets transactions in aerospace, automotive, capital goods, chemicals, healthcare and other industries. He spent two decades in London, where he was co-head of European M&A and head of the European financial sponsors business. From 2008 until his return to New York in 2011, he was head of European Investment Banking Corporates.

Todd Hughes has produced a documentary, Dear Mom, Love Cher, which premiered on Lifetime in May and honored the remarkable life story and perseverance of Cher’s mother, Georgia Holt. Gary Berger wrote the original score for the film (Todd and Gary have been collaborating for 30 years, including on the 1986 cult short The Horror and Mystery of the Succubus, which starred Karl-Ludwig Selig); John Tanzer ’87 was the director of (with John) and executive produced Room 237 about obsession with Stanley Kubrick’s The Shining. 

Kudos to Todd Hughes ’85 for representing our class at the Glee Club alumni concert that took place during Alumni Reunion Weekend. I sang in a similar concert at our 25th reunion, and it brought back some great memories (aside from getting to be in so many Glee Club “legends”).

Speaking of Glee Clubbers, I met in New York this spring with several when they came for family campus visits. David Zapolsky and his son, Ian ’15, joined me and my son, Isaac ’14, for dinner and a klezmer performance with the Mets at Citi Field. (The company was certainly superior to the play by the home team on the field.) David is settling into his role as general counsel of Amazon. Ian and Isaac, unbeknownst to each other in the weeks before, took computer science last semester. Small world indeed.

Tom Scotti, his wife, Karen, and their daughter, Anne ’17, joined me for brunch this spring near campus as well. Tom works for Consensus Advisors in Boston, where he has been a managing director since July 2011.

Finally, as I invited you all to share highlights from your half-century birthday celebration year, let me share a few of my own. I have chosen to keep this within the celebration (punctuated by sporting events) throughout the year. And it has truly been a year of highlights. In April I checked off a lifetime “bucket list” item when I attended the first round of The Masters with my youngest son, Josh. Everything I had read about how TV doesn’t do it justice is an understatement. Absolutely incredible. For all you golfers out there, do whatever you have to do to make an early April trip there.

In June, my wife, Allison ’86 Barnard, and I were honored to receive our synagogu’s Holy Community Award. In July, I attended the Major League Baseball All-Star Game at Citi Field. In August, our entire family made our first trip together to Israel (I have a large number of family members there, but had never been). Truly unforgettable. And finally, this September, Allison and I look forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary. A truly special year. We are very blessed.

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Thanks to all those who responded to my email appeal for news! Many emails bounced back, so if you hear from me in late June, please write me at everett6@gmail.com and I’ll make sure that Columbia updates its database. If you can also contact Columbia directly with any contact information updates: cologne.columbia.edu/ct/ update_contact_info.

John Yeh wrote that the robotics team Landroids, which he has coached for the past six years, won the 2012 world championship and was invited to the 2013 White House Science Fair. John’s son, Karlin Yeh (17), is on the team. John started the team for Karlin and his friends when they were in kindergarten. It began as a weekly LEGO play group and grew from there. “Once they had a taste of winning there was no stopping them,” says John. You can see a photo of the winning team and a very impressive list of their awards at landroids.org/awards.

Joshua Wirtschatter wrote from Berkeley, Calif., to kvell about his son, Eli, who recently graduated from UC Berkeley with a double-major in theatre and American studies. As the Departmental Citation Winner (i.e., No. 1 student) in both departments, he spoke at both of his departmental graduations. His graduation speeches were both unique in that they focused on his success in researching an American studies honor’s thesis on the Astor Place Riot in NYC in 1849, and writing and directing a play produced by the theatre department on the same subject. So Professor Kenneth Jackson’s course on the history of the City of New York has reverberated down a generation!

Josh was recently named by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the Superfund Legal Enforcer of the Year in recognition of his negotiation of a multi-party agreement for the cleanup of a defunct copper mine in Nevada near the Duck Valley Indian Reservation of the Shoeshone Paute Tribes. This is the second time in Josh’s 15-year legal career at the EPA that he has won this award.

Josh’s daughter, Marina, is studying communications and theatre at UCLA. Josh’s wife, Diane Schon Wirtschatter ’86 Barnard, teaches at the Black Pine Circle School in California. John’s youngest child, Rafael, is thriving in middle school. Josh and Diane are musicians as well, most recently playing violin and singing (respectively) in a klezmer Purim Spiel.

Dave Nachmanoff writes, “I’ll be playing at the Royal Albert Hall, which premiered on Lifetime has produced a documentary. Todd Hughes ’85 has produced a documentary, Dear Mom, Love Cher, which premiered on Lifetime in May and honored the life story and perseverance of Cher’s mother, Georgia Holt.

Dear Mom, Love Cher, which premiered on Lifetime in May and honored the life story and perseverance of Cher’s mother, Georgia Holt.

“South Greenland was unique and fantastic! We ventured around Eskimo villages where icebergs hover in coves out one’s window, and we looked for rare earth minerals, seals, and minke, fin and humpback whales as well as Norse ruins. We handled narwhal tusks and ate narwhal (no actual sight¬ing, though). I sketched, painted and visited with local artists. The weather was great — in the mid-60s! Visiting the polar ice cap was amazing considering it reaches north to the pole. We are planning our next adventure to the east or northwest of that country.

“Iceland was more European but the nature was staggering and my favorite part was that very few tourists were anywhere except at the gas stations. The ring road. Waterfalls and sharp jagged mountain tops everywhere you turn. We did get to fly-fish for arctic char and drive a bit off-road. Hotels were small but charming and of course the cod and char were delicious. More dolphins and seals and speaks Icelandic (kidding), but he can pronounce the names of many towns in the north and east fjords: Akureyri, Húsavik, Seyðisfjörður, Borgarfjörður and Djúpivogur! This country also has lots to offer and is highly recommended to see.”

“As for work, I continue to enjoy treating and evaluating patients with neurological problems and occupational issues and/or environ¬mental exposures to solvents or metals, I also teach and do medical legal work. In 2012, I was promoted to associate clinical professor at UCSF. We very much enjoy Marin County and the nature here. My tennis game is solid as well, and I have been successful in singles in my USTA leagues. Connect with me at jschnaub@gmail.com or on Facebook.”

Congrats to Derrick Harris, in Atlanta, for having his company, StandBy Talent, nominated to the 2013 Inc. 5000, a list of the fastest growing companies in America, sponsored by Inc. magazine. The company made the list based on its 1,100 percent growth during the last three years. StandBy Talent places IT contractors in the Atlanta market but has clients across the country. Derrick’s prior entrepreneurial venture, from 2004-07, was HCR consulting and staffing firm called the Human Resources Department.
He writes, "We are always seeking new clients and would love to help fellow alums with their company’s talent acquisition needs. We also fill accounting, financial, HR and office support roles on a contract, contract-to-perm or direct hire basis." You can find out more at stdbytalent.com.

A film and video editor for more than 22 years, Eric Pomert (in Berkeley) is making good on a wish he has long kept at bay. Several of his friends encouraged him to jump into the breach, so this fall he will teach a class at the adult school in Piedmont, Calif.; it’s called “Editor’s Eye: Cinema Appreciation from the Cutting Room Perspective.” To find out more, visit ericpomert.com.

Joe Rio was the first invited speaker in June at the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where he is the chief counsel of federal legislation on the LGBT community and on the banking and financial sectors’ diversity policies. Joe adds, “Too big to fail and now too big not to care!”

A few months ago, Ben Field started a firm to develop a design and marketing studio, Swiftpictures, and photographed many prestigious homes in Los Angeles, which led him to join Sotheby’s. He moved to L.A. 26 years ago when he attended Loyola Law. He writes, “Having left my policy and market research career of 25 years last year, I am returning to my original interests (and CC major) in the visual arts and am opening a gallery, Uptor. It will open in early September in Portland, and will feature contemporary art with an emphasis on digital and new media.”

Congrats to Mitch Earlywine for being named director of clinical training at the Clinical Psychology Program at SUNY Albany. He also was elected to the executive board of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. He writes, “I had a blast recently with Phil Birnbaum and his family at a museum in Albany when they were visiting from Chicago.”

Congratulations to Ted Kenney and his wife, Yim, on the birth of their twins, Karen and Lena, last October.
CLASS NOTES

was our class dinner at Casa Italiana. It was their first time back in New York. The highlight of the weekend for many was our class dinner at Casa Italiana. Class v.p. Corny Gallo gave remarks and honored the memory of classmates who passed away. Dean James J. Valentini presented some it was their first time back in New York. The highlight of the weekend for many was "What was our admission trivia contest (one of the questions was "What was our admission trivia contest (one of the questions was "What was our admission rate?"); answer, 28.63 percent). The winning team is now proudly sporting Columbia 'C' hats."

Thanks so much to the amazing Reunion Committee for its hard work and dedication to raising money, creating the program and encouraging friends to attend. Shots out go to Stephanie Schwartz for suggesting we do a trivia game, to Carl Schafer for helping with the trivia questions and providing other wit and wisdom, and to Regina Noch for creating a 'Top Songs of 1988' playlist. CC '88 set records for donations and participation for our Class Gift. More than 200 classmates donated, exceeding our goal of 185. We raised $6,553, which included gifts and a total of close to $19,889 million in gifts to the College and the University.”

According to Sharon Levin, "The reunion combined two of my favorite things about going to Columbia: great people and the fun neighborhood places to eat and drink. (Although there were fewer jelly bracelets and parachute pants than I remember from the '80s.) Saturday started with an early eggplant pizza lunch at V&I with friends, including Ellen Epstein and Abe Glazer, who both look amazing and are doing great things in NYC and Rochester. After a stop by the 'lunch under the tent,' a fun neighborhood places to eat and drink, we watched more and are doing great things in NYC and Rochester. After a stop by the 'lunch under the tent,' a fun neighborhood places to eat and drink, we watched more sports."

"Also, I am advocating for a homeless person whom I met at Tom's." The reunion combined two of my favorite things about going to Columbia: great people and the fun neighborhood places to eat and drink. (Although there were fewer jelly bracelets and parachute pants than I remember from the '80s.) Saturday started with an early eggplant pizza lunch at V&I with friends, including Ellen Epstein and Abe Glazer, who both look amazing and are doing great things in NYC and Rochester. After a stop by the 'lunch under the tent,' a fun neighborhood places to eat and drink, we watched more sports.

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school principal (when she was hired in 2004 to teach Jewish history, he was lower school principal, so no nepotism there), he recused himself from the selection process. Laura has been teaching there for nine years, and from what I know and have observed of her in this role, this award was long overdue! The most fun part was magically appearing in the room (along with her mother and children) when her name was announced. Sharon and I felt like we were on the "Jerry Springer/Ricki Lake/whichever-does-this-type-of-talk-show-now Show."

But wait, there’s more to celebrate. Laura successfully defended her dissertation prospectus on “Jewish Marriage in America, 1820–1920” in April, which makes her officially A.B.D. (All But Dissertation) for her Ph.D. in Jewish history from the University of Maryland. Mazel tov!

It’s always great to hear from Marian Wright. She reports, “My family and I — husband Greg, Booster and boys Cole (11), Wyatt (9) and Rhodes (7) — live in Rye, N.Y., where we have been for about 10 years. The boys, especially Cole, are huge into soccer (go Chelsea!) but also enjoy reading and just being outside. Two years ago, we finally found a great cottage on Lake Caspian in Greensboro, Vt. We have spent time as a family in Greensboro each summer since Cole was small and, in fact, my mother’s extended family has been sum¬mering there since the 1940s. The cottage is right down the lane from my grandfather’s house, where I spent summers growing up, and nearby are lots of other cousins and old friends. In 2012, after I led an extensive rebuild of the house, we spent more time there, very relaxed and very outdoorsy summer there. Our plan is to spend all summer every summer there going forward. To be able to give our kids the types of summers I had as a kid — simple, and focused on nature, sport and family — is a fantastic thing."

“Other than that, I spend my time running the household and raising the kids. This type of life is most certainly not what I imagined I would be doing when I was a CC student, but I find that my education has played a big role in our parenting. We have managed to raise boys who love to learn and who question the world around them and enjoy and appreci¬ate what the world has to offer (at least most of the time)!. Our youngest tells us he is going to go to Columbia, and I have taken the boys to campus quite a few times. They are very impressed by it, and it’s fun to see it through their eyes. In addition, now that Rhodes is in school full-time and once my current (Rye) renovation project is done this fall, I am going to focus on writing, something I haven’t been able to do for years. Very excited for that."

“I am in touch with Gabe Kra, who lives in the Bay Area with his wife, Julie, and four kids; Ted Acworth ‘90E, ’92E, who recently had his second son and lives with the boys and his wife, Maddie, in Bos¬ton; Jenny Harvey (nee Thomp¬son), who lives on the Upper West Side with her husband, Steve, and their three kids; and Susie Marples ‘88, who lives downtown with hubby Nelson Young and their two boys.”

I’m going to close out this column with an epic (in a good way) tale from Rachelle Selmon. She begins, “I’m finally facing the music and writing in for the first time. I’ve been in touch with quite a few people through Facebook, which has been a wonderful way to stay in touch and know what people are up to. If I wrote about all of the people I’ve been in contact with, I could fill the entire magazine, so I will stick to those I’ve seen in my travels over the last year."

“In March 2012, I lost my hu¬man resources position in New York, so decided it was time to sell the apartment and move to Los Angeles. However, while waiting to sell my apartment, I got an offer I couldn’t refuse to go to London and discuss opening an office for a U.K. recruitment firm. That fell through while I was there, but I loved London and so stayed a few months and traveled — made it to Spain, Israel, Germany, Morocco and South Africa. While in Lon¬don, I had dinner with Chris Alex¬ander, who was visiting from Los Angeles with his partner, Michael. Chris is doing well (and looks great) as an s.v.p. of corporate com¬munications and publicity at 20th Century Fox Television.

“One thing I really enjoy about being out online to see what she’s up to and how culinary school honed her skills! Also saw Eric Prager, my favorite sushi buddy, who is mar¬ried to art history professor Karen and is a partner at the law firm K&L. Gates.

“Then I started my three-week road trip to Los Angeles. First stop was Eric Haxthausen, who’s excel¬ling in Washington, D.C. He also took some time off (with a cool trip to Costa Rica) but now works for the U.S. Agency for International Development in its climate change office — something about con¬necting climate work to The World Bank and other investments. I may not know what that means but he seems to love it."

“Next stop was Charlotte, N.C., for a visit with Juhayna Kassem Davis ’90 Barnard; her husband, Ashley; and their sons, Laith and Kai. Juhayna has a private medi¬cal practice and moved to North Carolina a few years ago from NYC. From there I headed to Tennessee, where I made friends listening to country bands. I was falling in love with the United States again."

“Next I headed to Arkansas, where I spent two nights hanging and having fun with Sally Graham and Warigia Bowman. Sally moved back to be closer to family after a long run at CNN. She’s now a company spokeswoman with Entergy Arkansas and is active in community theatre, most recently in a production of the comedy Dearly Beloved. She’d love to reconnect with folks and can be reached at seg39@columbia.edu. Warigia helps to make the world a better place; she is a professor at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Pub-
Her husband, Hamadi, have three children — Mariamu, Ali and David — and own a successful taxi and safari business. She welcomes anyone who wants to go on safari to contact her at African Wildcats Adventure Safaris (wildcatssafaris.com).

“As I headed into southern California, I met up with the stunning Jennifer Lee (go Carman 11!), who is a sociologist at UC Irvine and an avid surfer, having learned from her beau, Mike. I had actually seen her and Mike the year before in NYC while she was on sabbatical as a Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar.

“Since arriving in L.A. in April, I have had drinks with Rich Yaker (go Carman 11!) and Balan Venugopal, Rich married Jennifer Gaynor for Special Surgery in NYC. I’m a v.p. at Morgan Stanley. As of this May 31, 2015. To join, please message me by email or submit them using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_dass_note. Until next time … cheers!”

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Margie Kim

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Greetings, all!

Stephen Fealy shares this update: "I'm an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine and shoulder surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery in NYC. I'm married to Kristen Gesswein Fealy '90 Barnard. I am happy to report that this year I was chosen to become the orthopedic consultant for the Major League Baseball Players Association. This is a particularly fun honor, as my three small children continually ask when we will get autographs and tickets for games. Also, as a former Columbia baseball player who never made it ‘big time’, I have been having a ton of fun being around the athletes and working with the teams. "We live in NYC, where I frequently see Andrew Fink on the squash courts and Stefan Reynik in the locker room. Also, I was honored last year to help John Poneokers after he had a sports injury. "Kristen and I recently took our children to the Columbia campus and were pleasantly surprised when my daughter, Campbell, declared that we were no longer in NYC and clearly had gone to Connecticut! It is a wonderful campus in a great city. Best to all!"

Jeremy Feinberg

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Although the mailbag was pretty light this time, that won’t stop me from reporting a few encounters with classmates.

First, congratulations to Michael Fisher and his wife, Lynn, on the birth of their daughter Zoe Rachel, this past May in Forest Hills, N.Y. I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony and luncheon and can truly say that Zoe (and her parents) did a tremendous job.

Second, a business trip to Chicago gave me my first chance to include in this column. On Thursday night, our class organized a screening of Neil Turitz’s new movie, That Thing With The Cat. About 15 classmates attended including Joe Laszlo, Addison Golladay, Alan Freeman, Rachel Mintz, Adrian Bordoni and Stephen Morfies. According to Neil, folks seemed to like it, and his “general rule of thumb is, as long as they don’t hate it, I consider it a success. Anything north of that is just a bonus, and I’m pretty sure no one hated it. Therefore, victory!” According to one anonymous source who is not related to Neil, he remains the greatest filmmaker of this or any time.

Friday night had not one but
two parties. There was the class cocktail party that about 75 classmates attended and that I heard was a great event. A group of us, however, arrived in town too late to make it, so we started the night at V&T. The group included Ali Towe, Sandra Johnson, Robyn Tuerk, Julie Davidson Hassan, George Hassan, Patti Lee and Drew Steward '93. Drew and I had been a few years since I'd seen Drew, who lives in San Francisco with his wife, works in technology and launched a men's shirt company called Drew Shanklin (Shirts) (drewshanklin.com). We were then joined by a group that had been at the cocktail party, including Thad Sheely, Shiva Souodi Farouki, Sanda Fahy, Jennifer Larrabee and Lerya Goltia Smith.

After a delicious dinner served by none other than Aldo himself, a bunch of us headed downstairs to the class “after-party” at O’Flaherty’s Ale House and Restaurant on Restaurant Row. It was fun to see so many familiar faces and I wish I had a chance to speak with everyone in the room! Fortunately, I was able to catch up with Isabel Barbara Kallman, who lives with her husband and son and runs a parenting blog called Alpha Mom (alphamom.com); Ben Besley, who lives in Southern California with his wife and is doing well in real estate; Chad Moore, who lives in Los Angeles and is a video game writer/designer; Matt Streem, who lives in Cleveland and is an entrepreneur; Lorenzo Wyatt, who lives in Connecticut and is a general contractor; Joel Cramer, who lives in Chicago with his wife and kids and runs the Chicago office of Conning; John Trobvich '93E, who lives in Winter Park, Fla., with his wife and three kids and works in private equity; Matt DeFilippis, who lives on Long Island with his family and is in charge of music licensing for the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; Rebecca Polyakovskiy, who lives in Seattle with her family; Seth Pinsky, who works for the City of New York and recently became a father; and Chris O’Connel '93E, who lives in San Francisco and is a real estate developer.

Then, there were those whom I saw across the crowded room but did not have a chance to talk to: Aileen Torres Martin, Micky Iriarte, Addison Golladay, Yumi Koh, Karla Lema, Rachel Mintz and Mar Wolf, among others. On our way home, Patti Lee and I along with our husbands walked past Tom’s Restaurant, and standing there in the window was Pete (of the Barnard family name) with his wife and kids and runs the Cramer, who lives in Chicago with his wife and kids and works in private equity; Chad Moore, who lives in Los Angeles and is a video game writer/designer; Matt Streem, who lives in Cleveland and is an entrepreneur; Lorenzo Wyatt, who lives in Connecticut and is a general contractor; Joel Cramer, who lives in Chicago with his wife and kids and runs the Chicago office of Conning; John Trobvich '93E, who lives in Winter Park, Fla., with his wife and three kids and works in private equity; Matt DeFilippis, who lives on Long Island with his family and is in charge of music licensing for the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; Rebecca Polyakovskiy, who lives in Seattle with her family; Seth Pinsky, who works for the City of New York and recently became a father; and Chris O’Connel '93E, who lives in San Francisco and is a real estate developer.

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Kay Bailey '94 recently started a job as a grant writer for the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). Our class dinner on Saturday was held on the 15th floor of SIPA. We did not have a professor speak and instead had a brief visit from Dana Smidt, who worked with Dean James J. Valentini. During the cocktail party and dinner, I caught up with Andrew Ceresney, who recently was named co-director of the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission’s Division of Enforcement (investigations, Andrew); Joel Lusman, who runs a New York-based hedge fund and lives in Greenwich, Conn., with his wife and son; Amy Ayn, who lives in NYC with her family; Alysson Berliner (the first person I met at Columbia in 1989), an ophthalmologist who works at Regenener Pharmaceuticals; Andrew Borrok, who leads our class fundraising efforts, lives in NYC and works in real estate; Richard Carrick, a musician who taught at Columbia this year; Christine Coster, who works in insurance; Catherine Hong, who lives with her family near Columbia but is about to move to the suburbs; Michele Smith and her husband; Amanda Schachter, who is an architect in NYC; and Amanda Moussa, an in-house attorney at Barclays; Jennie Kim Harman, who lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Jason, and their son and is an in-house attorney for CME Group; and Andy Schmeltz, Miriam Friedlander and Linda Appel Lipsius. I also spent time with Sara Niego, who grew up with my husband and now lives with her husband, Petr, and three children in Avon, Conn., where she is a psychiatrist, as well as Liz Hale ‘93 Barnard and Jeanne Marie Angulo, a developer. As dinner came to a close, fun at a bar near Koronet Pizza (allowing for everyone to sneak out at different times to get a slice of pizza). When the bar closed around 3 a.m., yet another group of us went to the market next door, grabbed some beer and finished the evening sitting out on The Steps, not wanting the weekend to end.

Finally, we were sad to miss classmates who had long distances to travel (e.g., other continents) and those who were prevented from making it due to personal circumstances. Fortunately we got to do it all again in five years!
Melinka Thompson-Godoy ’98 Helps Create Movie Magic

By Laura Butchy ’04 Arts

Watching James Bond motorcycle across rooftops, moviegoers rarely stop to think about the hundreds of people who make those moments possible. If all goes well, what is real and what was created through effects blends together into movie magic, created by film experts such as visual effects producer Melinka Thompson-Godoy ’98.

The work of a visual effects producer changes day to day, which is one reason Thompson-Godoy loves what she does.

At her desk at Double Negative Visual Effects in London, she juggles budgets and spreadsheets to ensure effects are finished on time and to the satisfaction of the client and her company. She is a liaison between Double Negative’s visual effects artists and a film’s director as well as the visual effects and production teams. On location, Thompson-Godoy often interacts with the visual effects team and many other artists, including the director, editors, special effects department and art department.

“Melinka worked with her team of artists to deliver on schedule 403 stunning visual effects shots,” says Leslie Lerman, who was VFX producer and Thompson-Godoy’s client on the 2012 blockbuster Skyfall. “In the film world, the edit and/or the artistic design can change overnight. Sometimes a shot you’ve been working on for months can end up on the cutting room floor. Melinka always handled those pressure situations with poise.”

Thompson-Godoy’s experience with Skyfall marks part of what she describes as her “favorite year.” In 2012, she moved to London to accept a position at Double Negative just in time for the Olympics and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Her resume already included memorable projects all over the United States, from her first gig in Los Angeles on the Kevin Costner vehicle For Love of the Game (1999) to assisting on the first season of the hit television series Lost (2004) on location in Hawaii.

Travel is natural for Thompson-Godoy, who was born in Colombia and, starting at 4, lived in many locations throughout the U.S. as her family moved to follow her parents’ education and work. She also has been fascinated with film from an early age. “As a teenager, and even before, I loved to watch HBO Behind the Scenes,” she says. “You would see it all come together. I always wanted to do that.”

After researching New York schools that offered film majors, Thompson-Godoy decided she wanted to study more than film and chose the College. “The idea of having a Core Curriculum and learning about every discipline was very cool to me,” she says.

She majored in film studies and earned a spot on the Dean’s List all four years; off-campus, she took as much film work as she could find. As an intern on the George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer romance One Fine Day (1996), Thompson-Godoy observed everything in the production. “I’m detail-oriented, and producers had a hand from beginning to end,” she says about her choice to become a producer. “I learned what I wanted to be as well as what not to do.”

After graduation, Thompson-Godoy was senior assistant to Ted Hope, a producer and then-co-owner of the independent film company Good Machine. She later was a production executive on the unconventional biopic American Splendor (2003) and the film adaptation of the play The Laramie Project (2002) before reuniting with a friend from Carman 8, Chris Perkel ’98, to produce The Town That Was (2007), a documentary about a town in Pennsylvania destroyed by an underground mine fire; Perkel also directed.

“Melinka’s greatest strength, in my opinion, is her commitment,” Perkel says. “She works harder and cares more than anyone and that’s why everyone loves working with her. She loves films, she loves her work and she’s completely dedicated to the tasks at hand and the welfare of the project.”

Melinka Thompson-Godoy ’98 in the lobby of her office at Double Negative Visual Effects.

PHOTO: EMILY PEARCE
Though she had never worked in the field, visual effects company Amoeba Proteus hired and trained her as a visual effects coordinator in 2003. "Being that I was always so fascinated with what happens behind the scenes, visual effects is almost like working with a magician who shows you how the trick you always liked was done," Thompson-Godoy explains. "It was really cool, and each year the technology advances." For the next few years she worked for several companies and productions, including Lost. She became visual effects producer at Look Effects in 2007. During her four years at the company, she worked on films as diverse as the fantasy sequel Underworld: Awakening (2012), psychological thriller Black Swan (2010), comic book adaptation Captain America: The First Avenger (2011) and historical drama The King's Speech (2010). The variety in content is one of the aspects of her work that stimulates Thompson-Godoy. Her efforts haven't gone unnoticed. In 2011, she was nominated for a Primetime Emmy for her contributions to the History Channel film Life After People, and she was nominated for a Visual Effects Society Award for her work on the sixth season of Lost in 2011.

Thompson-Godoy's current project is The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. The much-anticipated second film in the series, set to release in November, is sure to be filled with incredible visual effects created in part by her. Although, she points out, "If we do our job properly, then no one notices. It's a curse and praise that no one knows how much work you put into something."

To view a clip of the official Skyfall trailer, which showcases Thompson-Godoy's work, go to YouTube.com.

Laura Butchy '04 Arts is a professor, dramaturg and writer based in Brooklyn.

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Greetings, classmates! I hope you had a fun and relaxing summer. Chris Glaros recently left a job working with Marian Wright Edelman as managing director and general counsel with the Children's Defense Fund and started at Ohio State University as a v.p. of community relations and investment divisions. Chris is still enjoying Columbus with his wife, Lauren, and their children, Lincoln and Grace.

Pete Freeman is a partner in the real estate and finance group at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman in Washington, D.C., and lives in Bethesda, Md., with his wife, Jill Fine '96 Barnard, and children, Lily (9) and Max (6).

Aun Koh is in Singapore running his integrated communications agency, The Ate Group. Aun writes that his company has carved out a great niche as the best local agency for public relations events, and social media for lifestyle industries, with a strong focus on food and beverage, luxury and hospitality.

Aun and his wife recently celebrated the son's second birthday. In addition, last year he relaunched his website, Chubby Hubby (chubbyhubby.net), after taking a year off to focus on work and parenting. Now, Chubby Hubby has more than a dozen writers spread across the world and a full-time editor based in Hong Kong. The website is getting a lot of attention; Aun was in the Tóhoku region of Japan in early February at the invitation of the Japanese government, and the Japanese government published a booklet covering Aun's experience and observations.

Aun also spends time pursuing his culinary interests. In May, he took part in the Noosa International Food & Wine Festival, where he spoke and cooked. He also participated in the judging of the Australian heat of Diageo's World's Finest Cocktail Competition.

Constantine Dimas was promoted earlier this year to s.v.p., asset management, at Loews Hotels. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing operations and investigations. He also serves as an expert for the court system in New York. He is currently CEO of the company that he is still doing a great job at avoiding the real world by running an SAT preparation company (testtakers-sg.com), which helps finance his numerous golf trips.

Elizabeth Yuan moved to New York in March from Hong Kong, where she had been a digital production manager at the Ate Group. She now works for WSJ. com and writes that she is excited to be back in the United States and in NYC after having left 14 years ago. She also would be happy to hear from classmates: eyuaninhk@gmail.com.

That's it for this time. If you have sent notes and they have not yet appeared, bear with me; they will be featured in the next column. For now, I leave you with this nugget from one of my favorite musicians: "If you don't know the blues ..."
there's no point in picking up the guitar and playing rock and roll or any other form of popular music."
— Richard Richards

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Thanks, CC '97, for writing with all your news! Please continue to send word of our classmates' exciting endeavors.

First off, we have some published authors in our midst! Boris Kachka's first book, Hothouse: The Art of Survival and the Survival of Art, came out in August (see Bookshelf in this issue). Boris explains, "It's the unauthorized cultural history of the prestigious FSG, and I'll defer to the blurb from Junot Díaz, who calls it 'Mad Men for the literary world.'" Toni Morrison said nice things about it, too. There's much more about it on my website (to spare me any more embarrassing shifting): boriskachka.com."

Meanwhile, Susanna Daniel’s second novel, Sea Creatures, came out in hardcover in July. Abraham Verghese, a physician and three-time bestselling author, called it "a captivating, haunting novel" and Library Journal called it "substantive domestic drama."

A number of you wrote in to share that you live abroad. Jenny Vendetti Fernandez is a writer/editor living in Hong Kong since 2011 with her husband, Juan, and their daughters, ages 6 and 4. They are having a blast and traveling around Asia. She would love to connect with anyone who is in the area. Daniel Anderson has been teaching English at the Hiram Bingham School (a British model secondary school) in Lima, Peru, and, as of this writing, was deciding whether he wants to continue living south of the equator or move back to his adopted home of sunny Los Angeles in August. He has been playing his own brand of folk rock and blues at local cafés, which, he writes, "definitely sticks out and is unique here in Latin America."

Peta Lappalainen is proud to announce the birth of her second child, Saga Lucia Annika Lappalainen, on June 8 in Melbourne, Australia. Saga is sister to Magnus Brenchley (8%). The family planned to spend time with relatives in Finland from July '13 to January '14. Petra would love to catch up with CC alumni visiting Helsinki.

Rebekah Gee married David Patron in October 2010. Their twins, Elizabeth and Eva, were born on November 5, 2012.

Many of you wrote in with exciting professional news. Erich Andere is a neurosurgeon at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn. Chris Grosman '05 Arch. officially launched his own architecture practice, Banko Studio, with a classmate from the Architecture School. He writes: "It's been a little more than a year and it's going well. We're doing a lot of residential work and have two apartment renovations in NYC, and we're designing the interiors for the largest residential development in downtown Brooklyn. Our website is b-an-g.com." Christopher Johnston lives with his wife, Rachel Reinhardt '96 Barnard, in Oakland, Calif. (they have two kids, Jacob and Sophia). Kate Olivier came in from Spain. Matt Ahn was there, having recently taken a new job in-house at Oracle. Alejandro Montenegro Almonte was there with his husband, Jorge. Shana Kusin writes, "In July I joined the faculty at Oregon Health and Science University as an assistant professor of emergency medicine and toxicology and also as the clinical informatics director for the emergency department. I've been at OHSU doing a fellowship in medical toxicology for the last two years (graduation is in two weeks!). Other news: This month I also completed a yearlong creative writing fellowship at The Attic Institute and am trying to wrap up the first draft of my novel (aka, 'The Great American Medical Rock Novel')."

Dr. Wei Angela Liu has been named head of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., where she will oversee inpatient and outpatient rehabilitative care. She is a faculty member at the NYU School of Medicine and a practicing doctor at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Mark Bunin Benor and Sarah Bunin Benor live in Los Angeles with their daughters, Aliza (10), Dalia (8) and Ariella (5). Mark is a family doctor and worked for several years at the Los Angeles Free Clinic. Now he is at T.H.E. (To Help Everyone) Clinic in South Los Angeles and is helping to start a clinic for adults/rock and children with developmental disabilities. The Achievable Clinic. Sarah received tenure at Hebrew Union College, where she teaches contemporary Jewish studies and linguistics to HUC master's students and undergraduates at the USC. She published a book based on her dissertation, Becoming Famu: How Neowacooms Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism, and she is founding editor of the Journal of Jewish Languages and the Jewish English Lexicon. "I look forward to hearing from more of you soon!"

Hello, Class of 1998! Usually our post-reunion Class Notes column is huge and filled with names but unfortunately I was unable to activate our rules to get classmates, however, came to the rescue.

Andy Topkins was sweet enough to send a reunion update via Facebook. He mentioned that Brooks Herman and his wife, Joanna Herman (née Erman), came into the fold in August. They (they have two kids, Jacob and Sophia). Kate Olivier came in from Spain. Matt Ahn was there, having recently taken a new job in-house at Oracle. Alejandro Montenegro Almonte was there with his husband, Jorge. Shana Kusin writes, "In July I joined the faculty at Oregon Health and Science University as an assistant professor of emergency medicine and toxicology and also as the clinical informatics director for the emergency department. I've been at OHSU doing a fellowship in medical toxicology for the last two years (graduation is in two weeks!). Other news: This month I also completed a yearlong creative writing fellowship at The Attic Institute and am trying to wrap up the first draft of my novel (aka, 'The Great American Medical Rock Novel')."

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under way for our 15-year reunion. Save the dates now: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Hopefully, we will have as great a turnout as we did for our 10th. If you want to partake in planning, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or one of the Alumni Office staff members listed at the top of the column.

In terms of class giving, I'm happy to share that we broke several records last fiscal year. We had the most participation ever for our class, and we raised more than $90,000, surpassing our initial goal of $60,000. I want to give a big shout-out to former Alumni Office staff member Harrison Kob, who was tasked with our class in recent years and was instrumental in our reaching our goals.

Now for some nice updates:

**Brad Neuberg** married his love, Abby Volk, on July 27 in a beautiful and historic gold rush town called Nevada City, located in Northern California near the Yuba River. Guests also attended a wedding retreat, which involved swimming and relaxing by the river, for a few days before the big event. They even had a yoga teacher on site to teach poses and share positive karma. **Susan Kassin** was there; unfortunately, I could not make it.

**Tony Castaneda** lives in Washington, D.C., where he works for a defense-related company. Prior to that he was in media, first as a journalist covering the Iraq War for the Associated Press and later as a producer for *Charlie Rose*. Tony has swung by a couple of alumni events in the D.C. area and vows to be more proactive. (I hope we will see you at our reunion next year, Tony.)

Tony also reports that when he was in New York recently he ran into Mikhail Goberman '00. I then reached out to Mikhail, who has had some truly amazing years since graduation. He spent some time backpacking in the Congo, where he discovered a passion for wildlife, and now he works in the primates division at the Bronx Zoo. He recently finished a book about his experiences and it has received some interest from publishers, so maybe we'll see it on the shelves soon.

The tentative title is *From the Congo to the Bronx: How I Helped Heal a Wounded Gorilla—and Myself*.

That's all the updates we have for this go-round. Again, by all means, if you are interested in getting involved with planning our 15-year reunion, please email me and I will put you in touch with the Reunion Committee, or contact the appropriate staff member listed at the top of the column. I hope to see many of you next May!

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**01 Jonathan Gordin**

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I hope everyone enjoyed the summer! My Facebook feed has been humming with lots of baby news. Keep all the good news coming.

**Courtney Vowels** and her husband, **John Gamevius**, welcomed their son, Elijah. Elisht Forster Gamevius was born April 29. Elijah weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz. and was 22 inches long.

**Jasper Cooper** and his wife, Josefin Weng, welcomed their daughter, Vali Weng Cooper, on May 23.

Adam Sokol and Bingyi Huang welcomed their son, Aaro Magnus Sokol, on December 1. Adam is an architect whose practice is based in Buffalo, N.Y. (with lots of current projects in China as well).

**Katie Campion Land** and Matthew Land '05 welcomed their first child, Nina Jane Land, on April 2. They happily reside in Tulsa, Okla.

Congratulations to all our new parents!

**Jeff Lee** announced the launch of Ryan Lee, a gallery he formed with business partner Max Saffian and which opened to the public in late April. The gallery is located at 527 W. 26th St. in New York (ryanleegallery.com). Congratulations to Jeff! [Editor’s note: See alumni profile in this issue.]

Please keep in touch; you can write me at the addresses at the top of the column or submit a note via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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**02 Priska Bae**

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No updates in the inbox this time around. Let’s do better for the future. Your friends and classmates want to hear from you! You can write me at the email or postal address above, or submit news via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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**03 Michael Novielli**

World City Apartments
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Thank you to the Reunion Committee, and to all who attended Alumni Reunion Weekend, for making our 10th an absolute blast. The festivities began on May 30 with a reception at Greenwich Village Country Club at Bowman. On Friday, those who were able to get away from work went to a series of lectures and performances on campus and on a Chelsea Art Gallery Crawl. Friday night was a ton of fun, as Dean James J. Valenti joined us for drinks at a class reception at Avenue before we joined the Young Alumni Party on the U.S.S. Intrepid. It’s a shame that this is technically our last year as young alumni, but we’ll always be young at heart, right? Something like that.

Saturday was a packed day with more lectures and events on campus, but the highlight was our class reception and dinner on South Field, followed by the all-class Starlight Reception on Low Plaza. And many of us continued the fun at The Heights (followed by karaoke) late into the evening. Some of the folks who made it to The Heights included Hector Rivera, Michelle Hodara, Alex Specht, Andy So, Jeffrey Hsieh, Michael Chee, Nimmi Pillalamarri and Raheleh Hatami. And throughout the course of the weekend, former class presidents Kimberly Grant, Lee Goldberg and Bryan Berkett were in attendance.

In other reunion news, our class successfully raised $67,206 from 174 donors in support of financial aid, student services, summer internship stipends and the Core Curriculum. Including dollars raised for Athletics, CC ’03 raised more than $98,000 in Fiscal Year 2013.

Those who have more news to share from our reunion should
Art Means Business for Jeffrey Lee ’01

By Mary Jean Babic

Jeffrey Lee ’01, who co-owns the Ryan Lee Gallery in NYC, credits Art Humanities for his career path.

PHOTO: DEREK PIECH

Trim and welcoming in black-rimmed glasses, Jeffrey Lee ’01 is a gracious guide around the new Ryan Lee Gallery, which he co-owns with Mary Ryan, in the Manhattan neighborhood of Chelsea. On this June day, the gallery is exhibiting the work of young artist Bradley Castellanos. Lee draws a visitor’s attention to Castellanos’ technique of layering paint over large-format photographs, lending an otherworldly feel to the stark landscapes. They hardly look like photos at all. Lee explains that because photography is ubiquitous these days, on social media and elsewhere, young artists are driven more than ever to break out of existing ideas of what photography can be.

Clearly, this is what Lee loves — championing artists whose work speaks to him — and he has built a career doing just that. For more than a decade, Lee worked at the former Mary Ryan Gallery, which occupied the same ground-floor space on West 26th Street. This spring, he and his former boss became business partners, launching their eponymous joint venture. It all started, Lee says, with the Art Humanities class he took his freshman year. “That was a wonderful, eye-opening experience,” says Lee. His initial intentions of taking up a math or science major vanished as he grew more engrossed, especially once the syllabus hit the 20th century; socialist realism was an early passion.

Lee became smitten with Columbia when, while visiting a friend at The Juilliard School, he strolled across College Walk and took in the campus for the first time. “It was love at first sight,” he says. Learning about Columbia’s academics, the Core Curriculum excited him as a way to explore subjects he might not otherwise have chosen.

Born in Seoul, Lee was 7 when he moved with his mother and older sister to the suburbs of Washington, D.C., to be near his mother’s family. His father remained in Seoul, visiting the family twice a year. Lee’s upbringing, he says, did not include much art appreciation, so Art Humanities marked his first significant encounter with the subject. In his spare time, Lee hopped around museums to view firsthand some of the very art that he was studying in class. “Having the city as an integral part of my college experience was life-altering,” he says.

He decided to stay in New York the summer after freshman year. Browsing through job listings at the Center for Career Education he stumbled upon an internship opportunity at the Mary Ryan Gallery, then on West 57th Street. As Ryan’s intern, Lee worked on the estate of Louis Lozowick, a Russian émigré artist who died in 1973. Much of the collection eventually went to the Whitney. The experience gave Lee his first glimpse of art world business and it dawned on him that this was something he could do with his life. When he returned to Columbia his sophomore year there was no question that he’d major in art history. He held internships each summer while in college — at MoMA, at Cooper-Hewitt — and he studied abroad in Paris his junior year. This afforded him the opportunity to travel around European cities, “which is basically like walking around museums,” he says. One of his favorite trips was to Istanbul, where he visited the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia.

In 2003, Lee bumped into Ryan at an art auction. She offered him the job of assistant director at her gallery. He accepted, and a few years later he rose to gallery director.

Ryan calls Lee “a great art dealer,” with a keen eye for identifying exciting art. “It’s easy to do it when the names are known,” she says. “It’s more difficult to do it when people are starting out.”
Lee likens his job to that of a literary agent — he sells art he loves to appreciative buyers and also helps new artists navigate the business side of the creative enterprise. He maintains relationships with collectors, curators and other serious buyers while always being on the lookout for compelling artists to represent. Since he started in the business, Lee says, art fairs have become more critical for getting artists, dealers, gallery owners and buyers together. He goes to about five a year, indulging his passion for travel. Everything, however, is done in the interest of artists. “The more visibility the gallery can have, the better it is for the artists,” says Lee.

The economics of running a gallery are daunting. Lee provides this example: If a gallery mounts a show with 10 paintings, each priced at $10,000, and all sell, the gallery will end up with $50,000 after splitting the proceeds with the artist (standard practice). That’s a trifle in pricey Manhattan, and it’s rare for a show to sell out. A robust network of collectors behind the scenes is essential. That’s why having an experienced partner like Ryan, who started her gallery in 1981, is so valuable, says Lee.

“This allowed us to get a new gallery that can focus on contemporary art from all over the world” — the gallery will feature both emerging and established artists — “and that gives a nice dialogue on how art can look,” Lee says.

Ryan Lee Gallery’s inaugural exhibition, of art by Korean-born artist Sangbin IM, ran from April 26–May 24.

Like any art dealer, Lee gets a buzz from closing a sale, but says nothing brings him joy like “placeing work that you’re passionate about from artists you care about very much with institutions and private collectors. It’s just so gratifying.”

Mary Jean Babic is a freelance writer who lives in Brooklyn. Her most recent article for CCT was a profile of Nate Bliss ’05.

In other news, Christine Murphy gave a gift to the Aaron and James Satloff Scholarship Fund. Christine had been the first recipient of this scholarship — which James Satloff ’84 established when his father, Aaron Satloff ’56, turned 65 — and she said she wanted to give back to the scholarship that had helped her. In response, James matched her donation 100-to-1 with a gift to the scholarship in her honor.

Christina Wright writes, “I was bummed to miss reunion but I was actually at Michael LaVigne’s wedding in Keystone, Colo. In terms of life updates, last June I left my job as an admissions counselor at Marquette University to pursue a graduate certificate in digital storytelling, also at Marquette. This was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I am now writing for a Milwaukee-based arts and entertainment magazine, thirdcoastdaily.com, as well as for the popular competitive swimming website swimswam.com.

“In April, I spent a week in Germany with one of the oldest members of Facebook, 103-year-old Oma Ella Kastner. You can read much more about the trip at passionpassport.com/current-trip and see a short movie that I made about it at vimeo.com/70130892. I was able to take this trip because I won Passion Passport’s Bucket List Initiative travel grant contest. Coincidentally, the founder of Passion Passport is Zach Glassman ’09. It’s funny how things work out when you take a risk to really pursue what you love doing; it seems like the pieces have fallen into place and there are only more and more opportunities for me to be creative! I am realizing that living the freelance life is pretty rewarding.”

Seth Wax writes, “In June, I graduated from the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, a pluralistic school in Newton, Mass. Starting in July, I became rabbi at Congregation Mount Sinai, an independent synagogue in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y.”

Janice (Shore) Berg writes, “In June, I moved to New York as often as possible but it is also great to spend time in another one of the most diverse and multicultural cities in North America. Looking forward to reconnecting with alums in Canada!”

Alex Farrill shares, “My wife, Abby Walthausen ’06 Barnard, and I live in Brooklyn. I am the chief data scientist at RUN, a mobile ad tech startup in Manhattan. We recently announced a $1.5 million investment from Verizon.”

Lien de Brouckere shares, “I recently moved to Washington, D.C, and am excited to be working in a new job with Global Rights, an international NGO, as its director of natural resources and human
rights. I get to advise its country offices in Nigeria, Uganda, Burundi and Afghanistan on programming around natural resource extraction and protecting communities' rights, and also implement projects with additional partners to build capacity of local civil society organizations to support affected communities."

**CLASS NOTES**

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It’s been quiet — no doubt a sign that everyone had a busy summer. But why not a little about it with classmates? We want to hear your news, whether family, career or otherwise. You can write me at the email or postal address above, or submit updates online via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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**Claire McDonnell**  
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Happy fall! To think that 10 years ago we were recently minted graduates of Contemporary Civilization inching our ways toward legal drinking age... My 2013 started with a Columbia College reunion, or a Ruggles reunion to be more precise. Aashit Bharita '06, Jenn Legum Weber, Brian Overland '04 and I — four of our seven Ruggles 2 suitmates — reunited in Bangalore, India, for Brian’s wonderful wedding and related festivities.

**Luis Sucedo** also reports impromptu reunions with erstwhile dormmates: “Last year I started working down the street from a couple of Carman 12ers in Washington, D.C. — Marika Bertram (née Butler), who works at HUD, and Matthew Rotman, who works at the Department of Energy.” This year has held many a major career move, and actual move, for some classmates:

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**Josh Hadro** was appointed deputy director, reference and research services, at the New York Public Library. He previously was executive editor for Library Journal, a trade magazine that covers the library profession.

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**Merlin Chowkwanyun** was finishing his dissertation and graduating with a joint-degree in history and public health from Penn this past summer. He says, “For the next two years, I’ll be a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, continuing a few projects on racial health disparities, environmental health and health care systems. Would love to get in touch with anyone in the area!”

**Carrington Lee** says, “In May, I joined law firm Sullivan & Cromwell as assistant manager of associate development. I’m still in the Financial District and excited for the new opportunity.”

**Caitlin Verrii** ‘13 Business reports, “I graduated in May with an M.B.A. and am a program director at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corp.”

**Maggie Gram** was finishing a Ph.D. at Harvard this past summer. She writes, “This fall I’m headed to St. Louis to take a postdoc at Washington University. I’d love visitors; I haven’t spent very much time in St. Louis but I hear it’s a great town!”

**Saadya Scott Zakheim** says, “My wife, Rebecca; our daughter, Olivia (1); and I moved back to our home state of Maryland in early July. I recently took a job at Shot Tower Capital, a boutique investment bank in Baltimore focused on media and entertainment. I will lead its business development efforts. Rebecca and I were married in April 2011 and spent the last two-plus years on Manhattan’s Upper West Side.”

**Smith Kidkamdee** reports: “I recently graduated from Pace with a doctorate in school-clinical child psychology. I hope to open a private practice in the fall.”

**Elizabeth Saylor** is a doctoral candidate in modern Arabic literature at UC Berkeley’s Near Eastern studies department. She is writing her dissertation, “A Day Too Soon: The Life and Works of Affa Karam: The First Arab-American Woman Novelist,” with the intention of completing a Ph.D. next year. In addition to thesis writing, Elizabeth is teaching Arabic language and literature at UC Berkeley, work she has done since 2009. Elizabeth spent the past two summers running an Arabic language program in Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia. This past spring she spent two weeks in Morocco as a lecturer with a Cal alumni travel group. And in June, she joined her family in NYC to celebrate the graduation of her best friend, Alisha Lenora Liggott ‘04, from her medical residency program in social medicine at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx. Hot off the press: here are a few classmates who’ve made the news lately:

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**Syga Thomas**’s company, Maono, was covered in The Huffington Post: huffingtonpost.com/laura-dunn/giving-back-through-fashio_b_3461167.html.
Ken Harada has been named managing director at Guggenheim Partners.

Doug Imbruce’s company, Qwiki, was acquired by Yahoo! And no Class Notes would be complete without a wedding or two, not least a Carman love story.

Katie Herman and Mike Noble were married January 4 in Washington, D.C. They met freshman year in the Carman elevator after attending a campus punk show in Lerner Hall. Katie finished an M.F.A. in poetry at Maryland this past spring, and Mike is a program coordinator at the National Foreign Language Center.

Keri Wachter married Brendan Norwood ’09 P&$ on October 20 in Larchmont, N.Y., surrounded by family and friends including Columbians Merry Boak, Justin Ifill in Larchmont, N.Y., surrounded by family and friends including Columbians Merry Boak, Justin Ifill in Larchmont, N.Y., surrounded by family and friends including Columbians Merry Boak, Justin Ifill in Larchmont, N.Y., surrounded by family and friends including Columbians Merry Boak, Justin Ifill in Larchmont, N.Y., surrounded by family and friends including Columbians Merry Boak, Justin Ifill in Larchmont, N.Y., surrounded by family and friends including Columbians Merry Boak, Justin Ifill in Larchmont, N.Y., surrounded.

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Be sure to keep sending your latest news and stories of the Columbians you’re running into out there in the wild world beyond Morning-side Heights.

Michelle Oh Sing 9 N 9th St., Unit 403 Philadelphia, PA 19107 mo2057@columbia.edu

Emily Ross writes, “After working on President Barack Obama ’83’s reelection, I have joined the Washington, D.C., staff of Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). It is great to be working for my home state senator and I love being back on Capitol Hill.”

Laura Stedman (née Schnaidt) graduated from law school in May and starting this fall will be an associate in the New York office of Shearman & Sterling. After six years at Google and YouTube, Andrew Stinger has thrown his hat into the start-up ring. He is now v.p. of marketing at AppStack, a mobile technology start-up funded by Google Ventures and Tomorrow Ventures.

Sean Wilkes writes that 2012 was busy. “After finishing grad school at Harvard in the spring, the Army sent me back to Washington, D.C., to attend the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the military’s medical school at Walter Reed Bethesda, for my M.D. I also met up with Brian Wagner, Sam Schon and Syndey Jones ’06 Barnard at Robert Wray’s wedding in December. Good times, great cigars and fantastic whiskey were shared by all.”

Ganesh H. Betanabhatla recently joined Talara Capital Management, an energy investment firm with offices in New York and Houston, as a managing director. Ganesh will lead the firm’s private investments in the oil and gas sector.

Dan Kessler is a soon-to-be married man. He also is the new director of eCards for Hallmark. Plus, he’s one of the writers behind the hit young adult novel The Social Code.

One of these four sentences is a lie. This past June, Vidya Vasu-Devan married Krishna Rao under the redwoods in Los Gatos, Calif. They were thrilled to celebrate with great friends from the Class of 2006, including Anne Thomas; Blair Bodine; Emily Lo; Sara Rosenberg, and her fiancé, Anthony Bisio ’06E; Norah Li (née Garry) and her husband, Randall Li ’06E; and Andrew Lichtenberg and his fiancée, Michelle Lee. Vidya and Krishna are excited to be starting their married life in Seattle.

Aaron Karp writes, “On May 26, I married the love of my life and the funniest girl I’ve ever met, Carla Pasquale. Three generations of Columbia Karps were at the wedding, including best man and brother, Joshua Karp ’04, ’07L, bridesmaid and sister, Rachel Karp ’10; sister-in-law Rona Behar Karp ’04; father, Hillel Karp ’71; uncle David Karp ’72, ’79L, aunt Barbara Illowsky P. Karp ’80 P&S, and grandmother Deborah Burstein Karp ’43 Barnard, ’89 GSAS. Also in attendance from the larger Columbia family were groomsman Alexander Crohn, Jason Lichtman ’06E and Jared Hutter ’09 Arch., along with Sofia Marquez ’04, Robert Johnson, Sy Cabria, Amanda Houle ’06 Barnard, Leora Holzer (née Rosenblum) ’06 Barnard, Alan Rabinowitz ’06E and Danaya Mesa ’10. I was lucky to share the day with so many Lions!” Thanks to all for sharing these meaningful updates with us. We look forward to hearing from more of you next quarter!

Vidya Vasu-Devan ’06 and Krishna Rao ’06 were married in June in Los Gatos, Calif. Among the guests were (left to right) Emily Lo Gibson ’06 and her husband, Marcus Gibson; Sara Rosenberg ’06; Randall Li ’06E and his wife, Norah Li (née Garry); the groom; the bride; Anthony Bisio ’06E, ’10 Ph; Blair Bodine ’06, and Anne Thomas ’06.

PHOTO: RUCHIRA CHOPRA

David D. Chait 4621 Old Cheney Rd., Apt. 6 Lincoln, NE 68516 ddc2106@columbia.edu

I hope that everyone had a great summer! As usual, members of the Class of 2007 are up to exciting and inspiring things.

Riddhi Dasgupta shares, “In April, I published International Interplay: The Future of Expropriation Across International Dispute Settlement. Last year, our think tank The Wilberforce Society (at Cambridge University) fulfilled its commission to draft a proposed Constitution of Tunisia, which has been constructive to the post-Arab Spring governance in that country. We were blessed with the featuring of this proposed constitution on BBC and NPR, and our think tank was commended with a Special Mention in Prospect magazine’s Think Tank Awards 2013. On a personal note, I’ll be kicking off a J.D. at UC Berkeley, so all Columbians are welcome to pop into my humble abode on the West Coast! Reinvestments and new pastures!”

The American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) has conferred top honors to Vefi N. Yashin for a presentation made at its 2012 annual meeting, held at Brown. In addition, Vefi’s essay,
Carolyn Braff '07 and Andrew Herman were married on March 23 in Philadelphia. Columbians in attendance included (left to right) Sonali Phatak '07E, Aditi Siriram '07, Ed Hambleton '07, the bride, Sasha Silver '07, Brendan Shanahan '06E, Emily Kleinman '06, Casey Levine '07 and Rebbly Bliss '07.

Euro(tro)pology: Philology, World Literature, and the Legacy of Erich Auerbach,” has been selected as the winner of the 2013 Horst Frenz Prize and will be published in the Yearbook of Comparative Literature. Veli was awarded his prize at the 2013 ACLA conference in Toronto in April. He is a Ph.D. candidate in comparative literature (Arabic, German, Turkish) at Columbia. TurboVote, founded by Seth Flaxman, recently secured $1 million in funding across three years from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. (See alumni profile in Spring 2012 CCT.)

Colleen Damall, an independent music copyist in New York, married Zachary Dietz, a music director and conductor. The two were featured in The New York Times on May 19.

Elyse Oleksak shares some exciting (and delicious) news: “My husband, Nick Oleksak ’06, and I are opening a bagel shop in the West Village called Bantam Bagels. After we returned from our out-of-town classmates in Oakland, Calif., and shared the proceeds with our startup that sells donated items and shares the proceeds with our charity partners. We always need more donated items and more shoppers!”

Samantha Feingold writes, “I am excited to announce that I am engaged to Dr. Jonathan Criss ’97 Yale, an ophthalmologist and surgeon. We are getting married in NYC in spring 2014 and are happily living in New York City.”

Jeffrey Feder ’06E, ’08E and the newly engaged Matthew Kontub trekked to Merion, Pa., for a weekend to visit Eric Bondarsky and Nina Cohen ’09 Barnard in a partial reunion of EC Suite 806. The missing member of that suite, Daniel Friedman ’08E, had already danced with the rest of them at Matt’s engagement party the week before.

Eric shares, “Matt’s intended, Dani Pasternak, got a glimpse of what she is getting herself into upon joining what can only be described as the 806 family. At the time of writing this Class Note, they all eagerly await Matt and Dani’s union in early August.”

Shafaq Khan and Usman Arain tied the knot on March 30 in Morrisville, N.J., with their dynamic, beloved Columbia friends in attendance. Tara Lee also shares some big news: “I don’t frequently have big life updates, but I suppose when I do, I have a lot! On May 19 I graduated from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, I got married to my medical school classmate, Andrew Lenis, on May 25, and we traveled to Thailand for our honeymoon. I’m literally still in the clouds, writing to you from a plane, as we are moving to Los Angeles to begin our residencies at UCLA, Andrew in urology and I in ophthalmology. I also pursued my clinical residency combined with Ph.D. research at the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s EyeSTAR program. Looking forward to reconnecting with Columbia alumni in L.A.!”

Congratulations on our five-year reunion! Seeing 271 of our classmates on campus and throughout New York during Alumni Reunion Weekend was spectacular. The first note I am sharing is from a fellow Columbian who graduated 40 years before our class, Don U. Backus ’68. He wanted to send a personal message after meeting so many of us during the weekend.

He writes, “Some of my most enjoyable moments on Saturday were spent talking with some of your classmates, both at the wine tasting before dinner and outside after dinner. So please tell them that Buzz from ’68 enjoyed meeting them all and will be looking for them in five years to make sure that they are still having fun.”

Alisa Brem is an assistant development manager at Grosvenor’s Washington, D.C., office, where she works on urban infill mixed-use real estate developments. She also opened a bar, Thomas Foolery, in July in Dupont Circle; some other CC ’06E friends have some news, “If you’re in D.C. come visit the bar at 2029 P St. N.W. It’s a place to be a big kid with tons of games, local kid food like grilled cheese and PB & J (from The Big Cheese), homemade ice cream sandwiches...”
Maxime Glass '09 and Evan Harnik were married on July 7, 2012, at the Harvard Club in NYC. Top row, left to right: Monica Ierardo '09 Barnard, Katy Marcus '07 Barnard, Dan Gendler '09, Valerie Smith '09, Matt Rowen '09, Arielle Siboni '09 Barnard, Maya Pariser '08 Barnard and Jenny Cohen '06 Barnard; middle row, left to right: Sydney Newman '11 Barnard, Jennifer Zigler '08 Barnard, the groom, the bride, Nicole Scalamandre '10E, Lindsay Braverman '05 Barnard, Bianca Livi '05 Barnard and Shana Attas '09 Barnard; and front row, left to right: Sophie Scharf '07 Barnard and Ava Friedmann '09 Barnard.

PHOTO: SARAH LEHBERGER FOR AFTERGLOW PHOTOS

(from Captain Cookie & the Milkman), soup (from Soupergirl), and quiche and pies (from Whisked!). All of the drinks (beer and alcohol) can be made into floats and you can play Plinko to determine the price of your Smirnoff Ice. It’s a really fun and silly place (thomasfoolerydc.com)."

Anushka Shenoy is starting medical school at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Ore. She says, “Anyone in Portland should look me up!”

Since graduating, Melody Quintana has lived in San Francisco and been a content strategist at Facebook. She writes, “It’s been nothing short of amazing to be part of the company through such a critical growth phase, and I’ve truly fallen in love with the Bay Area. That said, I’ve recently decided to move on to my next adventure, which will bring me back to NYC for grad school. I’ll start an M.F.A. in interaction design at the School of Visual Arts this fall. I’m excited to explore a new creative discipline and connect with fellow Columbians back in the city!”

Rachel Belt recently finished the coursework for a master’s in humanitarian health program management and returned to Haiti to research the issue of child trafficking with the Haitian government’s child protection agency.

Rachel Sales (née Trager) says, “For the past year, I’ve been living in Tel Aviv, Israel, with my husband, Ben. I’m the director of recruitment for the Israel Experience, the leading educational tour company here. If anyone has friends, siblings or cousins who are interested in participating in Taglit-Birthright Israel this winter, feel free to get in touch with me at rachsales@gmail.com. I’d be happy to help them get to the country for free!”

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1, 2014
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
ALUMNI AFFAIRS Vanessa Scott vs2470@columbia.edu 212-851-9148
DEVELOPMENT Esfir Shamilova es3233@columbia.edu 212-851-7833

09
Alidad Damooei c/o CCT Columbia Alumni Center 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530 New York, NY 10025 damooei@gmail.com

More than four years have passed since we all proudly marched across the stage on Class Day. The Class of 2009 has now spent more time as Columbia College alumni than as Columbia College students. That is a scary thought, as for many of us the memories of Columbia are still so fresh.

Well, it is time to make some new memories with your old college buddies! Please mark your calendars for our five-year reunion, Thursday, May 29–Saturday, June 1, 2014. If you would like to help with planning for the weekend, please touch base with one of the Alumni Office contacts listed above.

Reunion is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and relive some of the excitement of the college experience (even if it is just for a couple days). Until then, we will have to make do with catching up the good, old-fashioned way: reading these Class Notes and logging into Facebook.

Jack Cantrell became engaged to Constanza Jacobs ’10 Barnard on March 14. Jack is pursuing a J.D./M.B.A. at Virginia while Constanza works for The Kinetix Group in New York City.

Josh Mathew was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Army in February. He graduated from the Army’s training course for infantry officers and entered Ranger School soon afterward. This fall, he heads to his first assignment with the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea.

Josh hopes that his fellow alumni will appreciate reading that when a very senior ranking officer spoke to his infantry officer class about the possibility of pursuing graduate degrees through the Army, he highlighted the opportunity to study at Columbia and commented: “I mean, how cool would it be to earn a degree from Columbia University? There is lots of love for alma mater on the Hudson from that fort on the Chattahoochee.

In August, Dan Trepapier moved from the East Village in New York City to Los Angeles, both for a change in lifestyle and to continue growing his brand TSBmen.com (the men’s style blog that Dan started at Columbia and that he now manages full-time with a team of four). Comparing West Coast and East Coast men’s fashion will make for an interesting dialogue, and he hopes to get more closely involved with Hollywood styling as well as spend a large amount of time on the beach.

After working for three years in government and politics in Washington, D.C., Mary Alice Parks decided to make a career shift and, this year, completed a
master’s of science in broadcast journalism from the Journalism School. Mary Alice heads back to D.C. this fall for a fellowship with ABC News. You can view her work at maryaliceparkes.com.

Yitian Li ’13 MA in June began his work as a general surgery resident at the Cleveland Clinic. Yitian is excited to finally have his first real job, apartment and car. He welcomes all classmates to visit him in Ohio!

Yitian Li is not the only member of the Class of 2009 to recently finish medical school. Phil Mitchell graduated from Emory University School of Medicine in the spring and began a residency in orthopedic surgery at Vanderbilt in July. As most of our classmates complete their graduate studies, others are returning to school. Siobhan Gilbert, for example, recently left her job as a research associate at the New York City affiliate of PBS. She received a full-ride scholarship to pursue an M.F.A. in playwriting at New York University Tisch School of the Arts and is beginning graduate studies this fall.

Hi 2010, thanks for submitting your exciting updates. Let’s kick off our Fall notes with a couple of wedding announcements.

Milan Cox (née Rodriguez) writes, “I am excited to share that I was married on May 18 to Jordan Cox, the cutest, smartest boy in the world. My bridesmaids included Stephanie (Baker) Summerhayes ’09, who was my freshman and sophomore year roommate (she entered with us but graduated a year early), and Lauren Ford ’09. Happily living the newlywed life while starting my fourth year as a fundraiser at the Smithsonian!”

Katherine Vance writes, “I got married on April 6. It was great to see my Columbia suitmates, Jessica Guo (who was my maid of honor), Lisa Kawamoto, Claire Zu- kowski and Angela Lu. We missed Lien Hoang, the sixth member of our EC townhouse, who lives in Vietnam. It was great to get together again, and the Houston weather cooperated for a lovely picnic reception at Hermann Park. My husband, Robert, and I are working on Ph.D.s in math at Rice in Houston. My area of research kept the four of us busy: my first class (Calculus II) last semester, which was fun and exhausting and prevented us from going on a honeymoon right away, so Robert and I were planning a camping honeymoon in southern Utah for July.”

Congratulations are in order for a few of our classmates who are either starting or recently graduated from school.

Gabriella Ripoll writes, “Graduated from NYU School of Law! In the spring I was again in the law school musical, NYU Law Revue, this year joined by 1L (now 2L) Shana Kniznik — small world! Look for me in NYU Law Revue’s ‘Staff Editor’ video! When I pass the bar I’m settling at a general practice firm, Arrufat Gracia, in Times Square in NYC. Exciting times.”

Deysey Ordonez-Areola ’13 GSAS earned a master’s in East Asian languages and cultures. She is part of the faculty at Hunter College, CUNY, and hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in history in the near future.

In September, Jon Hollander will be starting an M.B.A. program at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Ben Freeman graduated from Harvard Law in May and is thrilled to be returning to New York this fall.

After working in investment banking, Valerie Sapozhnikova decided to make a career transition. She began at Harvard Law this fall and is excited about going back to school.

Chris Yim ’10 is founding a company called UClass with two former roommates from Columbia — Zak Ringelstein ’08 and Varun Gualti ’10E.

Charlesia Stoglin relocated to Memphis from Phoenix in December 2012. She will be a 1L at the University of Memphis College of Law. She received a full-ride scholarship from the College of Marine Mammal Professions, which will run its first academic year in 2013. It has been a huge life change and adjustment from NYC to the Keys, and I certainly miss my friends and family in the tri-state area, but I have already worked at the Dolphin Research Center since I came to summer camp here as a 12-year-old, and it feels great to have finally achieved that dream. I welcome visiting Columbians who would like to come meet the dolphins and learn about our research.

“I visited Columbia for Commencement 2013 because my little sister graduated from Barnard, and I experienced great nostalgia being on campus and watching as the new graduates danced and cheered to Jay-Z’s ‘Empire State of Mind.’”

Hieu Pham shares, “It’s odd to fill out my current city as Chicago. Yup! I’ve made the move to the Windy City on a four-year contract with SeatRex magazine as its Chicago correspondent.

“OK, not quite — I hope you weren’t fooled because 1) such a title doesn’t exist, 2) only in my dreams would that happen. But I am in Chicago to pursue even more higher education and rack up the debt. So if you find yourself in town, please hit me up. My spacious apartment in Little Italy should be able to squeeze in another person.”

Lekha Menon is excited to move to New York to start a new role with Health Leads. She also looks forward to reliving East Campus 1010 days with Maria Alzunu, Nausheen Hakim, Sami Ritter and Celine Yap.

And last but not least, our quarterly installment from Chris Yim:

“A new season means new city, new job and a new start. Yup, I did it. I made the migration westward to the great green pastures in the Bay Area. That’s not entirely true: I came west to pursue an opportunity and support a mission that I am entirely passionate about.

“I am founding a company called UClass with two of my former roommates from Columbia — Zak Ringelstein ’08 and Varun Gualti ’10E — and we are working to connect students and teachers around the world to improve the quality of education. We just wrapped up an accelerator here in San Francisco called Hub Ventures and are continuing to build our company with all that we’ve learned. I am living the dream here, working with best friends, being part of a social cause that I believe in and rediscovering the importance of adaptability.

What’s the lesson learned here? Sometimes, you just gotta quit your job, jump in a car, chase that one thing you care about, swallow your pride, dig into your savings, be kind and humble, find free food where you can and thank God for the opportunity.

“In other news, my son, Jackson Carman, has impressed me with his development. He is an explorer like Columbus (my namesake), and he speaks weird baby languages. Not to be cliché, but it’s like witnessing a miracle every day. Unfortunately, I had to leave him behind with my folks, so he’ll speak better Korean than I do. Silver linings, people.”

“…”

Colin Sullivan

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I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. Hard to believe that fall is nearly here! Unfortunately I have no updates, so I will just use this space to ask for your contribution for next time. Whether you have successes and life changes to share, or just want to say hello, it’s important for us to stay connected. You can write me at the email or postal address at the top of the column, or submit updates via CCT’s web-form: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

As of this writing, I will have returned to UC Berkeley for my second year of law school. It was lovely catching up with so many classmates while I worked in New York this past summer.

Congratulations are in order for Ali Hard and Michael Weng ’11E, who got engaged in January and are planning a summer wedding in Connecticut for next year! Ali is also a new board member of the Columbia Club of Boston and is enjoying connecting with alumni in the Boston area.

Derek Turner reports from Michigan. “Dwell has been earning unsavory superlatives lately, but the Motown Columbia contingent isn’t! Todd Nelson and I work and live in the heart of the ‘Arsenal of Democracy,’ doing our part to create jobs here. I recently started
a new gig at a tech training institute and co-working space called Grand Circus. So for all those Lions wanting to learn coding or start a business, consider Detroit. Curious? Come visit!

Dominique Mann started a job as a producer at MSNBC, where she books guests for segments of various shows. She writes, “On-air guests include political figures, experts, entertainers, activists and everyday people. Working at the White House and for the President’s reelection campaign definitely prepared me well for this job, and I love working in the newsroom. Now that I’m in New York again, I have been able to reconnect with friends and other alumni. They have really been a support system, and I look forward to staying in touch with everyone.”

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti spent a dynamic and intense 10 months serving as a corps member in the AmeriCorps national Civilian Community Corps. Based out of McClellan AFB in Sacramento, Calif., her service included projects in Salt Lake City serving the Utah Food Bank; in Moonachie, N.J., on disaster relief after Hurricane Sandy; and in Portland, Ore., working in a youth development center. The 10 months became a heuristic aid, pushing Elizabeth to learn more about the social and environmental topography of the country as well as to consider multiple career paths in the nonprofit sector. Certifications gained during that same time frame included training in First Aid, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, Red Cross and First Responder. Though back in NYC, Elizabeth says she has gained a new perspective — keep the updates coming!

At the beginning of June, Evan Miller took a trip to sunny California with Ross Monard and Anthony Potter. They ran the 2013 Rock ‘n’ Roll San Diego Marathon with Team in Training, raising more than $10,000 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Evan and Anthony ran the half-marathon while Ross ran the full marathon, finishing his first marathon in 3 hours and 46 minutes. Wow, go Ross! The three enjoyed an extra day off from working in NYC to go jet skiing in the San Diego marina on the Monday following the race.

Gillian Rhodes sent this update from Cambodia: “I recently bought a motorcycle to get around Phnom Penh. Clearly things are getting crazy here. I work for a major television network and am on a mission to up the quality in back-up dancing. Then it’s just raising funds to launch a contemporary dance company in the next year!”

And improving my Khmer . . .

Jenn Leyva, who lives and works in Yongin in Bundang-gu, South Korea, is putting her chemistry degree to good use as a kindergarten teacher by day and a revolutionary fat activist and writer by evening and weekends.

For Kielcia Hallis, summer brought the opportunity to work abroad as an intern at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China. “Working as the international programs intern at the UM-SJTU Joint Institute lined up perfectly after completing my first year in my M.A. program, and doing independent research while abroad has taught me a lot. Let the blessings continue!”

As a member of the Puerto Rico national field hockey team, Leticia Freaney has been living in San Juan for the past year. She played in her first international field hockey tournament in Panama in late June and celebrated her 22nd birthday shortly before the tournament. At the time, she was a server at Chili’s and practicing with her team. Looking ahead, Leticia hopes to use her visual arts major to have her first solo gallery show before the end of fall. And certainly not least, she is the owner of a kitten since January.

Madeleine Jensen is excited to be moving to the West Coast this fall to start a Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology at UC Berkeley as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. She looks forward to joining friends and all of the Columbia alumni in the Bay Area.

Malcolm Culleton, who writes that he has been “leading a tempestuous life of fortune and adventure,” sent in a creative and detailed account of adventures since graduation:

“Unaware of what the future would hold, Malcolm walked out from the gates of alma mater in search of the uncharted frontier across the Hudson. He walked for many days and spent many lonely nights in the forest, using his spacy sky-blue graduation robes as a tent. Eventually, he found himself in New Orleans, where he got a part-time job painting houses and quickly worked his way up the social ladder. Before long, he received an offer of a high-paying job at a prestigious Fortune 500 company, and was on the verge of signing on, when he befriended an old, one-eyed trumpet player on the banks of the Mississippi River. The man overheard Malcolm playing guitar and said he was impressed by his picking style. They jammed for a bit, earning tens of dollars worth of tourist change, until the man told Malcolm that he was connected to some important people in the music business who were arranging a tour of Japan. He told Malcolm that the ship for the East would be leaving that night, and asked him to come along and play guitar with the group.

On the trip, only after boarding the ship that Malcolm realized that he had been hoodwinked by a band of pirates, and that the story about the Japanese music tour was really just a front for the group’s smuggling operation. He found himself conscripted by the pirates to help traffic Cuban contraband through the Mississippi Delta. As he generally disapproves of the Cuban trade embargo, Malcolm was more than happy to work with the group for a while, but when part of his left ear got snipped off in a spontaneous knife fight he decided that a life of crime was not for him. He jumped ship in Veracruz, Mexico, and headed for the hills.

“Malcolm is currently living at an undisclosed location in the Sierra Madre mountains with three loyal pet wolves he has nurtured from puppyhood. He thanks Columbia College for many fond memories, but most of all for supplying such vivid material for his strong and still active imagination.”
Yoonjin Ha has been rehearsing at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in NYC for a developing project involving opera, dance and theatre. 

After completion of his studies, he will take on an assignment as a detachment commander of an Aerial Delivery Unit in Nebraska.

Isabel Losada fostered her passion for art history this past summer as an intern at The Frick Collection in New York City. This fall she will attend the Courtauld Institute of Art in London to pursue a master’s in art history.

Yoonjin Ha '13 has been rehearsing at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in NYC for a developing project involving opera, dance and theatre.

Emmanuel Hiram Arnaud spent the summer in an internship at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts to pursue an M.F.A. in acting with the Class of 2016.

In early June, Kevin Zhai '12 hiked Mount Si in Seattle with Daphne Chen '14 and Christine Currie '12E.

Ryan Cho recently entered active duty in the Army and will attend the Quartermaster School in Fort Lee, Va., for four months.

Natassia Miller recently completed a road trip down the California coast, which she highly recommends as a “breathtaking and unforgettable” experience. She looked forward to joining Sanford C. Bernstein in July as an institutional equity research sales associate. She was to be working alongside Tanja Hansøn ‘11, her close friend and NSOP orientation leader.

Aaron Kohn arrived in Johannesburg in early June. There, he will be the director of a new museum in South Africa, the Museum of African Design. The museum is part of a large regeneration project in Johannesburg’s downtown area that uses the arts to stimulate cultural unity and progress.

Environmental science major Natalia Martinez spent the summer in Denali National Park Preserve, Alaska, where she works for Aramark. Her work there is focused on projects involving energy management, environmental management system planning, waste reduction and necessary feasibility assessments. In her spare time, when she isn’t taking care of her recently adopted sled dog, she enjoys hiking and playing softball.

I felt like a foreigner while discovering and understanding how everything worked. In addition, surprisingly, the English language became an obstacle again, as I felt that my proficiency was not enough for me to keep pace with the academics.

I learned to use support services, such as the Writing Center, which helped me improve my weaknesses. At the same time, I felt welcomed by the Columbia community because of its diversity, and I no longer had to be “careful” with my accent. Ultimately I grew academically, overcame obstacles and made the Dean’s List.

I would have never imagined that all these experiences would uniquely prepare me for my role, beginning last November, as a conduit between the East Hampton School District and its growing number of Spanish-speaking families. Based on the New York State Report Card for 2011–12, the percentage of Hispanic or Latino students in the district is 41, while the largest racial/ethnic group is white, at 51. I was hired to improve communication and thus facilitate broader access to district resources that are underused due to the language barrier and to create the opportunity for the meaningful participation of parents in promoting the academic growth of their children.

To accomplish this, I organized parent meetings throughout the district to help them understand the school system. For example, at the high school level there was a meeting that explained the graduation requirements, Regents exams, report cards and more. Parents also had a chance to meet their kids’ guidance counselors. In addition, workshops were created to teach parents how to use online tools to check their kids’ grades, attendance and so on. At the elementary level, parents were informed about the importance of reading and learned about common community resources such as library programs and town recreational activities.

Parent participation was an obstacle at the beginning, when only 18 showed up for a meeting. I had called of all Spanish-speaking families of high school students. However, these 18 parents helped me better understand their needs and concerns, which helped me to plan meetings and programs for the rest of the academic year. For the second meeting I called all Spanish-speaking parents ahead of time to inform them about the subjects that were going to be explained; I also advertised the meeting with flyers at markets and frequently visited places around the community, and I contacted the single Spanish radio station in the area. The number of parents who attended meetings grew from there, reaching as many as 170, so that we ultimately had 180 groups by grade level to allow for more meaningful participation.

Based on my own experiences as a high school and college student, and my mother’s experience, I have been able to identify and tackle specific concerns and obstacles that many Spanish-speaking families face in our school district. For example, I encountered one recently arrived student who didn’t know whether to take a bilingual social studies class taught in English that might be more challenging and put her grade at risk. However, when she learned about the available support such as extra help, she went ahead with the all-English class. For her and for many other recently arrived students, it was all about being aware of the available support services and using them productively.

The response from Spanish-speaking families in East Hampton has been outstanding. I have learned that many families had been seeking to become more involved in their children’s education but were limited because of the language barrier and cultural differences. It brings to mind my mother’s experience when she tried to become involved in the school to provide us with the necessary support. I remember she attended PTA meetings and such but was discouraged due to language and cultural differences. Parents like her who seek involvement or are intimidated by the school are now learning about available resources and can comfortably become engaged and take a more active role in the school and their children’s education.

I certainly learned a lot in my first year, and throughout this past summer I worked with administrators and school staff to reflect on last year and to develop a road map for this year. We will continue trying to increase communication with parents through meetings and to encourage their participation. With the support of school personnel we have planned school events, such as parent-teacher conferences and college information sessions, to accommodate Spanish-speaking families. I am optimistic that our school community will continue to provide our students with more opportunities to succeed regardless of their background.
Letters
(Continued from page 5)

used in refining uranium 235. At Columbia, my father worked alongside Enrico Fermi, Eugene F. Wigner, Edward Teller and Leo Szilard, all major figures in the Manhattan Project.

Everyone at the time knew that the Germans were working on a similar project and that someone was going to build a bomb. Later in his life, my father said he was glad it was the United States, and not Germany or Russia, who did it first. It was for our protection, he said.

However, my father had mixed feelings about the bomb. He was glad the war would soon be over as a result of its use and that it saved many American and Japanese lives that would have been lost in the planned American land invasion of Japan. Yet he was perturbed by the reports of the first use of the bomb delivered on Hiroshima. He didn’t know the United States was going to explode it. He thought we were two years away from completing the project.

After the war, my father worked on the design and construction of the Hanford, Wash., atomic plant. He was convinced atomic energy could be developed safely and for good and peaceful purposes.

My father contributed to classified sections of the National Nuclear Energy Series and to program reports for Nuclear Reactor and Process Plant Projects exceeding $250 million, and he was the author of 22 classified Plant Projects.

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Friday, October 25, 2013

Letters
(Continued from page 5)

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Corrections
The Summer 2013 issue contained several errors. Bookshef had an incorrect listing for You’re My Dawg, Dog: A Lexicon of Dog Terms for People although written by Donald Friedman, the book was not written by Donald Friedman ‘49. Also, in the listing for Ira Katznelson’s 66’s book Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time, Walter Lippmann was misidentified; he was, in fact, an author, a founding editor of The New Republic and an influential columnist. Finally, in the feature “Scholars in the Storm,” profiling Brian O’Connell ‘89, the Department of Education committed $200 million to repair schools throughout NYC, not only Scholars’ Academy.

CCT regrets the errors.
Ana Núñez '11 was featured in a June 10 article in The New York Times discussing her role as a liaison with the East Hampton (N.Y.) School District, working to facilitate communication between the district's administrators and teachers and Spanish-speaking families. Núñez herself attended schools in East Hampton after moving to the United States from Ecuador as a fifth-grader. Here, she reflects on her own transition, the challenges of being an international student and how her experiences learning to navigate American schools are helping her now.

I was 3 when my mother left my sister and me in Ecuador, in search of better work and opportunities in the United States. We were left with grandparents, aunts and uncles, who played the role of diligent parents. My mother was physically absent for six long years; however, during that time she was financially present, providing us with the best education and fulfilling our needs. Little did I know back then that everything we had was thanks to 20-hour shifts she was working in a cosmetics factory in New Jersey.

In 1999 my mother visited Ecuador for the first time since being away. I remember I was very excited to welcome her in the airport, although the visit turned out not as pleasant as I imagined, as she was essentially a stranger to me. Two months later, my sister and I moved to East Hampton, N.Y., to live with her. The first two years were miserable. I was thrown into an unknown environment where the only person I knew was my sister, who was going through her teenage years; I was in the fifth grade. Classes were taught in English and the majority of the students were American. There were about eight other kids who were learning English, including one who had recently arrived to the country like me. In addition, classes were taught differently than in Ecuador, with students switching classrooms for different classes.

The routine surrounding my schoolwork also changed drastically. In Ecuador, elementary school education is very demanding, and my aunt, who was my school guardian, would not allow me to obtain grades below a 19 (90s in the U.S.). I would get home, switch out of my uniform, have lunch and do homework. My aunt would check it all and if there were no mistakes I was allowed to play with kids from my neighborhood. To prepare for exams, I would study after finishing my homework and my aunt would verbally test me on the material — then send me back to study more if I made mistakes. Sometimes this process took hours and caused many tears. In addition, my aunt would test me in the morning before school while doing my hair or having breakfast. This was tedious and time-consuming, but it prepared me well.

In East Hampton, my routine was very different. I would arrive home by bus, have something to eat and hang around. It was up to me whether I did my schoolwork properly and on time. At first, my mother tried to check on my homework and mirror my aunt's support, but it was hard for her to be on top of it because of the language barrier, the difference in the educational systems and time constraints due to her work. That is when I replaced my aunt's academic regimen with my own initiative. I struggled at the beginning but soon became aware of resources at the school such as homework club and extra help, resources not common in Ecuador. After a while, I realized I was most comfortable when I was in school. I learned the language in two years and was able to enroll in advanced classes for the rest of my education.

By the time I got to high school things were smoother. I was lucky to be surrounded by classmates who were on the college track and advised by knowledgeable parents. The entire college process was foreign to me: In Ecuador, typically you take an entrance exam for the college you want to attend (there are limited choices) and then if you pass the test, you enroll — that's all. There are no such things as extracurricular activities, community service, SATs and so on. Here, I became aware of what I should be doing and how to prepare thanks to conversations in the classroom. I mirrored my classmates' trajectories, building up a resume and registering for all necessary tests for a competitive school. My mother's role in my education was limited to reviewing my report card and signing checks for standardized tests.

Columbia was the second college I visited, and the minute I got there, I knew I wanted to attend. My mother was hesitant because of the cost, but I wanted to risk it. Luckily Columbia provided me with a generous financial aid package, and I also received a Gates Millennium Scholarship. In addition, I held small jobs throughout the school year and during the summer. Columbia and the college system were overwhelming at first.

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Homecoming Football Quiz

To get in shape for the Homecoming game against Ivy League preseason favorite Penn on Saturday, October 19, try your hand at this quiz about Lions football through the years. (Answers on page 103.)

1. Name the two Lions who have won Ivy League Player of the Year honors.

2. What was the longest play in Columbia football history?

3. Who are Columbia’s all-time leaders in career rushing yardage and passing yardage?

4. Two Lions were listed among the NCAA’s 100 Most Influential Student Athletes, as chosen in 2006 in conjunction with the NCAA’s centennial. Name them.

5. How long was the longest passing play in Columbia football history?

6. How long was the longest running play in Columbia football history?

7. This Lion won the Maxwell Award as college football’s national Player of the Year in 1942. Name him.

8. Here’s an easy one: Who was the longest-serving coach in Columbia football history?

9. When was the last time a Columbia player returned a kickoff for a touchdown?

10. Two Lions won the National Football Foundation/College Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete award within the past decade. Name them.
Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, '53 GSAS is one of the world's leading scholars of Asian thought and ranks among the towering figures of modern Columbia history. Read about his remarkable life and career, page 20.
GLOBAL COLUMBIA

A Look at How Columbia College Helps Students Have Global Experiences
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By Ted Rabinowitz ’87

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When I met with our students studying abroad while traveling in Beijing, Paris, London, Hong Kong and Shanghai earlier this year, I asked them about their global experiences. What were they learning in the classroom? In their city? What surprised them? Did they feel prepared? How was their experience abroad complementing their experience on our campus? How did they see it as enhancing their future? How did it influence their career plans? What could we do as a college to maximize the value of their global experience?

Their answers confirmed that these were questions they were thinking about as well. Our students were exploring the global opportunities we offer to immerse themselves in another culture, to gain proficiency in another language, to learn how to be effective in an unfamiliar setting and to build contacts in other countries. They wanted to challenge themselves, to test different skills and to expand their personal capabilities. They were also thinking about how their experiences related to their studies and to their personal, professional and academic lives.

Our goal as a college is to prepare students to be involved and effective global citizens — and engaging people, places and ideas throughout the world is a big part of that. In part we propel that engagement right on campus. There are 729 international students in the College who come from 83 different countries; these students bring the world right here to Columbia College, so that a variety of perspectives, experiences and opinions are encountered in our classrooms and residence halls. The resulting interactions prepare all of our students for the lives they will have after graduation, wherever they go and in whatever field they choose to pursue.

But direct, firsthand international experiences, whether academic or co-curricular, are also key for our students. This is why I often say that “College Walk doesn’t extend from Amsterdam to Broadway; it extends around the world.” Alumni often tell me that having the chance to work or study overseas opened doors of understanding in a way that nothing else could have. Global experiences, they say, prove that students are self-sufficient, ambitious risk-takers who will challenge themselves and contribute to the world. They help students develop a clear recognition of the breadth of philosophical, political and social structures that underlie different cultures; provide the ability to interact effectively with people of all ages and across all cultures; and increase awareness and understanding of their own cultures. They also enhance language and communications skills. In this respect, global education is an extension of the College’s liberal arts curriculum. Like Contemporary Civilization, Lit Hum, Art Hum and Music Hum, and of course, the Global Core, an experience living or working abroad develops critical thinking, the ability to make good decisions and the self-confidence that defines every Columbia College graduate.

The College provides hundreds of international opportunities for students, from a year in Berlin studying abroad with Columbia faculty to a summer internship with a micro-lending company in Mumbai. Students can study abroad during the year, intern or take classes abroad during the summer or do academic research abroad. We offer 16 Columbia-sponsored study abroad programs, 110 opportunities to do internships in eight locations overseas and we are developing new programs and enhancing existing programs each year. We have also kicked off a Presidential Global Fellowship program, thanks to the support of President Lee C. Bollinger, which provides funding to first-years to study abroad during the summer on a Columbia program at any location where there is a Columbia Global Center. We want to provide every student who wants to do so the opportunity to study, work or do research abroad, and to offer opportunities for global experiences early in students’ undergraduate careers. Early global experiences are brought back to campus and become part of students’ lives for the remainder of their time in the College. Global experiences also influence students’ interactions with one another, so the value of these early global experiences extends to the entire student body. In effect, the experiences of individual students are leveraged for the benefit of all students.

While I was in Shanghai, one student asked me how I would judge whether a Columbia global experience was successful. Well, an international experience in one location must prepare a student to succeed in any place in the world. So, to answer her question I suggested the following measure of success: a student who has participated in one of our Columbia College global experiences is later sent blindfolded to a city somewhere in the world without preparation or knowing where she is going, and in two weeks has found a place to live, made a friend and gotten a job. Obviously, I was not being literal in the details here, or prescriptive in the time period, but I phrased the answer this way to focus on the key aspect of a global experience: enabling students to succeed personally and professionally no matter where life takes them. Global experiences, along with our broadly diverse and international student body, give our students understanding, life skills, self-sufficiency and competencies to adapt and thrive. International experiences, whether in Amman, Kyoto, Moscow, Santiago, Venice, or right here in Morningside Heights, are key to a Columbia College education and we are committed to expanding and enhancing these opportunities.
Letters to the Editor

Wm. Theodore de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS

I was so pleased to read the article about Professor de Bary [Fall 2013], as I enjoyed those courses in Asian studies that he and Donald Keene [’42, ’49 GSAS] taught. Their courses had a subtle but important impact on my outlook on life, for which I am most grateful.

How lucky we were to have had such fine professors as Ted de Bary; Jacques Barzun [’27, ’32 GSAS]; Moses Hadas [’30 GSAS]; Richard Hofstadter [’42 GSAS]; and many others. Certainly our lives were enriched by their efforts.

Thor Kuniholm ’56
Philadelphia

My compliments to Jamie Katz [’72, ’80 Business] for his great article on Professor de Bary. It certainly represents an enormous amount of research and writing. As usual, CCT is full of highly interesting reading, for which I thank you.

Sol Fisher ’36, ’38L
Pleasant Hill, Calif.

Three or more decades ago, while I was still engaged in alumni activities on an intensive scale, I met Jamie Katz [’72, ’80 Business], who at the time was the editor of CCT. I admired his work, told him so, and we became friends on several levels; quite by chance, he turned up as a neighbor in the Fire Island village of Ocean Beach, where my wife and I were summer residents for close to 40 years.

So when I saw his name as the author of a serious article about Ted de Bary [’41, ’53 GSAS], a scholar and teacher whom I have long admired, I read it with care and delight. Ted has never needed humanizing — he has always been completely human both as scholar and teacher — but Jamie’s comprehensive recount of his life and work and virtues was both vivid and moving, and all of it needed saying.

Reading it was more than a pleasure, for it brought my thoughts back not only to Ted (whom it was a pleasure to see and listen to at lunch in October to celebrate his newest book, The Great Civilized Conversation), but to Jamie as well, who himself worked miracles at CCT in his day.

Kudos to the subject, and to his celebrant!

Joe Russell ’49, ’52L
New York City

I was delighted to see that Ted de Bary [’41, ’53 GSAS] is still going strong. It was a great privilege to take the yearlong seminar in Asian classics that he and Ainslee Embree [’60 GSAS] taught. I guess my enthusiasm showed, because two years later when I was about to do some teaching at Columbia while working on my Ph.D., I was given the opportunity to help out in the course. With some ambivalence I settled on Western Humanities, but I hope
Core Curriculum Knows No Borders

Daniel Gordis '81 had no idea when he was reading Homer's *Iliad* and Vergil's *Aeneid* in Literature Humanities, or the works of Plato and Aristotle in Contemporary Civilization, that 35 years later he would be exporting those classics to a startup college nearly 6,000 miles from Morningside Heights.

"We're bringing Columbia's Core Curriculum to Shalem College in Jerusalem," says Gordis, an author, commentator and scholar who immigrated to Israel in 1998. Gordis is s.v.p., Koret Distinguished Fellow and chair of the Core Curriculum at Shalem (the name means "complete" in Hebrew) College, which opened its doors to its first class of 50 students in October.

Shalem College is the first school in Israel based on the American model of liberal arts education; as such, Gordis says it will fulfill "a long unmet but very profound need in Israeli society." Other colleges there follow the European model where students choose a career path upon entering college and take courses designed to prepare them to work in that field. "There is no place anywhere in the Jewish state where there's a core curriculum that everyone takes regardless of his or her focus of study," says Gordis. "It's a way of creating not just an amalgam of courses but a four-year conversation. We are creating a community of learners."

Gordis was among a group of faculty and administrators from Shalem College that spent time in September meeting in New York with faculty and administrators from Columbia's Core Curriculum in preparation for the new school's opening. "It was quite an experience to be back in Hamilton Hall so many years later," he notes.

Gordis, who earned a master's and rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a doctorate in social ethics at Southern Cal, was the founding dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism, the first rabbinical college on the West Coast. That caught the attention of leaders of the Shalem Center, an Israeli think tank created in 1994, who were exploring the launch of a liberal arts college. "I embraced it and became involved," Gordis says.

Shalem College is located at Kiryat Moriah in Jerusalem, on a campus rented from the Jewish Agency and near numerous other educational institutions. It offers a B.A. and is accredited by Israel's Council for Higher Education. The first cohort of students will choose between two major tracks of study: Jewish thought and philosophy or Middle Eastern and Islamic studies; founders plan to add other majors as the school grows. Classes are taught in Hebrew but all students are expected to be fluent in English and students in the Middle Eastern and Islamic studies track also must know Arabic. All students in the first class are Jewish, although Gordis and other school officials say a concerted effort was made to recruit Arab students and the hope is that Arabs will enroll in future years. All students are required to do community service, helping nearby Jewish and Arab residents.

For Gordis, helping to shape the humanities curriculum of Shalem College around "small classes with real conversations" and "a reverence for texts" is the latest step in a journey that found its course at the College. In a column published in *The Jerusalem Post* on October 18, Gordis wrote, "Columbia imbued many of us with a sense that ideas matter, that profound thinkers ought to be one's lifelong companions; we hope that at Kiryat Moriah, Shalem's students will emerge with similar commitments."

For more information about Shalem College, go to shalem.ac.il.

Professor de Bary will be glad to hear that when it came time for me to teach some of the same texts we'd read (like the *Tao te Ching*, *Monkey* or Gandhi's *Autobiography*) in "great books" courses I was able to draw on what I'd learned from him and his colleagues.

I recall two other acts of his kindness: the year after I graduated from CC, an essay I'd done for Professor de Bary's course appeared in *King's Crown Essays*, my first published work but a total surprise — I assume he recommended it. And sometime around 1969 he attempted to talk sensibly with me about the Columbia "troubles," but I'm afraid my anti-war passion was too high to listen with an attentive ear.

Gary Shapiro ’63, ’70 GSAS
Richmond, VA.

I took Oriental Civilizations with Theodore de Bary ['41, ’53 GSAS], Donald Keene [’42,
Remembering Karl-Ludwig Selig

About 30 Columbia grads met at 9:30 a.m. on October 19 at the Columbia Rowing Boathouses at Baker Athletics Complex before the Homecoming game, right on the shore of the Harlem River across from the big “C” on the cliff in Riverdale. The gathering was a memorial service for Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig. Some knew the professor very well through many years of political unrest in China, perhaps spotting a cliché lying in wait and formulating a way around it. From the back of the room, someone called out, someone with far more chutzpah than I, to offer the suggestion that perhaps the region in question had been “beset by civil strife.” De Bary roared with laughter, and so could the rest of us.

Jerry Oster ’64
CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

We saw the boat named for the professor some years ago, as he was a great fan of rowing, having been a varsity swimmer at Ohio State after coming to America from Germany in 1938 (with a Nazi exit visa, which was displayed quite informally among other documents and photos). At 10 a.m. we gathered on the dock jutting out into the river. After a brief introduction by Ted Allegaert ’85, Dennis Kleinberg ’84 played Taps as the professor’s ashes were emptied into the Harlem River. We recited the Kaddish (Jewish memorial prayer) in the Sephardic style of the 15th-century Spanish Jews, which I guessed was fitting for a professor who spoke Spanish and loved Don Quixote.

We walked up to the balcony of the new 1929 Boathouse on the second floor, looked at some photos and personal artifacts while Brahms’ German Requiem was played (Selig sind die da lied tragen ... Selig sind die loten ... Blessed are they that mourn ... Blessed are the dead ...) We lingered and talked and drank champagne in his honor till noon. This was his will, his wish — no formal funeral, no official University-sanctioned event, just his students and friends who will always remember him, and a very special Homecoming.

Dr. Joel Halto ’74
GREAT NECK, N.Y.

Dr. George Yancopoulos ’80, ’86 GSAS, ’87 P&S

I enjoyed the article “Vision Quest” [Summer 2013]. I thank the College for posting the 2013 John Jay Awards Dinner speeches on YouTube (youtube.com/watch?v=J2570255[mL]), as my medical practice would not let me get away to attend the dinner. I recall Dr. George Yancopoulos ['80, '86 GSAS, '87 P&S] as a fellow Columbia College student heading to freshman football after we both listened to a lecture by our biochemistry professor and the current chief scientific officer of Sequenom, Dr. Charles Cantor '63. Once outside the lecture hall, for lightweight football, Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC, now chair of Columbia’s Board of Trustees, engaged students for a different lesson. Of course, the recent John Jay Awards Dinner reunited not only George and Bill but also reminds what other excitements and advancements our Columbia will help foster among students, faculty and coaches.

Thank you for the excellent journalism. It keeps many of us connected to Columbia past, present and future.

Dr. Dennis T. Costakos ’80
LA CROSSE, WIS.

Football, Basketball and CU Branding

Like it or not, performance in the major sports is partially how the public “brands” our academic institutions. Even though Columbia has ranked near the top of the nation’s universities for years, the Columbia brand has become synonymous with losing because of the performance of its football and basketball teams. (This branding of Columbia was true even before the 44-game football losing streak during the mid-’80s.) Of all the Ivy League schools, Columbia has gone the longest without winning a football or basketball championship; 52 years in football and 45 years in basketball. Every other Ivy League university has won multiple titles since the inception of the league except Columbia. For a number of reasons, I believe continued participation in these sports and the Ivy League is important. However, our teams should be competitive and win at least occasional championships. We are a university that strives for excellence and it should be so in all of our endeavors.

Involvement in athletics either as a performer or a spectator helps both groups bond with the University. Attending Columbia football and basketball games is a social event, a chance to spend time with classmates and other Columbia friends while watching the games. The bonding of athletes with the College is evident in their continued participation in activities as alumni and the high percentage of them who donate financially. Athletes also increase campus diversity.

If we are to change the perception of our brand, we must admit its truth before deciding how to address it. There needs to be an open debate among the administration, faculty, student body and alumni to bring about the necessary transformation. The time to start is now, with another disastrous football season under our belts.

Robert A. Levine ’58
WESTPORT, CONN.

Alexander Hamilton Award Dinners

Reading that Joel I. Klein ’67 will receive the next Alexander Hamilton Medal [Around the Quads, Fall 2013] brought back memories of the 1949 Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner. I had graduated in June and entered the Business School that fall. Through Joe Coffee ’41, then a College development officer, I had gotten a job as a part-time assistant secretary of the Columbia College
Sound Savior Carl Haber ’80
Wins MacArthur Fellowship

BY ALEX SACHARE ’71

Carl Haber ’80, ’85 GSAS, an experimental physicist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, Calif., was among 13 men and 11 women named 2013 MacArthur Fellows in September. Known informally as “genius grants,” the fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation come with a stipend of $625,000 paid across five years.

Haber was cited for developing technologies for the preservation and recapturing of deteriorating sound recordings, technologies that arose from his work on instruments for use with high-energy colliders. Recordings made on wax cylinders, lacquer discs and other materials have been retrieved by Haber and his colleagues, who use a technique that transforms visual data into a digital sound file.

“About 10 years ago, I happened to hear a report on NPR about the Library of Congress and their large collections of historic sound recordings, which described them in some cases as being delicate, damaged, deteriorating and so forth,” Haber explained in a video released by the MacArthur Foundation. “I intrinsically appreciated when I heard this that this was an important thing — it’s part of our culture and part of our history — and I had an idea that you might be able to use some of the same very detailed techniques that we were using to restore the sound without ever touching them.”

As anyone who ever owned a vinyl record knows, every time you play one, the contact of the stylus or needle wears down the grooves. Add in the scratches that come with use and general wear and tear, and gradually the sound quality of the record deteriorates. The same holds true with other materials used for earlier recordings, including lacquer, wax and aluminum.

“Our approach is in part based on photography,” said Haber. “We take a picture of a phonograph record. This photograph is taken with great magnifica-
tion; we’re talking about gigapixels. There are techniques which are called image processing, which can take an image and mathematically digest the information in it and can extract in detail the motion of the groove and calculate what sound would be played if you indeed played it with a needle. If the record is broken, scratched, damaged in some way, we can still apply this process. It’s all done as a mathematical algorithm on a digital computer.

“We actually got to hear, last year, Alexander Graham Bell’s voice for the first time. You can hear the man speaking — that was amazing.”

The method also has been used to successfully play an 1860 phonograph, the oldest known sound recording of a human voice, as well as a 100-year-old recording of the voice of author Jack London.

The end product of Haber’s efforts is digital audio, which can be played on most electronic devices. “This isn’t some exotic laboratory sound that can only be heard in these labs,” noted Carlene Stephens, a curator at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. “We can hear these voices that have been lost anywhere in the world, and that’s thrilling. A door has been opened, and on the other side are people, places, things and ideas we didn’t have the imagination to know existed.”

Haber has been affiliated since 1986 with the Berkeley Lab, where he is a senior scientist in the Physics Division. Since beginning research on the preservation and restoration of recorded sound in 2002, he has worked with archivists at the Library of Congress, the Thomas Edison National Historic Park, the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology and the National Historic Park, the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology and the Smithsonian Institution, among others.

Winning a MacArthur Fellowship left Haber speechless. “If you’re in research, in academia, people know about the MacArthur Fellowship,” he said. “But it’s so unlikely that anyone would ever get a MacArthur award, I just didn’t know what to say. The whole thing is a bit of a shock.”

Haber said the grant would allow him to continue his research and to travel globally to restore recordings from remote parts of the world.

“I continue to be excited by any scientific or technical challenge where we can learn things and find elegant solutions to problems that matter to people, be they scientists, historians, ethnographers, anthropologists. It’s a privilege and a pleasure to do that.”

For more about Haber and his work, go to macfound.org/fellows/892.

Madigan Named Arts and Sciences EVP

David Madigan, who joined Columbia’s faculty in 2007 and the following year became chair of the Department of Statistics, was named e.v.p. and dean of the faculty of Arts and Sciences in September. Madigan, who had held that role on an interim basis since March, succeeds Nicholas Dirks, who left to become chancellor of UC Berkeley.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences consists of 29 departments in the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences; five schools: Columbia College, the School of General Studies, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of the Arts and the School of Continuing Education; as well as numerous institutes and centers.

Under a recent restructuring, Arts and Sciences is led by a three-person executive committee consisting of Madigan, College Dean James J. Valentini and GSAS Dean Carlos J. Alonso, a structure Madigan endorses. “This is a very complex organization and having an explicit leadership team that comprises representatives from the core arts and sciences is great, and it works extremely well,” he told Spectator.

Asked about the relationship between Arts and Sciences and the College, which had been contentious but improved under the leadership of Dirks and former College dean Austin E. Quigley, Madigan told Spec, “First and foremost, we attract amazing students and we have amazing faculty, and with that comes a huge responsibility. We have a huge responsibility to prepare them well and to give them an education that’s relevant to today’s global, interconnected world. In the past, there’s been some tension between Columbia College and Arts and Sciences and these tensions are utter nonsense. We are a group of faculty and students, and so we either all win or we all lose. We are absolutely in this together.”

Madigan mentioned improving faculty diversity as one of his priorities.

“We have a wonderfully diverse student body. We have an appallingly un-diverse faculty, and this is not an easy problem to solve,” he said. “From the trustees down, there is a strong institutional commitment to try to help with this. This is a major issue for us right now.”

New Core Course To Replace Frontiers

Dean James J. Valentini has appointed a 17-member committee of faculty, students and alumni to develop a Core course that will replace Frontiers of Science, the one-semester course taken by first-years that was introduced to the Core on an experimental basis in 2004 and has been reviewed and revamped periodically since then. The Educational Planning and Policy Committee conducted the most recent review of Frontiers in 2012–13. “The charter of that committee was to see if Frontiers of Science should be continued in its current form or if we should do something else, and the committee said we should do something else,” Valentini said.

In announcing the committee in a September 27 entry on his blog, Valentini mentioned “a need to integrate the course with the rest of the Core, connecting it in particular to Contemporary Civilization, because science is most certainly a central part of ‘contemporary civilization.’ We also need to ask what the best route is to engage students as active and enthusiastic scholars pursuing the knowledge and understanding that we seek to impart in this course. How do we engage students in this Core science course the way we do in Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization?”

The committee, which has been meeting since September and is expected to complete its work by the end of the 2013–14 academic year, is co-chaired by Peter deMenocal, professor of earth and environmental sciences and chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences, and Philip Kitcher, the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy.

To read Valentini’s blog entry and see the list of committee members, go to college.columbia.edu/about/dean/blog.
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Edward Mendelson Ph.D., the Lionel Trilling Professor in the Humanities, is a professor of English and comparative literature specializing in 19th-century British literature and 20th-century British and American literature. He earned a B.A. from Rochester and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins, and has taught at Columbia since 1981. He is the literary executor of the Estate of W.H. Auden, and his books include Early Auden (1981), Later Auden (1999) and The Things That Matter: What Seven Classic Novels Have to Say About the Stages of Life (2006).

Tell me about your background and how you came to be a professor. I grew up in New York and went to Stuyvesant H.S. I thought I was going to be a biologist and follow in the family tradition of doctors, and then I discovered I enjoyed thinking about books more than I enjoyed thinking in the lab. One thing that affected me a lot in college happened at a dinner with a professor at the end of a course, when someone asked him, “Well, you taught the standard canonical list of authors — but who do you like most?” He said, “I don’t like any of those canonical ones the most; I like so-and-so more.” And I thought, it’s possible actually to have a personal point of view rather than to accept what was told. That gave me a sense of personal engagement with the material that’s stuck with me ever since.

What drew you to your field of study? In graduate school I started reading W.H. Auden’s poems and I discovered, here’s someone who knew more about reality than I do. That was striking because an awful lot of literature thinks about human beings as myths. But if I see someone as the embodiment of beauty or wisdom or something like that, it gets in the way of perceiving him or her as an individual. Virginia Woolf, Auden, all of the writers I admire most, are tempted by myths because they make great poems and great stories — but then they draw back and say, but I realize that the myth gets in the way of seeing who the real person is.

What do you teach? Generally Lit Hum — I love teaching the Core — and an undergraduate seminar in Yeats, Eliot and Auden, which has become a class in how to read poems. People often come into class thinking of poetry as an instrument for generating moods. Someone will say, “This poem reminds me of my grandmother”; and another person says, “No, it reminds me of a spring day.” So in this seminar, without having planned to, we’ll spend two hours on a 12-line poem by Yeats and seeing how you can read it as having a discourse, as having something to say where you can make sense of the words.

Can you describe your approach to teaching Lit Hum? I try to get students excited by the books. I like to focus on the text as a way of thinking about things that are also happening now. For example, in The Iliad, we discussed the old divinities and the new divinities are in a battle and finally Athena establishes a new order to settle the question because that’s the only way to deal with these tribal disputes. And after the law court rules that neither side is guilty, the old divinities say we don’t like this decision; we’re going to send a plague. Do you recognize that in today’s headlines? “We don’t like the laws so we’re going to destroy everything.” So I don’t care whether years later they can remember the details of the books, but if they can think about reality more clearly because they’ve read these books, that’s the point.

What are your current projects? I wrote a batch of reviews for The New York Review of Books about American writers in the 20th century, and I realized could I have ever cared anything for him? An hour later, she’s thinking he is the most wonderful man she had ever met.

What about a talent you would like to have? I’m not going to answer that either.

I guess it would depend on when I ask you? That’s right. I’m sorry; I realize that you’re asking a standard question for this kind of interview, but it goes against the grain to describe oneself as a simple cartoon figure.

Five Minutes with ... Edward Mendelson

Is it a variation on that question to ask, if you weren’t a professor, what would you be? Yes. A life is … everyone has too many choices to talk about life in this either-or way. I can’t do it. I’m always amazed at people who can.

We don’t like the laws so we’re going to destroy everything.” So I don’t care whether years later they can remember the details of the books, but if they can think about reality more clearly because they’ve read these books, that’s the point.

What’s your favorite place to be? I can’t answer a question like that. It suggests human beings are in a steady state rather than people with a history. I like to be one place at 9 in the morning and one place at 10 in the morning. One reason I admire Woolf is that she, more than any other novelist, recognizes how people can think completely different things from one moment to the next. At the beginning of the dinner party in To the Lighthouse, Mrs. Ramsay looks at her husband and wonders, how

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The ninth annual Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend took place October 11–12. This year’s focus was multi-dimensional partnerships and how alumni and alumni organizations can collaborate in new ways with one another and with the University. The weekend opened on Friday night at Lincoln Center with two Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) panels, “The 21st Century City: Rethinking Partnerships” and “Experimenting with Our Urban Future.” Attendees then enjoyed a reception in The Atrium in Rose Hall. Saturday’s events, all held on campus, opened with breakfast roundtables on various aspects of volunteer involvement (below, left). The remainder of the day featured panels and discussion groups, a luncheon and an alumni book fair. The weekend closed with the CAA Alumni Medalists Gala, at which the 10 alumni honored at Commencement with an Alumni Medal — including College medalists Stephen L. Buchman ’59, ’62L; Dr. Marvin M. Lipman ’49, ’54 P&S; and Ira B. Malin ’75 — were feted at a dinner in Low Rotunda. Speaking on Saturday were (below, middle), from left to right, Huei Ong ’09, ’09E; Mozelle Thompson ’76, ’79 SIPA, ’81L; and Matthew Roskot ’04 at the “Maximizing Social Media for Volunteers” panel, and (right) Dean James J. Valentini on the state of the College.

PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT: MICHAEL DAMES, BRUCE GILBERT, BRUCE GILBERT
Muhly sound, and it comes through con¬ and said that “Nico Muhly has a voice, a
called it “a dark, ambitious and innovative work”
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aged to do so by mysterious people he encountered in an Internet chat room. In its review, The New York Times called it “a dark, ambitious and innovative work” and said that “Nico Muhly has a voice, a Muhly sound, and it comes through consistently in his opera.”

John S. “Rip” Ripandelli ‘40 has been recognized as a knight of the Legion of Honor, France’s highest prize, for his military service during WWII. Ripandelli was one of six Floridians honored by François Delattre, the Ambassador of the French Republic to the United States, at a ceremony at the Old Capitol in Tallahassee, Fl., on April 25. The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of exceptional merit.

Susanna Wolff ’10 has been named editor-in-chief of the comedy website CollegeHumor.com, overseeing and directing all editorial content and maintaining the overall tone of the site. She began her career at CollegeHumor in 2007 as an editorial intern, joined the staff upon graduation as articles editor and rose through the ranks to her most recent position as managing editor. Throughout the years, Wolff has written more than 500 articles for CollegeHumor, including “Facebook News Feed History of the World,” in which she translated the entire history of the world into the style of Facebook news feeds.

Director Bill Condon ’76’s latest film, The Fifth Estate, premiered on October 18. It’s the story of Julian Assange, the founder and editor-in-chief of the controversial, news-leaking website WikiLeaks. Condon won an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for his 1998 film Gods and Monsters and was nominated in the same category four years later for Chicago. He also wrote the screenplay for and directed Dreamgirls (2006) and directed The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (2011) and Part 2 (2012).

Deborah Waxman ’89, a rabbi and historian of American Judaism, became president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College on January 1. Waxman, who had been v.p. for governance, will oversee both the seminary in Wynocote, Pa., and the congregational union, an umbrella for approximately 100 Reconstructionist congregations. She is believed to be the first woman to head a Jewish congregational union and the first woman rabbi to lead a Jewish seminary.

Amanda Peet ’94 has added playwrighting to her list of credits. After working steadily as a film, television and stage actress for nearly two decades, Peet made her professional playwrighting debut with The Commons of Pensa cola, a Manhattan Theatre Club production that opened at New York’s City Center on November 21. The play stars Blythe Danner and, in a role Peet originally conceived for herself, Sarah Jessica Parker. Peet explained in an interview with The New York Times that she chose not to keep the role because she thought Parker “would probably succeed in the role more fully than I would. But I also felt it’d be better for me as an actress, and better for the play, to try to concentrate on one thing. I was scared I wouldn’t have perspective if I was both performing and then making changes to the script, especially my first time out. I thought I might get immersed and lost.” The play focuses on a mother-daughter relationship after the mother is forced to leave her luxurious New York life because of her husband’s Wall Street scandal.

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.
Jack Dorsey

ATITTER: Jack Dorsey, chair of Twitter and CEO of Square, offered advice and inspiration to an audience of entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs in Roone Arledge Auditorium on September 16. The event was organized by the Center for Career Education and the Columbia Entrepreneurs Organization and opened Startup Weekend, presented by the Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs. Dorsey noted that much of Twitter’s popularity was due not to its creators but to its users, pointing to @ and the retweet as examples. “All these systems weren’t created or invented by us but by people using the system,” he said. Asked about balancing schoolwork and entrepreneurship, Dorsey, a dropout from three universities, said there is no right answer. “Everyone learns differently. Some people thrive in a university atmosphere and some people don’t. I was learning more outside of my university than inside it. It’s the type of person that you are.”

WE’RE NO. 4 (AGAIN): Columbia was ranked fourth for the fourth consecutive year in U.S. News & World Report’s annual rankings of national universities, announced in September. Princeton headed the list and Harvard, which had been tied with Princeton atop the 2013 rankings, dropped to second, with Yale retaining the third spot. Chicago, which had been tied with Columbia for fourth a year ago, dropped into a tie for fifth with Stanford. Duke, MIT and Penn tied for seventh and CalTech and Dartmouth tied for 10th. Schools were ranked on 16 factors, including graduation and retention rates, class sizes and alumni giving. Columbia’s ranking is based on data from three undergraduate schools: the College, Engineering and General Studies.

ARTS & SCIENCES: Six Columbia professors have been elected members of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences: John Stratton Howley, professor of religion at Barnard; Donald C. Hood, the James F. Bender Professor in Psychology and professor of ophthalmic science; John D. Huber, professor of political science and departmental chair; Hervé Jacquet, professor emeritus of mathematics; Dung H. Phong, professor of mathematics; and Barbara G. Tversky, professor of psychology and education at Teachers College. They are among 198 new members of the academy, which was founded in 1790 and includes more than 250 Nobel laureates, who were inducted on October 12.

TEACH: Columbia ranked sixth among medium-sized schools sending graduating seniors to Teach For America’s 2013 teaching corps, with 35 of its newest alumni joining the nonprofit—up eight places from a year ago. Columbia has ranked among the top 20 schools for its size for the past six years, and 358 alumni have signed on with TFA in its 23-year history. TFA, which recruits students from all disciplines who are willing to commit two years to teach in high-need schools, had 11,000 members teaching in 48 urban and rural regions across the country this fall.

ENDOWED: Columbia’s endowment portfolio produced a return of 11.5 percent for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, raising the total value of the endowment at that point to $8.2 billion. Columbia’s endowment returns over the past five and 10 years are the highest among peer endowments larger than $1 billion, according to the University. “A key part of our success in maintaining Columbia’s solid financial position has been the consistent success of our endowment investment managers year after year,” said University President Lee C. Bollinger. “Over the past decade, our investment performance has consistently outpaced both the market and our peers, helping Columbia compete academically with other great universities that have far larger endowments.”

GRANTED: The interdisciplinary team of Virginia Cornish ’91, the Helena Rubinstein Professor of Chemistry, Lars Dietrich, assistant professor of biological sciences, and Kenneth Shepard, professor of electrical engineering and biomedical engineering, won a three-year, $1 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to further their research in combining biological components and solid-state electronics.

LIBRARIES: The Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML) has acquired two collections, one from the foundation of Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev and the other from Mad Magazine illustrator Al Jaffee. The Serge Prokofiev Foundation chose Columbia as the repository for archival material from Prokofiev’s 18 years in the West, 1919–36, while Jaffee, 92, and his wife, Joyce, donated the archives from his 70-year career, including 58 years with Mad. In addition, RBML has received a $175,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the publication of volumes 4 through 6 of the Selected Papers of John Jay, a scholarly edition of the papers of the first chief justice of the United States, a member of the Class of 1764.

In addition, the Libraries’ Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research has acquired the papers of Amnesty International activist Joshua Rubenstein ’71. Rubenstein worked for Amnesty International 1975–2012 and was its Northeast regional director for three decades.

Lisa Carnoy ’89, a university trustee and head of global capital markets for Bank of America Merrill Lynch, spoke with students about her profession at the fall semester’s first Columbia College Dinner & Discussion program, sponsored by the Center for Career Education, on September 17.

PHOTO: BRUCE GILBERT
Ben Hirschfeld ’16 Gives the Gift of Clean Light

By Nathalie Alonso ’08

Ben Hirschfeld ’16’s impetus to start Lit! Solar (litsolar.org), a program that has distributed sun-powered lanterns to more than 10,000 people in the developing world, emerged from a simple question: How do schoolchildren who lack electricity study after dark?

Hirschfeld was a high school freshman when he posed this question to his neighbor, Pam Allyn ’88 TC, founder and executive director of the international literacy nonprofit LitWorld (litworld.org). Allyn explained that in places like Kibera, Kenya, where LitWorld works and where Lit! Solar’s main program now operates, many people lack electricity and rely on kerosene lamps for light. Not only does kerosene pose a fire hazard, Hirschfeld learned, but it is also expensive, provides only dim light and, because of its smoke, can cause respiratory diseases, including lung cancer. Having suffered from respiratory ailments growing up, he was spurred to action by the findings. “Because of my own struggle with learning while not feeling well because of respiratory issues, I could empathize and understand how hard it must be,” says Hirschfeld, who after further research determined that solar lanterns charged by daylight were a solution.

Under the auspices of LitWorld, Lit! Solar began as a pilot program in 2009. Hirschfeld set up a booth at a farmers market in his hometown of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., and raised funds to send lanterns to 20 students at the Red Rose School in Kibera, the biggest slum in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, through LitWorld’s local partner organizations. After a second round of distribution, he sent questionnaires to assess the effectiveness of the solar lanterns. “It turned out that the kids were studying a lot more, that they felt more confident in school and that [the families] were saving a lot of money on kerosene,” says Hirschfeld.

It was in July 2011, however, when he met people like Doreen Acheing during a three-week stint as a teaching assistant at the Red Rose School, that he truly realized his project’s potential to improve a family’s health and finances. Acheing, a mother of two, reported her children’s chronic pneumonia disappeared when the family abandoned its kerosene lamp in favor of a solar lantern. The $8 lantern, says Hirschfeld, also enabled Acheing to work after sundown, which allowed her to expand her business of sewing school uniforms and raise money to purchase a second lantern for relatives.

“Being there and putting a human face on all of these issues really brought it all home for me — both the huge difference we could make in people’s lives with this tiny piece of technology and the humbleness that comes from knowing how many people are still dealing with the same problems,” says Hirschfeld.

In Kibera, Lit! Solar promotes the lanterns on the radio, at parent meetings at schools, and at festivals. Recipients do not have any upfront costs for the lanterns; instead, they are asked to donate, over time, part of the money they save on kerosene to help provide lanterns for others. “The families get all the health benefits, studying benefits and also economic benefits, because the parents can work at night,” says Hirschfeld.

Lit! Solar has also donated solar lanterns to participants of LitWorld’s LitClubs, which focus on empowering and educating girls in places like the Philippines and Haiti, and has expanded its scope to include Fiji and a Native American reservation in Arizona.

During the academic year, Hirschfeld oversees the overall operation of Lit! Solar and pursues opportunities to extend the program’s reach, whether it means networking or giving his input on a contract agreement with a new partner organization in Kenya. (He also performs with the Columbia University Kingsmen.) Allyn praises Hirschfeld’s ability to break down an ambitious project into manageable tasks. “He has great ideas, has created excellent protocols for the work and carries things through,” she says. “He thinks big but also understands that each of the successes comes from step-by-step work, which needs to be meticulously done.”

Hirschfeld, who is pondering majors in sociology and sustainable development, has garnered financial support for his project in the form of several prizes, including a $36,000 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award from the Helen Diller Family Foundation, which recognizes Jewish teen leaders. He also has received a Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, which carries a $2,500 cash award, and a $2,000 BIC 4 Good Grant from DoSomething.org.

In September, Hirschfeld was invited by the Clinton Global Initiative to attend the CGI Annual Meeting, a gathering of global leaders from businesses, nonprofits, NGOs and governments, at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. There he met President Bill Clinton, of whose nonprofit work Hirschfeld has long been a fan. “What [Clinton] does is connect people, and the other attendees I met there will, I’m sure, help take Lit! Solar to the next level,” he says.

Nathalie Alonso ’08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website.
Arthur C. Danto '53 GSAS, the Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, an art critic and a philosopher, died on October 25, 2013, in Manhattan. He was 89.

Danto was one of the most prominent art critics of the Postmodern era. He was famously influenced by a 1964 New York Stable Gallery show that featured one of Andy Warhol's iconic reproductions of the Brillo box. Frustrated that the sculpture was indistinguishable from an ordinary object, Danto wondered what made it "art." In his 1964 essay "The Artworld," published in The Journal of Philosophy, he proposed that art became "art" because it was deemed meaningful by an artistically literate community — the "artworld."

Danto became a champion of avant-garde artists and the pop-art movement and was fascinated by how artists such as Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein could transform ordinary objects into art. His essay "The End of Art" radically proposed that art history had come to an end; that art was a medium of individuals and that in the contemporary world, a plurality of approaches would prevent any single style from dominating. In his book What Art Is, published this past March, Danto concluded that art was "the embodiment of an idea," forging the aesthetic and instead conveying "the power of meaning and possibility of truth."

Born in Ann Arbor, Mich., on January 1, 1924, Danto was raised in Detroit. He served for two years in the Army during WWII and was stationed in Italy and in North Africa. Danto studied art and art history at Wayne State, graduating in 1948. He aspired to become an artist specializing in woodcuts but took advantage of the GI Bill to study philosophy and earned a Ph.D. from GSAS. Danto began teaching philosophy at Columbia in 1951 and chaired the department for several years. He was named the Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy after his 1992 retirement.

Following such famous art critics as Russell Sturgis, Henry James and Clement Greenberg, Danto became The Nation's art critic in 1984; he held this post until 2009 and was the longest-serving art critic in the magazine's history. Danto's critical style was influenced by his education, specifically the theories of 19th-century German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. In The Nation's article "Remembering Arthur Danto," Peter G. Meyer wrote that what distinguished Danto from other critics was "his ability to discuss the actual meaning of a particular work of art, and even where it was exhibited, something that few critics dared to, or cared to, do on a regular basis."

Danto published some 30 books including Encounters & Reflections: Art in the Historical Present, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1990; Beyond the Brillo Box: The Visual Arts in Post-Historical Perspective; and Unnatural Wonders: Essays from the Gap Between Art & Life, a collection of his essays and reviews.

Danto is survived by his second wife, Barbara Westman Danto, whom he married in 1980; and daughters, Ginger and Elizabeth. His first wife, Shirley Rovetch, died in 1978.

Karl Daum '15

Request for Nominations

The Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors requests nominations for new members. If you or a fellow alumnus/a have an interest in being an active volunteer leader on the CCAA board, please contact us at ccalumni@columbia.edu for more information or to submit a nomination.
Roar, Lion, Roar

Olympian Nzingha Prescod ’15 Balances Fencing, Academics

By Elena Hecht ’09 Barnard

It is 10 a.m. on a Thursday and Nzingha Prescod ’15, biting her lower lip, is poised in a deep squat on a strip in the fencing gym, eyes focused directly ahead, right arm gently bent — relaxed hand up, creased elbow down — like a cat ready to pounce. A blond boy stands to her right, holding a glove a few inches above her eye level. With no warning he drops the glove and, in a moment in which time seems to slow, Prescod extends her arm and, with a deliberate yet delicate power, drives her right foot forward into a lunge, catching the glove in her right hand with a practiced accuracy.

It is early September, and Prescod is not yet back to fencing after an intense summer of competition. But from even a glimpse of the 21-year-old’s conditioning workout it is clear that her footwork is exceptional and her composure otherworldly — not surprising for a Columbia fencing team captain who competed in the London 2012 Olympics. Couple that with her history-making gold in May at the Marseille Foil Grand Prix, a triumph that made her the first U.S. women’s foil fencer to win a Grand Prix title, and there’s no doubt: Prescod is a champion.

She is also no stranger to New York fencing. The Brooklyn native has been fencing foil, one of three weapons used in the sport, since she was 9, when her mother brought her for lessons at the Peter Westbrook Foundation (PWF), an organization founded by six-time Olympian Peter Westbrook that brings fencing to inner-city children. From the start, Prescod liked to win, and that thirst for success drove — and in many ways continues to drive — her dedication. For someone whose inclination to smile seems as natural as her skill with a sword, her fervor for athletic perfection is surprising — and Prescod knows it. “I keep it really hush-hush, but deep inside I’m super competitive,” she says.

But ambition alone does not beget success. Michael Aufrichtig, Columbia’s head fencing coach and former chairman of the New York Athletic Club fencing program, notes that Prescod — who is currently ranked No. 1 in the United States and eighth in the world — is in optimal physical form for the sport. “Also, mentally she is like that cool, calm, detached warrior,” says Aufrichtig, who also draws attention to the combined power of Prescod’s precise footwork and her sense of timing. “I feel she is one of the most talented, strong, creative, most impressive fencers in the United States and in the world.”

It may seem daunting to balance an internationally successful athletics career with the rigor of a Columbia education, but for Prescod it is old hat: She has been harmonizing her academic life with sports-related travel since she was 13. This aptitude for maintaining balance has allowed Prescod, who came to the College from Stuyvesant H.S. and is majoring in political science, to strive for both fencing and academic success. She men-

Fencer Nzingha Prescod ’15, who is currently ranked No. 1 in the United States and eighth in the world, with her gold medal from the 2011 Junior World Championships, held in Amman, Jordan.

PHOTO: MIKE DOTE

SCOREBOARD

4 Number of matches Zack Hernandez ’16 won to capture the 184-lb. division of the Michigan State Open wrestling tournament.

5 Number of matches won by the Columbia men’s doubles team of Ashok Narayana ’15 and Max Schnur ’15 en route to the ITA/USTA National Indoor Intercollegiate Tennis Championship.

8 The highest national ranking achieved by Columbia’s Ivy League champion men’s cross country team this season.
tions making the Dean’s List as a short-term goal before diving into her athletic aspirations — being on an international tournament podium again and with more consistency, and staying ranked in the top eight in the world. These coexisting goals require a busy schedule, with fencing practice six days a week, sometimes twice a day; volunteering at the Peter Westbrook Foundation Saturday Program, which offers fencing to youth ages 9–18 of all skill levels; traveling, often internationally, for competitions and training camps; 11 months of the year; competing in the NCAA, national and international fencing seasons (which, to make things more complicated, overlap); and, of course, the demands of school.

But Prescod stresses that she thrives off a packed schedule. To train for the London 2012 Olympics she took the 2011-12 school year off (she entered Columbia with the Class of 2014), a time she describes as awful. “I needed a distraction. School is my distraction from fencing. And not a distraction in the bad way. I would go crazy from only fencing. Fencing is so mental and you really psych yourself out sometimes. … I have to do something else.”

Thanks to Columbia’s reputation for strong fencing and a number of PWF and Fencers Club teammates who went to Columbia, Prescod had wanted to attend the College since elementary school, though she notes that fencing aside, she loves the school. But ultimately New York was the biggest draw because, she says, “I didn’t want to leave my coach.”

That coach is Buckie Leach, Prescod’s coach of 10 years and a US Fencing Hall of Fame member. Columbia fencers are encouraged to train with other coaches at clubs throughout New York City so as to access the diversity of competition that club fencing offers. As a result, throughout her time at Columbia Prescod has continued to train at the Fencers Club in midtown three to four times per week with Leach, whom she credits with shaping her work ethic. He instilled the concept that “You’ve got to work hard all the time, 100 percent.” So I have that attitude about everything I care about,” she says. “He has shaped me as a person in a lot of ways.”

As she moves through her third year on campus, Prescod has her sights set on the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, where she hopes to have a chance to march in the Opening Ceremony (in 2012 she was deterred by an early-morning event the next day). And though she does not think about it much, in a sport that is known for historically lacking in diversity — Westbrook’s sabre bronze medal in 1984 made him the first African-American Olympic fencing medalist, not to mention the first American medalist in fencing since 1960 — the significance of being “one of so few who’ve gone this far in this sport and who are black” is not lost on her. “I’m really glad that I can do this so younger black kids see that basketball and football aren’t the only sports that they can do and be successful in. Fencing can take you so many places and give you so many opportunities and make you such a better person,” says Prescod. “I really hope younger kids can see that through me.”

To view video of Prescod fencing, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Elena Hecht ’09 Barnard is a New York-based writer and dancer, and a former Columbia College Today editorial assistant.

Columbia’s men’s cross country team and its supporters celebrate the Lions’ Ivy/Heps win at Van Cortlandt Park. PHOTO: GENE BOYARS

Lions Win Men’s Ivy/Heps Cross Country Crown

Columbia won the men’s Ivy Heptagonal Cross Country Championship at Van Cortlandt Park on November 2, placing three runners among the top five finishers. It was the Lions’ first Ivy men’s cross country title since 2009 and fourth overall. Columbia finished with 48 points to knock off three-time defending champion Princeton, which had 56 points.

Nicolas Composto ’14 ran the 8K course in a career-best time of 23 minutes, 45.0 seconds to finish in second place behind Harvard senior Maksim Korolev, who clocked 23:28.2. Composto’s time was the best Ivy/Heps time in Columbia history. John Gregorek ’14 finished fourth in 23:45.0 and Daniel Everett ’15 was fifth at 23:46.3. All three earned All-Ivy First Team honors, a first for Columbia.

Three more Lions finished among the top 21 in a field of 95 runners. Jacob Sienko ’14 was 17th at 24:07.0, Jack Boyle ’17 was 20th at 24:14.2 and Ben Golestan ’16 was 21st at 24:19.3.

In the women’s race, Waverly Neer ’15 placed 15th placed for the second consecutive year with a time of 20:20.0 for the 6K course, trailing only Dartmouth senior Abbey D’Agostino, who posted an Ivy-record time of 19:40.8. In the team standings, Columbia’s women finished fifth as Dartmouth captured the crown.

Columbia’s men’s team placed second in the NCAA Northeast Regional on November 15 and then finished 25th in the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., on November 23. Composto led the way, completing the 10K course in 30:37.8 to finish 30th and earn All-America honors. Sienko finished in 121st place, Boyle was 171st, Gregorek 190th and Joe Kotran ’14 196th. Neer finished 219th in the women’s event.

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

21 The number of Columbia fencers who finished in the top 32 in the first North American Cup of the year, thus qualifying for National Division I Championships in 2014.

27 The margin of victory as Columbia’s women’s swimming team defeated Harvard for the first time in school history, 163.5–136.5, in the team’s 2013–14 season opener.
Columbia’s duo of Ashok Narayana ’15 and Max Schnur ’15 stunned the top-seeded and No. 1 nationally ranked pair of Mikelis Libietis and Hunter Reese from Tennessee 6-3, 6-2 to win the doubles draw of the ITA/USTA National Indoor Intercollegiate Tennis Championships on November 10.

“The guys they played have been No. 1 in the country since February, and they hardly lose,” Lions coach Bid Goswami said.

“It makes it that much better beating the No. 1 team in the championship. Now everyone will be gunning for us, but it’s great to win this and have a national championship under our belt.”

Columbia, which hosted the tournament at the USTA-Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, entered the doubles draw as a wild card and earned the program’s first collegiate Grand Slam and national tournament crown. It was also the first national title earned by an Ivy League team since 1999, when James Blake of Harvard won the singles championship.

“Once we won the first set, the chants started coming, ‘Let’s go Lions!’ and I think we fed off that really well,” Schnur said.

“It was a great atmosphere for us. We knew we could beat any team, but now we actually won a championship.”

“We had good game planning and strategy,” Narayana said.

“We’ve been in these situations, so we knew if we played well we would have a shot.”

Narayana and Schnur won their opening match of the four-day tournament over the No. 3 doubles team in the nation. Jackson Withrow and Junior Ore from Texas A&M, by an 8-4 score.

The Columbia partnership continued their success with an 8-2 victory over Rafael Aita and Sam Williams of North Carolina-Wilmington, then advanced to the semifinals by beating Simon Felix and Deni Zmak of Embry-Riddle 8-3. Narayana and Schnur earned a shot at the national crown by beating Florida State’s Benjamin Lock and Marco Nunez 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals.
Young Basketball Lions Take the Court

Youth will be served this season on Columbia’s men’s basketball team. With no seniors on the roster, coach Kyle Smith is turning to the players he has brought to Morningside Heights during the past three seasons as he looks to build a title contender.

“This is our third recruiting class, and we finally have our group of guys who fit our style of play,” says Smith, whose team went 12-16 last season and 4-10 in Ivy League play. That record is a bit deceiving, as Columbia beat two teams that reached the NCAA Championships (Harvard and Villanova) and lost eight Ivy games by six points or fewer.

Smith notes that while his team is young, four players have significant experience as starters and seven played at least 10 minutes a game last year. “We may be young,” says Smith, “but these guys have had a taste of success and really want to take this program to a higher level.”

With the graduation of Brian Barbour ’13, the team leader in scoring and assists last season, and Mark Cisco ’13, its rebounding leader, Smith is turning to Grant Mullins ’16 and Cory Osetkowski ’15 as key building blocks.

Mullins averaged 9.7 ppg and shot .374 from three-point range last season, and gained valuable experience this summer playing with the Canadian National Development Team, which compiled a 7-0 record at the Seven Nations Tournament in China against some of the top young talent in the world. Joining Mullins in a deep backcourt are Isaac Cohen ’16, Maodo Lo ’16, Meiko Lyles ’15, Noah Springwater ’15 and Kendall Jackson ’17. Smith began the season using a three-guard starting lineup, with Cohen and Lo joining Mullins for the opening tip.

Osetkowski, 6-11 and 258 lbs., is a deft passer with a good shooting touch who keys the frontcourt, and Smith will look to run the offense through him at center more often to take advantage of his skills. Luke Petrasek ’17, a lean 6-10 forward, completed the starting lineup on opening night. Joining them in the frontcourt are Alex Rosenberg ’15, who competed for the United States in the Maccabiah Games in Israel this past summer, and Zach En’Wezoh ’16, who had an injury-plagued first season. Smith is hopeful that 7-1 center Conor Voss ’17E will see more action as the season progresses.

The Lions began the non-league portion of their season with a strong 73-54 victory over Maryland-Eastern Shore before losing 71-70 to Manhattan in the final second of play and 62-53 at Michigan State, at the time ranked second in the nation. Columbia will open Ivy competition against Cornell at Levien Gym on January 18.
One of the winning images from the Office of Global Programs’ 2013-14 study abroad photo contest: Arthur’s Seat in Edinburgh, just before sunrise.

PHOTO: MICHELLE ANN WORTHINGTON ’14
GLOBAL COLUMBIA

More than ever, the College is taking steps to prepare its students to be engaged and effective global citizens

By Shira Boss '93, '97J, '98 SIPA
Maddy Cohen '13 came to the College from her hometown of North Palm Beach, Fla., interested in studying health and also ecology. She loves to travel but didn’t anticipate fitting study abroad into her schedule. Then, during orientation, she attended an environmental biology presentation and immediately pinpointed the first of her two majors. “I was dazzled by the traveling to all parts of the globe to understand species and systems,” she says. Her other major, sustainable development, “came about later, as I realized I wanted to see more of the intersection between ecological systems and human health.”

And, contrary to her initial expectations, travel the globe Cohen did. First, after her sophomore year, she joined 15 other students who went with Dustin Rubenstein, assistant professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology (E3B), on a research trip to Kenya to study tropical biology. “The trip was unparalleled,” Cohen says. “We would wake up every morning and bird-watch along the river, looking across at baboons and hearing other animals — hippos, elephants — nearby. We completed several research projects while in the field, understanding research concepts from project planning to execution, something that is hard to do within the classroom.”

At the end of her junior year, Cohen again went abroad, this time to China, with other biology students, with Matt Palmer, director of undergraduate studies for E3B, and with Shahid Naeem, professor of ecology in E3B and director of the Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability. They presented research to students at Minzu University of China in Beijing and traveled to rural areas to learn more about how ethnic minorities are managing their forest and water resources.

Upon graduation, Cohen found ready employment in New York City with a sustainability management consulting firm. “I work with international clients, helping businesses improve their environmental footprint and social impact,” she says. “It’s a great job that combines several of my interests in helping people and the environment.”

By virtue of being at Columbia University in the City of New York, College undergraduates have long enjoyed a cosmopolitan atmosphere. But now, more than ever, the College is taking steps to ensure that its students are thinking globally, opening their minds to and setting their sights on the world beyond Morningside Heights.

“We want the College to prepare students to be engaged and effective global citizens,” says James J. Valentini, dean of the College and v.p. for undergraduate education, who hopes that all students who are interested in studying, working or doing research abroad have an opportunity to do so during their time at Columbia. “Alumni often tell me that having the chance to work or study overseas opened doors of understanding that no other experience
could have offered. But the global character of a Columbia College education is also delivered in our classrooms every day by our broadly diverse and international student body that exposes every student to a world of different voices, cultures and ideas. Indeed, while "global" might be something of a buzzword in today's culture, it is nevertheless a big idea that translates in an array of meaningful ways to the realm of a College education. It applies to the content of the curriculum (both on campus and in the overseas academic programs the College runs), to the composition of the student body, and to the atmosphere and activities that are fostered on campus. It speaks to the way the University is expanding its footprint through the Columbia Global Centers as well as to the increasing range of international experiences available to undergraduates in research, work or study abroad. And it speaks to a mindset — to a broadening of awareness and ability to understand multiple perspectives — that is crucial to thriving in this new, interdependent world.

"My view is, if we're going to have our students educated for the world they will inhabit and lead," says President Lee C. Bollinger, "they should be familiar now with China, they should visit and work in countries in Africa, they should have been to India and done some of their coursework there, they should have a feel for South America. A lot of this is just introducing young people to this very, very interconnected world. The person who used to be a citizen of California, then became a citizen of the United States, now has to become a global citizen. And students, young people, know this."

Columbia encourages this crossover by having an Office of Global Programs (OGP), responsible for helping with fellowships as well as for bringing exchange students to Morningside Heights and sending students to study abroad. "Our students need not just to function in a global environment but to understand and tolerate ambiguity, to work collaboratively, to work where the rules are not clear," says Michael Pippenger, dean of undergraduate global programs and assistant v.p. of international education, "so they can succeed in that global environment, not just today or six months from now, but six years from now and 60 years from now."

Providing a global experience starts with admissions, and building a class whose diversity includes students from many countries and cultures. "Columbia reaches out to prospective students from around the world in a variety of ways, including letters, emails and a special section of the admissions website," says Jessica Marinaccio, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid. "We also place great importance on face-to-face outreach. Members of the admissions staff visited more than 30 countries this fall, where they met with prospective students at high schools, held information sessions and engaged with international organizations that assist students applying to colleges in the United States."

Additionally, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions tries to connect prospective international students with current international students through its Global Recruitment Committee, a volunteer student organization that assists with international recruitment. GRC members, who hail from around the world, hold online chats and webinars for prospective students and write personalized postcards to admitted international students, among other things. "The goal," Marinaccio says, "as it is with all of our recruitment efforts, is to help international students decide if Columbia might be the right fit for them."

This concerted effort is producing results: Sixteen percent of the College Class of 2017 hails from abroad — 47 countries in all — with the top countries represented being South Korea, China, the United Kingdom, Canada and India. Two decades ago, just four percent of the members of the Class of 1997 came from foreign countries, with 24 countries represented, led by China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Germany and India. Diversity of the student body is further enhanced through visiting international students, who come to Columbia for a semester or year, as well as exchange students who hail from the 14 institutions in Europe and Asia with which Columbia has student exchange agreements; these range from a longstanding arrangement with the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po) to a more recently established partnership with The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. In addition to adding international perspectives to the residence halls, classrooms and campus activities, the exchange students — from 40 to 50 each academic year — serve as ambassadors to introduce College students to these reciprocal study abroad opportunities. "When students are interested in going abroad to a partner institution, we make a point of connecting them with an on-campus exchange partner," says Scott Carpenter, OGP's associate dean of study abroad. "That's been valuable in terms of logistics and orienting them to what that institution is like."

Speaking of the Class of 2017, Marinaccio says, "Our international community is incredibly diverse. We continually strive to bring new perspectives to the Columbia community, and for the first time, students from Malta, Honduras and the Palestinian Territories are represented in our undergraduate population."

She adds that attracting a diverse and talented student body is an important goal of the Admissions Office, the College and the University. "Our endeavor is to create a class that represents a variety of perspectives and backgrounds, including those from all over the world, so that numerous voices are represented around a Core Curriculum table. This adds to the academic and student life community at Columbia and greatly benefits all students, who constantly engage with and learn from students who are different from themselves."

When the students converge on Morningside Heights, they quickly are immersed in the crown jewel of a College education, the Core Curriculum. "The Core is designed to shed light from multiple perspectives on the basic question of what it means to be human," says Roosevelt Montás '95, '04 GSAS, director of the Center for the Core Curriculum and associate dean of academic affairs. "As our world
has become more integrated, and as Core classrooms have become more international, these skills honed in class discussion assume a global reach, equipping our students to understand their own lives in broad terms that emphasize our shared humanity.”

The specifically non-Western component of the Core is the two-semester Global Core requirement (formerly Major Cultures), which according to the Bulletin “asks students to engage directly with the variety of civilizations and the diversity of traditions that, along with the West, have formed the world and continue to interact in it today.” Students choose two courses from an approved list from various departments that explore the cultures of Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Middle East in a historical context. Examples are “Buddhism: East Asian” (religion department), “Economic Organization and Development of Japan” (economics), “Caribbean Diaspora Literature” (English and Comparative Literature) and “Global Urbanism” (sociology). “The aim is to expose students to a range of perspectives on fundamental human issues and to enrich their sense of themselves as members of a global community,” Montás says.

Such courses could also soon debut overseas. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation earlier this year awarded Columbia a grant to globalize the liberal arts curriculum, and four departments have proposed courses to be taught abroad, which are currently in the process of being approved. The syllabi for these courses, which include Art Humanities and Music Humanities to be taught in Paris, would be tailored to specific locales and allow students “to take advantage of the history, architecture and traditions you can find in a city like Paris,” says Giuseppe Gerbino, associate professor of music and chair of the Department of Music.

As Gerbino notes, “One of the most significant developments in the history of Western polyphony is associated with the construction of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and the musical repertory cultivated in that specific spatial and ceremonial context. While taking Music Hum, students will be able to study the architectural spaces for which historically important works were created and in which they were first performed.”

Whether taught in New York or abroad, the Core nurtures an understanding and appreciation of all cultures. “Music Humanities participates in the Western Core, the texts and art works of which are in demand all over the world,” says Elaine Sisman, the Anne Parsons Bender Professor of Music and chair of Music Humanities. “By training students in critical listening practices we help them to engage with all musics, as well as enabling them to participate in the cultural life of the present.”

She notes that the department has taught musics of the world since 1971; Asian Music Humanities (one semester devoted to East Asian, and one to West and South Asian music), now part of the Global Core, was established in the mid-’80s; and, in addition to the history and theory of art music, the department also covers popular music (in America and elsewhere in the world), jazz, experimental and electronic music, African-American music, music in society, music in cross-cultural perspectives, music from humanistic and social-science perspectives, and more.

Departments are becoming more globally minded — in faculty recruitment, course offerings, majors and concentrations, and opportunities for students to travel abroad for study or research. About one-third of the College’s more than 100 majors and concentrations are programs of study that are either specifically foreign (East Asian studies, French, Hispanic studies, Italian cultural studies, modern Greek studies ...) or naturally lend themselves to international scope (evolutionary biology of the human species, ethnicity and race studies, history and theory of architecture ...), including two of the newest additions, human rights and sustainable development.

The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University revised its curriculum three years ago to make it more comparative and global. “It was heavily centered on the U.S., and to some extent it still is; the U.S. is very important to the work that we do. But we thought it was also important for students to get a global perspective on race, ethnicity and other forms of social difference,” says Frances Negrón-Muntaner, associate professor of English and comparative literature and director of CSER.

Whereas the department used to have three separate majors that started with “Introduction to ...,” Latino Studies, for example, and students then continued with more in-depth area studies, now all CSER students take three foundation courses, one each on a history of the modern world, theory and research. “This emphasis allows students to consider that what happens in the U.S. is related to and illuminated by what takes place elsewhere, and that there is a history to this interconnectivity,” Negrón-Muntaner says. “This approach underscores how sometimes very local experiences are connected to thoughts and practices many miles away.”

Although the department “highly encourages” its students to study abroad, Negrón-Muntaner makes the point that traveling is not the only way to gain a more global perspective. “There’s a tendency to think of global as foreign or ‘someplace else.’ It’s fundamental to the transformation of Columbia, and higher education in general, that globalization is understood as a shift in thinking,” she says. “Many shifts in thinking can occur when someone encounters an experience they’ve never had, but this is not simply the result of traveling. It is the result of thinking differently about the world.”

For several years running, an on-campus event has been organized to familiarize students with the myriad opportunities abroad and the ways to study or work internationally. Last year, more than 25 participants came together at the international expo to present their programs. The more obvious ones were OGP (study abroad) and the Center for Career Education (internships, jobs) but also included were Columbia Maison Francaise, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and the Earth Institute.

“There’s more of an emphasis from many areas within Columbia to encourage experiences that develop skill sets in line with being a global citizen,” says Heather Perceval, associate dean of experiential education and student enterprises at CCE. “We hear...
from employers more frequently that they are looking for students with global competencies: to be adaptable, to be flexible, to deal well with ambiguity. Those are in line with experiences you get abroad, having to navigate a new culture.”

Among the international internships that are available to students are those offered through CCE’s Columbia Experience Overseas (CEO) program (see “Passport to India,” Fall 2013), which sends students on summer internships to Amman, Beijing, Hong Kong, London, Shanghai, Singapore and, as of this year, Mumbai and Bangalore. The students are connected to local employers as well as to alumni mentors; they also live together in Columbia-sponsored housing and take part in local programming that helps them network and get the most out of being abroad. This past summer, 64 undergraduates participated, roughly 70 percent of them from the College.

“Launching a program in India this past summer was particularly significant,” says Kavita Sharma, dean of CCE. “Not only did CCE provide opportunities for 11 undergraduates to intern in India but we did it by leveraging our relationship with the Mumbai Global Center and securing funding from Citigroup via the U.S. State Department. A few of our student interns were even able to travel to Delhi to present their experiences as U.S. interns at a Strategic Dialogue on Higher Education between the U.S. and Indian governments.”

As in Mumbai, the Columbia Global Centers play a significant role in opening up opportunities for undergraduates abroad. There are currently eight centers, with the others being in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago. Rather than establishing degree-granting branch campuses in foreign cities, as some peer institutions have done (for example, NYU Abu Dhabi and Yale-NUS College in Singapore), the centers — part of an initiative that the University launched in March 2009 — are more like intellectual outposts, seen as “Columbia embedded in what is emerging as a global community of scholarship,” according to the centers’ website.

“We need to have bases around the world that will help our faculty and students learn about the world,” says Bollinger. “You’re not really going to have the impact on your own teaching and research through branch campuses that you will with something like Global Centers. In my view, it’s really our faculty and our students who need to have the opportunities to learn what the issues are, learn what they need to know, develop research programs, develop classes and courses — and that’s not going to happen if you have a branch campus.” (See “A Conversation with President Lee C. Bollinger,” on page 28.)

The centers maintain small local staffs, establish ties with local institutions and scholars, and can serve as a home-away-from-Morningside for faculty and students researching and studying abroad as well as alumni working or traveling in those areas. The Global Center in Paris, for example, is home to Reid Hall, where Columbia’s undergraduate programs have been located since 1964, and the Global Center in Mumbai hosts an orientation program and other events for undergrads interning in India as part of CEO.

“Our approach facilitates the learning that comes through dialogue with international academic partners while also allowing the Columbia community to share its knowledge and expertise in locales around the world where it can most powerfully help address 21st-century challenges. The Global Centers provide faculty and students with enhanced opportunities and in some cases, opportunities that they wouldn’t have otherwise to get out in the world, to discover, engage and learn, while at the
HELPING STUDENTS HAVE GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

Two of the winning images from the Office of Global Programs’ 2013–14 study abroad photo contest (top): a Nigerian marketplace; (above): camping on the banks of the Okavango Delta in Botswana.

PHOTOS: (FROM TOP) OMOYENI OLARREWAJU CLEMENT ’15; VICTORIA ROBSON ’14

same time not mandating the use of the centers. They are the base of several interdisciplinary research projects, the home of important student programming across our schools and colleges, and the catalyst for partnerships with academia across the world.”

Valentini’s goal of having every student who wants to do so go abroad at some point in his or her undergraduate career could mean a student having an international experience as early as the summer after his or her first year through a study abroad program, or later on through a summer internship or research program.

“It’s really an exciting and dynamic time,” Pippenger says. “There’s a fantastic focus right now on international opportunities for undergraduates. There is a tremendous amount of support and encouragement to innovate and deliver the next generation of global programs for Columbia undergraduates.”

Another way to gain international experience is through the Alternative Break Program, started two years ago. Students submit proposals for civic engagement projects in the U.S. or abroad, form teams of student volunteers and travel to their site during winter, spring or summer break. A student board runs the program, with administrative support and matching funding from the Office of Student Engagement. Projects have included a three-week trip to Tibetan areas of China to create a sustainable waste management system for rural communities, a nine-day trip to Ecuador to plant trees and work on other community projects with an NGO and a three-week trip to Ghana to distribute eyeglasses, assist at an eye clinic and help educate local residents about eye care. The student proposal for the last project noted, “This will also be a great chance for each team member to mature as a global citizen, after having experienced the healthcare scene in a completely different nation.”

About 25 percent of Columbia students study abroad at some point in their undergraduate careers. [See “Study Abroad Grows in Popularity, Programs and Places,” on page 36.] Eight years ago Columbia ran seven programs, all in Europe and Asia. Today there are 16 and they include locations in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. In addition, students can choose to study in any of more than 200 programs in 150 cities worldwide through special arrangements with institutions overseas.

The study abroad experience has evolved in recent years. “In the past, there was an assumption that study abroad for our students was somehow ‘time off from Columbia’ or somehow an ‘add-on’ to a Columbia education,” Pippenger says. “Now that couldn’t be further from the truth. Our students recognize the many benefits that come from a global experience as being an integral part of their intellectual development.”

Spending a semester or a year abroad at a foreign institution are the traditional options, but departments, institutes and even faculty are designing their own programs to send students overseas.

OGP, in conjunction with the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, has for the past three years run the Global Scholars Program Summer Research Workshop. Students travel to several foreign cities — last summer they were Beijing and Santiago; 2014 will feature Beijing, Berlin, Moscow and Ulan Bator (Mongolia), with travel on the Trans-Siberian Railway — to conduct in-depth, comparative social science research. In the spring, students will take a seminar in the spring to prepare them for the summer experience.

Another example is the Summer Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates (SEE-U) program, run by the Earth Institute and open to undergraduates of all majors. Students study ecology and biology through lectures and labs and conduct fieldwork in places such as Brazil and Jordan; the latter is conducted in partnership with the Columbia Global Center in Amman and includes travel throughout the country, covering wetland, marine, freshwater, desert and forest ecosystems.

Starting next summer, rising sophomores will be eligible to receive merit-based grants to study abroad in Columbia-run programs where there are Columbia Global Centers through the new Presidential Global Fellowships Initiative. This program might be expanded to provide funds for students to travel for research or
to do work related to their courses. Bollinger cited as an example students working on water conservation traveling to the Global Center in Amman to examine the issue in Jordan and surrounding areas of the Middle East.

In addition, departments increasingly are working with faculty to send students abroad to work on their theses or for faculty-led research projects. “Students want to emulate the professors they see who have these fantastic careers,” Pippenger says. “They see them going to these places around the world and want to be that ‘in person’ in their own careers.”

Holger Klein, professor of art history and archaeology, department chair and a recent recipient of both the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching and a Distinguished Faculty Award, is involving undergraduates in his Istanbul Digital Mapping Project in Turkey. The project, with an on-location headquarters at the Columbia Global Center in Istanbul, is a topographical survey that documents the city’s Late Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman monuments. Students are helping to conduct photographic fieldwork as well as archival research in Istanbul to create a state-of-the-art digital platform that will facilitate access to scholarly, archival, photographic and other materials pertaining to the history of Byzantium–Constantinople–Istanbul. It also will serve scholars, students and the public at large as a reliable source for an array of information on the city’s history and monuments in preparation for site visits, individual study and research, and teaching in the classrooms at Columbia and beyond.

“I could not be more thrilled to provide Columbia students with an opportunity to study Istanbul’s historic monuments on site and to contribute to their documentation and preservation at a time when these monuments are under particular threat due to the pressures of urban expansion and renewal projects,” says Klein, who is preparing a second fieldwork season as part of Columbia’s joint summer course with Istanbul’s Boğaziçi University in June and July 2014.

Rubenstein, the E3B professor, has organized student travel separately to Kenya and Panama during the summer to do fieldwork on his research with birds and shrimp, respectively, in those locations. “Columbia students are amazingly bright and can adapt to new situations easily. Even those who haven’t traveled abroad previously tend to do well when immersed in a new environment for the first time,” he says.

He notes that his department’s students go in many different directions after graduation, including graduate school, medical school, consulting, NGOs, even Wall Street, and that international experience is always helpful preparation for their futures. “Study or field work abroad teaches them how to think, how to write, to problem-solve, to troubleshoot, to design a project and interpret data — plus they’re interacting with people from another culture. It gets them out of the Ivory Tower and allows them to apply what they have learned on campus in real world situations,” he says. “All that translates to any career.”

Rubenstein wanted to increase opportunities for students, in particular science majors, to study abroad, so he has developed an intensive, one-semester program in Kenya that focuses on tropical biology and sustainable development. Open to all students but geared toward those majoring or concentrating in E3B or sustainable development, the spring semester program, run in conjunction with Princeton, features four intensive classes of three weeks each along with immersion in fieldwork. Students work daily from sunrise to sunset for nearly three months collecting data, writing papers, developing projects, and interacting with wildlife and local communities.

Julia Pilowsky ’12 chose to study abroad during one semester of her junior year, in South Africa, through the Organization for Tropical Studies. “It was an amazing experience. We traveled from national park to national park all over South Africa, and I got to do fieldwork on 10 projects and led the fieldwork on two of them,” she says. “I gained a lot of skills because now I know how to do everything from survey tidal pools for species diversity to measure biomass of tree trunks.”

Directly from there, Pilowsky traveled to The Mpala Research Centre in central Kenya for a six-week research trip to study the songs of the superb starling, a bird common to East Africa, under the direction of Rubenstein. Her project came about because on campus, Pilowsky had attended a presentation given by one of Rubenstein’s graduate students about how birds use simple calls to recognize relatives. The graduate student mentioned that nobody had studied their more complex songs. “I decided that I was going to be the first one to study it,” Pilowsky says.

Rubenstein helped her develop a thesis topic about the function of birdsong, and E3B gave her a grant to complete the fieldwork in Kenya. When the thesis was finished it became an article, co-authored with Rubenstein, that was published in the May 2013 issue of *Animal Behaviour*, a leading journal in the field of behavioral ecology. Pilowsky credits the experience with getting her into a Ph.D. program in biology at Tufts, where she now studies as a recipient of the National Science Foundation’s prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship. "But those are just the tangible markers of success," she says. "It gave me real confidence to be able to independently plan and carry out a field research project, even in a new environment. It was amazing to get to know researchers from all over the world. Not least, I’ll always be grateful that I got to spend some time in the Kenyan savanna, which is surely one of the most beautiful ecosystems on Earth, and to observe some of the world’s most fascinating animals. After all, it’s a love of the natural world that got me into this field in the first place."

Whether by conducting fieldwork in Kenya or Panama, connecting with students from around the world in a seminar room in Hamilton Hall or signing on for any of the wide range of opportunities in between, today’s students are continually engaging with and being shaped by experiences that will prepare them for citizenship in the global community. As Negron-Muntaner of CSER says, “Global thought is not about being on the go all the time. It’s something that we can do every day, wherever we are.”

Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA is an author and contributing writer to CCT. Her last feature was “Passport to India,” about the Columbia Experience Overseas internship program, in the Fall 2013 issue.
Lee C. Bollinger became president of Columbia University on June 1, 2002. Under his leadership, the University has expanded its international presence with the creation of eight Columbia Global Centers. In this interview with CCT Editor Alex Sachare ’71, Bollinger talks about the philosophy behind the Global Centers, their impact on our students and faculty now and in the future, and what it means to be a global citizen in the 21st century.

How has the way you think about higher education and the mission of a university like Columbia evolved over the course of your tenure as president?

In the last decade, maybe decade and a half, the world as we have known it has changed and begun to change radically. There are many reasons for this, but there are two primary ones. One is the development of the global economy, the opening of markets all over the world in countries that before this were closed to the capitalist economy, and that brings not only trade but also foreign investment and movement of capital. There are many problems and many challenges posed by this, but it is a fact that economic forces are driving enormous changes in the world. The second major development is the expansion of new technologies of communication — the Internet and to some extent also satellite communications — that have made it possible for the first time in human history to communicate instantaneously all over the globe. I have been a scholar of free speech, free press and the First
Amendment for all my life, and every time a major new communication technology is invented the world changes significantly, as it did in the United States in the 1930s through the ’60s and ’70s with radio and television broadcasting. So the development of these two forces is making the world a very different and much more integrated place.

There always have been global issues, but the prevalence of them now, the centrality of them for basic life in any society, is much greater. We have a global economy, but we don’t have a means of regulating that global economy, of organizing the elements of it. Climate change, issues of censorship globally, everything you look to now has a global character to it. That new world, and the changes that are being wrought by these forces, means you have to step back and think about the fields and the subjects that you do research in, the classes that you teach, the knowledge that you want to impart to young people. I think everything needs to be reconsidered, rethought and planned for this new world, and the changes that are being wrought by these forces, means you have to step back and think about the fields and the subjects that you do research in, the classes that you teach, the knowledge that you want to impart to young people. I think everything needs to be reconsidered, rethought and planned for this world, which appears to be the course the world would take over the next several decades and beyond. One never knows, of course, but that’s the trajectory we’re on.

Universities always stand in a somewhat removed relationship with the external world. That’s by design, because we want to be able to reflect on major issues and do so independently over quite a period of time. We’re different from other institutions in those ways. You don’t want to get too removed, so removed that you’re not thinking about real issues for humanity, but you don’t want to become so close to the issues of the moment that you lose sight of the bigger questions that really are our bailiwick. When the world shifts in this magnitude, you then have to step back as an institution and rethink things.

What role do the eight Columbia Global Centers play in this rethinking of teaching and research at the University?

It’s my belief that we need to help our faculty, our schools, our departments and our students learn more about this world and see how it will affect their fields, the subjects of their research, the lives of our students, and therefore the education they will receive. We need to have bases around the world to aid in this pursuit. We need to think of ourselves as explorers. We have to regain a sense of what the new reality is, because it’s on top of that sense of reality that you then begin to come up with the questions that academic institutions are designed to try to address.

Obviously, Columbia is already one of the most global universities with a student body that is among the most international in the country and a faculty filled with eminent experts in all areas of the world. But when you talk to these faculty, they are among the first to say, I need to understand not only my area better, but I need to understand my area more in relationship to other areas. In order to understand China, you need to understand South America, and vice versa, and the role of countries in Africa in the emerging trade and so on. So even though we’re extremely international to start with, and that’s been part of Columbia’s great identity and great character, that doesn’t mean that we can sit back and just continue thinking as we have. So I set out four years ago to build up these centers, and many faculty and people in the administration have helped. As of last spring we had all eight of them launched with very, very distinguished leaders in each one. This had been worked on by Ken Prewitt, who was in charge of developing the Global Centers, followed by Safwan Masri, who is now in charge of them.
A CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LEE C. BOLLINGER

Why Global Centers and not branch campuses, specifically?
Keep in mind that these are not individual centers. That’s not the right way to think of them. They’re really a network, and that’s part of the understanding of the global interconnections.

We were approached to set up a school or schools in various places around the world. I decided not to do that, and I think that was a decision that was reflective of the institution’s desire. Very few people at Columbia, very few faculty favored setting up branch campuses. There are several reasons why I think that’s not the right course, at least not for Columbia. First of all, it’s very difficult to maintain quality. Remember, by definition a branch campus is a kind of separate faculty and a separate student body. You hope that there will be some intermingling of faculty and perhaps of students, but actually the way these things work 99 times out of 100, there tends to be a discrete faculty and students. So it’s very hard to maintain quality control.

The second reason relates to academic freedom. We cannot disengage with the world, but we have to be very careful that we don’t sacrifice our core principles. So you need a strategy that allows you to leave a given place in the world if your core principles are threatened. If you’ve invested in a branch campus, with all the reliance that takes place by faculty, students and staff, that’s very hard to do. So ease of exit is a second reason. A third reason is that what tends to happen when you do branch campuses is that you only go to places that have enormous wealth, and I think that tends to skew the experience that you’re having. It’s extremely expensive to set up a branch campus, so even very wealthy universities are not going to do it on their own. And the last reason, which is really, I think, the most important, is that you’re not going to have the impact on your own teaching and research through branch campuses that you will with something like the Global Centers. In my view, it’s our faculty and our students who need to have the opportunities to learn what the issues are, learn what they need to know, develop research programs, develop classes and courses, and that’s not going to happen if you have a branch campus. I don’t think it fulfills the philosophy needed.

How can the Global Centers influence undergraduate applications from those regions, and how can they benefit alumni who live or work there?
The number of international students in the College has gone up significantly in the past five years, and I think this is a really important development. We need to both help recruit and to decide who to bring to our campus and our global education. Just like 50 years ago Columbia was largely a New York City/Northeast university and eventually people from the West Coast started coming to Columbia and we ended up trying to make sure that we recruited the best students from all over the country, now we need to do that globally. That’s the future for Columbia — a much more international student body. I don’t want to overstate that, because there always is going to be a tension between being an American university and a global university, and that will have to be sorted out over time. But, in the end, you want to recruit the right students from the United States and from all over the world.

Whenever I present this to alumni, they are eager and enthusiastic about being able to take advantage of the Global Centers. I was at the Global Center in Istanbul this fall and we had a reception, and alumni who had been in the area traveling or working that. We want to connect with our alumni, and they can help with that. We want to do public outreach, and they help with that. But the key is the teaching and research. Take the example of the faculty from the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, who decided two summers ago that they would take a group of undergraduate students and study urban planning, rural migration, and issues of extreme poverty in the development of cities. They utilized the Global Centers in Beijing and Mumbai, conducting their courses there. The Global Centers were not only able to provide space for this but also arrange for lectures and experts and outings and so on. This past summer they went to Beijing and Santiago, again a comparative approach. That’s precisely the kind of experience that becomes transformative, both for students and also even for faculty. Holger Klein [see “Global Columbia,” page 20] is a great example of someone who can talk eloquently about how the Global Centers helped his work. He was able to do things through the help of the Global Centers that he wasn’t otherwise able to do. Women Creating Change, a group set up by many of the faculty in the Institute for Women and Gender, is looking at women’s issues, gender issues, all over the world. The group has used the centers to hold meetings and conferences to experience a comparative global perspective on these issues and to figure out what research projects to pursue.

If you’re a faculty member, in many ways you already have international colleagues and you’re probably working on some issues that are global in dimension. But this can ease and enhance your ability to do that, and that’s the key. For a student, it opens up a whole new way of experiencing the world in addition to the classic forms. Such an experience for a student in a foreign country, looking at a serious issue such as urban development or clean water, really can be transformational. My view is, if we’re going to have our students educated for the world they will inhabit and lead, they should be familiar now with China, they should visit and work in countries in Africa, they should have been to India and done some of their coursework there, they should have a feel for South America. A lot of this is just introducing young people to this very interconnected world that is now, in a way, the source of the issues and problems and potential that we need to focus on.
came to the reception. We’re thrilled to be able to do this. The sense of having actual Columbia places all over the world that are open to you and are willing to embrace you is meaningful to most alumni. Then, on top of that, I’m sure that over time we will develop programs for alumni involving the Global Centers.

**Can you talk about initiatives involving the centers, such as the Presidential Global Fellowships?**

I’ve authorized two funds to help faculty and students utilize the Global Centers. One, which Provost John Coatsworth set up, is called the President’s Global Innovation Fund. It underwrites groups of faculty working on global issues. About 20 groups received grants for this year, and we’ll continue that and it will grow. That’s for faculty, although there will be students involved in those projects, I’m sure. And then for students, I’ve asked [Dean] Jim Valentini to develop a program to help students use the Global Centers and be introduced to and work on the global issues of their time. We’re still refining that, but Jim has made a lot of progress, having just announced the first such set of fellowships to students. This is for all undergraduates to apply. It is starting with grants to students for doing academic work in the summer after their first year. But it may also be expanded to provide funds for students in courses to, as I mentioned a while ago, just go off for a short period of time and do work related to their courses on a global basis.

What we’re going to find is that as the technology of communication gets better and better, it’s going to be easy to have courses where faculty and students are at any place on the globe at any given time and yet able to continue having a “course.” It will just become easier and easier to do, and more and more important to do. And then these very significant centers may also become places where we might even offer some courses. But we’ll see — that’s in the future.

**In summation, could you address the question of what it means to be a “global citizen”? Is it an awareness, is it a different way of thinking — what is a global citizen?**

I think it’s a somewhat difficult term. We’re all citizens of our individual countries, and nobody is trying to say we should give up our sense of national identity and only become some kind of floating global citizen. One has to be careful about that. But to me it points in directions that are really important. I think you need a basic sense of the world, a kind of feel of the world. You have to have been places, seen cultures; you have to have experienced them both as a traveler but I think even more importantly as somebody thinking and learning about what the world is like. Then you have to be aware of what the issues are, what matters to people and what matters to the future of the world both in its physical sense and in terms of its peoples.

One hundred years ago, we could be very comfortable in individual states in the United States. The economy was quite local, people’s lives were quite local, they didn’t move around very much. Over the course of the 20th century, that all changed. We developed a national economy, people routinely moved around the United States and we developed issues that were national in scope — civil rights, environmental issues, financial — and everything became increasingly national, including my own field, freedom of speech and press. At the beginning of the century, individual states determined their own rules about free speech and free press, and by the end of the century it was a national First Amendment set of principles. Now that’s all happening on a global basis, and we’re just at the beginning of it. While I don’t want to overstate it, I do feel that we’re on the cusp of a much, much more integrated, interconnected universe. That means that it becomes increasingly unacceptable for someone to be an educated person and not to have been to other places around the world and to develop a sense of the world.

The person who in the past used to think of himself or herself as a citizen of California and then became a citizen of the United States, now has to become a global citizen. And students, young people, know this. Every time I have a meeting with them, a fireside chat, in my course or other ways, I ask these questions and it’s clear that Columbia students know that their world is this bigger world, and they are really incredibly excited about experiencing it.
Global Students Find Home Away From Home at Columbia

By Nathalie Alonso '08
Photos: Char Smullyan

"The emphasis on the humanities and the Core is really important. It makes you a well-rounded person."

Hamza Khan '14

Each year at Convocation, the ceremony in which President Lee C. Bollinger and the deans of the College and Engineering officially welcome incoming undergraduates to Columbia, the leaders of the New Student Orientation Program (NSOP) parade the flags of every state and country represented in the two student bodies in celebration of the schools' geographic — and by extension, cultural and religious — diversity.

The College Class of 2017 includes students from 47 countries, bringing...
the number of international students and nations represented in the College in the 2013–14 academic year to 729 and 83, respectively. At the university level, Columbia recently was ranked fifth among all U.S. institutions for having the largest population of international students, according to a report by The Institute of International Education. Their ranks include those who are non-U.S. citizens and non-U.S. permanent residents who need a visa to enter the country, as well as U.S. citizens and permanent residents who went to school outside of America.

Despite the students’ range of backgrounds, their reasons for choosing the College fall under similar themes: admiration for the Core Curriculum and the school’s commitment to teaching liberal arts, and New York’s appeal as an inclusive, cosmopolitan city.

“The emphasis on the humanities and the Core is really important. It makes you a well-rounded person and lets you think in new ways,” says Hamza Khan ’14, from Lahore, Pakistan. “We didn’t have any kind of liberal arts education [in Pakistan]. It was very focused on the hard sciences and math.”

Khan, who is majoring in financial economics with a concentration in sustainable development, toured the campus prior to his senior year of high school while visiting relatives and cites his familiarity with New York City as an important factor in his decision. “I was comfortable with the city. If it was a city that was new to me, it might have been a different story,” he says. “Everyone in New York is pretty accepting and aware of differences.”

Like Khan, other students, including Pria Narsiman ’15, from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Andrea Viejo ’15, from Monterrey, Mexico, attribute their initial impetus for pursuing an undergraduate education in the United States to a dearth of liberal arts colleges in their own countries or elsewhere.

Narsiman, who was 5 when her family relocated from her native Sydney to Kuala Lumpur, researched colleges in the United Kingdom and Australia but ultimately focused on the U.S. “because it offers more breadth,” she says. “In Australia or the U.K., I would have had to decide what I wanted to do straight out of high school and would have only taken classes in that area.”

Viejo came to a similar realization: “Back home, I would have been forced to choose my academic track during freshman year — let’s say business or politics — and stick to those classes. I found it fascinating that [the College] offered me the opportunity to study the Koran, a text I would probably never be exposed to in Mexico, and music from around the world.”

Narsiman and Viejo had visited New York City only briefly prior to starting their undergraduate careers, yet for both, the Big Apple’s reputation as a city that embraces foreigners gave the College an edge over schools in college towns. “I wanted to live in a city because I’m from a big city in Australia and I live in a big city in Malaysia,” says Narsiman, who is pursuing majors in neuroscience and behavior and French and Francophone studies.

“I really wanted to go somewhere diverse.”

Viejo, a political science and sociology major, echoes the sentiment and feels her decision is validated each time she goes to a Mexican restaurant or attends Catholic Mass in Spanish. “For me, it was location and the Core equally,” she says. “For an international student, New York City is very welcoming because it’s easy to find your niche.”

In describing their transitions to the College, international students speak of the same emotions and concerns an American peer might express: the simultaneous excitement and trepidation of being away from home for the first time; the task of building new social lives while staying in touch with family and friends back home; and balancing heavy course loads with curricular activities. International students, however, often face additional hurdles that may include extensive travel times and the culture shock that comes with new academic and cultural norms. For some, there’s also homesickness, the minutiae of purchasing a winter wardrobe for the first time and adjusting their palates to new flavors.

It took some time for Shen Qiu ’16, from Shanghai, to get used to professor-student dynamics at Columbia, which he says are very different from China. “Here you can talk to the professor during class and after class, and people are much more open to discussion,” he says. “In China, students think of teachers as being ‘higher’ than they are and are afraid of talking to teachers. Here, communication is facilitated by the free academic environment.”

But while they may find their professors more accessible, Qiu and his friend, fellow Shanghai native Lingzi Zhuang ’16, who transferred to the College after a year in Engineering, feel that they have had to work hard to bridge cultural differences with peers, particularly when it comes to casual interactions. Says Qiu, “When you are with a bunch of friends and they are talking about something that you have never heard of in popular culture, you sometimes feel isolated because you can’t get involved in the conversation.”

From the beginning, Zhuang felt at ease speaking English in academic settings but less so in social situations. “In the first few months, I felt uncomfortable,” he says. “It was a painful realization that I needed to make an effort to be understood.”

“Picking up on social nuances in terms of language and phrases” was a challenge early on for Onella Cooray ’14, from Colombo, Sri Lanka. “When people asked, ‘How are you?’ I’d respond with an actual ‘how’ before I caught on that it was another cultural ‘hi’ and that people don’t expect you to actually give an answer,” she says.

As a first-year, Cooray, who is pursuing concentrations in earth and environmental sciences and sustainable development, suffered a common ailment: homesickness. Part of her yearning stemmed from her distaste for campus food, which she found bland compared to the spice of Sri Lankan cuisine. “I got my mom to ship over some of our condiments and I would sneak them into the dining hall and douse all the food with chili paste to make it palatable,” recalls Cooray, who has mostly cooked for herself since her sophomore year.

Cooray’s homesickness has so subsided that she spent all of last summer in Morningside Heights. She and Zhuang were the
student coordinators for the 2013 International Student Orientation Program (ISOP), a Columbia Student Affairs effort that takes place in the days leading up to NSOP. Begun in 2010, the program—which helps students transition to the U.S. and college life, and build community with one another—already has grown from 50 to about 100 students. Among other things, participants meet their academic advisers, attend sessions on American academic culture, are introduced to the Writing Center, explore New York City and can take advantage of a banking and cell phone fair.

ISOP was so central to Cooray’s transition to the College in 2010 that she volunteered the following two years as an orientation leader prior to taking on the role of coordinator. One of her fondest memories of the College, she says, was being greeted by ISOP orientation leaders when she checked into the Hartley lounge as an incoming first-year. “I had a clueless ‘no-idea-where-I-am-going’ look on my face,” she recalls. “It was really welcoming. I thought, ‘Wow, I’ve finally arrived.’

“I definitely found it useful to move in earlier and then get to know a group of people,” adds Cooray, who says she has made some of her most meaningful college relationships during ISOP. “I feel if I hadn’t had the opportunity ISOP gave me, I would have been less able to cope socially.”

A positive ISOP experience also prompted Gelila Bekele ’16, from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to partake in the program this year as an orientation leader. “It created a strong bond among international students that we still have,” says Bekele, who notes that the experience of being an international student in the College is powerful enough to kindle friendships among peers with different backgrounds. “We’re in the same boat. Even though some of my friends might be from South America or Europe, we still have something in common: the fact that we’re far away from home. [Other international students] you meet, especially during ISOP, become your family.”

Avenues to connect with peers of common backgrounds and shared interests, student clubs and associations also provide settings for international students to build support networks. An active member of the Organization of Pakistani Students since his first year, Khan considers cultural clubs “a great way to meet people and build lasting relationships.

“You get to know other people who are dealing with the same problems and they can help you. Now I’m a senior and I can help freshmen coming in,” he says. “It’s a great community. We’re all really close and really good friends.”

Wangari Mungai ’14, an earth and environmental science major from Nairobi, Kenya, who was a student coordinator for ISOP in 2012, had never traveled outside of her country prior to starting her college career and was homesick her first year. The African Students Association (ASA), which she calls “a little home away from home,” helped her adapt.

“It’s definitely gotten easier through the years,” says Mungai, who occasionally gets together with fellow ASA members to cook her favorite meals. “It comes with figuring out other ways to think of home; it’s not just a physical space now. Home is being able to talk to my family. It’s finding friends on campus with whose experiences I can relate. It’s thinking about home as something beyond a geographical space.”

Two Christian student groups, Columbia Faith & Action and the Columbia chapter of the Veritas Forum, have given Zhuang “a family of friends who share the same faith and similar interests,” while Qiu notes that his involvement with Columbia Model United Nations in New York “has taught me a lot about the interpersonal protocol in American culture.”

Similarly, Clemens Auersperg ’14, a heavyweight rower from Linz, Austria, who is majoring in history, found that the camaraderie of belonging to a sports team and the support of Columbia University Athletics eased his transition. “When I arrived, I didn’t know anyone in New York, but being part of an athletics team, you immediately become friends with your teammates,” he says. “Those fellow freshmen are still my closest friends at Columbia.

“The older members on the team were really supportive and helpful when it came to classes to choose and how to balance schoolwork with athletics, which is not always easy. Being a varsity athlete has many benefits; you have a program behind you that tries to help you in any way possible.”

More recently, support also has been added in the form of “International at Columbia,” a series of informal monthly gatherings of international students held in John Jay Lounge, complete with snacks. Run through Columbia’s International Students Programs and Services office, which was created in 2012, each session features upperclassmen facilitating a discussion of a topic relevant to life at Columbia and to the U.S. Topics have included dating and making friends on campus, and finding jobs and internships with a student visa.

In the spirit of giving back, some international students volunteer with the Global Recruitment Committee, which supports the Office of Undergraduate Admissions’ recruiting efforts by hosting students in their residence halls during Days on Campus, visiting high schools in their home countries during winter and summer breaks, and expanding the reach of the Alumni Representative Committee by interviewing prospective students in places where not many alumni live.

Every year, GRC members also handwrite congratulatory postcards to international students who have been offered admission and encourage recipients to email them with questions. The memory of receiving such a postcard prompted Mungai to join the GRC. “In that excitement of having been accepted to Columbia, a written postcard was a very personal touch,” she recalls. “When I heard about the GRC, I said, ‘Ooh! Those are the people who write the postcards.’ I wanted to be part of that experience: to write postcards, to open my arms to international students who are not able to visit Columbia, to be a resource for them and to share my experience in the hope that it will make their experiences even better.”

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.
As recently as 20 years ago, the College’s study abroad program could have been described in terms of the big three — Oxford, Cambridge and the University of Paris — when students went for a semester or a year to get a dose of a different culture and a needed change of scenery.

But in the past two decades the destinations for study abroad have increased greatly and the types of programs have expanded, giving students opportunities to have experiences from studying business in China to excavating ancient villas with their professors in Rome. And if they want to see Art Hum come alive in the halls of the Louvre and the soaring cathedral of Notre Dame, that still will be an option, too.

“We’re in a much different place now,” says Michael Pippenger, dean of undergraduate global programs and assistant v.p. of international education. “Partially, it’s because of President Lee C. Bollinger’s vision of the Columbia Global Centers. But it’s also because more students feel a need for more global exposure, and heightened interest has allowed these programs to grow.”

No matter the program, though, the value in having a global experience is the same, and it extends beyond the obvious benefits of language immersion and hands-on field study.

“We talk to students about being able to communicate cross-culturally, being able to handle ambiguity and to master content in a different context, understanding that there are multiple ways to solve complex, global problems,” Pippenger says.

Pippenger, who came to Columbia in 2006 to develop an office of fellowship programs for the College (which expanded and later merged with the Office of Global Programs (OGP)), adds that there is a huge connection between winning a fellowship and study abroad. “If you study abroad, you’re willing to take risks, be analytical, uproot yourself. This makes you a great fellowship candidate.” Columbia has ranked in the top 10 for Fulbright Fellowship recipients for the last decade, a time frame that has also had success for students and alumni with other international fellowships such as Rhodes Scholarships, Marshall Scholarships, the Luce Scholars Program, the Churchill Scholarship and Gates Cambridge Scholarships.

The new approaches to study abroad come with an increase in the number of programs offered directly through OGP. (Other programs are offered in conjunction with foreign partners, or by third-party programs approved by the College.) Eight years ago,
there were seven Columbia-run programs; today, the number has risen to 16, and more are on the way.

Columbia’s partnerships with other universities have also multiplied, expanding to include the University of Hong Kong, Pontificia Universidade Catolica in Rio de Janeiro, China’s Tsinghua University, Boğaziçi University in Istanbul and others. And while the United Kingdom and France are still student hot spots — with 41 and 37 College students studying in those countries, respectively, in the 2012-13 academic year — there has been a surge of interest in China, and more students are going to Brazil and South Africa as well.

All told, Columbia students currently can attend programs in 50 countries on six continents.

One of the biggest shifts in study abroad programming is the opportunity for students to gain on-site, hands-on experience. “Students want to be in the field with their professors,” says Pippenger. “They respond to professors who are working in situ.”

Because these offerings are popular with faculty as well as students, professors often approach OGP with field ideas they want to develop into full programs ranging from life sciences to urban planning.

Dustin Rubenstein, for example, an assistant professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, wanted to expand upon a three-week field course that he had run with Columbia students in Central Kenya since 2011. Pippenger liked the idea because OGP had never had a semester-long science program abroad. So, working in conjunction with Princeton, Rubenstein and Pippenger designed a curriculum, and students in the program now live at a Kenyan research center, observing animals and plants. Student projects have included using RNA from starlings to study the birds’ kin structures, analyzing birdsong for form and function, and tracking the prevalence of avian malaria in local bird populations.

OGP also has worked on the humanities end of the spectrum. Francesco de Angelis, an associate professor in the Department of Art History and Archaeology, is one of the lead archaeologists on the current excavation of the Villa Adriana (Hadrian’s Villa) in the town of Tivoli, just east of Rome. “He wanted to take Columbia students on a dig and teach a seminar on archaeology preservation and conservation,” Pippenger says.

As a result, this summer Columbians will be exploring the home of one of Rome’s Five Good Emperors, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and learning firsthand the fundamentals of archaeology. These include excavating, interpreting finds on-site, logging discoveries, analyzing stratigraphic sections and assessing ceramic artifacts from the dig, among other things.

Other Columbians studying abroad are looking for immersion in another culture. A traditional semester or year abroad offers this, of course, but OGP is creating other options. Among these are immersive programs that involve a shorter time frame (a summer semester, for instance) and are designed to increase students’ participation in their host societies.

Ethnicity vs. Nationality

Multiple times during this summer in Shanghai, I have encountered someone — a cab driver, a waiter or waitress, and even a few random people on the street — who is confused by me. It usually starts out innocently, a simple observation of my accented Chinese and a question about my origin. That’s when it gets weird.

I answer the question as any American would, with “I’m American.” The response is what isn’t anticipated: “You don’t look American.”

No matter how many times I hear that, I am at once curious and annoyed.

On one level, it makes sense. I am in a part of the world where the immediate association between ethnicity and nationality is not wrong very often. A similar physical appearance usually means a similar place of origin, similar life experiences, and similar linguistic and cultural knowledge. I can understand and appreciate the worldview from which these words are emerging.

Yet, on the other hand, that does not change the fact that, deep down, I consider myself American through and
For Tabitha Cohen '15, a Kluge Scholar who is studying East Asian languages and cultures and had always been interested in China, Columbia’s Summer Business Chinese and Internship Program in Shanghai offered an ideal opportunity. Zhongqi Shi, a lecturer of Chinese in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, is the director. “He’s hands down the best teacher I’ve had at Columbia,” Cohen says.

The program begins with six weeks of intensive instruction in business Chinese including practice with a language partner and speakers who explain the realities of working in China; then follows a four-week internship with a Chinese business (Cohen was placed with developer Guangpu Real Estate). Cohen also had to sign an agreement that she would speak only Chinese during the 10 weeks of the program, which she took between her sophomore and junior years.

“Interning isn’t well known or popular in China,” says Cohen. “So the fact that American students are able to intern in China is incredible.” (It’s remarkable to other people as well — the program has been mentioned in Newsweek.) Today, Cohen is putting her experience to use through her job at Bergdorf Goodman; while attending the College, she works part-time translating for the store’s Chinese customers and explaining their shopping customs to the staff.

For Domenic DeSocio ’14, the immersion was a junior year spent in Germany, studying in an educational environment with emphases different from those in the United States. Through the Berlin Consortium for German Studies (a year-abroad program in which Columbia participates with other top-ranked universities) DeSocio enrolled directly in the Freie Universität Berlin and lived as a German, not an American exchange student (although with extra instruction in German language and daily life). “People who go only for a couple of months, they have a mindset that they’re Americans in a foreign culture,” DeSocio says. “But if you go for a year, it’s not an extended vacation. You’re there to become a member of the culture.”

DeSocio saw a dramatic difference in the classroom. “In Germany, the professor gives you one assignment at the end that sums up the semester. During the semester, the professor doesn’t check up on you. You have the option of being fully involved in the course or not. You do it for yourself, not for the grade.”

The immersion helped DeSocio become more independent. He cites learning how to deal with health insurance and taxes as examples. “I did two paid internships, so I had to fill out tax forms as a non-citizen,” he says.

While fieldwork and immersion programs are both popular, interdisciplinary study abroad is OGP’s fastest-growing segment. This reflects a nationwide trend; the number of interdisciplinary bachelor’s has more than quadrupled since 1973, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics. “Thirty years ago it was one country, one specialty,” says Pippenger. “Now more students are looking for interdisciplinary projects. We used to think, ‘You go to England for a year. That’s your study.’ Now we’re looking at shorter-term summer programs with multiple sites.”

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**Baozi, Bubble Tea, and Other Goodies**

I thought it would be fine.

I thought I was already used to all of it.

I thought that I liked it.

Alas, I was wrong.

This is a blog post about food.

This is actually less of a blog post and more of a (hopefully amusing) reference dictionary from my experience with Chinese culinary life:

**Baozi**: buns, cheap and tasty; you’ll probably get pork no matter what meat you ask for

**Breakfast**: could be buns, fried dumplings, hot soup, rice porridge, fried dough or anything of the sort; usually rather oily and served with hot soy bean milk

**Bubble tea**: readily available, use makeshift Chinese to ask for tapioca balls because you will never remember what they are called no matter how many times people tell you (hand motions help, too, as
He names the Global Scholars Program Summer Research Workshop, a collaboration among the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, OGP and the Columbia Global Centers, as one example. “Professors take students to two or more sites for a particular topic in the social sciences, like the rise of the megacity in Asia. They do coursework there, and then return to Columbia for a ‘capstone’ class that allows them to process what they’ve learned,” he says. This past summer, the program sent students to Beijing and Santiago to study comparative economic development in Asia and Latin America.

Another example is the joint summer program Columbia conducts with Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. Combining coursework in history, Byzantine studies and urban planning with fieldwork and daily excursions centered on conservation, archiving and mapping, the program focuses on the artistic and urban history of Istanbul.

For all the additions to Columbia’s study abroad programming, demand for Columbia’s traditional year-abroad programs remains strong and OGP is committed to maintaining those programs. “It’s important that we continue to grow the longstanding programs that have been hallmarks of Columbia global education,” says Pippenger.

There have, however, been shifts in emphasis. “We’re encouraging Paris students to consider directed research within the French university system,” says Pippenger. “And we’ve worked hard with the art history and Italian departments to offer more classes in Venice, and to get Italian students from Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, another partner, to take those courses alongside our own students as well.”

Maria Gimenez Cavallo ’14, who has been “obsessed by Paris” since she started to learn French as a high school freshman, felt the pull of Columbia’s traditional programs early. “When I was applying to Columbia, I knew that it had the Reid Hall Paris program,” she says. “I wanted to come to Columbia anyway, but the program was a plus.”

Once she was in France, serendipity kicked in — as it is meant to in these programs. Cavallo’s love of film hadn’t found much scope in New York but in Paris she met cinestes on her wavelength. “Buster Keaton is one of my heroes,” she says, “but at Columbia, we spent four hours on him. In Paris he was the subject of an entire class.

“I told the head of the program how I loved movies, and she encouraged me to be a critic,” Cavallo continues. “Another director of the program helped me become an intern after I had knocked on every film door in Paris and been refused. The people with whom I interned took me on set and into the editing room so I got to see how a production company actually works. I didn’t realize how complicated it was.”

Cavallo’s curriculum included self-directed study, which she used to write a screenplay. She attended the Cannes International Film Festival and joined a sit-in staged by one of her film professors when he was fired from his position at a movie theater. “My favorite period in French cinema is the ’60s, and it was like Paris in May ’68 is still alive now.”

Cavallo’s study abroad was the fulfillment of a dream; for Cohen, it was a unique opportunity to gain powerful business skills; and DeSocio used his year of study to become more independent and discover new academic cultures. But for all of them, it was life-altering. “Students want to be challenged to experience something radically different from what they have encountered on campus,” says Pippenger. “They want a transformative experience, and often they get it.”

Ted Rabinowitz ’87 is a copywriter and author. His first novel, The Wrong Sword, was published last year by Musa Books under the pen name Ted Mendelsohn; the sequel will be out next year.

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Chopsticks: it’s all in the technique. When all else fails, STAB.

Dumplings, frozen: yummy, cheap and easy to make. Get the kind with corn.

Dumplings, soup: tasty but will squirt boiling hot liquid all over you if you’re not careful or don’t know how to use chopsticks; come in thin cover and thick cover varieties

Fruit shops: everywhere and relatively cheap; take advantage of them!

Fuyuan: means waiter; say it, yell it, sign it, skywrite it

Hot pot: a good way to freak out people who have never had it, especially if you order tripe; FYI you will never feel full

(that) Japanese place: get the Udon noodles!

(that) Thai place: get anything. It’s all good.

KFC: serves breakfast, also serves rice; may be bigger in China than in the States

Oreos: So many options! Including inside out, birthday cake, various fruits, and half-and-halves.

Pocky: really good and should have had more of it

Starbucks: it’s more watery here

Vegetables: always cooked, never raw (NEVER)

Western food: there’s plenty of it in Shanghai — Mexican, crepes, burgers, Italian, etc.

Food pagoda, found at Mr. Pancake House in the Jingan District of Shanghai.

PHOTO: MELISSA CHIANG ’14

7:08 a.m. July 29, 2013
For Global Alumni, Columbia Made a World of Difference

By Ted Rabinowitz ’87

R

aised in Southern Indiana, Mark Minton ’67 couldn’t predict how he would be affected by the diversity he encountered at Columbia. His experiences led him from Morningside Heights to Japan, South Korea and finally Mongolia, where he served for three years as U.S. ambassador. He is now president of the Korea Society, a nonprofit dedicated to building greater cultural and social ties between the United States and South Korea.

Ashleigh Silver ’04 grew up on an Ohio farm. She studied languages at Columbia and has worked for the last six years in London, where she is one of the most multilingual employees — speaking French, Spanish and Italian — at her steel-trading company, and travels for business throughout Europe.

Vikas Anand ’11 was born on Long Island, “a New Yorker through and through.” He developed his global interest in his first years at Columbia by interacting with “the most diverse
For many Columbians, globalism was the natural outcome of living on a multicultural campus in a pluralistic city.
in 1979 with his family. He attended a boarding school in New Jersey and, when he began college, found a campus that was matter-of-fact about students from abroad. “Columbia is a very international university,” notes Vishkai. “I might have experienced it more because international students tend to hang out together.”

Anand, who for two years was a business analyst and strategist for Mahindra & Mahindra in Mumbai, notes that growing up on Long Island “was fantastic but limited; I wanted to get out of Long Island’s monoculture even before Columbia ... to be in a place where I was exposed to a lot more.”

He jumped into student life with both feet, joining extracurricular groups such as the Columbia University Bhangra Society and becoming executive secretary of the Activities Board at Columbia. It gave him a chance to see how student groups interacted with one another. “While students of the same culture did stick together, they were definitely open, and you could hang [with them] and see what was happening,” he says.

Anand also felt enlightened by student political and cultural activity. “Seeing protests for and against the same issue at the same time, seeing a Japanese event on The Steps and a Caribbean event at Lerner at the same time, it was all very diverse.”

For Lara Barazi ’90, managing director of Kefalonia Fisheries in Greece, diversity came with her living arrangements. She had attended high school in Connecticut and found it “homogenous.” At Columbia, one of her roommates was a ballerina and two others were from the Dominican Republic; the nearby neighborhood, meanwhile, was different from anything she had known. “Coming from a sheltered background, then coming to Harlem ... I was in a volunteer program where you could be a teacher’s assistant in the local high schools. The kids had a reality that I had never encountered,” she says.

Michael Camacho ’05, who grew up in the suburbs of South Brunswick, N.J., credits Columbia with giving him an “openness to other cultures” that helps him as an investment manager in Amsterdam. “I became involved in the Student Council, and through that made connections to people with international outlooks, and I’ve reconnected with them through the years.”

Columbia’s cosmopolitan atmosphere also comes from attracting students outside the U.S. American alumni are often unaware of the drawing power of Columbia’s reputation elsewhere in the world. “The Columbia brand in Asia is a gold standard for education,” says Minton. “Applying to Columbia is an aspiration for a lot of Korean and Chinese students.”

That was the experience of Conrad Lung ’72, the 2009 Hamilton Medal awardee and an international entrepreneur in clothing, manufacturing and investment banking. Lung turned down Hong Kong University, which would have ensured a career for life in Hong Kong, to pursue the College. “[When I applied] Columbia was better known in Hong Kong and China than Harvard or Yale,” he says. “It was ranked No. 1.”

Alumni volunteers outside the U.S. work hard to enhance that reputation. Anand and Lung helped establish and run local branches of the Columbia Alumni Association. Minton was an advocate for Columbia in South Korea, China, Mongolia and Japan. In Brazil, Diana Nasser ’87 built a high-powered team of applicant interviewers for the local Alumni Representative Committee, helping to raise acceptances from one or two a year to 14 or 15.

Alumni also point to Columbia’s network of Global Centers as a valuable resource. “The Mumbai alumni association was connected with the Global Center and coordinated with it for events,” says Anand. He adds that many of the center’s staff during his time in India were also Columbia alumni. “The Studio X space in Mumbai, [which is] the architectural program’s physical space in the city, helped create a strong presence there, far stronger than the other Ivies.”

Stephen Jansen ’91, who was president of the Columbia University Club of London for seven years (2004–11; he was a CFO in the city’s finance sector), notes that the Global Centers aren’t the “satellite campuses” created by some universities. “Satellites create issues for academic freedom in some countries,” he says, whereas “Global Centers ... provide a place for research and projects to be done. They’re based on study and projects, not a curriculum.”
In the end, most alumni discussions about Columbia circle back to the Core and the liberal arts tradition. The Core helped some international students to understand their own cultures more fully. “When I left Hong Kong,” says Lung, “I turned my back on everything that was Chinese. My overwhelming belief was that everything in America was great.” But at Columbia, he found his worldview changing. “Taking the Core, I didn’t just learn about the Western tradition; through it I came to understand my own tradition,” he says. He began to see the parallels between the Western and the Chinese traditions. “The Odyssey is like the Chinese epic Journey to the West, a process of self-discovery, learning and maturity. In The Iliad, everyone has a role to play, just like in Ancient China. You can see the conflict between the assigned roles and the search for power.”

Many alumni see Columbia as having taught them how to become lifelong learners — a vital skill when living abroad. Barazi moved to Greece with her husband in 1996, and ultimately took over his family’s aquaculture farm. “I came in knowing nothing — no Greek, no aquaculture experience and no scientific background, but the Columbia training helped me to learn the business, to understand how to learn what I didn’t know and not to be intimidated.” It also helped put her on an equal cultural footing with her European neighbors and business partners.

Lung sees that training as akin to intellectual property: “Liberal [arts] education is becoming a global commodity that everyone will need to train their young people, and you don’t have to look further than the Core Curriculum and the humanities for that.”

For some alumni, the College’s emphasis on critical thinking was crucial. “The Core gives me a level of curiosity and a critical attitude toward even well-accepted ideas that’s formed my mindset and has helped in my career,” says Camacho.

Some alumni see this as part of the humanist emphasis on exploration and free inquiry. “Columbia gave me my first opportunity to explore what excited me,” says Bruce Steinberg ’78, whose career in media and business includes the creation of two TV channels in the United Kingdom. “It gave me a thirst for knowledge and experience, and opened up my world.”

For many alumni with international ties, the advantages of the Core become even clearer when compared with the education provided in the countries where they have lived and worked.

Lung sees the current educational model in China as oriented toward test scores and rankings to the exclusion of all else. “Chinese students think if they have a high score in TOEFL and a high SAT, that means their education is good. But they’re not prepared for American education, they’re just good at taking tests ... they are as bright, and more disciplined, but they are less entrepreneurial, less contextual.”

Novielli echoes Lung; he founded Due West to teach local students the “soft skills” not being provided by the Chinese system. “Their system is entirely test based; the Gaokao college placement exam determines everything. The system doesn’t emphasize these life skills, and the students are too busy to develop skills like time-management and leadership.”

Both Barazi and Linnea Hincks ’10 (who grew up in Sweden and is a press secretary in Sweden’s Office of the Minister for EU Affairs) note that the European system is limited as well, with an emphasis on early career specialization and a cultural education that extends only to the national culture; there is much less exposure, however, to the concepts of multiculturalism, pluralism and non-Western cultures. Minton extends that critique to education in the U.S.

“It’s distressing to see all the commentary assuming a strict one-to-one connection between education and career,” Minton says. “That’s an impoverished way of doing it. Columbia didn’t give me a vocation. The genius of the Columbia education is that it affects the thinking of a student and opens doors through which a student can walk to his or her career. And this approach is the correct one. It’s a different way, a more subtle way.

“It’s the Columbia way.”

Ted Rabinowitz ’87 is a copywriter and author. His first novel, The Wrong Sword, was published last year by Musa Books under the pen name Ted Mendelsohn; the sequel will be out next year.
Governing the World

How global government has evolved from utopian concept to failed ideal

Mark Mazower, the Ira D. Wallach Professor of World Order Studies, chairs the Department of History. An Oxford graduate, he concentrates on modern Greece, 20th-century Europe and international history. His books include Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century and Hitler’s Empire: How the Nazis Ruled Europe, which won the L.A. Times Book Prize for History in 2009. His most recent book is Governing the World: The History of an Idea, from which the following excerpt is taken.

Governing the World is a landmark study of the idea of world governance from idealistic concept to often benighted reality. Nineteenth-century internationalists imagined “a movement of cooperation among nations and their peoples,” as Mazower writes, with thinkers as diverse as Jeremy Bentham (who invented the word “international”), Karl Marx and Giuseppe Mazzini contributing sketched-out theories. The 20th century saw real-world attempts at global government in the shape of the League of Nations and its successor, the UN, but the geopolitical version of “cosmic harmony,” long dreamed of, never materialized. In the closing section of Governing the World, Mazower studies the outlines and fissures of this failed ideal.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard
That international institutions may not be internally democratic in their workings has been known for some time and does not appear particularly surprising. They are, after all, chiefly executive bureaucracies, and mostly their most powerful members like them that way. International legislatures have never lived up to the hope of nineteenth-century internationalists, and as the fate of the European Parliament and the UN General Assembly demonstrate, they are unlikely to make much impact on the twenty-first.

What does seem novel, in historical terms, is the collapsing importance of the public bodies that give national sovereignty meaning and the way that organs of international government and regulation have come to assail the internal legitimacy, capacity, and cohesion of individual states. They are not actually turning democracies into dictatorships — few people believe in dictatorships anymore — although the turn to Putin in Russia suggests such a drift is possible. But they are certainly hollowing out representative institutions and curtailing their capacity to act. Bodies that were once designed to foster sovereignty are now recast to curtail it. And this is not merely the curtailing of autonomy that is always implicit when states decide to join international organizations and respect their rules; it is the consequence of major changes in those rules themselves. “The pattern of influence and decision-making that rules the world has an increasingly marginal connection with sovereignty,” notes Koskenniemi in a recent article.

This multifaceted erosion of sovereignty is a momentous change that has been based upon a radical alteration in attitudes to the state and bureaucracy over the past thirty years. In its various nineteenth-century incarnations, after all, internationalism was preeminently a movement to restore sovereign power to the peoples of the world, and those who governed in their name. Its approach to the nation-state and its institutions was almost entirely positive. The originary moment of 1919 saw the goal of the League of Nations as a world made “safe for democracy,” a goal understood — in an imperial idiom — as a society of sovereign polities. After 1945, the United Nations promoted the creed of sovereignty more widely, more adamantly, and more deeply. Nazism’s assault on the sovereignty of small nations was repudiated and in Europe democracy was restored; colonialism’s denial of sovereign rights around the world was also castigated. The state was rendered sacrosanct; international boundaries were mutually recognized in Asia, Africa, and Europe, and the meaning of democracy itself was broadened to “promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom” (in the words of the UN Charter). International institutions enabled states to survive and flourish, and as civil services expanded rapidly, states enabled their citizens.

In the construction of this system of sovereign nations, no power played a more important role than the United States. Washington never had complete control of the process, of course, and there were compromises on all sides. After 1945, welfare states grew faster and economic nationalizations went farther across the globe than American policymakers might have wished, for example, and trade liberalization proceeded more slowly. But these points of disagreement and tension were not decisive. The American Century at its apogee coincided with the heyday of national planning in the Third World and the welfare state in Europe. American foundations funded roads, medical services, libraries, and schools, and American social sciences — from mid-century macroeconomics to modernization theory — provided the legitimation for this expansion of state capacity around the world. Countries gradually became reintegrated in a global trade network, but capital movements remained restricted, and in general people made money from producing and exchanging goods rather than from money itself. As late as 1971, it was assumed that conditionality would not work if demanded by the IMF since client states would permit no interference in their internal affairs.

And then, between the mid-1970s and the early 1980s, all of this changed, as the United States ceased to support a version of liberalism embedded in strong domestic institutions. Confronted with an unforeseen challenge to reshape the rules of international order in a way that gave priority to the needs of the developing world — the Third World’s New International Economic Order — the United States reacted by moving against the old mid-century conception of the enabling state on several fronts: international human rights activism saw the state as tyrant and mobilized global civil society against it; the World Bank and the IMF exploited the crisis-prone character of the new financialization of the world to redraw the boundaries of public and private sectors in vulnerable debtor countries. As governance replaced government, welfare nets frayed, and income and wealth inequality rose sharply. Formal structures disintegrated and informal economies — black markets, smuggling, and crime networks — flourished, leaving only the ubiquitous concept of the “failed state” itself as implicit acknowledgment that states really were rather important. In turn, the threat of state failure rationalized invasions and occupations that returned swaths of Africa and parts of the Balkans to the rule by international executive. This was in no sense a reversion to the emancipatory perspectives of mid-nineteenth-century internationalists but rather the crafting of a “leaner, meaner state” in one country after another across the world, dissolving society in the name of the individual, using international organizations as the handmaidens and new paradigms — the efficient market hypothesis, the Responsibility to Protect — to provide intellectual rationalization.

If the corrosive impact of this process on the idea of sovereignty itself has not much bothered mainstream American observers, it is partly because it has been moralized and turned into something virtuous, and partly because it has happened less there than anywhere else. The United States remains the exceptional power, able more than any other over the past half century to exempt itself from otherwise universally binding international commitments and obligations, its untrammeled sovereignty jealously guarded by Congress. Combining the language of universalism with the status of the exception has allowed American values and influence to spread at relatively little internal cost in terms of policy constraint. And this freedom has actually increased with the shift from a world of formal treaty obligations — a world that had always made Congress unhappy — to one of informal rules and norms, which the United States itself has been well positioned to craft. Only in the fears on the American right of eroding sovereignty and the implausible specter of world government do we get a glimmering of what the stakes may be when the American era finally ends.

Beyond the borders of the United States, on the other hand, it has been far more self-evident that international institutions and norms have developed into means of curtailing sovereignty rather than enhancing it, trends that could not but affect the standing of international bodies themselves and undercut their ability to command continued support. The real-world challenges mount around us in the shape of climate change, financial instability, poverty, crime, and disease. With the WTO’s Doha
Round paralyzed and the World Bank chastened, the IMF incapable of helping to rectify the global imbalances that threaten the world economy, and no single agency able to coordinate the response to global warming, the institutions of international governance stand in urgent need of renovation. Yet the fundamental nineteenth-century insight that effective internationalism rests on effective nationalism remains pertinent. Voters around the world still see their primary allegiance to their national state rather than to any large polity, a fact that reflects the continuing role of the state as primary purveyor of public goods but that many international bodies are loath to acknowledge.

Now we are on the verge of a new era, and as Western predominance approaches an end, the prognosticators speculate on what will come next. Some American commentators seem particularly anxious at their country’s possible loss of influence. But taking a more detached view and in more formal terms, the mere fact that some states are gaining strength as others lose it says little. And so far as China in particular is concerned, it has much to gain and little of any consequence to lose from participating in a system designed to favor leading nations. Like any great power, it will use these institutions to further its own ends, but like its predecessors it will not always prevail. Thus there is no reason to think that the shift in the global balance need of itself mark the end of the international institutions established in the Anglo-American ascendancy.

In the ongoing atomization of society, citizens and classes have both vanished as forces for change and given way to a world of individuals.

Indeed from the perspective of the question of sovereignty, positive as well as negative consequences may emerge from the decline in American and European financial and political clout. As long ago as 1995, the British political economist Susan Strange argued that “the only way to remove the present, hegemonic, do-nothing veto on better global governance, is to build, bit by bit, a compelling opposition based on European-Japanese cooperation, but embracing Latin Americans, Asians and Africans.” The prospective lineup now looks different but the point remains valid. The rising powers, China above all, have little liking for the IMF, at least in its older incarnation, and attach much greater importance to gain and little of any consequence to lose from participating in a system designed to favor leading nations. Like any great power, it will use these institutions to further its own ends, but like its predecessors it will not always prevail. Thus there is no reason to think that the shift in the global balance need of itself mark the end of the international institutions established in the Anglo-American ascendancy.

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In the present context, the rise of new powers is both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to find a way to reconcile the interests of all the powers, and to do so in a way that is fair and just. The opportunity is to create a new international order that is more inclusive and more equitable. The key to success is to ensure that the benefits of the new order are shared by all, and that all have a voice in its governance. This requires a strong commitment to international cooperation, and a willingness to make difficult decisions in the interest of the greater good. It also requires a commitment to transparency and accountability, so that the actions of the international institutions are seen to be motivated by a genuine desire to serve the interests of all, rather than just a select few. Finally, it requires a commitment to sustainability, so that the decisions made today are made with the needs of future generations in mind. Only then can we hope to create an international order that is truly just and equitable, and that will endure for generations to come.
Toomas Hendrik Ilves ’76, president of the Republic of Estonia, addresses a Low Library audience on September 23 in conjunction with the Columbia University World Leaders Forum.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO
As Columbia College Alumni Association president, I joined many other College alumni volunteers at the Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend October 11-12. We set a record for attendance at the event and, I would argue, for engagement, creativity and passion. At CALW we learned how the University, the Columbia Alumni Association, CCAA and many other Columbia organizations around the world are responding to changes and trends in economic conditions, career choices, and alumni and student interests. One of the most interesting is a new set of programs on campus this year that is organized around entrepreneurship.

A resurgence — if not a revolution — in entrepreneurship is taking place across the nation. Entrepreneurship activity is at its highest level in 14 years, according to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, a joint venture of Babson College and the London School of Business, which began tracking such activity in 1999. In 2012, the average total, early-stage entrepreneurial rate increased to nearly 13 percent of students on college campuses nationwide, an all-time high since GEM began tracking.

This trend has had an impact on curricula, co-curricular programming and student life at universities across the nation. In fact, from the Morningside campus, one need look no further than Roosevelt Island, where Cornell and Technion Universities are creating a new academic model that blends equal measures of engineering and entrepreneurship education with industry and business community engagement. Columbia is also building its own infrastructure to support this growing sector.

The undergraduate student club Columbia Organization for Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE) has grown in triple digit percentages in the last year. "The Office of the Dean is supportive and pleased to be a part of the growing campus-wide entrepreneurship initiatives," says Dean James J. Valentini. "We like the progress that CORE has made but we are especially proud of the contributions it is making to both the current student and alumni communities."

In winter 2012 President Lee C. Bollinger initiated Columbia Entrepreneurship, which launched in July 2013. CE now resides in the Office of the President, maintaining a close partnership with the University’s Office of Alumni and Development. Its mission is to accelerate and encourage the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at Columbia and to drive cohesion among entrepreneurship resources on campus, the student body and the alumni communities. CE is already making it easier for Columbia entrepreneurs to launch businesses.

"In partnership with the many centers of entrepreneurship excellence in and around campus, we’re building out a set of entrepreneurship programs and resources that includes co-working spaces, mentorship, workshops, lecture series and events," says Bollinger. "It is Columbia Entrepreneurship’s goal to make it easier for young entrepreneurs to launch Columbia-born businesses."

CE is now a cross-campus organization working with all schools, student clubs and alumni communities in a hub-and-spoke model. It already has found operational success as a convening authority forging collaboration between centers of entrepreneurship practice across campus and across the Columbia alumni community. CE also offers practical programming where much-needed resources are missing and is helping individual schools build curricula and programming.

The CCAA Board of Directors has been very supportive of this effort, brainstorming with CE leadership on alumni needs and working closely with CE staff to provide support, advice and links to the College alumni community. We are very excited to partner with CE and to make sure its activities are well integrated into our own engagement initiatives.

The strong interest in entrepreneurship in the College alumni community was clearly apparent in the enthusiastic response and attendance at an event on September 16 featuring Jack Dorsey, co-founder of Twitter and CEO of Square. College students and alumni attended in huge numbers and the feedback given to CCAA and CE was that we should be doing much more.

I strongly encourage all College alumni, whether or not you are building a startup of your own, are a serial entrepreneur, are interested in supporting our students and alumni or just want to learn about the exciting new activities at Columbia, to visit entrepreneurship.columbia.edu to learn more.

As always, I look forward to your sharing your thoughts with me at ccaapresident@columbia.edu.
Bookshelf

Robert N. Butler ’49, MD: Visionary of Healthy Aging by W. Andrew Achternbaum. The author discusses Butler’s contributions to the concept of healthy aging and argues the continuing relevance of his pioneering work in gerontology, geriatrics, medicine and social work (Columbia University Press, $40).

True Successor: A Novel of the New Roman Empire by Joseph H. Levine ’49. Levine writes an alternate history in which Emperor Charles Martel IV sits atop a contested throne in Charlemagne’s revitalized empire (IUuniverse, $16.95).

Searching for the Best Medicine: The Life and Times of a Doctor and Patient by Arthur Bank ’56. The author relates his experience in medicine to the field as a whole, discussing how one practices good medicine as well as the problems facing health care and health insurance in the United States (World Scientific, $48).

The Great Rent Wars: New York 1917-1929 by Robert M. Fogelson ’58. Fogelson traces the history of rent control in New York City, studying the rent strikes and conflicts that arose between tenants and landlords during the post-WWI housing shortage (Yale University Press, $45).

Presidencies Derailed: Why University Leaders Fail and How to Prevent It by Stephen Joel Trachtenberg ’59, George B. Kauvar Presidencies Derailed: Why University Leaders Fail and How to Prevent It by Stephen Joel Trachtenberg ’59, George B. Kauvar (Yale University Press, $65).

Unrepresented States and the Construction of Meaning: Clinical and Theoretical Contributions edited by Howard B. Levine ’64, Gail S. Reed and Dominique Scarfone. In this series of essays, the editors compile critical contributions to the development of the psychoanalytic field (Karnac Books, $40.95).

Misuses of Poetry and Other Poems by Les Gottesman ’68. Gottesman’s newest collection challenges conventional style through a cynical and surreal approach to questions about the human condition (Finishing Line Press, $14).


In Praise of Angels: A Novel of the Reconstruction Era by Richard Smoler ’70. This work of historical fiction follows Philadelphia reporter Benjamin Wright as he covers the impeachment of Andrew Jackson and other events of the turbulent reconstruction era (Academy Chicago Publishers, $35).

The Big Crowd: A Novel by Kevin Baker ’80. Brothers Tom and Charlie O’Kane must clear Charlie’s name after he is linked to the death of a police informant that occurred 10 years earlier, during his term as NYC mayor (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $27).

Murder at Dacha by Alexei Bayer ’80. Bayer’s debut novel takes place in 1960s Moscow, where Sr. Lt. Matyuskin must solve the murder of a powerful Soviet boss (Russian Information Services, $16).


Mexico’s Revolutionary Avant-Gardes: From Estridentismo to ¡30-30! by Tatiana Flores ’93. Flores provides a thorough account of the early 20th-century Mexican Renaissance (Yale University Press, $65).

Degraded Work: The Struggle at the Bottom of the Labor Market by Marc Doussard ’97. The author outlines creative policy and organizing opportunities that workers and advocates can use to improve job quality (University of Minnesota Press, $25).


Harlem Nocturne: Women Artists & Progressive Politics During World War II by Farah Jasmine Griffin, the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies. Griffin tells the story of three artists who embodied Harlem’s spirit of creative work along with a social conscience during the 1940s (Basic Livitas Books, $26.99).


Columbia University in Pictures by Lenny Pridatko. This award-winning collection of 150 photographs showcases the University’s campuses and community and offers lesser-known facts about Columbia (Luminance Press, $59.95).

Karl Dunn ’15
In a sense, David Epstein ’02, ’04J, ’04 GSAS started working on his best-selling book, The Sports Gene: Inside the Science of Extraordinary Athletic Performance (Current Hardcover, $26.95), as a teenage runner. His suburban Illinois town of Evanston was a “mini Jamaican diaspora” with a high school that won 24 consecutive track and field conference titles. When Epstein moved from sprint to middle distance competition, which he ran as a member of the Columbia track team, the people passing him were Kenyan. And almost all of them were from the same tribe.

“I started asking questions about what was going on in these hot spots to make these people so good,” says Epstein, a journalist who recently moved from ProPublica, where he covers sports science, to Nature, with each chapter offering fascinating insights brought to the investigative news organization’s quest to understand the human genome, its complexity of sports science.

In his first book, Epstein devotes 300 pages to exploring the timeless nature versus nurture question, offering insights into accomplished genetic research and examples of athletes accomplishing unbelievable feats.

Instead of shying away from the issues of race and gender that dominate sports science debates, he tackles them head-on. For example, are black athletes inherently better at some sports? Is there a scientific reason why male and female athletes should compete separately?

Epstein’s conclusion: The answers may be as complex as the human genome itself.

“I thought readers would have trouble with the ambiguity, but I couldn’t do anything about it,” he says. “The reception to the book has emboldened me. People are willing to tolerate complexity.”

For his reporting, Epstein traveled the globe, interviewing scientists and athletes. He discovered that, yes, there appear to be genetic advantages in some sports, but the Kenyans who consistently win long-distance races also avoided the comparatively sedentary western life as children. The science has not advanced enough to determine exactly what role genes play in ability.

This unwillingness to offer easy solutions initially concerned some publishers.

“The first questions I got when I spoke to publishers were, ‘Is this the next Born to Run?’ (the best-selling book that sparked the barefoot running craze) and ‘Where are you going to come down on the nurture versus nature argument?’” Epstein says.

Despite answering “no” and “nowhere concrete” to these questions, the book has the addictive allure of a murder mystery, with each chapter offering fascinating insights brought to life by athletes doing the seemingly impossible.

The Sports Gene opens with Olympic and pro softball player Jennie Finch facing Mike Piazza and Albert Pujols, two of the greatest hitters in baseball history. The softball takes just as much time to cross the plate as a baseball thrown by a major league pitcher — and offers up a bigger target — but both men (and everyone else who was brave enough to face Finch) struck out.

Inherent reflexes, it turns out, are not as important as practice and memory — seeing enough pitches to know where the ball will end up as it is released from the pitcher’s hand.

Then there’s the story of Eero Mäntyranta, an Olympic gold medalist in cross country skiing who grew up in rural Finland, strapping on skis for the first time not long after he could walk. In addition to his years of experience, Mäntyranta has a rare genetic mutation that results in a red blood cell count up to 65 percent higher than the average man.

Sure, Mäntyranta had years of practice, but he also had an inherited trait that gave him the same advantage that many athletes risk their careers to attain through doping.

“This was my favorite chapter to write,” says Epstein, who traveled to the Arctic Circle to meet the Olympic champ. “Here’s someone who actually has a rare genetic mutation” that makes him a superior athlete.

Epstein’s first book merges many of the passions he developed at the College, where he started as a science major who initially disdained the Core Curriculum.

His Lit Hum professor, Julie Crawford, “was the greatest teacher and dressed me down for being anti-intellectual,” he says. “She changed the way I read and write. She had a concrete impact on my decision to end up writing.”

During Epstein’s sophomore year of college, his former training partner, Kevin Richards, died immediately after finishing a high school race at the indoor track they shared in Evanston, an event that would shape Epstein’s career. Heartbroken, he was unsatisfied with the doctors’ determination of heart attack as the cause of death.

Epstein asked Richards’ parents for access to the medical records and learned that his friend had a genetic disease, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which causes the left ventricle to thicken, sometimes reducing blood flow to the heart.

This investigation later led Epstein to write his Journalism School master’s project on HCM, a story that became chapter 15 of his book (he completed a master’s in environmental science at the same time). It also led to one of his first major stories at Sports Illustrated, an article about sudden cardiac death in athletes written after Ryan Shay died during the 2008 men’s U.S. Olympic marathon trials.

“Chapter 15 is where all my sports science writing began,” Epstein says. “I had hoped that writing about HCM would make it seem like Kevin didn’t die in vain, so to speak. But he died in vain, and I guess we can just hope that spreading knowledge might prevent that from happening to someone else. In some way, shape or form, I’ll write on the topic for the rest of my life.”

Ethan Rouen ’04J, ’11 Business is a Ph.D. Student at the Business School and a columnist for Fortune.com. He is a former CCT associate editor.
Robert S. Greene ’43, ’58 Arts, Jazz Musician

Robert S. Greene ‘43, ’58 Arts, a documentary writer, jazz musician and founder of The World of Jelly Roll Morton Band, died on October 13, 2013, in Amagansett, N.Y. He was 91.

After years of writing, Greene devoted the rest of his career to New Orleans jazz and the emulation of his jazz idol, “Jelly Roll” Morton, an early 20th-century jazz pianist known for his piano skills and influence on jazz. During the 1970s and ’80s, Greene recreated the tunes of Morton’s Red Hot Peppers, traveling the world with his tribute band. Rather than copy Morton’s songs note for note, Greene sought to master his stomping ragtime style within the New Orleans spirit of collective improvisation. Greene often remarked, “Jelly has taught me that you don’t play the music; the music plays you.”

Born to Oscar Greenstein and Elma Elsa Stern on September 4, 1922, Greene grew up on the Upper East Side. While earning an M.F.A. in theatre arts, he began work at the CBS Radio Network, where he wrote documentary scripts. He was nominated for three and won two Writers Guild of America documentary awards. Greene taught script writing at Columbia and his books on radio writing and television writing were nationally recognized sources. Greene wrote for The Voice of America network during the height of the Cold War in the ’60s. He then worked under Edward R. Murrow during the Kennedy administration and later as a speechwriter for the Johnson administration.

In the 1940s and ’50s, Greene played piano at jazz clubs across New York. In 1973, he recreated Morton’s seven-piece band at the Newport Jazz Festival with three of the original musicians. The band toured the world and played at venues such as Carnegie Hall in NYC and the Royal Festival Hall in London. The band’s show in Hatfield, England, in 1982 was recorded and released in 1999 and was the last time three of the original members of the Red Hot Peppers played together.

Jazz critic Whitney Balliett wrote that Greene “is the best of the various Morton pianists; he gets inside Morton’s music. He is emotional, reverent, and swinging.”

Greene spent much of his time in New Orleans, where he played jazz piano. He contributed regularly to George H. Buck Jr.’s GHB Records to document and preserve traditional New Orleans jazz and played piano for the score of Louis Malle’s film Pretty Baby. He often traveled to Denmark, France and Japan to perform, write, conduct research and visit longtime friends.

In an interview for JoyZine, Greene commented on his love of playing Morton: “If it was once done so perfectly, why do it again? I can only say: Because there’s beauty there, there’s excitement, there’s love. If that can be transmitted to a live audience, some of the aroma of the original happens again … to bring this music to life for people today, that’s our challenge.”

Greene’s final wish was that he be remembered by “playing pretty, any time.”

Karl Daum ’15
by his first wife, Patricia Ann Foa, but then decided retirement was for many years and retired by his wife of 63 years, Mary-Ann Awards, including Best Picture, for the newly formed CBS Cable cultural channel. In 1993, he retired for seven Primetime Emmys and a mix of poetic forms, most notably in his works *Rhyme's Reason* and *Powers of Thirteen*; the latter won Yale's Bollingen Prize in 1983.

Hollander was born on October 28, 1929, in New York City. He attended Bronx Science, where he wrote a humor column for the newspaper. At Columbia he wrote for *Spectator* and was editor of *The Review* with Ginsberg. Hollander began a doctorate at Indiana, leaving in 1954 to join the Society of Fellows at Harvard and returning to finish his Ph.D. in 1959. His dissertation was published as *The Untuning of the Sky: Ideas of Music in English Poetry, 1500-1700* in 1961, the first of many critical works.

Hollander joined the Yale faculty in 1959. He left in 1966 to teach at Hunter, but returned to Yale in 1977 and taught there for 25 years. He was named the Sterling Professor Emeritus of English in 1995 and retired in 2002.

Hollander published 20 collections of poetry, his last being *A Draft of Light*. He also wrote seven critical works and edited many more including the two-volume collection *American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century* for the Library of America.

Richard Poitier in *The Washington Post* in 1978 described Hollander as "the most intellectually daring, poignant, and thrilling poet writing in the Emersonian tradition of our poetry."

Hollander married Anne Loesser in 1953; they divorced in 1977. He is survived by his wife, Natalie, whom he married in 1981; daughters, Martha and Elizabeth; brother, Michael; and three grandchildren.

Karl Daum '15

**John Hollander ’50, ’52 GSAS, Renowned Poet**

John Hollander ’50, ’52 GSAS, a poet, scholar, critic and professor, died in Branford, Conn., on August 17, 2013. He was 83.

A master of verse, Hollander was known for his formalist and neoclassical approach at a time when many poets were experimenting with form. He cited W.H. Auden as a major inspiration, and his earlier work sought to embody the poet's improvisation of literary forms as well as a sense of playfulness woven into traditional style.

Hollander's first collection, *A Crackling of Thorns*, was chosen by Auden in 1958 for the Yale Series of Younger Poets, which published the collection with a foreword by Auden. Among his Columbia literary influences, a mix of professors and classmates, were Mark Van Doren ’21 GSAS; Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 GSAS; Louis Simpson ’49 GS, ’59 GSAS; Daniel Hoffman ’47, ’56 GSAS; and Richard Howard ’51. His greatest influence, however, was Allen Ginsberg ’48, who shared Hollander's belief in the "mythological weight" of poetic form. One of Hollander's best-known poems, "Helicon," tells of his excursion with the famous Beat poet to sell their blood for spending money.

By the end of his long and prolific career, Hollander’s style had evolved from what he described as "epigram literature" to a less witty, more high-minded form of what he called "murmurs or chants," which divided critics, many of others viewed this evolution as a reflection of his poetic eminence, as Hollander intricately explored verse and stanza form, in full. Brockway was nominated for seven Primetime Emmys and received two for the show.

He returned to CBS in 1980 as executive producer of arts programming for the newly formed CBS Cable cultural channel. In 1993, he retired to Santa Fe. Brockway is survived by his partner of 17 years, John Eric Seagram; the latter won Yale’s Bollingen Prize in 1983.

Brockway was in Tehran in 1953 when the CIA executed a successful plot to overthrow Mohammed Mossadegh and replace him with Gen. Fazlollah Zahedi. While based in Cairo in 1954, Love wrote about the discovery of a 50-foot boat that had been intended to convey the spirit of the pharaoh Cheops to the underworld. He also covered the Suez Canal crisis in 1956 and wrote *Suez: The Twice-Fought War*. Love left the *Times* in 1962 to cover cultural and foreign affairs for the magazine *USA!*. He later taught journalism at the American University in Cairo and worked for the Peace Corps. Love is survived by his partner, Blair Seagram; daughters, Mary Christy Love Sadron and Suzanna Potter Love; sons, John and Nicholas; sisters, Mary Lehmann and Nathalie; and five grandchildren.

Howard A. Mudgett, retired financial services executive, Denver, on September 1, 2013. Mudgett was born on April 4, 1938, in Denver. He found success in the financial services industry, a career that...
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.


1943 Cedric C. Phillip, retired pharmaceutical representative, Audubon, Pa., on July 18, 2013.


1946 Ernest C. Aitelli, retired urologist, Tehachapi, Calif., on September 16, 2013.


1948 Paul H. Gerst, surgeon, Tenafly, N.J., on September 29, 2013.

1949 Frank M. Angeloro, retired insurance executive, East Greenwich, R.I., on February 7, 2013.


1951 Herbert H. Beardsley, retired Episcopal priest, Cutchogue, N.Y., on January 26, 2013.


1955 Calvin R. Jenkins, Salt Lake City, on January 28, 2013.


1960 C. Wayne Case, retired USN commander, Pittsfield, N.H., on February 1, 2013.


1964 Henry F. Epstein, physician and neuroscientist, Houston, on February 2, 2013.

1966 Leonard V. Don Diego Jr., retired teacher, EMT volunteer, Manalapan, N.J., on September 17, 2013.


1969 Mark L. Drucker, professor, St. Louis, on August 12, 2013.


1986 Kevin A. Hall, attorney, San Francisco, on November 12, 2012. Born on March 23, 1964, in Nairobi, Kenya. Hall attended Doane College in England, completing his B.A., after which he graduated from the College with a B.A. in history and French literature in 1986 and an M.L.A. from SIPA in 1988. He then earned a J.D. from Cornell in 1991. Hall embarked on an international law career, first as an associate with Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts and then with White & Case. In 1998 he moved to the New York office of Linklaters, where he became a partner. In 2006, Hall joined Reed Smith as a partner and moved to San Francisco. He was a member of the American, New York, California and San Francisco Bar associations. In 2009, Hall transitioned from private practice to join LiveDeal as general counsel. He later was appointed president and CEO. Hall completed the E.M.B.A. program at the Stanford Graduate School of Business in August 2012 and was a member of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco YMCA and AIDS Legal Referral Panel. He is survived by his spouse, Mark Khoury; parents, Anthony and Gillian; and siblings, Melissa and Ian. Memorial contributions may be made to the San Francisco SPCA Development Department, 201 Alabama St., San Francisco, CA 94103; 415-554-3029; or sfspca.org/civicrm/contribute/transaction?reset=1&id=13.

Lisa Palladino

Edward N. Leavy ’64

and daughter-in-law as well as his wife, Judy Katz-Leavy; other children, Neal Kayashta and Gabrielle Katz; sister, Isabella Levenson; and his grandchildren.

1964

Edward N. Leavy, attorney, Washington, D.C., on July 23, 2013. During his years at Columbia, Leavy rowed for the lightweight crew and was an active member of Alpha Epsilon Pi. After earning a law degree from Brooklyn Law School and an L.L.M. from NYU, he moved to Washington, D.C., to run the regional office for the Anti-Defamation League of B’Nai B’rith. He later co-founded Leavy, Frank, and Delaney, a successful immigration law practice in Bethesda, Md. Throughout his life, Leavy remained a devoted and active member of the Columbia alumni community. Columbia nurtured his lifelong love affair with the arts, particularly music and theatre. Leavy was part of a Columbia College family that included his father, Maurice; Charles Leavy ’27, ’29; and son Charles Katz-Leavy ’02; and daughter-in-law, Michelle Leavy ’02. Leavy is survived by his son

spanned four decades. Mudgett reached executive level positions in several Denver companies, and other positions took him to Chicago and Sacramento before he retired and returned to Denver. Mudgett’s lifelong interests were academia, aviation, science, technology, history, art, travel and architecture. According to an obituary sent in by his son, Jeffrey, Mudgett “loved nothing more than exquisite literature, a baroque classic, an impressive bottle of wine and a warm Siamese cat. Howard was generous with his life of learning, never missing the opportunity to bestow the virtues of enlightenment. Howard refished his close friends, business associates and cronies. Always warm with a sarcastic quip and highbrow humor, he took great joy in keeping those closest to him completely off-balance. Howard’s heart took nourishment from opera music in the hills over Santa Fe. His restless soul awoke at the towering canyon walls of the Colorado River. His unrelenting mind quieted at the sight of a Picasso. That’s what gave him joy and peace.” Mudgett is survived by his ex-wife, Melinda Anderson; son and his son’s wife, Karrina; and two grandchildren.

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but don’t let the quiet lull you. I know you have updates to report, No news arrived for this issue Please let us hear from you! cct/ submit_class_note. can send news online using CCT’s memory, to CCT at either the email illy, or a favorite Columbia College Lahassee and was presented with persons of exceptional merit. Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge America’ for liberating the French Legion of Honor was created by (by decree of President Francois Hollande on January 21) for service in WWII and as a ‘Thank You, America’ for liberating the French from the German occupation. The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of exceptional merit. “I met with French Ambassador Francois Delattre on April 25 in Talas- hassee and was presented with the Legion of Honor along with five other WWII veterans.” CCT congratulates Rip on the honor. 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 using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu / cct/submit_class_note. This column is a wonderful way for classmates to stay connected. Please let us hear from you.

Robert Zucker 29 The Birches Roslyn, NY 11576 rzucker@optonline.net No news arrived for this issue but don’t let the quiet lull you. I know you have updates to report, nostalgia to indulge in and family happenings to share. We want to hear all about them. You can write me at either address at the top of the column, or use CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu / cct/submit_class_note. In the meantime, best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Melvin Hershkowitz 22 Northern Ave Northampton, MA 01060 DrMelvin23@gmail.com On July 20, I received a note from Helene Dmochowski, daughter of Michael Kovach, reporting Michael’s death at 94 in Millerville, Pa. Michael was born in St. Clair, Pa., and after graduating from St Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, he was ordained in 1943 as a priest in the Orthodox Church in America, continuing in that role for 69 years. Starting in 1944, Michael served for 2 1/2 years as an Army chaplain. Ten years after WWII, Michael earned a Ph.D. in American history from Pittsburgh. In 1959 he went to Millersville University, where in 1962 he engineered an integration of the school from a state teacher’s college to a liberal arts college with degree programs in philosophy and Russian studies. At the time of his retirement from Millersville, Michael was dean of its graduate school.

Arthur came to Columbia from Townsend Harris H.S., an elite academic high school in Queens. During WWII he was an officer in the Air Force in the CBI Theatre, participating in the famous flying over the Hump operations. Arthur earned an M.S. from the Engineering School in 1950 and had a long career as an engineer and consultant for many major corporations, including General Motors, Maxson Electronics, General Foods and Sterling Drugs. He retired as v.p. of A.T. Kearney. He was a member of Zeta Beta Tau, the American Institute of Industrial Engineers, the Institute of Management Sciences, the Material Handling Institute and the National Council of Physical Distribution.

Arthur is survived by his wife, children, Helen Gurney and Pat; and five grandchildren. We send condolences to Arthur’s family, as well as friends and colleagues of his alma mater. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all who knew and loved him.

Dr. Gerald Klingen ‘42, who celebrated his 93rd birthday on September 22, is a retired neurologist.

Arthur, a longtime member of the Westchester Reform Temple, served on its board and helped establish its special needs program. I wrote about Arthur in the Fall 2011 issue of CCT, when he and his wife, Ruth, celebrated his 90th birthday with a three-week cruise around South America. Arthur came to several lunches arranged by the late Dr. Herbert Mark at the Columbia University College of New York; attendees included Nick Ciccheti and your correspondent. The last of these was held in December 2005.

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past president of the Monmouth Medical Society and volunteered at the Parker Family Health Center in Red Bank, N.J. Harold retired in October 2010, after which he enjoyed his interests in photography, woodworking, bridge and chess. He was predeceased by his wife, Adelaide; on August 1, just 11 days before his death. Harold was survived by his children, Robert, Ted, Michael, George, Kathy, Steven and Daniel; and 15 grandchildren. We send our condolences to Harold’s family.

Congratulations to Dr. Gerald Klingen, who celebrated his 93rd birthday on September 22, Gerry, a retired neurologist, earned his M.D. at Weill Cornell Medical College and had a long, distinguished career on the staff of that institution and in his private practice in Manhattan. A longtime generous donor

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An accomplished pianist, **Rudolph Carboni '44** served for six years on the board of The Music School of Delaware and has enjoyed playing with various jazz groups.

Years later, in 1960, Erwin made media headlines by seizing Fidel Castro's Cuban government airliner while the leader was visiting New York. He had employed a court order, based on Castro's alleged debt to him for services rendered. Stranded without transportation, Castro accepted the offer of Nikita Khrushchev of a Soviet aircraft to take him home. Verification of this international incident can be found in the obituary for my old NYU friend in *The New York Times*, dated March 18, 2013.

My second recollection is of a one-point elementary course, "Philosophy 13, Philosophy in Morals, Religion, Art," taught by Professor Irwin Edman (Class of 1916), who was the eminent head of the philosophy department. I anticipated a profound, rather complex presentation from Professor Edman, who was one of the creators of Contemporary Civilizations and who was widely quoted in the media headlines by seizing Fidel Castro's Cuban government airliner while the leader was visiting New York. He had employed a court order, based on Castro's alleged debt to him for services rendered. Stranded without transportation, Castro accepted the offer of Nikita Khrushchev of a Soviet aircraft to take him home. Verification of this international incident can be found in the obituary for my old NYU friend in *The New York Times*, dated March 18, 2013.

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**recently, Rudi co-authored Shadows in the Lotus Pool**, a memoir about his co-author's father and the father's close but turbulent relationship with China's President Chiang Kai-shek as a mythic folk tale during the emergence of modern China. The book was published in the United States in 2011 and translated into Chinese and then published in serial form by a Taiwanese literary magazine in 2012. Recently, Rudi has had a number of his poems published in poetry magazines.

It has been almost 74 years since Rudi and I graduated from Yonkers H.S., and I am pleased that in his 90s he is definitely not a couch potato. **Alan Hoffman** accepted my invitation to recall memorable events and emailed the following: "Dan Hoffman '47, '56 GSAS, the famous poet, was originally in our class, and I knew him slightly (some classes had me as their classmate). Once, when he was already famous in his profession, I read in the newspaper that he was chairman of a committee awarding prizes for poems (or poets, I forget which). So I sent him a letter congratulating him for being a maven of bards, but he never answered.

"At the time, **Walter Wager** was writing the Class Notes. I wrote him one at point about his sensitivity to the mores of mathematicians, a 'sacerdotal' community. He wrote back that he was proud to have a classmate who could use the word 'sacerdotal' in a sentence."

"My first wife was a patient of my late Richie Bader. Once during a summer I went with her to the Baders' office (run by Richie and his brother, late David L. Bader), which was not far from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was crowded, with about 30 people..."
sitting in the waiting room. When we finally got to see him, he asked me to figure out why the office was so crowded. I said, ‘Because you’re the best doctor in New York.’

“He answered, ‘That may be true, but it’s not the reason there’s such a crowd.’

“Maybe you’re the cheapest doctor in New York? That’s surely false; I give up,’ I said.

“He replied, ‘Because I’m the only doctor in New York. Everybody else is in the Hamptons.’

“The late Lenny Koppett died on one day that he wanted to live in Palm Alto, and he persuaded The New York Times that the paper would save money if he covered western events from there instead of flying from New York, so I saw a lot of him during the eight or nine years I covered the Hamptons.”

I was so proud that in general intelligence (not technical knowledge, of course) he was as smart as anybody in that community, spoke clearly and wisely, and so on.

I receive emails from Dan Choy, who I used to be described by one word: indefatigable. He continues his intense work to market his word: indefatigable. He continues to him by head track coach Carl Merner. “Always remember, your studies come first.”

Finally, we note, sadly, the passing of Joseph Barata.

Paul Lewis lives in Plano, Texas. He writes, “Unfortunately, I lost my wife to cancer in Zeller ‘46 P&S, retired and living in Gaines, Pa. He began by thanking us for becoming the ‘44 correspondent, adding, ‘Your tenure will not be as long as Walter Wager’s for obvious age-related reasons.

Martin continued, “Recent deaths include my CC ‘44 and P&S ‘46 classmates, Dr. Richard E. Bader and Dr. Robert L. Rosenthal. Bob and I also were classmates at PS 6 in Manhattan and the Horace Mann School.”

“Wilma G. Kjelgaard and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on June 29. We returned to her hometown in Gaines, Pa., in 1987 after I practiced orthopedic surgery in Philadelphia 1952-87. My early retirement was prompted by Felix DeMartini ‘43, ‘46 P&S, my medical school classmate, who made a similar choice.

“The later years in Class Notes in Columbia College Today do not include the things we thought interesting and important when I entered Columbia as a 16-year-old in fall 1940. I enjoyed working on Spectator’s Business Board, ending with a Gold Crown as circulation manager. I was elected to Nacoms in 1943. Acceleration gave me my B.A. with honors in 1944 after completing the first year at P&S. I continued at medical school until March 1943–March 1946; I was the youngest member of my class, receiving my M.D. one month before my 22nd birthday. Studies came first

with my election to the Phi Beta Kappa at the College and Alpha Omega Alpha at the medical school.

“Wilma and I have been blessed with three children and nine grandchildren. Our granddaughter, Ruth Kjelgaard Foreman (B.S. from Penn, Ph.D. from MIT and M.D. from Harvard) has blessed us with a great-granddaughter (2).”

Recently, Roy Kallop ‘46 and I had a pleasant discussion about our days both at Yonkers H.S. and at the College. Midway through his Columbia studies, Roy joined the Navy, went to Naval Station Great Lakes in Illinois, and served for 1½ years in the Pacific on the William C. Miller, a destroyer escort, returning to Columbia to earn a bachelor’s. He also earned a master’s from NYU. During his career as an actuary, Roy was v.p. of the National Council on Compensation Insurance, after which he retired. He is a lifelong resident of Yonkers and enjoys life, notwithstanding a partial loss of eyesight. Roy recalls the sage advice given to him by head track coach Carl Merner. “Always remember, your studies come first.”

Finally, we note, sadly, the passing of Joseph Barata.

Charles Gilman 1635 Forge Pond Rd, Brick, NJ 08724 charles.gilman@comcast.net

[Editor’s note: CCT welcomes Charles Gilman as the new CC ‘45 class correspondent. The notes below arrived at the CCT office before his tenure, but going forward, please contact Charles directly for any news anyone cares to pass along.]

Charles Gilman writes: “I entered Columbia College in fall 1941 as C. Malcolm Gilman Jr. The day after Labor Day in 1942 my name was changed by the Army to Charles M. Gilman Jr. but Columbia and my friends ignored that. It only matters that after the war I used my Army name.

“I was very proud of my freshman cap. I remember being startled by electrolytes in chemistry — why had I never heard of them? Why did I not know ancient philosophers discussed subjects common to us? So much to learn and so little time. We knew what was coming.

“In Hartley Hall, I had some great neighbors. I particularly enjoyed spending time with James Keegan and Don Kasprzak ‘51 P&S. We had a freshman crew that made a grown man cry — Hugh Glendon was our lightweight crew coach. Unbelievably, we morphed into a 1943 depleted squad that beat the undepleted Navy.

“With my first and second wives, now both deceased, I raised eight children and lost one grown son. I had two careers. I helped build highways — New Jersey Turnpike, Massachusetts Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, Richmond Petersburg Turnpike and so on. From the ’70s to the ’90s I worked in automotive retail. Most of the career was in sales management. Now, I sell collectible stuff on eBay! My interest in 1940s baseball makes me want to hear any news anyone cares to pass along.”

The chaotic nature of guerilla combat in Vietnam, the uncertainty about who was the enemy, the emphasis on body counts and the Viet Cong’s use of women, children and the elderly as combatants all contributed to combat actions about which veterans felt severe guilt.

“Maybe you’re the cheapest doctor in New York? That’s surely false; I give up,’ I said.

“How the veteran experienced the combat events — i.e., the meaning of the combat experience to the veteran — was the key factor in determining the nature of the guilt and the risk for suicidal behavior. ‘Meaning of combat’ refers to the subjective, unconscious perception of the traumatic event; it includes the affective state of the veteran before the event took place, when it took place, and the affects experienced subsequently. Recurrent nightmares are a cardinal symptom of PTSD, and they are an invaluable tool in determining the meaning of the experience to the veteran and the veteran’s risk of suicidal behavior.

“Traumas of most veterans with PTSD correspond closely with the combat experiences and the terror over being killed that they engender. Veterans with severe guilt over their combat experiences are likely to have punitive nightmares and are at highest risk for suicide.

“A veteran [whom we’ll call G] who had made a serious suicide attempt had, under the stress of combat, lost control of his anger and directed artillery fire into a village he knew to be friendly. Through his binoculars, G had watched with excitement as the shells landed. As the village was being destroyed he saw an old woman with betel nut stains on her teeth running in his direction, shaking her arms trying to get him to stop the shelling. As she ran toward him, she was killed by an artillery round.

“After he returned to the United States, G was tormented by a painful recurring nightmare that expressed his intense guilt over the destruction of the village. In the dream he is captured by the villagers and paraded so that the villagers could throw stones at him, hit him, spit on him and curse him. The old woman with the betel nut-stained teeth is taunting him. He knows she ran toward him, she was killed by an artillery round.

“Understanding the subjective, perceptive experience of combat to the veteran is a crucial step to success in treating these veterans. A core of trust between the
veteran and the therapist needs to be established for this to take place. Even when that trust has been established, veterans may not be willing or able to reveal the combat experience that is most disturbing to them right away.

"The veteran needs to forgive himself for the behavior that triggered his guilt that is being expressed in a self-punitive way. When the veteran feels relief at having shared the experience with himself for the behavior that resulted from that war. Veterans with TBI are also more vulnerable to suicide. Guilt over combat actions, however, is less likely to be an issue for those veterans with TBI. In often exhibiting aggressive emotional behavior that is out of control, however, they have much in common with the veterans with PTSD who are suicidal."

This column is a wonderful way for the class to stay connected, and we, and your classmates, want to hear from you!

again and again and again.

Dwell on the gift of memories: it is the one true possession that tells what trials and felicities we passed through to become who we are, that will sustain us as we try to confront the vaning tomorrows with a head-on fortitude; and as you recall your laborous journey, may it be with some fair measure of gratitude.”

August 14–17, 2010

George L. Kline Ph.D. ’50 GSAS shares, “In the 'bad old days' (1950s–80s), my writings on Russian and Soviet philosophy and on Marxist-Leninist ideology and practice were widely involved with poetry, photography, and maintaining the household.

"Foolest memory of Columbia: Professor Dick, who taught Humanities in 1942 and later was my instructor in creative writing course on poetry. I still have the poems. He was old school: courteously, always wore a vest with a fob; always gentle and affirmative with his critiques. I cherish his memory."

"Here is a poem I wrote: A Brief Admonishment to Myself"

I looked at myself in the mirror, and said, "Old man, at eighty-five, do not allow pity to be your shadow-companion or your guide; a physician who tended so many at the time of their impending demise; you, so aware of the trajectory of this tale that nevets at its inception, strays at its pinnacle and then drools at its conclusion; slog through your apprehensions as you face each passing interval, and whatever your allotted time, embrace it with an air of quiet dignity."

"Continue with your daily chores and rituals as you cut the grass, hang your wet laundry on your frayed clothesline and parade a canvas of assorted shorts and underwear, shirts, socks and other sundry goods, to the afternoon sun, the drying air and too, the immediate neighborhood. Tend to your tomato plants and your solitude, as your father used to do."

"Enjoy your spare meals with your weighing glass of tea. Cherish your weekly get-together when you dine with the few old friends that remain, as you relish old yesterdays, recite and renew current aches and pains, and featured the flute, clarinet and piano."

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
ctt@columbia.edu
Angeles where Bob also recently participated in a seminar on Corneille, a French playwright. In addition to his work in the theatre world, Bob is active in the literary effort. He recently participated in a staged reading of Cyrano de Bergerac at the top of the column. You also can send news online using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ckt/submit_class_note.

The task was overwhelming that June because I had only 10 days to get my first column to the editor. However, I managed to do a fairly good job on my initial endeavor. Five years have passed quickly, and it has been a gratifying experience. Speaking to many classmates who have accomplished wonderful objectives in their respective fields has given me uplifting admiration not only for our classmates but also for Columbia College and the part that we played in our lives.

Irving Kushner, although nominally retired as professor of medicine at Case Western, is still active. Irv, who has had a long career in medical research, was invited to deliver a lecture at the annual meeting of the American College of Physicians last April in San Francisco. The title of his lecture was “Making The Most of Those Rheumatology Tests.” In addition, two of Irv’s papers on medical history were published in medical journals last summer. "The 4 Humors and Erythrocyte Sedimentation: The Most Influential Observation in Medical History" appeared in The American Journal of the Medical Sciences (August 2013); "The Crown of a Good Name: W. Barry Wood, Jr., and Daniel Nathans" was published in The Phars (Summer 2013).

Bernie Prudhomme marked the end of his first year of residence in Thomson, Ga., with the observation that he doesn’t miss the big city, a feeling that he has lived for 43 years. He plans to continue his good work.

Al Schmitz, who commented in the Fall 2013 Class Notes that he “can’t stand being retired,” found some relief from the tedium when he and his wife, Joan, traveled to College Park, Md., to see their oldest grandchild graduate from Penn State. He also wishes all the members of the Fall 2013 Class Notes, is rarin’ to go to the lift ticket.

I also write these words with the lingering memory of New Year’s Eve. It has been a privilege and an honor to have done this work for five years and, yes, it has involved work. But the rewards to me have been worth it.

The Most of Those Rheumatology Tests. As we talked, I became increasingly fascinated by events in Jeh’s life. For example, his father became the first black president of Fisk University. In those days, Jeh explained, “when black people...”

Bob Goldsby’s book, Molière on Stage: What’s So Funny, was selected this year by Choice for its list of Outstanding Academic Titles.

I thank the CCT editors for all their help. Lots of good luck to the classmate who will succeed me in writing this column. Your reporter also wishes all the members of the Class of 1952 good health and good luck.

Now, for an update: On behalf of Jack Ripperger, his wife, Kathryn Lordal, writes, “Jack and Kathryn celebrated 45 years of marriage in May 2013 with a trip from their home in San Diego to NYC for their 3-year-old granddaughter Lauren’s first communion. They always enjoy time in New York with Lauren and her sister, Norah (4), and their adult children, Lisa ’92 TC and Matthew ’94. Upon their return to San Diego, Jack fell and fractured a vertebra. After six weeks of hospital and rehab, he is doing well.”

CCT thanks Sid Prager for his service to the magazine and to the College. Class Notes help connect, and reconnect, classmates to one another as well as to the school that played a part in shaping them. Class correspondents perform a valuable service for classmates as well as for the College, and Sid Prager filled this role admirably for the past five years.

The column now needs a new writer. If you are interested, please contact Alexi Tonti ’11 Arts, managing editor, at atl2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels, or send a favorite College memory to cct@college.columbia.edu. You also can send news online using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ckt/submit_class_note.

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“As a first-year Law School student, Francis was a member of a group of four close friends — the others were Harry Brey, Dick Lemper and Frank Walser ‘52 — who took turns preparing lunches on a small, hidden stove in one of the dorm rooms. Writing about himself for a 50th reunion directory, Francis said, ‘I have the dubious distinction of having been taught evidence by our classmate and future president of the University, Mike Sovern. I raised four wonderful children and claim seven grandchildren. I remarried eight years ago to my beautiful wife, Susan, and picked up two beautiful daughters in the process.’”

Francis’ infectious enthusiasm will be sorely missed. [Editor’s note: See Oct/Nov issue.] In a telephone conversation, Henry Villaume reported that he has not allowed 13 or 14 heart attacks to stop him from being an active curmudgeon of conservative political philosophy. As a member of his town’s school board, he was able to cut $600,000 from the school budget. As we reminisced about our days at Columbia, Henry indicated that he was going to write a book of political essays. Unfortunately, he hasn’t found a publisher with a conservative point of view that is willing to publish his manuscript. However, he assured me that if I gave my new address to his wife, Suzette, he would send along his conservative texts. (My wife, Sara Lee, and I recently moved; please note our new address, at the top of the column.)

When Suzette came on the phone, I learned that she grew up in the same town as Saralee and my brother-in-law, Seymour Hendel. “Seymour was in second grade when I was in first grade,” Suzette recalled. “As a matter of fact, Seymour scolded me for talking too loud and warned that if I wasn’t quiet, the teacher was going to write my name on the blackboard. Sure enough, our teacher wrote both our names on the board.”

After I gave Suzette our address, she added, “Seymour was a truly kind boy.”

Anthony Robinson writes, “I read that the reunion [this past June] was very nice, a fine gathering. Sorry to have missed it. (I’m feeling a lot better.) I’m coming out with a book called New Water, a collection of short stories I’ve written through the years.”

Having enjoyed Tony’s novels, I’m looking forward to perusing his short stories.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1, 2014
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In a short period of time, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of our graduation from Columbia College. I understand this reunion will include opportunities to visit new facilities on Morningside Heights as well as farther uptown, including the Campbell Sports Center at the Baker Athletics Complex.

With help from the Alumni Office and the leadership of our class president, Bernd Brecher, our Reunion Committee has been formed and is planning events. At this point the committee includes Bernd and myself along with Herb Frommer, Leo Cirino, Saul Turtelman, Daniel Bahlby, Richard Bernstein, Norman Kahn, Richard Kameros, Ron Sugarman, Al Thompson, John Timoney, Herb Hagerty, Al Hellerstein, Arnold Tolkin, Bob Weber and Dick Werksman.

We would be more than happy to have additional volunteers to help with this wonderful gathering. Please let Bernd know if you would like to be active in this way; he can be contacted by email at brecher@iol.com or by phone at 914-961-4101.

I am certain that this coming reunion will be a source of both joy and pride.

Joe Pomerantz, a retired dentist, and his wife, Carol, enjoy their life in Florida, which includes volunteer work for tennis and “the annual rain.” Joe had a close relationship with Mort Cohen, a retired dentist in Bennington, VT, who passed away on September 24, 2013.

Please enjoy life and remain healthy so that we can meet one another at our reunion.

Gerald Sherwin
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There are a number of initiatives taking place on campus and overseas, and many are fed by the growth of the Columbia Global Centers. A special gathering of center leaders, led by VP for Global Centers Safwan Masri, took place in New York in September to discuss strategies and activities related to growth opportunities. “Outstanding” and “helpful” are two words that would describe the meetings.

Later in the month, key University people paid a visit to Paris (Reid Hall) to celebrate world literature. All lovers of literature, books and writing were invited to the inaugural Festival des Ecritures du Monde. It was the result of a partnership between Columbia and the brilliant library in Paris, La Bibliotheque nationale de France. (Did someone say: September in Paris?)

One of the hottest topics floating around the school on Morningside Heights is entrepreneurship. This area is headed by two of our more creative and idea-generating minds: Trustee Emeritus Richard E. Witten ’75 and Director for Entrepreneurship Chris McGarry. The potential and interest level was evident at a lecture given in mid-Sep¬tember by ‘Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey; more than 900 students, faculty, alumni and administrators packed Roone Arledge Auditorium in Lerner Hall.

Another area that shows terrific potential is online learning. The University has entered into a pilot agreement with an online platform called Coursera. In addition, there is a University-wide review of digital learning under way.

Columbia Connects (formerly CAA Worldwide Networking) took place in the fall, allowing alumni around the world the chance to network. An NYC event was held in a nice cozy retreat, Pranna, in downtown Manhattan in late-September. Other events were held concurrently throughout the country and around the world.

Not only is Columbia doing well in the U.S. News & World Report rankings and in admissions, but membership at the Columbia University Club of New York in midtown is at an all-time high and growing rapidly.

As for our classmates, Bob Tho¬mus informed us that his former roommate, Lary Faris, was honored at the 100th anniversary of the USA National Shuffleboard Association. Lary has won many tournaments and is in the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Bob was to make a whirlwind tour back East this past fall (visiting his high school in New Jersey, among other places). Barry Pariser shows up at various fencing reunions and lives in West Fishkill, N.Y. He has taken up the piano (watch those hands!) and is working at the VA in Castle Point, N.Y. Too bad Barry can’t find things to keep him busy.

You have a chance to cheer for the old blue-and-white when the men’s basketball team travels to Brooklyn’s Barclays Center to play the St. John’s Red Storm on Sat¬urday, December 28 (tickets may be purchased at gocolumbialions.com). Who will be making the trek? Iguo Allbray, Stan Friedman, Donald Marcus, Alfred Golomp and maybe even Joe Savino, Bob Schoenfeld and our captain, Ron McPhee? Could we expect Dick Kuhn to put aside his law practice to make an appearance?

By the way, Stanley Maratos ‘53 sent belated get-well wishes to Ron after his stay in the hospital. Abbe Leban has passed the word that he is now living in San Francisco. It’s not Wilmington, Del., but you can’t have everything, I guess. Bernie
Kirtman might give Abbe and his wife the good-neighborly tour.

Jim Hudson has been working on his MBO (Member-Based Organizations) project and promises to give an update shortly — he reports, though, that progress has been made. If anyone wants to know more, contact your trusted correspondent.

On Saturday, March 1, the battle for New England will take place, when the Light Blue cagers face the Harvard Crimson in Cambridge. We expect a big alumni turnout at both the recreation and the basketball game. We’ll be looking for Eddie Goldberg, Harold Kushner, Mike Vaughn, Walt Flanagan, Bernie Chasan, Sandy Autor, Kenny Parker, Guy Whitfield, Herb Cooper, Nick Avery, Nelson Nordquist and Ralph Wagner.

A sad note to report: the passing of Ronald Corn and Ludwig Dosch. Condolences go to their families and friends. My fellow classmates.

Our class is just around the corner and moving closer (Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015). Plans will be developed shortly to make this Alumni Reunion Weekend the most enjoyable and significant ever.

Make your reservations now — you won’t be disappointed.

Most of all, we want you there. Love to all! Everywhere!

Stephen K. Easton
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Englewood, NJ 07631
itball8000@earthlink.net

In September, our first after-summer class luncheon was held at Faculty House and was attended by Ron Koplove, Mark Novak, Ralph Kaslick, Al Broadwin, Danny Link and myself. It was good to get back to the Columbia campus on what started off to be one of the nicest end-of-summer days. As we were enjoying our lunch and the interesting discussions that take place whenever we get together, a downpour occurred. Fortunately, as we lingered longer than we should have, the rain stopped; thus, not only were we able to catch up on our various summer activities but we also got to spend an extra hour together. (It was also good for those of us who, not expecting rain, had not brought an umbrella.)

Our class lunches will continue to be held monthly. We will vary the venue between Faculty House on campus and the Columbia University Club of New York in Midtown. I encourage every class member who lives in or is visiting the area to join us. If you are not receiving my email notices about our luncheon dates, please send your contact information to me: itball8000@earthlink.net.

On August 29, I attended a meeting at the Alumni Office, housed in the Columbia Alumni Center on West 113th Street between Broadway and Riverside Drive. In attendance were Ralph Kaslick, Al Franco ’56 and myself, along with Sydney Maisel, our Columbia College Fund representative, and Jackie Morton, a Planned Giving representative. The discussion focused on how our core classes can set annually to define the factors that determine how they can be allocated. It is interesting to know that we are able to designate our gifts for a specific purpose — for example, the Core or scholarships — within the College Fund.

I have, the rain stopped; thus, not expecting rain, had been enjoying our lunch and the wonderful education in bakery, my wonderful education including the transformational experience at Columbia College, and my medical training and experience in internal medicine and hematology.

Writing gave me an opportunity to think about my life, my experience with cancer, my childhood and my family’s pretzel bakery, my wonderful education including the transformational experience at Columbia College, and my medical training and experience in internal medicine and hematology.

In September they traveled to the Ukraine, Romania and Hungary, and they plan to be in Africa January–February 2014.

I am another member of the traveling medical class. My wife, Elke, and I spent a week this summer cruising in Alaska and have trips planned for this fall and winter to Mexico. After the breathtaking sights in Alaska, I encourage all class members who are traveling exotic places to share their experiences with us.

Ed Botwin reports that he has recovered from his back surgery, is now fully active traveling and is still flying. Ed is a trustee of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Institute Observatory and visits New York frequently in connection with Columbia-related activities. I hope his visits will coincide with one of our class lunches.

Diana Ben Horin works with his son in the land investment/development field on the west coast. Harry Press, who last visited a class lunch in Midtown three years ago.

Len Wolfe, our class historian, recently moved with his wife, Ruth, from his long-term residence in Wilton, Conn., to New Haven, Conn.

Two of our class members recently attended wedding ceremonies.

Alan Press said an expanded version of his North Korean article, “What’s a Smart(?) Jewish Boy from Brooklyn Doing in a Place Like North Korea?” with photographs, has been published online by The Life and Times of a Doctor and Patient, is now published. You can preview quite a lot of it on Amazon. Writing the book was a good chance for me to think about my life, my experience with cancer, my childhood and my family’s pretzel bakery, my wonderful education including the transformational experience at Columbia College, and my medical training and experience in internal medicine and hematology.

Writing gave me an opportunity to discuss medical care and treatment today along with other societal problems that have emerged in the past 55 years as we have seen our society’s priorities change from more lofty goals to an overwhelming power of more immediate concern.

John Goshen, who recently visited NYC from South Carolina with his wife, Janet, to celebrate his birthday, was able to schedule a tour of the Campbell Sports Center. He writes, “The planned use of the unique architecture is most impressive. Once inside the building, the various levels make sense.”

Happy birthday to John, and let’s hope our athletics teams continue to benefit with “Ws” as a result of this new facility.

Again, please let me or Lou Hemmerding (lhemmer@aol.com) know of any news that you would like to share in Class Notes. Also, if you have changed your email or mailing address recently please inform the CCT staff at college. columbia.edu / cct / contacts; this is part of the mission to connect all classmates.

I wish everyone a healthy and enjoyable winter in whatever locale you may be spending it.
Market & Cafe on Broadway to Association. The site of the Cafe sponsored by the Columbia Alumni. Alan Brown and I were attending Barnett and a number of others. Martin Brothers wrote to Stan indicating an interest, I will try to arrange.

Jerry Werksman writes, “In May 2013 I read in the Ivy League title in baseball and would be playing for Columbia, not that far away, in the NCAAs eliminations. The pride I have always had in Columbia and my love for it came to the fore and I was an eager spectator at the [game] that Saturday. The Lions were losing 5-0 to New School last week, and tying the game in the eighth inning and then winning it in the 13th. Having broken my vow, I am looking forward to next year and another occasion to cheer Columbia.”

I flew to Portland, Ore., and there I visited a couple I have known for years. Joe Dorinson made his Hollywood debut last summer — an overnight success after only 78-plus years of developing his shtick. Joe was one of the historians and other talking heads who appeared in the documentary When Comedy Went to School. Directed by Ron Frank and Mevlut Akkaya, the film explores the roots of Jewish-American humor, focusing on the Catskills and featuring some of the comedians who got their start in the Borscht Belt, including Jerry Lewis, Jackie Mason and Jerry Stiller. (Joe and some of our other classmates — Bernie Nussbaum and the late Asher Rubin come to mind — worked their way through the College as waiters in the Catskills hotels.)

Henry adds that, although officially retired, he is still active in the antiques and collectibles field and is a regular contributor of articles and photos to Antique Toy World Magazine and Old Toy Soldier. His articles also have appeared in Maine Antique Digest and Antiques and The Arts Weekly. In addition, he does appear in Jerry's film and was one of the principal organizers and catalogers of the Sotheby's auction sale of The Forbes Galleries' collection of toy boats and toy soldiers, which brought in nearly $2.5 million.

I want to begin by reminding everyone of Alumni Reunion Weekend, scheduled for Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. This will be the 55th anniversary of our graduation and we should all try to be there. The Reunion Committee, chaired by Allen Rosenshine, Steve Buchman and Ray LaRaja, is working hard at planning activities. Suggestions are welcome and if you send your ideas to me, I will forward them to the committee.

Some of the longer submissions for this issue have been split into two parts due to COT’s space limitations. The remainder of the contributions from Pat Mullins, Luigi Lucaccini and David B. Smith should appear in the next issue. My apologies to them and to you.

Jack Kauderer (officially John), writes, “I vacationed in Avalon, N.J., a halfway from the beach, during the first week in June. While there, my wife, Kathy, and I were able to have all three sons and all six grandchildren spend time with us, in addition to one...”
of my wife’s close friends. As my family is dispersed geographically, a week together was a rare treat.”

Ben Miller muses, “I have retired, officially, meaning that I have used that word with my family ... LOL. Up until now, I have been saying that there is still something to do. Well, there are a lot of things to do that I want to do. I just won’t get paid for them anymore. That means I am retired. Right?”

Alan Michael Gelb writes, “On the afternoon of September 11, a photograph was wanted. President Barack Obama ’83 and the First Lady, the Bidens and White House staff on the South Lawn of the White House, observing a moment of silence to mark the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. A careful examination of the photograph showed [former United States] Ambassador [to the United Nations and now United Nations National security adviser] Susan Rice in the front row and, immediately over her left shoulder, my son, Sam ’13, just a few feet from the President. (‘Dad, the aura projected by the President is palpable.’) Sam graduated with a major in foreign relations and a minor in history, and he wants to pursue a career in public service. He resides in Washington, D.C., where he holds an internship with the Office of Presidential Correspondence, helping decide which of the letters to the President will be answered. The President remarked about such letters in his recent speech to the nation. Sam is also preparing to apply to law school and studies for the LSATs during evenings in the Library of Congress (‘The building is breathtaking,’ he says). I’m pleased to be able to offer this positive report during challenging times.”

Ray LaRaja says, “This summer my family and I celebrated some milestones. We gave Adriana, my wife of 50 years, a surprise 75th birthday party. I had also recently, sadly or joyfully, celebrated my 76th. I took my immediate family of 10 on a cruise to Alaska to celebrate all these joyous occasions. As you can see, it’s been quite a year! I hope to see as many guys as possible at our 59th. My best to all.”

From Jerry Goodman: “I’ve been meaning to send something in for a long time — sorry to wait so long. I have been a professor of chemistry at Syracuse since 1969, along the way picking up a vase, a gold watch, a barometer and other trinkets on five-year anniversaries, until the program was rightfully discontinued. Before Syracuse, I was at Illinois, although it’s a little hard to believe that now.

This summer was an eventful one. After spring final exams, my wife, Mireille, and I decided ‘one more year’ would be enough, i.e., we announced our impending retirements to our departments (Mireille teaches French and Spanish at Le Moyne College). We started making plans and negotiating with our respective administrations. We also started planning the celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary, a dinner party for friends and relatives to be held on June 29 (our wedding took place in Paris on June 28, 1963).

‘Exactly two weeks before the scheduled party, I had a heart attack. I had been checked regularly and so on, so I didn’t know what to make of it. Mireille did, and got me to the hospital very quickly (one of the great things about Syracuse is that you can get anywhere very quickly). I was asked to go to the chair position four years ago, which [at the time] was not something I wanted to do. It’s been the most time-consuming volunteer job I have ever had, and during the past four years we have been successful in getting Rep. Jim Costa in Santa Cruz and reaching out to Tea Party folks and to our ethnic communities. Despite my apprehension it has been a fun and exciting job, providing an opportunity to travel throughout our historic Commonwealth and to meet wonderful volunteers and friends. So far, I have visited and spoken in about 90 of Virginia’s 130-plus counties.

‘I still have trouble adjusting to the position — having an aide that does all my scheduling and being driven to nearly every political event I attend. I stood beside our governor when he announced Virginia’s vote at the Republican National Convention and was surprised how many friends around the country emailed to say they had seen me on TV. Moments that have stood out include speaking to 12,000 people at the convention (yes, despite what I was told about the chair position four years ago, which I apparently passed, and the chair position four years ago, which [at the time] was not something I wanted to do). It’s been the most time-consuming volunteer job I have ever had, and during the past four years we have been successful in getting Rep. Jim Costa in Santa Cruz and reaching out to Tea Party folks and to our ethnic communities. Despite my apprehension it has been a fun and exciting job, providing an opportunity to travel throughout our historic Commonwealth and to meet wonderful volunteers and friends. So far, I have visited and spoken in about 90 of Virginia’s 130-plus counties.

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More from Pat next time, in the Spring 2014 issue.

Luigi Lucaccini reports, “Occasional contact with classmates brightens an otherwise quiet life here in Mill Valley, Calif., a community seen by some as a western center of liberal affluence — a view reinforced by residual Obama-Biden bumper stickers on the BMW SUV’s passing by.

‘Last year, before the Supreme Court’s decision on the Affordable Care Act, I enjoyed an extended phone conversation with my freshman roommate, Norman Vieira, who is retired from teaching law at the Southern Illinois University Center in Carbondale and lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Norman, who published a detailed study of the politicization of the Supreme Court appointment process and has considerable insight into the court, and I, who have no such insight, both assumed that the court was likely to overturn the act, given its recent history and composition, but were proven wrong by events.

‘Last fall, after attending a seminar at the Hoover Institution, my third freshman roommate, Henry Rosenfeld ’94, and his wife, Leonor, passed through San Francisco to visit the first-grade classroom of their daughter, Jessica Rosenfeld (who attended Teachers College), at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, a grammar school in San Francisco that is bicoastally dispersed offspring in Boston and San Francisco. Henry and Leonor divide time between Florida and New York, depending on the season, and polish their golf games regularly in both places. Their daughter, Amanda Kahn-Kirby ’94; her husband, Mason Kirby ’94; and their grandchildren here, Alan recounts that six hours after retiring from the Wall Street firm he founded with his younger brother, he was recruited by a professor from the Business School to found a hedge fund-of-funds venture (van Biema Value Partners) based on the value investing principles that were developed at Columbia and that are still vigorously taught there. Alan reports, to mix metaphors, that ‘it is like a combination of having a second childhood and being a kid in a candy store.’

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/ccct/submit_class_note. EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

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In an entirely different vein, Alan highly recommends the Gotham Veterinary Center for treatment and care of Manhattan pets. It is pure coincidence that his daughter, Kimberly Kahn ‘05 GS, happens to be a well-regarded veterinarian at the center. She did her pre-vet work at Columbia despite having spurned her father’s earlier entreaties (and breaking his heart in the process) to attend Columbia as an undergraduate in favor of Amherst.

I have more from Luigi, which will appear in the Spring 2014 issue.

David B. Smith writes, “My wife, Helen, and I have been traveling abroad since April. [As I write], we’re spending a month in Caberets, a village set along the Célè [in southwestern France]. The Célè is a small tributary joining the Lot at Bouziès. It’s our second year here. The Célè has through the ages cut a deep valley in the Quercy limestone plateau. The cliffs behind our house tower above. In the eighteenth century, someone built a chateau high above on the cliff face. The modern chateau sits along the river above its mill. “We planned to leave here in mid-October for Venice and then head home in early November.”

David has provided us with interesting information about the area which will also have to wait until the Spring 2014 issue.

After 65 years of conducting synagogue worship, Rabbi Clifford Miller ‘61 has retired from the congregation pulpit.

Rabbi Cliff Miller ’61 has retired from the congregation pulpit.

Congratulations to Larry

Saddened to report that Howard Mudgett died in his sleep at his home in Denver on August 31, 2013. Born and raised in Denver; Howard had a career in the financial services industry that spanned more than four decades; he held executive positions in several Denver enterprises including v.p. with U.S. Bancorp and president of First Trust of Denver. His career took him to Chicago and Sacramento as well. He returned to Denver upon his retirement. Howard had a range of interests that ran the gamut: aviation, science, technology, history, art, travel, opera, architecture and literature. He was known for his warmth and wit. Howard is survived by his ex-wife, Melinda Anderson; their son, Jeffrey, and his wife, Karrina; and two grandchildren.

Bill Verplank was reached at abuelo39@gmail.com.

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Peter Berman wrote to suggest that members of our class might enjoy "checking out my new sculpture website at peterberman.net. My 3-D printer arrives at the end of the month and then I will be in business!"

As I leafed through the Style section of The New York Times one Sunday, I came upon a wonderful photograph of Jerry Speyer, smiling broadly with other city luminaries at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum benefit dinner at the Waldorf Astoria.

It was with great sadness that I inform you that Robert B. Glassman, professor of psychology, died on April 27, 2013, after suffering an aortic dissection. In the words of Stephen D. Schutt, president of Lake Forest College, where Bob had taught since 1984, Robert was a deeply dedicated teacher, a remarkably productive scholar and a beloved community member who graced our campus for more than 40 years. He will be sorely missed.

A native of Brooklyn, Bob was a proud graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School. In 1964, he earned a Ph.D. in physiological psychology from Penn. In 1974 Lake Forest granted him tenure, and in 1983 he was promoted to full professor. He chaired the psychology department for many years.

Bob was a man of wide-ranging interests and broad expertise. His research areas included neuroscience, working memory capacity, theories of learning, theories of brain organization, religion and science, among others. He wrote dozens of articles, reviews and experimental studies in leading journals and received competitive research grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health, the State of Illinois and others.


Early in his teaching career, Bob commented, "I take teaching seriously... (and) try to make clear exactly what I do not know as well as what I do know; (and) embrace new ideas and perspectives... I was excited to come to class."

Bob is survived by his wife, Harriet; their children, Mark in Washington, D.C., Jill in Santa Cruz, Calif., and Dan in Los Angeles and five grandchildren.

As for me, all’s well in Vermont. Our garden has provided heaps of blueberries, endless tomatoes and cucumbers as well as basil, mint, peppers (green and black), some carrots and lettuce, and mountains of lemon balm, which we have no idea what to do with.

Please don’t be shy. Write us about yourself and your family.

Paul Neshamkin
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paulinhelpauthors.com

With the launch of the academic year and the Class of ’63 has again started up its monthly lunches, and I’m happy to report that they are better attended than ever. You should really join us! Details are at the end of the column.

In August Doron Gopstein and I enjoyed taking part in Convocation, an event that kicks off the academic year and welcomes the incoming first-years. We marched behind our decade’s flag, along with other members of the ’60s-era classes, in the Alumni Procession, then we listened as the dean greeted the new Columbians. The Class of ’63 is an impressive group.

As I write, I look forward to a great Homecoming and a record turnout from our class. I predict we will beat Penn and if at you will all be there. By the time you read this, we will know the truth.

I was so busy describing our wonderful reunion in the last issue that I forgot to fill you in on some great news. We set a record for the most unrestricted funds raised for the Columbia College Fund by a class in its 50th anniversary year. Thank you for donating $1,988,213. This beat the previous record by more than $850,000. (Too bad we couldn’t come up with the extra $1,117,871 in time to make it an even $2 million!) The College Fund and Homecoming donations from 187 classmates, overall, 206 classmates donated $6,052,561 in total gifts and pledges to the University. The participation rate for our class was 57 percent based on 558 active alumni (728 alumni, too shabby, and thank you all for your generosity!) but it still leaves us with a good goal for this year — let’s make sure we break 40 percent participation.

Peter Zimroth was named to monitor the New York Police Department’s controversial stop-and-frisk policy. The New York Times reported on August 13: “Mr. Zimroth, a lifelong New Yorker, said on Monday that he was ‘honored’ that the judge in the federal stop-and-frisk case, Shira A. Scheindlin, had selected him. He got her call about a week and a half ago, he said, met with the judge in her chambers, and accepted. ‘I have always loved public service,’ he said from a lakeside cottage in New Hampshire. ‘It has been very important to me in my life.’”

To the New York Daily News, he stated, “I am going to be listening in the beginning of this. I’m going to be taking arguments from people who have stakes in this — the Police Department and others.” The judge, he noted, “made clear that this is not an adversarial position. That’s not my role. I am in a position of trying to help solve a problem, and that’s what I’m going to do.”

David Orme-Johnson writes in response to my question about what Columbia College meant to him, “The first thing that comes to mind is that Columbia gave me a benchmark for how the top minds in the world think. I found that it was broad comprehension, a command of the facts and a sometimes disarming simplicity and straightforwardness. When you are from [smaller towns and places other than NYC], like El Paso, Texas, you don’t know what the level is of the people in your life. I discovered, for example, that my science prodigy older brother, W.H. Orme-Johnson III, was a very kind, class mind and, sure enough, he became a tenured chemistry professor at MIT. Columbia gave me a framework for evaluating who is for real and who is worth listening to. And it gave us living examples of what to aspire to in our lives. ‘And then, of course, it gave us a wonderful framework of knowledge, including the fundamental ideas, music and art underpinning Western Civilization, by which to understand the world, question its assumptions and hopefully move forward.’

‘Finally, it gave us a great set of friends to experience that most seminal time with, the best of which was my Vassar-educated wife, Rhoda, whom I never would have met if I had majored in philosophy at Columbia and Columbia is in New York City!’

Richard Wells writes, ‘Upon graduation I joined the nascent Peace Corps and spent nearly two years living and working alone in a tiny village high in the Andes Mountains (about 4,500 meters). After my stint was over I returned to the United States to attend Harvard Law, from which I graduated in 1968. Since then I have practiced law, served in government and been an entrepreneur. Just shy of my 60th birthday I completed a two-year course to become a paramedic and then began working full-time in New York City and Westchester. I received my state certificate to practice shortly before the terrible events of 9-11 and worked there for much of the first week until it became sadly apparent that paramedics were not needed. After a few years as a paramedic I concentrated on working with neonates, see little bits of flesh some below one kilo in weight.

I have been married for 47 years. My wife, Jan, spent nearly 30 years in elective local and regional public office, winning 11 consecutive elections. We have two children and two grandchildren in elementary school.

‘Now we are retired and spend five months a year at our home on a lake in the Adirondack Mountains, which has the added attraction of being within shouting distance of our kids and grandchildren.’

‘Until recently I was an avid skier, both Nordic and Alpine, a hiker, a camper and a sculler, but age has slowly eliminated those joys, remitting me to my restored mahogany speed boat, an infield that’s what I’m going to do.’

Don Margolis, who is my first cousin and with whom I have been good friends since childhood.”

Tom Bailey writes that after graduating with a commission in the Navy, he spent four years flying, sailing, getting married, having a son and applying to medical school: “I did pass Jeff Thompson a few times in the mid-Atlantic and we sent messages back and forth. With my Columbia degree and four years of maturity, I was admitted to the Albany Medical College in January 1967, the same time my son, Rick, was born. Four years later, I happily graduated with Junior AOA, summa cum laude, and a second child. With my ophthalmology residency at Albany with one of the top ophthalmologists in the country.”

“It has been a rewarding career. The first intraocular lens implants in upstate New York were done by me in the early 1980s, we were the only ophthalmologists allowed to do implants in the Albany Medical
professor in the eye department to do the first implant in our V.A. At the end of my surgical career, restored vision to more than 9,000 with many eye trauma cases. Worked with many residents on Center Hospital. I was privileged.

CLASS NOTES

wife of 49 years, is doing high-end however, is my family. Lynn, my one’s life in such a positive way is at the Albany Medical Center, I was chief to the Albany. My youngest son, Mike, is a cardiac rehabilitation specialist. Our daughter, Emily, has a professional at a local college. Our son, Ben, has a civil engineering professor in the eye department. Having loved kindergarten, I had stayed in school through a Ph.D. in linguistics and a 35-year career as a professor. But Columbia was the highlight. There I learned enough critical thinking to allow the next stage in our lives. For, returning from a year of study in the USSR, my wife and I were able to find our way to the text that formed the character of my ‘role model,’ Bertrand Russell. This world-famous atheist and nonconformist, growing up in the home of his Protestant aunt, defined his life by a single verse in Exodus: ‘Don’t follow the many to do evil,’ which is good advice even if it does come from the Bible.” This led us to the study of Hebrew and practice of Judaism and moving to Israel, where we lived for six years. I became a Torah reader and Hebrew teacher. Visit my website at languagebazaar.com for some of my innovations in language teaching and a lecture on Judaism and science that I gave to a world religions class, where I explain the TUOT (pronounced ‘toot’): the Theory of the Universe and Other Things, with its Fifth Dimension. Perhaps we can get in touch: zevbarlev@csud.edu.”

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; it’s always the second Monday of the month. Check out ccs3ers.com for details. In the meantime, let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29–JUNE 1, 2014

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Norman Olch

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The serious job of planning our 50th Alumni Reunion Weekend is under way. As I reported in the last column, Steve Case has agreed to chair the Reunion Committee, and he is getting help. As of this writing, an ad hoc committee has met twice in conference space graciously provided by Steve Rodner at his law firm in Manhattan. Subcommittees have been formed, and we plan to meet again before the winter holidays.

So far, those involved in the planning are Joel Bronson, Adam Bender, Marty Isserlis, Howard Jacobson, Gil Kahn, Fred Kantor, Beril Lapon, Peter Lowitt, Marshall Meyer, Jeff Newman, Merv Rothstein, Dan Schechter, Steve Solomon, Peter Thall, Allen Tobias, Ivan Weissman and Marty Weinstein. Paul Neshamkin ’63, who helped organize his 50th reunion, also has been very helpful.

If you have suggestions for the reunion, or want to go a step further and participate in the planning either in person or by conference call, please contact me or either of the Alumni Office staff contacts listed at the top of the column. A 50th reunion is special for many reasons. Let’s make it memorable.

Speaking of Ed Wargo writes from South Burlington, VT, that he earned a master’s from the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter and a J.D. from NYU Law. He has counseled foster children, drug addicts, disabled veterans, Bowery alcoholics, and, as an attorney, Bill has represented poor people living on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, prison inmates, a municipality in Vermont and the Vermont Health Department. For more than 20 years he also has taught at a number of colleges in Vermont.

Bill and his wife, Susan, have been married for 38 years. He adds, “Our daughter, Emily, has a master’s in teaching with technology (yes, there is such a degree now). She is an assistant professional at a local college. Our son, Ben, has a civil engineering degree and is serving in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. He designed and supervised the construction of a water system that is providing clean, running water to people who never had such a luxury (to them).”

John Cirigliano was in New York City from Lexington, Ky., for Homecoming and other Columbia activities.

Steve Lapson has been traveling for business and pleasure to Mexico, Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey. Allen Tobias traveled to Israel and later to Boston, where he visited his son, David, who is in law school at Northeastern. At this writing, Dan Schechter is on a hunting trip in England.

For 15 years Peter Thall, an attorney in New York, has been special music counselor for all events, including television, held in the United States by Victoria’s Secret. Steve Rodner, like Peter an intellectual property lawyer in New York City, is a proud grandfather of two.

Five Columbians attended the bat mitzvah of Ivan Weissman’s daughter, Julia: Howard Jacobson, Bill and his wife, Susan, Allen Tobias, and I. The Bar Mitzvah was on November 1, 1963, under the Spectator headline, “Bunuel, Bresson, Kurosawa at Film Festival,” Philip Lopate wrote a review of the first New York Film Festival. While a “lack of both time and money” forced Phil to attend only 10 of the 21 films shown, he found the festival “an exciting, frequently rewarding experience.” The review concludes with “the hope that its organizers will continue to bring to the American people.”

Fifty years later, the festival has become one of the four most important film festivals in the world and Phil continues to celebrate. He has written a behind-the-scenes history of the festival as part of the recently published New York Film Festival Gold: A 50th Anniversary Celebration.

I am saddened to report that Barry Shapiro and Gene Meyer (obituary page 65) of Ed Leavy. Gene writes: “I was fortunate to see Ed [the day before his death] at his final residence, ironically or perhaps fittingly, at one of the assisted-living group homes he established in the Mary and librarian and I.

“Ed was a wonderful raconteur, intellect and fighter for justice as an immigration lawyer and, formerly, as the D.C. regional director of the Anti-Defamation League. Even as his health failed, he never lost his sense of humor. He fought long and hard to live to the longest and to the fullest. He loved Columbia, from which his son Charlie Katz-Leavy ’02 also graduated, as did his father, Maurice ’27, ’29L (with Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS). Ed greatly appreciated the love and support of his wife, Judy Katz-Leavy. He also leaves another son, Neil Kayastha, and a daughter, Gabriella Katz. May his memory be a blessing.”

[Editor’s note: See Obituaries.]

Mike Cook, one of several you who keep us nourished with tidbits about our class, produced this effusion of praise for our ranks: “Some classmates once complained that there were no ‘captains of industry’ in our class. At our class lunch on April 5, however, when retired U.S. Senior District Judge A. Howard Matz joined us, it struck me that we do, in fact, have many accomplished classmates. Howie told us that he was about to retire from the bench, having been a U.S. district judge in Los Angeles for about 20 years. He was considering the next chapter in his life. Howie’s description of the ugly judicial
The little dose of civic betterment we received merely from being in Howie's presence. As I wrote to Howie afterward, the tone of our informal discussion was noticeably elevated and scintillating, and the only difference that I could perceive between that lunch and previous occasions was his enthusiasm.

As a follow-up to Mike's reference to Allen Steere, a picture of Allen (looking youthful in 1976) appeared in The New York Times on September 19 — the date on which I am writing this column — in an obituary for Dr. Stephen E. Malawista '58 P&S, who with Allen co-led the team at the Yale School of Medicine that is widely credited with defining Lyme disease.

Robert W. Gunn, who was featured in our Class Notes in the Fall 2013 issue and has a LinkedIn profile. Bob's profile discloses that he is now the director of the Blanton-Peale Institute & Counseling Center Pastoral Care and Counseling Program (English) in the greater New York City area. Bob's retirement marches on!

Richard Kagan '65 is getting to know a new city, Philadelphia, where he recently relocated with his wife of 30 years.

Richard Kagan '65 is getting to know a new city, Philadelphia, where he recently relocated with his wife of 30 years.
Stepping Out with “Dr. Banjo,” Pete Wernick ’66

By Michael R. Shea ’10 Arts

From playing College Walk as part of the Morning-side Mountain Boys in 1962, to performing live with Steve Martin on The Late Show with David Letterman, Pete Wernick ’66, ’73 GSAS has lived and breathed bluegrass music for more than 40 years.

The International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame inductee formed his first real band at Columbia, rehearsing in Ferris Booth Hall, and soon after hosted a bluegrass show on WKCR — the only one of its kind in New York. “At 17 or 18 I became important, if you can call it that, as the guy who played bluegrass on the radio,” he says. Suddenly the kid who grew up near the Bronx’s Van Cortlandt Park with a math teacher father and librarian mother — a kid who taught himself banjo by jamming with friends, and who was fast-tracked through junior high school and enrolled at Columbia at 16 — was backstage at music festivals in the South and the standard-bearer of bluegrass music for the New York metro area. He interviewed the Stanley Brothers, the Greenbriar Boys, and Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys, names that would come to define the genre, and broadcast them all citywide. “A friend calls me ‘the Forrest Gump of bluegrass,’ because I was able to get my face into so many situations,” Wernick says.

Rather than a fan who just gets an autograph, I got an interview, and then it ended up on the radio or in a book.” After majoring in sociology at Columbia he stayed on, earning a Ph.D. in the same subject and soon after his moniker, “Dr. Banjo.” In 1970 he moved upstate to take a research position at the International Population Program at Cornell, and on a trip to Boulder he met his wife, Joan Leonard. They’ve been together more than 40 years and have a 31-year-old son, Will, a filmmaker in Los Angeles.

In Ithaca, Wernick founded the band Country Cooking and started making music for the then-new label Rounder Records. Around the same time he wrote what became the second instructional book for bluegrass banjo. “I unlocked the mystery of the Scruggs style, and it sold well,” he says, referring to the late, legendary Earl Scruggs and his revolutionary high-speed, three-fingered picking style. “I realized that with the royalties flowing, I could start a full-time music career without having to be dead broke.”

With the banjo book selling, he and his wife moved to Colorado to do just that, settling down by a dirt road outside Boulder. Soon thereafter Wernick produced his first solo record, Dr. Banjo Steps Out, and put together a band named Hot Rize, after the secret ingredient in Martha White Self-Rising Flour, an iconic sponsor of Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry.

With Tim O’Brien on lead vocals, mandolin and fiddle, Wernick on banjo and harmony vocals, Charles Sawtelle on guitar and vocals and Nick Forster — who went on to host the nationally syndicated radio show eTown — on bass, Hot Rize climbed to the top of the bluegrass mountain. Through the 1980s they regularly appeared on NPR’s A Prairie Home Companion and The Nashville Network’s Ralph Emery Show, and often appeared on the television show Austin City Limits. Hot Rize produced nine albums and became a hit international band, playing 47 states and 15 foreign countries and becoming one of the best-selling bluegrass acts of all time. “The thing about Pete,” Forster says,
news from Dr. Larry Guide '69 P&S. He writes, "On September 18, 2013, my dear wife of 41 years, Jane Seymour Guide, passed away in her sleep. She had painfully suffered for many years with two incurable auto-immune diseases. I don't know how she put up with me for 41 years!"

“The window that opened shortly beforehand was the birth of my fourth grandchild, Henry Wyatt Vincent Pascal, on July 1. He is the first child of my son, Launcie Jr. '00, SIPA '01, and his wife, Joanna (a Ph.D. neuropsychologist at Penn).”

"Launcie, Joanna and Henry, along with our daughter, Pia, and her children, Raymee, Peter and Charlie Murphy (Peter and Charlie are 7-year-old identical twins), joined my wife and me on Nantucket for three weeks, starting in mid-August. Jane was so very happy to hold and love the newest member of our family and especially overjoyed that her entire family was gathered together in the very special town of Sconset, where we have been summering since about 1980. The warmth and love she felt was permanently and clearly expressed on her face during those few weeks. That was indeed a blessing and a great gift for all of us. I'm so very grateful for that and for the fact that she is now indeed free from pain."

"So now I have an entire new calculus to ponder for my future. As many wiser than I have noted: No major decisions should be made in the first year following the death of a dearly loved one."

"When a dear one passes, the memories become treasures. Keep those treasures close to your heart."

"I send my best regards to our classmates."
Arthur Spector
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Happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year! Hard to believe we’re about to roll into 2014. As you can see, we have an empty column but — after such a succesful reunion — I suppose it’s OK for us to take a breather. I want full reports for future issues, though. Please write me at either address at the top of the column or use CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS ALUMNI AFFAIRS Vanessa Scott vs2470@columbia.edu 212-851-9148 DEVELOPMENT Esfir Shamlova es3233@columbia.edu 212-851-7833 Michael Oberman Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel 1177 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 moberman@kramerlevin.com

On August 26, I represented our class and co-represented our decade in the Alumni Procession at Convocation. Convocation, which this year welcomed the Class of 2017, cannot match the majesty and excitement of Class Day, when a larger group of alumni march in honor of the graduates in cap and gown. Still, on a sunny late summer day, much like a sunny spring day, the campus looks great. And there was the traditional challenge of those starting their College experience. Even as we approach our 45th reunion I am sure many of us recall with fondness at least some part of our “Freshman Week” — a name and set of events quite different from today’s orientation.

Speaking of reunion, which is scheduled for Thursday, May 29—Sunday, June 1, planning continues. This column is filled with letters from my fellow Classmates as they reminisce about their classes, their professors, their fellow students and their college experience! Thanks to all of you who wrote in.

It’s not long ago that I walked into my first CC class and realized that I was in over my head. Suffice it to say that I owe my graduation to my high school buddy and two-year roommate in Hartley Hall, Bob Kahan (the voice of WKCR); my senior year roommate, Tom Garnevous; and close friends Jim Alley, Max Carey, Rick Rose and Marty Donner, all of whom I socially and academically continue to follow. It seems like the obvious path to do the work and to have fun. I graduated on time by the barest of margins and with less than a grade point average.

After graduation and my failure to pass the draft board’s physical standards, I married and began a quite enjoyable teaching career in a public high school. In 1974, I received a master’s from TC and, with my wife, promptly packed everything we owned into our VW van and moved to Moscow (not that one). Idaho. The U of I was enamored enough with my two Columbia degrees to offer me a position, and three years later, a Ph.D.

“Then it was on to Manhattan (not that one), Kansas, and a professorship in business law and economics. Divorced, married again (to Susy, a TV news anchor), tenured, seven more years of teaching, then gave it up to follow Susy to the anchor desk at the NBC affiliate in Des Moines. Changing professions to mortgage banking seemed like the obvious path to take. Really, I started at the bottom for First Union Mortgage, then on to AmeriUs, Wells Fargo, Principal Financial Group and, finally, e.v.p. at American Home Mortgage Investment Corp. I commuted from Des Moines to New York every week for four years... pretty dumb.

Meanwhile, Susy and I were blessed with two darling daughters, one in 1987 and one in 1989. Unfortunately, I worked for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission chasing after bad people, trying to stop fraudulent trading or do fraudulent trading in electricity and/or natural gas, while the younger one attends law school in Washington, D.C.

“Susy is retired from TV and from her second career as an executive at the University of Minnesota, which she considers the heart of the Heartland. I retired from mortgage banking, played a lot of golf, then started a financial services business with two young partners who work very hard, are fabulous at their jobs and think that I am 45 really. Please do not tell them differently! Thanks to all of you who crossed my path those four years [at CC] and helped me become the very lucky and happy man that I am today.”

Roger Podesta was named Litigator of the Week by AmLaw’s Litigation Daily on July 25. Roger is a litigation partner at Debevoise & Plimpton. He successfully represented American Airlines against negligence claims brought by the deposed酹 President of the World Trade Center, who sought to hold the airlines whose planes were flown into the towers on 9-11 liable for the resulting damage to the towers. On July 18, a judge of the Southern District of New York blocked the claims.

William Stark, now professor of biology at St. Louis University, come some memories of our College years: “When I was a freshman, Marat/Sade was a popular Broadway show about the persecution and assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as performed by the inmates of the asylum at Clarendon under the direction of the Marquis de Sade.” Initiation was not telling freshmen to change from the express to the local on the IRT at 96th Street. The local was the Clarendon and Broadway, between Columbia and Barnard. The express let you off farther east. ‘Oh, there’s Columbia, up that hill through that
was a time when Christopher Donald said we should go see B.B. King at the Fillmore East. ’Some albino dude from Texas is opening for him.’ I’ve seen Johnny Winter a few times since then. “When I was courting my wife, Sharon, in 1968, her family came to New York for Thanksgiving. I took her to see Jimmy Hendrix live at Fillmore Har­monic Hall [now Avery Fisher Hall] in Lincoln Center. Orchestra seats, $7.50 each. We left with only half our hearing.”

Steve Steinel writes: “It has been a terrible juncture for the pork. Last week a man in a pork suit won home all the same. My wife, Lisa, and I are about to exercise a reverse exodus, leaving the Boston Bruins, Patriots and Red Sox for a new home in the Squirrel Hill area of Pittsburgh, where we previously served Congregation Beth Shalom as rabbi and rebbetzin for 23 years. What could possibly be the attraction? Daughter Shiri ’01 Penn and her husband, Josh Friedman, are committed to raising their three children in Pittsburgh and bringing their own children here to visit long to realize how blessed we would be to be near them on an almost daily basis, so our answer was ‘of course.’ Our daughter Sara ’99 and her husband, Andrew Dauber ’00, have four children in the public schools and visit whenever we can. Our third daughter, Sivya, a 2004 graduate of The George Washington University, and her husband, Keith, a 2003 graduate of Maryland, live in Minnesota. We enjoy time with our grandchildren because we want to keep in touch with lots of airline connections.”

From Bob Rabinoff: “Just wanted to brag. My daughter Eve successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation at Boston College. She wrote on Aristotle’s theory of per­ception and the impact it has on his ethics. She now teaches at Boston University. My son Joseph and his wife, Kirsten Wickelgren (daughter of the late Wayne Wickelgren and Norma Graham of Columbia’s psychology department), are beginning their careers as assistant professors of mathematics at Georgia Tech. My son Daniel has a couple of years to go toward his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Toronto, and my daughter Shoshanah is an R.N. and mother of Nathaniel (15 months). I’m still in Fairfield, Iowa, doing freelance programming and sliding toward retirement (gasp).”

I have some good news of my own to share: My daughter, Abby Oberman ’10 (now Finkel), married Bryan Finkel at the Essex House in NYC on September 28. See photo near the CC ’10 column. As this column reflects, there is news and there are memories worth sharing with classmates. May I ask you to be one of our classmates to email me an item for the next issue?

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I was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response to my request for news. I even heard from classmates I hadn’t thought to contact in a long time. Professor Samuel Estreicher, a leading authority on labor and employment law, has joined Schulte Roth & Zabel as counsel in addition to being the Dwight D. Opperman Professor of Law and director of the Center for Labor and Employment Law at NYU. Sam was editor-in-chief of the Columbia Law Review as well as a law clerk to Supreme Court Judge Lewis Powell Jr. I remember Sam during freshman week in Carman, when he was debating the trimmings of one of the classics that had been recommended for summer reading. Sam has reached the highest level of accomplishment in the field of law and we should all be proud of him! Another classmate of whom we should be proud and much admired is Dr. Paul Rosen, a double-boarded physician in family medicine and psychiatry and neurology. Paul was the principal investigator of a study looking into the utility of feverfew (T. Parthenium) as a safer alternative to NSAIDS for the treatment of osteoarthritis. He had a clinical trial published in Integrative Medicine: A Clinician’s Journal in July. Paul works with an underserved patient population in the South Bronx and North Central Brooklyn in addition to conducting clinical research and teaching medical students and residents. He has a strong interest in helping develop and deliver primary care services to mentally ill patients with limited resources and limited exposure to Nathaniel’s medicine. He sends a special hello to all of his fellow Bronx Science alums in the class.

Sheldon Danziger ’70 is the new president of the Russell Sage Foundation.

Chuck Silberman and his wife, Susan, were thrilled to welcome their first grandson, Max Hudson Goldstein, on June 27. The proud uncle is Jeff Silberman ’08.

Sheldon Danziger is the new president of the Russell Sage Foundation. Previously he was the Henry J. Meyer Distinguished University Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and director of the National Poverty Center at Michigan.

Ralph Bradburd’s book, The Robin Hood Rules for Smart Giving, which he co-authored with Michael Weinstein of the Robin Hood Foundation, came out in May. The book makes the case that philanthropic organizations and the donors who fund them should rely on benefit-cost analysis in allocating their resources and elaborates on how these benefit-cost analyses correctly. Ralph also became the director of Williams College’s Center for Environmental Studies, which offers six majors in environmental science and environmental policy and produces a 2,600-page coursebook for research and teaching. He divides his time between the center and the school’s Department of Economics.

My friend Frank Motley reported the birth of his second grandchild.

Another Bronx Science friend and distinguished professor at Northwestern, Robert Launay, survived a heart attack in July and is now, alas, reduced to ramping down his food intake and ramp­ping up his exercise. But at least Robert is more on his back in the groove.

Richard Smoley’s second novel, In Praise of Angels, based upon the Credit Mobilier of America scandal surrounding the building of the transcontinental railroad, was published in July.

David Lehman says, “At this
This past summer, Arnold Horowitz ’72 was on the road with his family, traveling to Prague and Berlin.

The sunset was breathtaking — it was the first real spring day — and then came dinner with beneficitions and toasts, a printed menu and a superb bottle of port. Made this year on foot.


Another old friend, Dan Feldman, sent this note: “I happily teach full-time at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and do some technical legal work once a week for New York State Court Reporter Tom DiNapoli.

“Other than having at long last returned to the general Columbia vicinity (my wife, Cecilia, and I moved to the Upper West Side in November 2012), I only have typical academic world-type news: My fifth book, The Art of the Watchdog: Fighting Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Corruption in Government, officially comes out January 1 but apparently the warehouses will have some copies ahead of time. My 2010 book, The Soup Factory: Making Laws in New York State, was co-authored by SUNY Citibank positions in Congo and Greece — both fascinating.

Wearing other, non-banking professional hats, I have taken on consultancies in places such as Australia, Ukraine, and Yekaterinburg for General Motors and the State Department. Being also a SIPA graduate, I really enjoy and hope I am contributing on behalf of Columbia to the international arena.

Ralph Allemano participated in the 150th anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg at the end of June and beginning of July in Gettysburg, Pa. Ralph is a member of an American Civil War re-enactment society in Britain (yes!) and participates in events in the United States and Europe alongside other enthusiasts who go to great lengths to depict accurately the arms, uniforms and drill of their chosen unit. Everything is an accurate portrayal, except for the British accents and the obvious age of the individuals.

Ralph’s invitation to Gettysburg came from some re-enactors he met and became fast friends with when he went to Fredericksburg, Va., in December 2012 to watch the re-enactment of the famous battle there, in honor of its 150th anniversary. For the Gettysburg trip, the troops camped, as did their 1863 counterparts, under primitive canvas in the woods, sleeping on straw and leaves. They assembled for these events, along with more than 10,000 other re-enactors, marched, counter-marched (usually uphill) and then went into battle. On the final day, Ralph’s unit, the 3rd New Jersey, stood behind a stone wall at the extreme right flank of the Union line to repulse, once again, Pickett’s Charge. A great time was had by all, especially as they shook hands and embraced the ‘resurrected’ Rebels when the show was finally over! Ralph adds, “How many of you out there can say you helped repulse Pickett and save the Union? Columbia was represented!”

Jod Mintz and his wife of 38 years, Meri-Jane Rochelson ’71 Barnard, welcomed a second grandchild when their son, Daniel, and Daniel’s wife, Sarah Allison, welcomed David Mintz into the world in Ann Arbor on July 8. Joel was designated the 2012–2013 Distinguished Law Professor of the Year by Nova Southeastern University, an award given for outstanding achievement in scholarship, classroom teaching and professional service. Dan continued a family educational tradition when — like both his parents and Joel’s father — he earned the terminal degree in an academic field (in his case, a Ph.D. in English and Jewish Studies from Michigan).

Edwin P. Rutan II of Park City, Utah, writes, “I retired in June after 10 years as Salt Lake City’s city attorney. I also received the Utah chapter of the American Society for Public Administration’s Distinguished Service Award. In addition, I was re-elected as President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Even earlier, I helped organize Amnesty adoption groups in the Midwest and South. In 1983, when the regional office in Boston was enlarged, he was named Northeast regional director.

Joshi’s papers document his decades of AIUSA leadership, his work in developing the organization’s membership and staff, and his role in organizing and leading the Northeast Regional Office, including development and event planning.

Joshi noted in the press release, “I feel very honored to see my Amnesty International papers being collected so responsibly by Columbia’s CHDRR. I hope that the history of AIUSA will inspire both researchers and activists to join our efforts and advance the cause of human rights.”

Joshi was deeply engaged in AIUSA’s major programmatic initiatives such as the Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty and the Campaign Against Torture. He worked extensively on issues related to Israel, helping to reorganize the Israeli Amnesty Section in 1983, and also conveyed Amnesty International’s support for Jewish organizations. As a specialist on Russian and Soviet history and politics, he became a strong advocate on the behalf of prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union. He also worked to establish and maintain an AIUSA Central Coordination Group in the Boston area.

An accomplished independent scholar, Josh authored the first general history of the Soviet dissident movement, Soviet Dissidents: Their Struggle for Human Rights. He also served as mentor an AIUSA Soviet Coordination Group in the Boston area.

If you are not receiving the ‘71C News and would like to, please email me. You can send updates for Class Notes to either of the addresses at the top of the column or through CCT’s webform: college. columbia.edu/ccf/submit_class_note.

Remember back 47 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including the author of this note had attended Columbia College. We are still connected.

This past summer Arnold Horowitz ’72 was on the road with his family, traveling to Prague and Berlin. He writes, “The trip brought forcefully to mind the passage of time. It was my first time in Prague since 1970, when Professor Vojtech Mastny helped me get a summer
travel grant to study Ospólitik. It has been 43 years — 1970 was considerably closer in time to the Munich Agreement [i.e., 1938] than it is to the present day — a sobering thought. And it was my wife's first visit to Berlin since 1983, when her family drove to East Berlin from the Soviet Union. Standing at the Brandenburg Gate (eastern side), her father told her that he might not live to see it, but surely in her lifetime the Berlin Wall would come down. He overshot — he is alive and well, and the wall has been history for more than a generation.

Looking to the next generation, Arnold notes that his older son, William, is applying to college this year, and Columbia is on the list.

"Fingers crossed," he says.

When I invited Charlie Gardner to bring us up to date on his life, he responded, "OK, I'll bite." Charlie practices psychiatry in Greenwich, Conn. "Paid my dues as department chair at Greenwich Hospital for long enough, and gave it up. Also gave up my academic appointment at Cornell but I am still on the faculty roster at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. I want to be a simple country doc now, just taking care of people and giving them time to learn.

Charlie is a member of weekly peer supervision and men's bible study groups, saying, "Our church and our clubs are central to our lives. Our third kid graduated from Kenyon this year. Freedom. To celebrate, my wife, Janice, and I hit for a week in the Dolomites in September. All three kids work in NYC, and we have a 1-year-old grandchild, Charlie Gardner (the 5th), who happily lives just down the street. Sauna inevitably intrudes, he adds: "Both of my parents died this year. Dad had been a distinguished professor of psychiatry at Yale. That has been difficult and leaves me and my sibs to try to maintain the old family farm in the Berkshires. I'm sure we are all going through similar things."

Arthur Ensroth and his wife recently visited NYC, which evoked these thoughts: "Columbia taught me to love NYC but I prefer living in the Boston area today. We were down for the weekend to see the exhibit at the Met about American art and the Civil War. Nineteenth-century American painting is something I learned to love at Columbia, thanks to Professor of Art History Barbara Novak '50 Barnard et al. Then we went to Boston to see the Andy Warhol at the Harvard Art Museum. We went on to 41st Street to hear Pablo Ziegler and a set of nuovo tango. In 1968 I was excited about going to jazz clubs but I can better afford it now.

"We stopped in New Haven on the way home to see the recently renovated Yale University Art Gallery. My wife said, 'If Harvard and Yale have great art museums, what about Columbia?'"

"I said, 'We just went to the Columbia art museum; it's at 82nd and Fifth, not on campus.'"

Reflecting on Peter Darrow's recent passing, Doug Altabet noted, "The creeping intimations of mortality are unsettling. They should, in my view, strengthen one's resolve to make the most of the time that we are allotted." Hence, Doug will retire from his firm at the end of the year and pursue opportunities in Israel, where he's lived for a number of years while commuting to work in may be 'dead white men', but my work and have been a vital part of my firm, I feel like I am old enough and young enough to embrace new chapters. Aijah [immigrating to Israel] of course is a major new chapter."

"Fortunately, some of you undoubtedly saw Jerry Groopman's October 13 review of the new book by Columbia English Professor Rachel Adams, Raising Henry: A Memoir of Motherhood, Disability, and Discovery in The New York Review of Books. The book began with a reminiscence about our days at the College and noted how some things have changed: "Homer and Herodotus, Sophocles and Plato, Aristotle and Dante, Shakespeare and Milton. All names engraved in the edifice of Columbia's Butler Library. They may be 'dead white men', but the undergraduates in the 1960s, they seemed very much alive in the classes where we engaged their texts and debated their ideas. The skills in thinking that we sought to develop, whether in philosophy like law and medicine and finance, but we took the pure scholarship of our professors was the pinnacle of intellectual life. Some 45 years later, students still begin their education at my alma mater with The Iliad. But the competition to read it on Morningides Heights has become much more fierce. Freshmen are drawn from a pool of applicants with stratospheric SATs and near-perfect GPAs, winners of Intel competitions and math Olympiads."

Thank heavens for the old days.

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Post-reunion apathy has roared its ugly head. Send, send, send, send! Write to my email address above or contribute online using CCT's webs: college.columbia.edu/cgi

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COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY
WINTER 2013-14
CLASS NOTES

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014
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"New and improved!" the TV ads scream nightly, but rarely can you discern a difference. The same cannot be said about the new and improved (compared to our days) Columbia campus and Morningides Heights neighborhood! Yes, the red brick dorms are still there with their classic green copper roofs. And the lower campus is still punctuated by the imposing Low Library, offset by the equally imposing Butler Library. But the feeling of being on campus — and wandering around the neighborhood — is certainly different. Depending on when you were last there, you may notice that a new student center has replaced Ferris Booth Hall and that there are additional dorms in the East Campus (between the Law School and what we knew as the SLA Building) and at 113th and Broadway. More recently, a 188,000-sq.-ft. science building arose on 120th and Broadway (above the Dodge Physical Fitness Center). The South Field dust bowl has been replaced by grassy fields that are surrounded by English gardens. The tennis court jungle by the John Jay cafeteria is now a beautiful plaza. Our favorite restaurants on Broadway are still (mostly) there, albeit in a "toned-up" version. The Campus Inn diner is now called Deluxe and advertises, "Try our new coffee: Hazelnut Roast." The old M.I.L.L. Luncheonette (the name rumored to have come from the initials of owners Mo, Izzy and Larry) is now Mill Korean. Tom's Restaurant, whose facade was featured on Seinfeld, has added organic salads to its menu of greasy diner food that we all had so often (also outdoor dining). In fact, there are so many restaurants on Broadway between 116th Street and 118th Street that now have outside dining that one wag actually called the area "Paris on the Hudson." I think that may be exaggerating things a bit although, to be fair, I recently counted 10 restaurants with outdoor tables in just the two blocks below 114th Street. I'm sure there was no outdoor dining while we were on campus!

Bordering the southern side of the main campus, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (the world's largest cathedral), now has wondrous new carvings around its portals and a soaring south tower of hand-carved blocks. To the north, The Riverside Church and Grant's Tomb are magnificent though largely unchanged. But further north, between 129th Street and 133rd Street, the new Manhattanville campus expansion is rising from Broadway to 12th Avenue with new buildings for the Business School, the Engineering School, the School of the Arts and SIPA. Up Baker Field (now the Baker Athletics Complex) is the new Campbell Sports Center.

You can see all this and more when you return to campus for our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 29-Sunday, June 1! Tours of campus will be available and we are hoping to hold events in some of the new spaces. You won't want to miss your chance to be part of this dynamic moment in Columbia's history!

Speaking of the big weekend, Dr. Robin Spilker writes, "I am looking forward to the reunion. Where have you gone?" He is in private practice doing plastic surgery in Forest Hills and is president of The Medical Society of the County of Queens. His older son, Michael '05, was in investment banking with the Bank of America until "the lure of the high-tech world and San Francisco [proved] too strong." Mike is now doing strategic management at Yahoo! Bob's younger son, David, "recently returned to the United States after a year of intense study in Singapore," where he was learning about industrial design for the entertainment industry (computerized 3D design of characters and backgrounds for video games). David will continue his education at Red Engine School of Arts and Design at a university in Los Angeles.

While on a West Coast theme, we received word from Patrick Dowd, retired president and CEO of Coventry Health Care, a major
national health care provider. He writes, “After many moves, my wife got to choose where to settle down in retirement. She chose Eugene, Ore. Runner-up was Colorado, where I lived for 20 years.” (In light of the recent flooding in Colorado, this is yet another lesson on why we should listen to our wives!) Patrick has two children and five grandchildren. He posts frequently on Facebook of his world travels.

Dan Angius wrote in from Walnut Creek, Calif., saying he is “in the process of ‘winding down’ as managing partner of my law firm, Angius & Terry.” In a year or two he hopes to turn the reins over to his partners “and spend more time with my family, traveling and working on my golf game.” Dan and his wife, Jacque (whom he says “many of my Columbia classmates will remember”), have three kids: Dan, Lauren ’08 and Jeff. And he became a grandpa a few months ago.

From further south in California comes word from Burbank. He lives in Pasadena and has retired from a long career as a staff geologist with Chevron. His “retirement,” however, has led to a new career as educator: “I teach ‘Intro to Geology’ at the New York Film Academy.” (He explains that while the academy is headquartered in the L.A. area, I teach geophysics and petroleum geology. In addition, I teach ‘Intro to Geology’ at the New York Film Academy.” (He explains that while the academy is headquartered in Greenwich Village, its main campus, mysteriously, is in Burbank, Calif.) He has “two grandkids from my social worker daughter” and his other daughter is completing her M.B.A. at USC while working at a hedge fund in Wilmington, Del. But we ‘persistently’ live in Colorado, this is yet another lesson on why we should listen to our wives!”

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/t

EMAIL to the address at the top of your column.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

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Stars Fade, Michael Musto ’76 Keeps Shining

BY ETHAN ROUEN ’04J, ’11 BUSINESS

If the people Michael Musto ’76 writes about had the ability to dance around irrelevance the way he does, we might still be doing the hustle and walking like an Egyptian.

Musto is to gossip what Ernie Pyle was to war. From Warhol to Madonna to Gaga, he has served on the cultural front lines for nearly three decades, wading through the ever-changing mire of New York City nightlife to document the zeitgeist that has come to consume American readers.

“You have to be a chameleon to keep up with the landscape,” he says. “My tone and writing have stayed the same but the scene has evolved, and I’ve covered it as accurately as I can.”

As a columnist for The Village Voice from 1984 to 2013, Musto played a significant role in creating the modern journalistic genre that attempts to bring zest to the quotidian motions of the latest celebrity stumbling down the alphabet toward the C List. Unlike the new wave of paparazzi, though, he has always relied heavily on reporting to bring life to the thrill of being in the center of it all while also using his pulpits to advocate for gay rights and to “attack the power folks and celebrate the human beings chasing that intangible dream, and providing those on the sideline a reason to care about them.

Openly gay his entire career, Musto outed celebrities such as Rosie O’Donnell and Ellen DeGeneres long before their public identities became associated with their sexuality. He argued it was part of his battle against homophobia and an early attempt to normalize homosexuality.

The AIDS crisis made him even more devoted to fighting for gay rights and gay pride. “It drove me even further out of the closet, screaming at anyone who was not joining the fight,” he says. “Anyone who wasn’t joining the fight and who was hiding in the closet was as much the enemy as Reagan was.”

In 1996, he broke the scandal that would change New York nightlife: the murder of a gay Puerto Rican drug dealer by Club Kid king Michael Alig. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani later used the murder as evidence that the city needed to change. He also fulfilled his desire to perform, making regular appearances on TV shows on stations ranging from E! to PBS. But whether championing rights, comforting the afflicted or trashing a pop star’s outfit, Musto remains an institution because of his ability to write with humor and passion.

“My colleagues at The Village Voice always knew when I was editing Michael’s column by the sharp bursts of laughter that would emerge from my cubicle,” says Charles McNulty, the Voice’s former theatre editor. “It astonished me that he was able to keep his column so comically fresh, week after week, year after year — it has to be some kind of journalistic record.”

That record came to an end in May, when the Voice, in what many press-watchers said may be the storied weekly’s swan song, laid off Musto.

Unlike some of the stars he covers, Musto was on to the next thing before he even packed up his desk. He now writes regularly for Out.com and Gawker and continues to freelance and make frequent appearances on TV.

Musto seems eternally young, pedaling through late-night New York City on his bicycle, chronicling the next famous teenager and the 25-year-old who will always give him something to write about. “I don’t get tired of it,” he says. “If I ever take up complaining that I get to go to fabulous nightclubs, that would be insane.”

Ethan Rouen ’04J, ’11 Business

Is a Ph.D. student at the Business School and a columnist for Fortune.com. He is a former CCT associate editor.
Franco Mormando '77 was promoted to full professor of Italian at Boston College, where he chairs the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

Franco Mormando

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Ira Cooper
is celebrating his 30th year with Travelers Insurance.

Kevin Berry has plenty of news:

My new granddaughter, Leighton Hope Kaho, is getting lots of attention. My daughter, Keeley, is getting married soon and her place during Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend in October, and a number of classmates have already agreed to be on the Reunion Committee. We'll keep reaching out to others but if you're willing, please contact me!

Also, the Fiscal Year 2014 Columbia College Fund is open and accepting donations. I've already made my first contribution to this year's fund (in time to deduct it this year, too!). Have you? Some of you will be getting emails or calls soon — please respond and be generous!

You can give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/giveonline or by calling 212-851-7488; alternately, 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.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY

Nichols women (and one man) who succumbed during the 1910s, and most others lived to the late 80s, and most others lived to their 90s — so I come from long-living but compromised genes. Two of them just last year, both in their late 80s. Of course, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, where a special exhibition marking the 200th anniversaries of both the Battle of St. Michaels and the Battle of North Point, Finally, in mid-September, I was in Madison, Wis., for an Alzheimer's walk with my cousins, honoring the 'strong Nichols women' who succumbed to this pernicious ailment. I've been writing a piece marking the 200th anniversaries of both the Battle of St. Michaels and the Battle of North Point. Finally, in mid-September, I was in Madison, Wis., for an Alzheimer's walk with my cousins, honoring the 'strong Nichols women' who succumbed to this pernicious ailment. I've been writing a piece marking the 200th anniversaries of both the Battle of St. Michaels and the Battle of North Point. Finally, in mid-September, I was in Madison, Wis., for an Alzheimer's walk with my cousins, honoring the 'strong Nichols women' who succumbed to this pernicious ailment. I've been writing a piece marking the 200th anniversaries of both the Battle of St. Michaels and the Battle of North Point. Finally, in mid-September, I was in Madison, Wis., for an Alzheimer's walk with my cousins, honoring the 'strong Nichols women' who succumbed to this pernicious ailment.
Electrical and Electronics Engineers. My recent elevation in membership was due to my managerial work for the New Jersey Coast Section."

David Beazer writes, "I'm digital content associate editor at Consumer Reports, where I've worked since 2006. In August 2012, my wife and I moved to Dutchess County, N.Y."

Tom Mariam writes, "My mother, Lisa Mariam, recently passed away at 97. It was quite comforting to hear from many of my Columbia classmates during our period of mourning. I thought I'd share two somewhat relevant notes concerning my mom:"

"First, denied the opportunity to go to college in Germany as a Jew in the late '30s, my mother waited until I graduated from Columbia to earn her own B.A. She was well into her 40s, and second, though not much of a football fan, she will always have a connection to Columbia football with her name on a seat at [Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A.] Wien Stadium, which I dedicated when the stadium was built. It's a matter of gratification that my parents did make my Columbia experience possible."

Barry Rosenblatt reports, "After 30 years in the bio-pharmaceutical industry, I have been an independent consultant helping small, emerging companies expand their biologies. I can honestly say that I am having the most fun and energizing time since my early days in a start-up [Janssen Biotech, formerly Centocor Biotech]. I have even had time to come back to New York and see shows and movies — I recently attended the New York Film Festival and saw the world premiere of Captain Phillips from the fifth row — and shop at Zabar's!"

James (Huck) Hill writes, "Performing some poetry of Edgar Allan Poe for the O'Neill Theater Festival this week. Enjoying his dark visions. I don't recall studying Poe in our Lit Hum classes. What's up with that, is he too Goth? Is there any room for bohemians in the College anymore, or are they all superstars?"

Dave Danner says, "Greetings from Olympia, Wash., where my wife, Lauren, and I have made our home for 20 years. I chair the state's utilities commission and am a member of the governor's cabinet. Rest assured I am putting to good use my comparative literature degree and everything I learned from Professor Karl-Ludwig Sellig. I get to New York fairly often. Last year, we took our daughter, Sophie (13), to see the campus and enjoyed lunch at Tom's Restaurant with her former roomate, Scott Morgan '77. The menu hasn't changed all that much since college, even if Scott and I have aged slightly."
quarterback Peyton Manning and his masterful football skill set to that of a grand master chess player and to the musical abilities of Carlos Santana and Miles Davis. This magnificent analogy took my breath away, which isn’t good when you are a voice on the radio. It was at this moment that my producer’s voice entered my ear and said, “Dr. Klapper, ask him where he went to school.” Mr. Epstein’s response: “I went to Columbia.” [Editor’s note: See feature on Epstein in Bookshelf.] “Now, my fellow ‘79-ers; how cool is it that whatever path we alumni follow after graduation, we each still see the world in a Core Curriculum kind of way? It made me proud.”

Roar, Lion, roar!

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Congratulations to Carl Haber, who in September was named a 2013 MacArthur Fellow [see Around the Quad]. The “Genius Grant,” as it’s often called, comes with a stipend of $552,000 paid across five years. Carl is an audio preservationist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, Calif., and was the first person to hear Alexander Graham Bell’s restored voice, which entered my ear and said, “Dr. David Krieser, please proceed to his mother’s Mitchell-Lama case involved a son’s right to succeed to his father’s Mitchell-Lama apartment.”

In May, I attended a Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting where details were given about the Class of 2017, for which the College and Engineering received a combined 33,531 applications. Columbia was ranked, once again, fourth among universities by U.S. News & World Report. In addition, 62 members of the College Class of 2017 and six members of the Engineering Class of 2017 are sons or daughters of College alumni. The list includes Bradley Davison (Peddie School in Skillman, N.J.), son of the late Henry Davison Jr.; Mira Frenkel (Catalina Foothills H.S. in Tucson), daughter of David Frenkel; Olivia Harrison (Riverdale Country School in the Bronx, N.Y.), daughter of David Harrison; and Gregory Momjian (Radnor H.S. in Radnor, Pa.), son of Mark Momjian.

It was great to see Dr. David Krieser at Alumni Reunion Weekend. David is a nationally recognized Mohs skin cancer, cosmetic and laser surgeon. He is director and founder of the Manhattan Center for Dermatology in NYC. He also

Award for a story he did at Reuters TV on the pitch that baffles batters (and catchers)—the knuckleball. He writes, “I pursued this topic with my producer, Zach Coogan [08], after then-Mets knuckleball pitcher R.A. Dickey hurled two one-hitters in a row.” The story is titled “The Knuckleball: The Science Behind Why It’s So Damn Hard to Hit.” It’s an interesting piece of journalism and available for viewing on YouTube—just enter Frederick’s full name and “knuckleball” as your search terms. At the time of the event, Marcus Brauchi ’83 won the Leadership in Diversity Award from AAJA.

Congratulations and nicely done! Now we move on to hockey. The esteemed John J. Cifu has updated us on his career, family, marriage of 28 years, scholarly children and recent, rather surprising family acquisition. Clearly, John, you have some valuable “life” wisdom. But let’s hear it in his own words: “I’ve been in Palm Harbor, Fla., and at various golf camps west of Tampa—for 15 years and I’m the director of accounting at Pinch A Penny (Florida-based pool store chain with more than 200 locations). My daughter, Amanda, recently graduated from FSU and my son, James, is a junior at UF, and we have Florida state school bonds. I have been married 28 years to Annmarie Canavina ’80 Baruch. The big news is that my baby brother, Douglas ’87, has become an owner of the NHL’s Florida Panthers, in Sunrise, Fla. I know he would never have the time to send anything in, so I wanted everyone to know.”

How cool is that?!

Finally, a tale of extraordinary determination from the eradicate Steve Sullivan. He sets it up admirably in an epigraph:

“Gradual school is where you go to school and you gradually find out you don’t want to go to school anymore.” — The World According to Carp, (1982), G.R. Hill (director), John Irving (author), Steve Tesich (screenplay)

“It took nearly a quarter-century of halting progress and two doctoral sponsors — Jim Shenton [49] passed away and Ken Jackson wouldn’t let me quit — and my family is still (surprisingly) speaking to me. But A Social History of the Brooklyn Irish, 1830–1900 is done and my fourth Columbia degree is on the way: B.A. ’82, M.A. ’84, M.Phil. ’88, Ph.D. ’13. Eric Foner [63, ’69 GSAS] and Jackson both went to bat for me on more than one occasion, each believing in me and my research. It’s no coincidence but 25 years puts me in some sort of pantheon of slackers, right?”

Steve, I must admit that I’m impressed and I greatly enjoyed the comment from your mother that you included in your dissertation dedication: “The impossible just takes a little longer.”

Keep those notes coming!

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Several of our classmates were listed in my Harvard Law anniversay report. Howard Adler ’82 is a partner at Clifford Chance. His practice focuses on the treatment of executive compensation and employee benefits matters in M&A transactions. Miguel Estrada is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He co-chairs the firm’s Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group. From 1992 to 1997, Miguel served as assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States. He is a member of the Board of Visitors of Harvard Law. In 2011, Chambers and Partners named Miguel as one of a handful of attorneys who ranked in the top tier among the nation’s leading appellate lawyers. In June 2013, he was sworn in as President George W. Bush to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

David Hershey-Webb writes, “In September I argued before the New York Court of Appeals. The case involved a son’s right to succeed to his father’s Mitchell-Lama apartment.”

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David has been a featured expert in the media, appearing on news programs and in magazines such as Cosmopolitan, Reader’s Digest, Good Housekeeping and Redbook. He has been recognized as a skin cancer expert in The New York Times as well as by Lou Dobbs on CNN.

In connection with the American Masters documentary on Mel Brooks, Eddy Friedfeld, who also consulted on the Emmy-winning program, conducted a lengthy interview with Brooks that was published in Cinema Retro Magazine. Eddy notes, “In 1982 I bought 10 copies of the High Anxiety soundtrack, the flip side of which included the songs from all of the other Brooks movies, to give them to gifts to friends. When I presented it to one of my college friends, he dutched the LP to his chest and ran off eager to play it. Flash forward to 1995, when I got a box in the mail — it was the 2000 Year Old Man box set that just had its CD with my note from that friend thanking me for the LP 12 years earlier.”

That friend was Dennis Kleinberg ’84. Eddy, Dennis and I remain close friends.

Jon Ross sent some incredible photos from his Micro Aid project in Peru. In this case, a family had lost its adobe home in the 2010 floods and had been living in a shack, and Micro Aid built a beautiful new home for them. It has five rooms, a bathroom, 1.5 bathroom, floor foundation, and is designed to withstand floods and earthquakes.

Twelve people will live there. Jon notes, “Our work helped the community by employing people and injecting much-needed cash into the local economy.” (Read a profile on Ross in the Spring 2013 CTE)

Steve Holje keeps busy with a mix of editing and music work: He is the content editor of Culture Catch.com, for which he also writes music articles; a freelance reviewer for eMusic.com and the magazine The Big Takeover; a developmental editor working on neuroscience and psychology books for Oxford University Press; a jack of all trades (A&R, PR, marketing) for venerable record label ESP-ers which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year; runs his own micro-label, MochaBenzaarten Records, which offers electronic music of the dark and dorky sort; and is a prolific composer of classical art songs with a modern twist.

While attending a College / Barnard reunion event, Sharon Dizenhuz ’83 Barnard saw my original Sam Steinberg painting and afterward send me a photograph of the Columbia icon. She writes, “I was thrilled to connect with you so we can work together to create future fun Barnard / Columbia joint events. As for the Sam pic, you can print it and tape it to the back of your framed original to establish ‘provenance’ for your progeny.”

David Rubel writes, “My daughter, Abigail, will graduate from high school in three years.” David was invited to participate in the CAA Alumni Author Book Fair that was part of Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, held October 11–12.

Wayne Allyn Root plans to publish a new book, The Murder of the Middle Class. It is scheduled for release in summer 2014.

Teddy Weinberger’s daughter, Rebecca, represented Israeli basketball in the Maccabiah Games. The first game was against the United States. Rebecca had a fantastic game. Israel tied the United States at the buzzer but lost in overtime. A memorial service was held for Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig on May 19 at the new Boat House before the Homecoming game. About 30 Columbia graduates and friends participated, including George Wilson ’83, Ted Allegaert ’87, Joseph Cabrera ’82, Michael Schmidtberger ’82, Jim Weinstein ’84, David Filosa ’82, Dennis Kleinberg ’84, Tom Vinciguerra ’85, Chuck Callan ’78, Mark Gibson ’86, Adam Belanoff ’74, Joel Halio ’74, Alex Demac ’78, Dean Dakolias ’86E, Rob Toggweiler ’75, Bill Basil ’11, Alan Goldsmith ’13, and me.

Professor Selig’s ashes were dispensed in the Harlem River while Dennis played Taps. For a more detailed description, please see “Letters to the Editor” and read the moving note from Joel.

Ted, the executor of KLS’ will, shared with us some photos and personal artifacts including the following letter that Professor Selig wrote to The New York Times on April 29, 2005:

“I read with great delight the article by Dana Bowen, ‘By Cheese Possessed,’ Dining, April 27, 2005. But a favorite cheese of mine, an important part of my life, was not mentioned in the florilegium of the many cited. Fortunately I can get this cheese in a very caring and lovely neighborhood store. It is the Spanish cheese Rocinante. We are in an important literary anniversary year and want to honor and celebrate one of the greatest, universal and global works of art of all times.

Don Quixote was published in 1605. And Rocinante was the Knight Errant’s loyal dapple and steed.”

Ted also notes, “KLS was one of a kind. God bless him for having enriched our lives the way he did. He having done right by me when I needed a favor, I was glad to help him out all those years later. Little did I know that in the process I would join such a rich circle of friendships, and that in pursuing our common purpose of making Professor’s last years tolerable, a warm sense of community and shared commitment would take root. I’d like to think we all succeeded against great odds in materially brightening his days until the very end.”

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1, 2014
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Remember Convocation? It took place just after our parents dropped us off on Broadway and marked the start of Orientation Week. If memory serves, it was held in Low Library, and the main speaker was Dean Roger Lehecka ’67, ’74 GSAS.

I remember his speech included shout-outs to the high school valedictorians, class presidents and other overachievers; the goodly number of NYC high school graduates, the athletes, the gifted musicians and so forth. His view was that we, the men (at that time, of course), were blessed “because wasn’t the sky Columbia blue?”

Well, these days Convocation is a family affair, very much like Class Day, and it includes the Alumni Procession. The alumni are grouped by decades and years, and truly is proud to have represented our class. The gaggle of ’80s grads also included Dr. Fred Fisher (this time in tribute to his daughter Rebecca ’17; daughter Talia ’13 graduated in the spring), and Mark Momjian ’83 (whom I met on day one, 9 a.m., in a Lit Hum class taught by Professor Peter Awn, now dean of GS). In response to my e-blast sharing Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig’s 1975 Columbian essay, Michael Kittel wrote, “Selig was the best, although perhaps especially!) those who did not take his classes!”

Peregrine Beckman writes, “Here’s the latest from Los Angeles: Daughter Eleanor ’16 did well in her freshman year, lived in Carman and appeared in the musical A Party Worth Crashing in Lerner Hall, which I got to see on a felicitously timed trip to NYC. She’s in Nussbaum this year, a dorm that
was an apartment building when we were students. She was here in L.A. this past summer, working at the production company Original Productions, where I usually work.

"I'm producing and editing a new show for History Channel, The Legend of Shelby the Swamp Man, a spinoff of its Ax Men. My wife, Elizabeth Leicester '87, is at the Asia Institute in U.C.L.A. We recently partied with our former roommate, Shipheard Reef '86, at his 50th in Tuscany.

Eric Wakin writes, "My wife, Kathryn Kaminsky, and I have relocated with our three children to the Bay Area, where I'm an associate director of the Hoover Institution at Stanford, a research fellow and director of its library and archives. We look forward to connecting with Columbians in the area."

Thomas Dyja reports, "My book, The Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream, was published in April and was featured twice on The New York Times; on the front cover of its Sunday Book Review; as well as in one of its daily editions. Here's a link to my website: thomasydjaj.com."

Michael Sauerman celebrated his 50th in Japan; adopted a female cat, a beautiful calico, from Bideawee on East 38th Street; and purchased a home in Brooklyn Heights in July with his partner, Tim. Says Michael, "Life is good."

Daniel G. Berick has been named Cleveland Securities/Capital Markets Law Lawyer of the Year for 2014 by Best Lawyers, a long-standing and well-respected legal peer-review publication. Dan is the Americas chair of Squire Sanders' Global Corporate Practice, focusing on securities law, corporate finance and corporate transactional matters. He is consistently listed in The Best Lawyers in America for corporate, leveraged buyouts and private equity, mergers and acquisitions, and securities law.

Randy Lerner, Daniel's family friend — their fathers, Jim Berick '55 and Alfred Lerner '55, were College friends and business associates — and a fellow Clevelandite (turned Hampton-ite), was reported in The Wall Street Journal to have developed The Inn at Windmill Lane in Amagansett, N.Y., a luxury inn, with additional super-luxe cottages being finished for this fall.

At Homecoming, the ashes of our dearly departed friend and professor, Karl-Ludwig Selig, were scattered on the River at the Boat House; all took place before a gathering of former students and friends (per his will). For a most poignant description, please see "Letters to the Editor" and read the note from Joel Hallo '74.

Our 30th reunion is next spring, so please consider attending. Details to follow via email.

Stay in touch!

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October marked two years since Jon Lima started his own strategic planning and real estate development advisory firm, James Lima Planning + Development. Work includes helping craft a business plan and selecting a location for a proposed National LGBT Museum in Washington, D.C.; development feasibility work for a new The Water Institute of the Gulf on the Mississippi in Baton Rouge; and creating a destination waterfront park along St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis. Jim recently testified at the New York City Council, where he shared his research on the real estate development potential around what should be a new world-class Penn Station transit hub, and at The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in support of protecting the nation's first workforce housing (on the Upper East Side) from demolition. He also writes that he is "recently" gay separated after 28 years with my college roommate, but obviously thrilled about marriage equality.

Tim Tomasi reported going through old photos from a Glee Club trip to Quebec including some of yours truly with what Tim reports is a "70s/80s suave look." Tim is a superior court judge in New Jersey. He writes that "I have a pretty steep learning curve. My practice had been focused on civil litigation but now I am in charge of the entire family and criminal dockets as well. Plus, the civil docket is filled with collections, foreclosures and landlord tenant cases, which, again, I did not do. So, some days are pretty taxing. Plus there is a lot of stress with the abuse, juvenile and criminal cases. But each day I learn more and (I hope) get a bit better."

On September 7, several track and field teammates gathered at the Acquedotto Romano Polo Club, which is just south of Rome, Italy, for the wedding of Massimo (Max) Fielding Elser '85 GS and Tessa Laura Fahrbusch of Göttingen, Germany. These included Steven Carrara '84 and Schuyler '80, Terry Jones and Lance Warrick '79.

Dale Smith has been named head of school at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans. Dale, born and raised in the Crescent City, began his teaching career as a middle school math teacher at the Collegegate School in NYC. He returned to New Orleans in 1990 and began his career at Newman as an upper school teacher of mathematics and computer science. He earned an M.A. at Marquette University in 2007. As Dale made the transition at Newman from the classroom into educational leadership, his administrative responsibilities included department chairman, dean of students, upper school head and associate head of school. He also was head of school at Pine Crest School, a large PK–12 independent school in South Florida with 2,600 students and more than 250 teachers on two campuses.

A plug for the Alumni Representative Committee (ARC): I know many of you interview prospective Columbia students as part of the admissions process. It is a great way to assist and participate in the process of keeping the best students front and center for the College. If you choose to assist, I cannot interview all of the interested candidates (there are more than 30,000 applicants annually). Whether for interviews, College fairs or internship opportunities, I know that all help is always appreciated. You can find out more at undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/admissions/archandbook/.

And speaking of admissions, the Fall CCLC listed the legacy members of the College and Engineering Classes of 2017 and I am pleased to say that our class leads the way with nine students! Congrats to David Avigan, Pace Cooper (with twin boys in the class), Jinduk Han, Gary Jacobs, Joseph Lang, Frank Nelson, Mark Rothman and Mischa Zabotin — and, of course, their children! I just think — only 18 months until our 30th Alumni Reunion Weekend. Save the dates: Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015.

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It's been 27 years since graduation and we have Josh Cabal's first update, which he wrote during the summer — "possibly inspired by the fact that my only child, Melissa, is to leave for Oberlin in a couple of weeks. I am the chair of English at the Roslyn (N.Y.) Public Schools and celebrated my silver anniversary there this year. I taught at the NYC public schools for a dozen years, helping to found the High School for Leadership and Public Service on Trinity Place."

"I made the move to the burbs (to work, not to live) more than a dozen years ago, the first nine as teacher and the last four as chair. Yet when I think about it, my days on the Heights have never left me; when I got to Roslyn, I founded a popular humanities program that is essentially the College's first spinoff to really bright and energetic high schoolers. For the last few years, I have been the teaching artist for the Young Film Critics program at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (thank you for the inspiration, Professor Jim Shapiro ’77), work that began with the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute and really took off when I co-founded the New York City Student Shakespeare Festival in the mid-90’s. I’ve also had the great fortune to do a lot of work with Apple, and I co-created one of the first K–12 courses for iTunes U (check it out: it’s called ‘Story of World Literature’ and will look familiar to any College grad).

“When I set off for Columbia 31 years ago (!), the only thing I knew for certain was that I would never become a teacher. Fortunately, I ignored my calling and the past 25 years in the classroom have felt like 10 minutes. With the exception of a brief stint in Brooklyn, I have lived in the East Village since I returned from grad school at Chicago. Who would have thought that the neighborhood, which was wild, edgy and wonderfully heterogeneous in the late 1980s, would evolve into a glorified strip mall? (I nearly chained myself to the door in protest when 2nd Ave Deli was replaced by a Chase bank).

“As sad as that has been to watch, the neighborhood has become progressively safer, enough so that my wife, Susan Scheer, and I decided not to move when my daughter was born. Raising her in the East Village has been one of the great experiences of my life, and I love the fact that she expects the world to look as diverse as her homeland. And yet, off she goes to Ohio, to a town with three streets on a good day. Watching her prepare to leave reminds me of my own arrival at the College, and of how what I learned there still has an impact on my world every day and is being passed on to new generations of students. So a big thank you to Columbia and hello to the Carman kids, and especially to my concert band buds."
As we in the northern dimes prepare for hibernation, let’s take a 2013 as those lazy, hazy, crazy ...nom, D.C., the government was\nthe early summer, where in Wash¬\ndisappear from view!\nAlthough as a result of the negotia¬\ntion with the best news of all about\niablaze with mass negotiations over\nPerez. “I’m thrilled to have found a\nNational Labor Relations Board\nappointees. Sharon Block wrote\ntheir boys. Cal (14) and Toby (11),\nJoe reports that Steve A. is the direct\nMass., on Martha’s Vineyard, where\nIguana (greatgreeniguana.com).\nand daughter, Simone (13), spent a\nweek with Steve Abrahamson, his\nwife, Maritza Guzman, and their\ndaughter, Sofia, and Steve Canaan\ncounselor to Secretary of Labor Tom\nin Los Angeles. Joe directs campaign\nand Steve C. is a landscape archited\nher husband, Lance Warrick ’79. Also in attendance but not pictured was\nGabriella Lorenzotti Moncada ’85 Barnard.

surviving the insane weather that\nblew through Oklahoma City and\nits environs.\nNot content to just take on the\nduties of chair, Cathy also took\ngroup of students to Italy and\nFrance, some of whom had barely\nbeen out of Oklahoma, much less\nthe country, and published an\narticle on the French author and\nmaker Jean Cocteau in an aca¬\ndemic journal. In addition, Cathy\nwent home to Connecticut for her\n30th high school reunion.\nMy version of life in academia-
land is not much different. I finally\nhad the opportunity to walk in\ngraduation ceremony, almost\none year after defending my\ndissertation, but there is nothing\nlike the ritual of being hooded to\nbring home the reality of having\ncompleted this (very long) journey.\nLike Cathy, I have been publishing\nasian academic journals, though on\ntopics such as women in existential\npsychology, and film and neuro-
cognitive psychology. In addition,
I am managing editor of Saybrook\nUniversity’s New Existentialists\njournal. In addition, Cathy

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Diane Orlinsky had much to\nreport after attending our reunion,
writing, "Our 25th reunion was\nfantastic! My only regret was that I\ndidn’t get to catch up with every¬\none.\n"Claudia Kraut Rimerman\n
lives in Stamford, Conn., with her\nhusband and three children. She\nruns a boutique consulting firm\nspecializing in health care reform\nand wellness, performs in local\nmusical theatre, sings with a classic\nrock cover band, runs obstacle\nraces like the Rugged Maniac 5K\nObstacle Race and Warrior Dash,\nhad seven belts in Muay Thai\nkickboxing.\n
"Laurence Holzman ’92L and\nhis wife, Lara Hopfi Holzman\n92L, live in Westchester with their\ns, Andrew and Zach. Laurence\nstill collaborates with Felicia\nNeedleman Levinson, writing and\nproducing original works of musi-
cal theatre.\n
"Jonny Roskes lives near\nColumbia (having moved back to\nNYC after a decade in Hong Kong),\nis a lawyer at Merrill Lynch and\nlives in the city and otherwise."\n
Diane continued, "I live in\nBaltimore with my husband, Eric,\nand four children. I am part of\na dermatology practice and an\nassistant professor of internal\ndermatology at the Johns Hopkins\nSchool of Medicine. In my (little) spare time, I serve on the\nboards of the Johns Hopkins Alumni Council and the Family\nTree in Maryland, as well as vol-
unteer at Pathfinders for Autism,\nthe Dermatology Foundation,\nColumbia’s Alumni Representative\nCommittee and my four children’s\nschoo ls.”

As a relatively new father of two who is still struggling with the
basic work/life balance, I read the previous paragraph with awe and amazement.

Todd Johnson wrote from Omaha, where he lives with his great wife of 19 years, Mary (we met in London while getting our grad school degrees; she was/is from Omaha ... I returned to Omaha). We have three great boys and, Mary claims, four boys under 49. Our sons, Ed, Sam and Charlie, are active in baseball, basketball and lacrosse. Note: No soccer players, so my coaching days ended mid-YMCA years.

“I have been with Gallup for 19 years. The first half of my career was spent running our various businesses around Latin America, and now I head Gallup’s job creation and entrepreneurship practice. My hobbies consist of driving the boys to and from their practices and events (I hope that when which will change when the eldest turns 16) and running global marathons. [The company even has a group called ‘Gallup Runs the World’ and our 25th race was in Dublin in October.”

Keep the updates coming! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or by using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. I look forward to hearing from you.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29–JUNE 1, 2014

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It’s been a celebratory 2013 for many classmates, and we’ve now learned of another two who have said, “Bye-bye, bachelorhood.”

On February 9, Dan Lofflin married Diane Vrck in a western-themed wedding appropriately set near the Alamo in San Antonio. Matt Assiff and Russell Globen were in attendance at the ceremony, which took place at Mission Conception, a historic mission established in 1716. The formal reception was held at the Briscoe Western Art Museum on the Paseo del Rio in San Antonio. Dan is an e.v.p. at Locus Energy in San Francisco. Matt is the co-founder of New York City. Jared Goldstein married Amanda Levy in July at Flushing Town Hall, a historic, Victorian-era building in Queens. Among the Columbians in attendance were Chris Mulligan, Tom Kamber, Adam Schneider ’90, Mark Novitz ’91, Jonas Abney ’92 and Gabe Fischberg ’87. Jared writes, “Rabbi David Kalb ’89 JTS, my Delta Phi brother, officiated. He and I go back to ninth grade, which made the ceremony even more meaningful. The band was Gent Treadly, which is kind of a descendant of the Columbia band Dreamspeak. People loved the music and the fact that the singer goes back years with me and Amanda, allowing him to personalize his emceeing.”

Chris Alexander ’90 runs communications at 20th Century Fox Television for Modern Family, Glee, New Girl, The Simpsons and many other series.

“’Amanda is on her way to a Ph.D. in science curriculum development at TC. She is a water ecologist and epidemiologist at the NYU Department of Environmental Health and Mental Hygiene. I own a NYC tour business, JaredTheNYCtourGuide.com, through which I and associated guides give private walking tours to individuals, groups, schools and corporations. I also do tourism consulting on the business and creative ends, Amanda and I met in Tompkins Square Park in Alphabet City in 2009.’

Of the event, Tom Kamber writes, “The wedding was gorgeous. Jared and Amanda are a beautiful couple and they found a lovely space in downtown Queens for the ceremony — it was like an urban oasis. They also tapped Jared’s contacts in the music world to assemble the best band I’ve ever seen at a wedding. They rocked Flushing Town Hall like no B&O!”

I’ve heard from many of you who are planning to attend our 25th Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. It’s a big one, and I hope to see you there. More details will be available next time around but for now registration is most important. Go to reunion.college.columbia.edu to stay updated on the event; registration opens in the early spring.

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Chris Alexander is the man about town(s)! In September he wrote, “Janice Min and I cross paths quite a bit, as she quite literally has transformed the failing trade magazine The Hollywood Reporter into Hollywood’s ‘must-read’ weekly with stories, interviews and photography that rival Vanity Fair’s. Recently Janice was kind enough to be the featured speaker at my company’s (20th Century Fox Television) monthly ‘salon series,’ in which we invite movers and shakers from all over the map to inspire our executives with stories of how they rose to the top of their fields and what fuels them creatively on and off the job. Guests have included film and TV producer Garry Marshall, Heart’s Nancy Wilson and then-MOCA director Jeffrey Deitch. Of course, I made sure to pose several questions about our time at Columbia and how it figured into her success, because what publicist could resist a shameless plug for alma mater?”

More recently, we screened the third season premiere for our Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning [TV show] Homeland in the nation’s capital. My fellow Columbia Musical Theatre Society pals Melissa Landau Steinman and Liz Lubow posted join the festivities at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, where we screened the third season premiere with the cast, creative team and Washington notables such as Maren Dowd, Lawrence O’Donnell, Martha Raddatz and Bob Schieffer in attendance. Melissa and Liz are both successful (Melissa as an attorney specializing in sweepstakes issues and Liz as a public relations executive who works in crisis communications) and live a short distance from each other, so in some ways their adult lives mirror 1986, when they met in Carman. In many ways our reunion felt like no time had passed, although the refrain ‘We’re old’ crept into the conversation more than once.

I run communications for the studio behind Modern Family, Glee, New Girl, Sons of Anarchy, The Simpsons, Family Guy and about 30 other series, so life is hectic but mostly fun. My partner, Michael, and I have been together for more than 14 years (and still haven’t tied the knot, despite the fact that it’s now legal in California) and are the doting daddies of two dogs and a bird. My spare time is spent on the tennis court, riding horses in the Hollywood Hills and in frequent visits to Massachusetts, where my three nephews are growing up at an alarming rate.”

“I always enjoy an update from Gemma Tarlach. She writes, “After nearly two years at McMurdo Station in Antarctica (see profile in January/February 2011), I headed to Norway to investigate an emerging employment opportunity on a remote island a few hundred miles above the Arctic Circle in Vesterålen. To reach the place from Oslo, I had to take a plane to a bus to a boat to a bus to a boat to another bus to a Zodiac inflatable. Although the job didn’t turn out to be advertised, I did spend an amazing month surrounded by some of the most beautiful landscape I’ve ever encountered (and don’t forget I’ve lived in New Zealand!). I returned to Milwaukee and joined the staff of the recently relocated science magazine Discover. In addition to editing, I write features now and then, including two in our December issue — one of which is an interview with Columbia’s own Dr. Stephen Morse about pandemics.”

“I purchased an adorable 1922 cottage that is a block away from the family home (and still part-time residence) of Gov. Scott Walker and though I have yet to ask to borrow a cup of sugar from the guy, the state troopers parked across the street 24/7 are always friendly. And watchful. Very watchful.

“When not pulling up carpet or writing about tissue conduct technology, I’m enjoying spending time with my adoptees from our local animal control (where I volunteer): Charles, an oleaginous cat, and Tyche, a 7-month-old pit bull mix who is the sweetest, most social dog I’ve ever had. One of the main reasons I quit the nomad lifestyle and left my beloved Antarctica, believe it or not, was to experience the joy of waking up with a furry something snuggled against me once again, and both Charles and Tyche (named for the Greek goddess of fortune) are fulfilling that role quite nicely. My dark historical novel, Plagueland, is selling particularly well in Spain and the United Kingdom. Alice I did not make any of this up.”

Classmates, I’d like not to have to make anything up about anyone but if no one writes to me, well, we shall see what my fingers end up typing on the keyboard. Happy holidays to all!

Margie Kim 1923 White Oak Clearing Southlake, TX 76092 margiekimkim@hotmail.com

I’m sorry to report that Solomon Johnson passed away in September. Solo was football’s Ivy League Rookie of the Year for 1988 and many of you will remember that he scored the winning touchdown in the historic game against Princeton that same year, which ended our 44-game losing streak. After school, he got into the music business, married and had two children. He
was surrounded by family and friends when he passed away. Thank you to Greg Abbruzzese and Javier Loya for letting me know.

Carl Marci and his wife are thrilled to announce that they had a son in February. They live and work in Boston, where Carl divides his time between the faculty of Massachusetts General Hospital at Harvard and his company, Innerscope Research, which does consumer neuroscience.

Beth Moorthy moved from Myanmar back to New York in 2007. Then, restless after five years at the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, she moved with her husband to Monrovia, Liberia, in November 2012. She is now the head of the United Nations Agency for Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in Liberia, working on land and conflict issues, and plans to stay one more year. Lacking the amusements that NYC offered, she is also learning to surf the epic West African waves (unsuccessful thus far).

Debra (Gualandi) Williams is the Upper School principal of the International School of Florence in Italy, where she lives with her three daughters and wine-maker/archaeologist husband.

Jeremy Feinberg 315 E. 65th St. #3F New York, NY 10021 jeremy.feinberg@verizon.net

Let’s start with some unqualifiedly good news. Brad Randelmann reported that not only was he promoted to full professor at Emory but he also published his first textbook, Cornell Collagens Cross-Linking. Congratulations on both counts, Brad!

We lost a classmate since I last wrote. I’m sad to report that Meredith Norton passed away on August 2, 2013. I think the best indication of how loved and dear Meredith was to so many of you is the number of independent emails I received from you, making sure that I knew about her passing and giving me information to include. There have been many wonderful words written for Meredith. Of those, I think the most fitting to share is a paragraph from her obituary, shared with me by her father, John Norton ’57:

“All who knew Meredith agree that trying to describe her exhausts synonyms and adjectives for an energetic, incandescent free spirit who was amusing, argumentative, brilliant, challenging, creative, dramatic, engaging, generous, humorous, imaginative, insightful, inspirational, irreverent, kind, mischievous, multi-talented, off-the-hook, unconventional, unique and witty. She is remembered unanimously as someone who always had a different slant on every subject and was willing to try something new and interesting. I couldn’t agree more.

Which brings me to some news about the future of this column: I’m going to be saying goodbye. I have completed 21 full years of providing you updates, news both happy and sad, and a slice of life from our classmates. It has been genuinely fun, and an absolute privilege to do so. But I’ve realized that it’s time to pass the torch. I am grateful that I am able to do so to someone who I am completely confident will be able to handle the task.

He’s a journalist, and has handled press conferences with no one less than the President of the United States. I’m speaking of Olivier Knox, who, in between flights on Air Force One and camping out in the Rose Garden while on assignment for Yahoo! News, will begin bringing you all of your class news. If you treat him half as well as you treated me during these two decades, he’s in for a great assignment. Please send your news to Oliviers at olivier.knox@gmail.com or via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

I will certainly miss this space but I know I will still see many of you at reunions. Thank you for making this an enjoyable and long-lasting endeavor.

Please send your updates to either of the addresses at the top of the column or submit a note using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note. Many of us saw each other last spring at Alumni Reunion Weekend but that’s no excuse for letting the volume of news abate. And if anything, now is a perfect moment to strengthen our recently renewed connections! I look forward to hearing from you.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1, 2014
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Hi folks! I hope you’re all saving the date for our 20th reunion this spring. Who can believe that it’s been twenty decades since we left the Low Steps, Butler Library and our Columbia College days behind us? It will be great to catch up and relive old memories. I look forward to the chance to hear stories and the news.

and in the meantime …

Happy news from Mark Robi¬lotti, who married Karin Mazurs in July. The newlyweds divide their time between Manhattan and Connecticut, where Mark is executive counsel for transactions and finance at General Electric. Among the many College alumni in attendance at the wedding were Mark’s sister, Elizabeth Robiliotti ’99, and her husband, Rit Aggarwal ’99.

On the career front, an exciting update arrived from my former classmate Alan Berks: This fall he began a position as director of communications for Pillsbury United Communities, one of the largest and oldest human service agencies in Minnesota. It’s the umbrella organization for five diverse neighborhood centers, more than 60 specific programs and a number of innovative social enterprise/business ventures.

For the past three years, Alan had been communications director at Pillsbury House + Theatre, one of those neighborhood organizations, and in his new role he will apply the creativity his team used there across the Pillsbury United Communities network. “The belief is that more creative communications strategies can help make the service work itself easier, better and even more inspiring,” Alan writes. “As a creative writer, I’m looking forward to the chance to hear stories from all these amazingly different communities and people. I relish any excuse to ask people probing questions about their lives, so this is like Christmas for me.”

Congrats to both Mark and Alan, and thanks for sharing the news.

Everyone else — please send an update! You can use either address at the top of the column or submit one through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

Until next time!

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Janet Lorin 730 Columbus Ave., Apt. 14C New York, NY 10025 jrl10@columbia.edu

David Webber and his wife, Irit, have added a daughter to their family. Eliane arrived on July 1 and enjoys the company of her brothers, Boaz and Noam. The family moved from New York to the Boston area three years ago, where David is a professor at Boston University School of Law. He specializes in shareholder activism, shareholder litigation, securities fraud, M&A litigation and, more generally, in the limitless ways in which people fight over money. David has appeared on Nightly Business Report and NPR’s Marketplace and has testified about pension governance issues in California and New Hampshire, according to his BU web page. He writes, “I love writing and teaching and am very grateful for the chance to do both. Locally, I see my first-year, eighth-floor Carman roommate Alex Cortez.”

David also caught up with Ryan
Massoman, Craig Bernstein, David Attanasio, Alex Cortez, Hilton Romanski and Bert Gallano ’96 at Ryan’s 40th birthday party in Houston last fall. David would love to hear from Boston-area alumni.

Speaking of Hilton, he lives in Palo Alto, Calif., has been at Cisco for 12 years and is s.v.p., corporate development, leading the company’s M&A and investment strategy. He says the work is still fun and challenging.

Hilton and his wife, Emily Meyer, have two kids: Clement (5), who will begin kindergarten next year, and Georgia (3). Emily is the co-founder of a successful kids clothing company, Tea Collection. (I can report that the brand is wildly popular on the Upper West Side and a favorite of my 3-year-old daughter.) Check out some lovely photos of Hilton, Emily and the kids here: tea collection/about-tea/people. The brand is “bringing global influences into accessible designs that are just awesome and fun for kids and adults,” Ryan writes. 

As for Ryan, he writes that the last year was full of Columbia reunions. He and his wife, Sydni, celebrated their 10th anniversary with Jon Berkun and his wife, Lauren, in Miami, dancing the night away at a club. “At least Jon and I had beautiful dates,” Ryan writes.

Ryan also celebrated pre-wedding festivities for Shane Mogersen ’96 in Copenhagen, Denmark, with Hilton and Josh Shoemaker ’96. The highlight of the trip was eating at Noma, he writes, “the top-ranked restaurant in the world. We ate a very unusual 18-course menu that included ants, Swedish moss, crab and scallops with squid ink, to name some of the most interesting and delicious items.”

The wedding itself was held in Bozeman, Mont., he adds, and among the other guests were Hilton, David Webber, Gabe Stadecker ’96, Slain Jamison Wilde ’94, Thad Tracy and Glen Morgan ’93.

Finally, Ryan writes, the reunions this year so far have been limited to David Attanasio, in New York and in Texas, for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Ryan also caught up with Tom Kitt ’96.

Thanks for the news, and please send in updates about your own 40th birthday celebrations with classmates.

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Stefania Van Dyke (née Rosensteil) lives in Denver with her husband, Geoff, and their boys, Sebastian (6) and Leo (4). Stefania has worked at the Denver Art Museum since December 2012 as a master teacher for textile art and special projects, helping with the reinstallation of the museum’s textile art collection and developing an exploratory education studio. The reinstallation was the impetus the past summer for a museum-wide celebration of textiles called “Spun!”, where fiber and textile artists came together to create and make call for the “Museum of Living Textile Art.”

Stefania recently launched the Denver Art Museum’s new program, “Masterpieces of Chinese Literature,” which focuses on the art and culture of China and its influence on modern society. The program includes a series of exhibitions, workshops, and public programs that explore the rich history and diverse perspectives of Chinese literature. The program aims to provide a platform for artists, collectors, and scholars to showcase their work and share their insights with the broader community.

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Theory and Practice.” She is also working on several scholarly books, including a volume of scholarly essays and a translation with Columbia University Press. Before her position at Macalester, Rivi, who earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Chicago, was an assistant professor at Middlebury.

A second round of congratulations is in order for Jeannette Jakus, who is a board-certified dermatologist and has joined a private practice with offices in Manhattan and Long Island. In the fall she left New York for a yearlong fellowship in the south of France with Galderma, a pharmaceutical company specializing in dermatologic drugs, where she will learn about early drug development. What an amazing adventure for Jeannette, her husband, Ben Komfeind, and their children, Sam and Lily. I inadvertently left some baby news out of my last column: Suehyun Kim is the mother of boy-girl twins born in December 2012. That’s the reason she was unable to attend Alumni Reunion Weekend in May. The babies were only 6 months old — and she says she and her husband, Michael Lindo, had just only figured out how to get them to sleep plus they weren’t ready for traveling. The babies, who turn 1 this December, are named Michael and Christina Lindo. Suehyun and Michael, a licensed clinical social worker with his own counseling and consulting practice, live in Santa Monica, Calif.

That’s it for this column but if you’re on Facebook, please join the Columbia College Class of ’98 Group! And please send notes to my email address at the top of the column or through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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By the time you read these Class Notes, we’ll be six months shy of our 15-year Alumni Reunion Weekend. The festivities kick off with an evening reception on Thursday, May 29, and last until Sunday, June 1, when we conclude with a brunch. The Reunion Committee consists of me, Sameer Shamsi, Tony Munoz, Nina Tannenbaum, Eunice Lee, Stacy Rotner, John Bennett, Adrienne Carter, Charlie Leykum, David Kwon, Allison Margolin, Christina Cue, Alisha Alexander, Eleisa Coster, Jodi Materna, Lauren Gershell, Steve Boothe, Robert Hora and Caillie Fannese.

Friday has multiple events on campus and then a cocktail reception hosted by one of our classmates (details to come). Saturday is the day not to miss. The Alumni BBQ will be held on South Lawn followed by a wine tasting in the early evening. Our class reception and dinner will be held in the C.V. Starr East Asian Library in Kent Hall on Saturday. The event is a step up from our 10-year reunion dinner, which was held behind Uris Hall. With that said, our 10-year reunion had the largest turnout compared to any prior class’ 10-year reunion and I’m sure we’ll have another great turnout in 2014. Saturday night will be capped off by the Starlight Reception on Low Plaza.

Hotels on the Upper West Side book up quickly, as other Columbia classes and schools hold their reunions the same weekend. So start planning! Hope to see many of you in May. In the meantime, don’t hesitate to send a note to say hello and let us know how you are doing. Use either of the addresses at the top of the column or CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Nugi Jakobishvili and his wife, Isabelle Levy ’05, welcomed Raphael Levi Jakobishvili in June. The proud parents write, “Big sister Flora adores her new real-life doll.” Jeremy Kadden and his wife, Jana, welcomed their second son, Emmanuel Jasper (Manny) on August 26, “just a smidgen under three years after our first son, Siggy, was born (in September 2010).” Jeremy has lived in Washington, D.C., since 2002 and has worked in and around government for most of that time, including a seven-year stint working on Capitol Hill for several members of Congress. Since August 2012 he has worked at InterAction, a coalition of foreign aid NGOs, where he is a lobbyist.

Please share news about yourself, your career, your family and so on! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or by using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. I hope to hear from you.

Joel Bass and Michelle Grzan ‘01 were married August 24 at Red Maple Vineyard in West Park, N.Y. Pictured left to right are the bride’s parents, John and Milvana Grzan; the groom; and the bride’s brother, John-Michael Grzan ‘06.

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I hope everyone enjoys the holiday season. Best wishes for a wonderful and safe New Year!

Michelle Grzan and Joel Bass were married on August 24 at Red Maple Vineyard in West Park, N.Y. Jaime Pannone gave a rock star performance of “Ho Hey” by the Lumineers during the ceremony. Other Columbia attendees included Kelle Obebe Boversox with her husband, Mark, and daughter, Avery; Rebecca Siegel Bradley and her husband, John; Anne-Marie Ebner and her wife, Jamie; Sarah Weakley; John-Michael Grzan ’06; and Namrata Khimani ’06.

Rabia Saeed wrote with exciting news: “My husband, Parker, and I welcomed Sylvie Elan Hayden into the world on July 31. She weighed a not-so-whopping 6 lbs., 12 oz., for which mommy thanks her. We couldn’t be more thrilled.”


Cambria Matlow and Ben Bach were married this past summer.

Eileen McGinnis and Sol Swords were married in Austin on September 2. In attendance were Stephen Luk, Brian Gum, Michael Shy and Ada Yung.

Congratulations to all the new parents and newlyweds!

Stuart Dearlney writes, “Three years ago, I left the advertising industry to pursue my dream of being a fiction writer. To that end, I’m getting an M.F.A. at the University of Arkansas and have been teaching undergraduates ‘Comp 101.’” Stu also won the Playboy College Fiction Contest; it came with a $3,000 prize and his story was published in the October issue. It can be accessed online through playboy.com.

Congratulations, Stu! Thanks to all who wrote. Please keep in touch using your email address at the top of the column or through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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We have a host of exciting updates, and I would like to share one of my own as well. Our second son,
David Epstein’s first book, The Sports Gene: Inside the Science of Extraordinary Athletic Performance, came out August 1 and was given a covetted Kirkus Reviews star designating it a “book of exceptional merit.” David writes that the book covers “all that we’ve learned about the genetics of athleticism in the decade since the sequencing of the human genome, and reporting the book took me below the equator and above the Arctic Circle. It has now reached No. 9 on the list of New York Times best sellers in hardcover nonfiction.” [Editor’s note: See Bookshelf.]

Zecki Dossal ’13 Business has been co-heading the private equity and venture practice at Gerson Lehrman Group and overseeing its work in social impact.

Michael Novielli

World City Apartments
Attention Michael J. Novielli, A608
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It’s been nice to connect with a number of you during my recent travels. Will Hu and I caught up over dinner while I was in San Francisco, writing, workshops and media communications; I help people find, identify and realize their mission so that my services are no longer needed.

To accomplish this, I left my job at the New York State Psychiatric Institute’s Washington Heights Community Service inpatient unit and now work at Inwood Community Services’ Get Centered Mental Health Clinic and began working independently across NYC to people’s homes and offices to provide my services as ‘The Traveling Therapist.’

“To due my new schedule, I have been better able to balance my work and personal life. I recently enjoyed my five-year wedding anniversary with Jennifer Guerrero ’03 Barnard, as well as our son’s, Alejandro Miguel Lora, second birthday.”

Samantha Lee ’03 lives in Brooklyn Heights and recently joined Animal Planet as director of development.

Miriam Sheinbein writes, “I work for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte as associate medical director for primary care, and I teach in the UC San Francisco General Hospital Family and Community Medicine Residency Program.” She adds that if any Lions are in her neighborhood (the Mission in San Francisco), they are invited to check out the restaurants she owns with her husband, Yaron, and Yaron’s brother, Noam Elecht ’00. They are Local’s Corner and Local Mission Eatery; in addition, they will also be opening a grocery market.

Daniel Lupo graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School in August and has entered the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence in Fort Rucker, Ala.

Aarish, was born on July 13. My husband, Aron, and I are incredibly grateful for this wonderful addition to our family.

Orit Barnea Seif and her husband, Yehuda ’00, welcomed son Ilan Yaakov on June 13.

Jane Yang finished her vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Miami and is now a vascular surgery attending and an assistant professor at UCLA and Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.

Purdy Tran Bailer and her husband, Josh Bailer, welcomed their first child, Maximilian Hudson Bailer. Max came in weighing 7 lbs, 6 oz, a week early — he was eager to meet the world. They love the time with their future Columbia Lion.

Justin Wall recently completed two consecutive three-year residencies in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition and now runs a retreat center in the smoky mountains of Tennessee.

Mariel Wolfson took a new position as a HarvardX Fellow at Harvard. HarvardX is the university’s recently launched online education venture, part of the EdX partnership between Harvard and MIT. She will work on using technology to increase access to higher education and also on integrating technology into traditional courses.

Evan Bass has his first feature film credit as a producer and is aiming for distribution this fall; it’s called The Evil and is a Hitchcock-styled psychological horror-thriller that features new comedic talent as a Hitchcockian blonde (the Mission in San Francisco), and is a Hitchcock-styled psychological horror-thriller that features new comedic talent as a Hitchcockian blonde.

Hua and Yu Xiang, both out this year.

Michael Novielli

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It’s been nice to connect with a number of you during my recent travels. Will Hu and I caught up over dinner while I was in San Francisco,
to Boston in early September. I am a corporate associate at Mintz Levin, and Jacques is designing jet engines at General Electric. We are thrilled to be back in the United States and we would love to connect with any Columbia alums in Boston.

After taking an almost two-year hiatus in which he studied improv comedy and acting, Steve Ling recently moved to Bermuda to resume his career as a consulting actuary for Tokio Millennium Reinsurance Co. He loves the island life and is delving into as many new and exciting activities as he can find, many of which involve water. He expects to be back in the NYC area by mid-2014.

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS**

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Greetings from New York City! This year is coming to a close, and I hope you all had a spectacular one. I’m sure that 2014 will have plenty of surprises and adventures — one of which is our 10-year Alumni Reunion Weekend! Mark your calendars: Thursday, May 29—Sunday, June 1. I am expecting a strong showing from our class. There are some great events scheduled, and it will be wonderful to see familiar faces strolling around campus again.

Congratulations to Alisa K. Weilerstein, who married Rafael Payare in August. Alisa is a cellist and in August played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, III. Last November, she performed with the New York Philharmonic at Avery Fisher Hall. In addition, she was a 2011 MacArthur Fellow.

Congratulations also to Andrew Lebwohl, who reports, “I married Carly Weisenberg on August 25, which was also the one-year anniversary of my business, Karaoke Heroes. Jeffrey Chubak and Ilana Golant were in attendance as were Jaime Sneide’ 02; Marc Tobak’ 05; his wife, Elizabeth Berkowitz’ 06; Steve Melzer’ 05; his fiancée, Tracy Massel’ 06 Barnard; and my gazillion family members with Columbia degrees of one type or another whom I will not list because I don’t want to offend anyone by leaving them out.”

Francoise Villeneuve writes, “This year, my husband, Ed, and I welcomed Jacques Edward Andre Hardy into the world. He’s our first child and a cheery little lad. Samantha Debicki gifted him a Columbia onesie and he seems excited about lion noises, so in a few years, who knows?”

Oleg Ilitchev and his wife had their first child, Adriana Ilitcheva, in May.

Alex Hardiman and Brian Platzer welcomed their own, Owen Hardiman Platzer, in July.

Congratulations to all the new parents!

Alex Davis recently finished a one-year clerkship at the U.S. District Court in New Jersey. He is now in San Francisco, where he will soon start work in the commercial litigation department at Kirkland & Ellis. He looks forward to connecting with other alumni in the Bay Area and can be reached at ag036@columbia.edu.

Sophia Beal is an assistant professor of Portuguese at Minnesota.

Phil Matricardi ‘12 Business is a financial consultant for Sapien Global Markets. He lives in Brooklyn.

Joshua Arthur writes, “After nearly five years in the civilian world following my time in the Army, I went back to business school and started at Carnegie Mellon in August. I plan to work in management or strategy consulting following school. I have yet to connect with Michael Landau but I know he’s here in Pittsburgh as well!”

Craig Hollander recently earned a Ph.D. in 19th-century American history from Johns Hopkins and will spend the next couple of years as the Behrman Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History at Princeton.

Aaron Schwartz lives in San Francisco, where he runs Modify Watches.com with Ayo Oluwole’ 05, Modify’s v.p. of marketing. They create custom watches for big companies (e.g., Google, Nike) and have been featured in The New York Times and Self, On Good Morning America and more.

Jason Burwen reports, “It’s been a big year. I married Eleanor in July on the Russian River in California. Mischa Byruck served admirably as a groomsman and MC, and I was lucky enough to have Mark Weiner, Elizabeth Dwoskin’ 05 and Leah Yananton’ 04 GS join the celebration. We left San Francisco and moved to Washington, D.C., where I work on energy innovation policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center.”

David Molkio writes, “I recently relocated from Atlanta to Hong Kong, continuing my work as a senior producer for CNN International. However, I’m moving away from day-to-day news and working across all our feature programming in Asia Pacific. For example, I’m producing an interview with the Thai prime minister in Bangkok and took one of our other programs on the road to Shanghai in October. All very exciting but after five years of somewhat peaceful life in Atlanta, I’m having to relearn how to live in an urban environment, and everything that comes along with that. Still, it’s great, because there’s just no way to get bored in Hong Kong and the region.”

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of Class Notes! Please keep your submissions coming, and happy 2014!

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Hello, Class of 2005! Ten years ago we were babies taking CC together. Today (spoiler alert), our classmates are having babies and teaching CC! Let us begin this chapter in Class Notes with the weddings and babies:
In Croatia, Lisa Stublic ’06 Runs Down a Dream

By Kim Martineau ’97J

When the elite women marathoners finished the NYC Half last spring, newscasters announced the names of the Africans in first and second place but struggled to identify the 98-lb. Croat on their heels.

Lisa Stublic ’06 is used to surprising people. She holds Croatia’s marathon record and last year became the first marathoner — man or woman — to compete in the Olympics on Croatia’s behalf. In March, Stublic achieved world-class status with her third-place finish at the NYC Half, followed by first-place at the Zurich Marathon just three weeks later.

At Columbia, Stublic was a strong runner but no one expected her to make a living at it. Her unlikely success started with a gamble: the decision after graduating to move to her father’s native Croatia to learn the language. There, she discovered a knack for endurance running.

The intense yet flexible life of a pro athlete can sometimes feel to Stublic like a continuation of her days at Columbia. She rises early, trains hard in the morning and spends the rest of the day reading, eating and napping, with a light workout in the afternoon. In the typical week, she logs 110 miles. “It’s fun for me,” she says. “I feel like I’m in college without the classes.”

Pushing her body to its physical limit did not come naturally. Stublic had to be prodded by a gym teacher at Crosby H.S. in Waterbury, Conn., where she grew up, to pick a sport. She went out for the swim team but found swimming laps so tiring that she quit after the warm-up. Next she tried cross country. “I told myself I’d do one race,” she says. She won it and steadily grew faster. As a junior and senior, she was selected All New England in cross country and both seasons of track and field, setting several league records.

With offers from two Division I schools, American and Iona, Stublic chose Columbia for its political science program but after two semesters realized she was too “quiet and shy” for politics. Running, by contrast, allowed her feet to do the talking. As a junior, she came in second at the NCAA northeast regional in cross country and a year later finished 10th at the national championship in steeplechase. She credits her first coach at Columbia, Craig Anne Lake, for teaching her winning habits like eating well and getting enough sleep.

“I used to tell them [the students], the dorkier they could be, the better,” says Lake, who now sells real estate in Boston. “Lisa seemed to listen. It is a hard concept to grasp because most people see it as a sacrifice.”

Academically, Stublic gravitated toward the arts. Her major in music theory, it turns out, set her on the path to becoming an Olympic athlete. The summer of her junior year, she went to Croatia on a music-exchange program led by Jane McMahan, a Barnard associate in music. For three weeks, she played flute with a group of musicians performing in tiny medieval villages across the Grožnjan region.

The experience stayed with Stublic. While pouring lattes at Chokolat Patisserie, the coffee shop near Columbia where she worked, Stublic kept coming back to that “magical” summer. In January 2008, she flew to Croatia on a one-way ticket and went to live with her aunt. Eight months later, armed with a basic command of Croatian, she moved to Zagreb to teach English.

There, she found a coach with an unusual training regimen that involved running at five pace ranges set by how much lactic acid is in the body. The five paces, from slow-recovery to super-fast, are determined from blood samples taken after running at different speeds. Over time, Stublic’s coach became convinced that her competitive advantage lay in the marathon, not steeplechase.

Once again Stublic took a leap. Confident in her training but with no actual marathon experience, she quit her day job as an English instructor, aiming to qualify for the Olympics and simultaneously earn the backing of the Croatian Olympic Committee. She ran the 2010 BMW...
By 2016, Stublic expects to have mastered the art of packing light, a lesson she learned while training for the Zurich Marathon (she qualified in 2:33:42, earning a spot in the 2:33:30 heat). She needed to get there with just her running gear and a backup outfit, a feat that required her to experience foods and flavors that were different from the usual "clean, carbohydrate-heavy diet," as her husband puts it. "The humid weather makes the city's steamy streets a taste for dark chocolate, the saltiness, sourness or bitterness. A surgery at 19 largely restored both senses, allowing her to experience foods by their flavors rather than colors corresponding to their saltiness, sourness or bitterness. In addition to giving her a taste for dark chocolate, the surgery had another bonus: She immediately shaved a full minute off her best cross country time."

The Olympics are three years away but Stublic already has eyes on Rio, with plans to fly there with her team to train just outside of Philadelphia, where they found out they were expecting their first child, Izzy Brendan. "To view a video of Stublic running the Zurich Marathon (she is featured at the beginning and end), go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Kim Martineau '97 writes about earth and environmental science at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.
a colleague. The two years that I have spent with my partner, social psychologist J. Sumerau, have easily been the best of my life.

"While I will always face significant challenges with my health, I have found my way into a life and career that make these struggles feel worthwhile, and I give thanks for this good fortune every day. I hope that all of my Columbia friends are finding similar satisfaction on their own journeys. When I read our Class Notes I always feel so impressed by how all of you are giving back to the world, each in your own ways, and becoming the visionary leaders our professors and Dean Austin E. Quigley always told us we could be. I find it hard to believe that more than eight years have passed since we graduated. The memories we built together feel as fresh as if they happened yesterday, and the inspiration we found in one another is just as great."

Edward A. Rueda is honored to have taken part in the August 20 launch of Al Jazeera America, the United States’ newest 24-hour cable news network. He is a digital producer for Consider This, a current affairs talk show hosted by Antonio Mora, which airs weeknights at 10 p.m. Edward works alongside fellow digital producer Leslie Hart ’10 and they hope you tune in to the show. In his off-hours, Edward and his wife, Alexandra Zendrian, enjoy exploring the wonders of Long Island, often with their neighbors, Andrew Liebowitz ’06 and his wife, Gail.

In August, Juliet Grames was promoted to associate publisher at Soho Press.

Chaim Kagedan reports, “I recently concluded a clerkship with Judge Robert W. Sweet of the Southern District of New York and now am a senior litigation associate in the New York office of Venable. My wife, Heather ’05 Barnard, and I recently hosted a few alumni in an effort to convince them to join us in the suburban haven of Teaneck, N.J. Among the lucky recipients of our hospitality were my college roommate, Binyamin Berkovit, and his wife, Rachel ’05 Barnard (nee Pollack), as well as Nessa Helpern Liben ’06 Barnard and her husband, Noah Liben ’05 GS.”

Lauren Mancia writes, “On August 27, I began a position as an assistant professor of history at Brooklyn College (CUNY).” Congratulations on growing up, Class of 2005!

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Kathleen Carr Adams writes, “Happy news! My daughter, Grace Hattler Adams, was born on July 3 in Washington, D.C. She weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz. and was 21 1/2 inches long. My husband, Ford, and I call her Hattie. She joins brother Wells (4). We are with the Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India, and will remain here through May.”

Emily Bregel has returned to newspaper journalism after a two-year stint working on organic farms in the Southwest. She is an investigative reporter for the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson.

Julia Nagle earned a master’s in public policy from UC Berkeley in 2011. She stayed in the Bay Area after graduation and works in education philanthropy.

Jaime Madell and Negisa Balluku ’06E recently celebrated their second wedding anniversary (and their 10th year together). Jaime practices corporate law at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, and Negisa practices bankruptcy law at Dechert.

Stephen Kunen writes, “On June 29, I married the beautiful Handie Peng at Holy Rosary Church on Staten Island. We had our reception at Noizot’s Ballroom, also on Staten Island, and an extraordinary time was had by all. She and I met during our time at Emory, where I completed a J.D. and she completed a Ph.D. Brian Ruby ’06E and Stefan Hildebrandt were among the groomsmen. Thomas Rudy, Arijit ‘Bobby’ Gosh ’06E, Ali Daggett ’06, Lizzie Smith ’06, Jason Yang ’03, Ben Jacobs, Emma Baratta and Ryan Abrea were also in attendance. “Second, I started a law firm, Kunen Law, in March. I work in intellectual property and business law with a focus on small businesses and mixed martial arts companies. I encourage alums to follow my law blog at kunenlaw.com.”

Laura Schnaidt has resumed use of her maiden name, lives in
New York City and would love to hear from classmates. Write her at lauraschneidt@gmail.com.

I hope everyone has a terrific holiday season. Write to tell us all about it! You can send a note to either of the addresses at the top of the column or submit one using CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

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Jimmy Vielkind, who moved back home to the Albany area after graduation, has started a job with the three-year-old news site Capital New York, which was purchased by POLITICO parent Robert Allbriton in September. Jimmy had been covering New York state politics and government for Albany’s Times Union since 2010, including the administration of Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

He says, “Writing for the paper I grew up reading has been an incredible experience, and I can’t begin to count all the things I’ve learned or the wonderful friends I’ve found among such terrific colleagues. I’m very excited to be part of a new venture and look forward to new opportunities at Capital; it’s also great to be reunited with several old friends from my days at The New York Observer. If anybody’s ever around the Capitol or Albany, drop a line!”

Tara Ezer has been promoted to v.p. of international sales at FilmNation Entertainment. Tara was one of the founding members of the FilmNation team. Her credits include The King’s Speech, Mud, Looper, Lawless, Magic Mike and Side Effects.

Shari (Gross) Lauer ’07 Barnard and Jonathan Lauer announced the April birth of Ezra Yitzchak hooper, Lawless, Magic Mike and Side Effects. “We’re thrilled to have a two-year-old son,” they write. “Ezra means ‘light of the house’ in Hebrew and he is our little ray of sunshine.”

Caryn Eischin shares, “I moved to Baltimore this fall to start a master’s program in public health at Johns Hopkins, where I’ll be studying patient safety and quality of care. Missing New York tremendously but eating a ton of delicious crab to drown my sorrows.”

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Elizabeth Smith has some big news to share: “On August 30, my boyfriend of 8½ years, Jason Yang ’00, asked me to marry him! He proposed on the roof deck of our building, which overlooks the sparkling lights of Manhattan. [Spoiler: I said yes!]

In other news, we had a busy summer as proud new parents of two kittens. They are quite a handful but a constant joy!”

Shana Bush is a jazz and blues vocalist in New York City. In April 2013, she released her first full-length album, Shoshana Bush & Friends Live at Catalina Jazz Club, and will celebrate its release with a performance at Birdland jazz club on Thursday, December 12. The album is available on iTunes as well as on shoshanabushmusic.com.

Ernest Herrera recently returned to his hometown of San Antonio, where he has joined the American Legal Defense and Educational Fund as a staff attorney. Ernest will focus on voting rights litigation and workers’ rights issues.

Classmates celebrated the wedding of Rebecca Johnson ‘10, who married Jeremy Lancaster (not pictured) on September 7 in the Hudson Valley. Left to right: Rebecca Salley ’10, Anne Kwei ’10E, Christopher Yee ’10E, the bride, Courtney Chin ’10, Gunnar Aasen ’10E, Dayana Azuaje ’10 and Hiroki Kimura ’10.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2014
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If you enjoy reading Class Notes to learn what your classmates have been doing during the last few years, then mark your calendar for our five-year reunion! The Class of 2009 will celebrate its first Alumni Reunion Weekend Thursday, May 29—Sunday, June 1. Go to reunion.college.columbia.edu to stay updated on the details; registration opens in the early spring.

Daniella Zalcman ’09 and Joshua Robinson were married on September 1 at The Loeb Central Park Boathouse. Their bridal party included John Atlas ’09, ’09E; Angela Radulescu ’11; Jonathan Kamran; Chelsea Ward ’09; and Jonathan Tayler ’09. Keep the updates coming! You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or send a note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

Ernest Herrera recently returned to his hometown of San Antonio, where he has joined the American Legal Defense and Educational Fund as a staff attorney. Ernest will focus on voting rights litigation and workers’ rights issues.
He enjoys reading about all the awesome pursuits and achievements of his classmates and is happy to share tips with anybody who comes down for South by Southwest (SXSW) or anything else in Texas.

After completing the Exotic Animal Training and Management program at Moorpark College in Southern California, Quincy Sweeney continues to work with a variety of exotic animals as a zookeeper at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Ariz. She is excited to train capybaras as well as meet a baby tapir in the upcoming year. While loving life now, the thought of going back to school this fall, beginning the M.P.H. program in the international health department at the Boston University School of Public Health, she writes, “Boston is a great place to be not only as a person interested in healthcare, but also because I’ve already run into a number of Columbia alumni! A fellow CC ‘10 happens to be my next door neighbor. I plan to go abroad next summer and am searching for healthcare jobs or research internships in Latin America and/ or Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. If anyone has recommendations (or is ever in Boston and would like to meet up), please email me: gmo2102@cau.columbia.edu.”

Danielle Ash became engaged to Alex Yampolsky on September 3. He is a pharmacist who owns Medicine Man Pharmacy at 511 Washington St. in Hoboken, N.J. She graduated magna cum laude from New York Law School in May and is a first-year associate in the real estate department at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison as of September.

On September 7, Rebecca Johnson married Jeremy Lancaster in an outdoor ceremony in the beautiful Hudson Valley. Columbians in attendance included bridesmaid Courtney Chin, Gunnar Aasen ‘10E, Dayana Azuaje, Hiroki Kimura, Anne Kwei ‘10E, Rebecca Salley and Chris Yee ‘10E. The group participated in a lively chanting of the Columbia fight song and danced the night away!

Emory Dabney married Jay Dolan ’08 Middletown in Richmond, Va., on June 8. They met at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. Jay is an associate veterinarian at Bold Springs Veterinary Service in Pearisburg, Va., while Emory is finishing her D.V.M. They reside in Blackburg, Va., with their ever-growing menagerie, which currently includes their terrier mix, Benny; cat, Phineas; and crested geckos, ShakaSmart and Mooney.

Nora Nicholson Calhoun (née Weber) writes, “My husband, Alexander Calhoun ’11, and I had a daughter on August 5. Frances Rose Nicholson Calhoun weighed 10 lbs. even and was 22 inches long, born at home with the help of a midwife, my mother, my sister and Genevieve Deleon. We are totally besotted and thank God for His goodness toward us. We live in the Columbia neighborhood and she was baptized on September 8 at Corpus Christi Church on West 121st Street.”

Ian Spafford is an actuary at The Travelers Indemnity Co. Congratulations to Susanna Wolff, who was named editor-in-chief of CollegeHumor.com in September. She started her career at CollegeHumor.com in 2007, through an internship held while at Columbia.

And finally, the latest musings from Chris Yim: “SF > NY. It’s certainly not as attractive of a city, and the glamour isn’t there like it is in NYC. However, if you like the outdoors, spending less money, living healthier and having more work-life balance, then SF may suit you better. This is all part of my campaign to get great people out to California and near me.

“As of September 8, I will have been in San Francisco for six months, and I have to say that I’m in a good place. I work and live with my best friends, and we are engaged in a mission that I care about. My days are filled with unique challenges that have me going back and forth among an early-stage business, distance relationship, managing work/friend relationships (they’ve become one and the same) and establishing a life for myself. All in all, I am content in the challenge. Every man must hunt his kill to become one and the same) and I care about. My days are filled with unique challenges that have me going back and forth among an early-stage business, distance relationship, managing work/friend relationships (they’ve become one and the same) and establishing a life for myself. All in all, I am content in the challenge. Every man must hunt his kill to become one and the same.)

“I haven’t mentioned so much with regards to [my son] Jackson and that’s because I’ve handed him off to my folks. We’ve decided that until I hit the jackpot, it’ll be best if he can be in a place with more stability and have attentive adults around him. I know that he’ll be well-fed, loved and nurtured in their home in Virginia, Virginia, after all, is for lovers.

“Lastly, here’s my shameless plug. If you’d like to support our mission of connecting students and resources of teachers and students around the world to ensure all students have access to high-quality education, then please contact me at chris@cusclass.org. A few CC alumni...”

On September 28, Abby Oberman ’10 married Bryan Finkel at the Essex House in NYC. Left to right, bottom row: Samantha Taube ’10 Barnard, Lan Wu ’10E, Shira Berenson ’08, Rachael McMillan ’09, Sara Hershman ’10 Barnard and Jeffrey Conn ’08. Left to right, middle row: Charlotte Moses Fischman ’67L, Julie Taylor ’10E, Carrie Leone ’10 Barnard, Katherine Vucelic ’09 Barnard, the bride and Arielle Fox ’11; left to right, top row: Emma Brockway ’10 Barnard; Nicole Scalander ’10E, ‘11 Business; Christine Espinoza ’08; Ester Murdukhayeva ’09; the groom; father of the bride Michael Oberman ’69; Gary Naftalis ’67L, ‘67 SIPA; Arnold Rady ’69E; Gershon Locker ’69; and Mark Webber ’69. Also in attendance but not pictured was Nora Feinstein ’11 JTS, ’12 Barnard.

PHOTO: FRED MARCUS STUDIO

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Thanks for all of your fantastic submissions and keep them coming. Let’s get right to the notes!

Isabel Broer writes, “After three years in Denver, I’m back on the East Coast for law school at Harvard. It broke my heart to leave Colorado but I’m already relishing being a student again, instead of a teacher. Valerie Sapozhnikova and Sue Yang are in Cambridge, too, and I’m looking forward to running into more 2010s.”

Valerie must have been on the same wavelength as Isabel, as she submitted her own update saying she’s excited about going back to school and beginning her legal education at Harvard Law. She reflects, “It’s strange to be away from New York for the first time in so many years but says she is looking forward to exploring Cambridge and Boston, as well as meeting up with Columbia alumni in the area.

Giselle Obregon also started school this fall, beginning the M.P.H. program in the international health department at the Boston University School of Public Health. She writes, “Boston is a great place to be not only as a person interested in healthcare, but also because I’ve already run into a number of Columbia alumni! A fellow CC ‘10 happens to be my next door neighbor. I plan to go abroad next summer and am searching for healthcare jobs or research internships in Latin America and/ or Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. If anyone has recommendations (or is ever in Boston and would like to meet up), please email me: gmo2102@cau.columbia.edu.”

Columbia College Today
Lions celebrated the September 7 marriage of Katie Goble and Derek Turner '12 in Phoenix. Left to right, behind the bride and groom: Ashley Byrd '02, Linda Boama-Wiafe '12, Frannie Laugher '12 Barnard, Nathan Chang '10, Barry Weinberg '12, Todd Nelson '12, Adam Kuerbitz '12, Jordan Hollarsmith '12, Amirah Sequeira '12, Leah Greenbaum '12, Jason Han '12, Sy Hoekstra '10, Toukam Ngoufanke '09E and Emile Barraza '13E.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY
CLASS NOTES

From producing a Britney Spears musical to working with the Yankees, the Class of 2012 remains as busy (and awesome) as always. I encourage everyone to continue sharing updates! Send to my email address, above, or through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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From producing a Britney Spears musical to working with the Yankees, the Class of 2012 remains as busy (and awesome) as always. I encourage everyone to continue sharing updates! Send to my email address, above, or through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Adam Behnke is working his dream job with the New York Yankees. As a sales associate, he customizes ticket plans and corporate events for fans and companies. He helped several Columbia groups this past summer and fall and writes that “they had an absolute blast!” He is working with the Columbia College Young Alumni Board of Directors to organize a group event for next year and looks forward to helping as many Columbians as possible get to the stadium for a fun night.

Patrick Blute has joined forces with Cori Capik, Sara Miller ‘13 Barnard and Max Druz ‘15 to produce the musical Spears: The Gospel According to Britney, which held a funder’s preview on November 7 at the Snapple Theater in Midtown. For more information, visit spearmusical.com.

Paul Hsiao kicked off an awesome summer by attending a high school reunion with Chris Cheung, Lisa Liu, Brian Watson ‘12E and Sarah Gordon ‘12E. He also spent time in New York with Sonal Bothra, Alex Harstrick, Sarah Ngu and Chuck Roberts, “going to back-to-back musicals on the weekdays and exploring Brooklyn one hipster bar at a time.”

In early September, Yin Yin Lu launched the Lexicography Society’s YouTube channel (youtube.com/user/LexicographySociety) as well as its inaugural video series, “What’s Your Word?” Yin writes, “From its conception, the series has been almost one year in the making. Filming officially began in December, and the latest round was in September, with many months of editing in between!”

“The premise of the series is simple. Each video features one person speaking about one word. The word has to resonate in either a positive or negative way; it has to arouse intense emotion. There is no prescribed structure or style, and the word can be from any language.

“Moreover, each video is as much about the speaker as it is about the word. How they speak is as remarkable/revealing as what they say. The videos are miniature portraits of selves, in a direct sense.”

Yin will continue filming in the United Kingdom, as she has decided to return to Oxford to pursue a master’s in English language. If you are interested in participating in the video series, send a message to lexisoc@gmail.com.

Michael Mazzullo has returned to his high school, Fordham Prep in the Bronx, to teach history and to coach soccer.

After spending the summer organizing the hackNY summer Fellows program, Aditya Mukerjee returned to school this fall in the inaugural class of Cornell Tech, a new graduate school in NYC. While studying for a master’s in computer science, Aditya will
work with engineers at Google to extend the open-source Pythion project to help instructors create interactive online textbooks for use in teaching computer science and statistics.

Joseph Rozenshtein '13 SIPA spent this past summer in Northern Virginia training for his first assignment as a foreign service officer with the State Department. He left for Kyiv, Ukraine, in late September and is looking forward to new adventures. He writes that no matter where his job takes him, "the city" will only ever mean New York!

David Spencer Seconi sent in an update from Bogota, where he has lived since two weeks after graduation: "Dissatisfied with the senior job recruitment process, with a sub-intermediate level of Spanish and not a single drop of Latino blood in my body, I packed most of my things into two suitcases and flew rather blindly to Bogota. To put a roof over my head and food on my plate I took a job at a local hostel, which I discovered upon arrival was actually the night shift as the entire building's security guard, letting cars and people into the building 9 p.m.–3 a.m.

"Struck with the existential burnings of jumping from an Ivy League education into international security services, I didn't last long in my role and was quickly forced to find new lodging. What followed was the adventure of a lifetime, in which I taught English, was accepted into the country's most well-known university for a master's and worked for a subsidised public housing project to help instructors create CLASS NOTES with a sub-intermediate level of knowledge into the building's security guard, letting cars and people into the building 9 p.m.–3 a.m.

But last not least, Derek Turner and Katie Goble were married on September 7 in a beautiful ceremony in Phoenix. Many Lions surrounded them on their special day. Congratulations!

Michael Abramowitz and Eric Feder were married on June 9 at Temple Beth El in Cedarhurst, N.Y. Celebrating with them were many Class of '13 friends such as Morgan Leuchten, Etan Zapinsky '14E and Michael Rubin. Michelle and Eric were both involved in the Columbia/Barnard Hillel, and met there during their NSOP week. One challenging "Calculus III" course, countless group projects and four years of college later, they got married. They now live in Washington Heights. Eric is pursuing his interest in mathematics as a professional data scientist while Michelle is performing clinical research in a psychology lab, hoping to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

Soon after graduation, John Kenney began an internship at Pivot TV, where he worked on "Raising McCain," a new documentaty-talk show centered on political celebrity Meghan McCain '07. After finishing the internship he spent the remainder of his summer at home with family in North Dakota and Minnesota, then moved back to the Northeast. In fact, he is back on Columbia's campus as a first-year at the Law School. John is currently buried in introductory course material — essentially the Core of law school — and he hopes to narrow his focus to the intersection of law and sports.

Good luck, John!

Mila Rasufaeva is also beginning a law career and will start at Chicago Law in fall 2014. Between now and then (she took a year's deferral), she is a legal assistant to Harvey Fishbein, a solo criminal trial defense lawyer in downtown Manhattan. Mila has assisted him since her senior year at Columbia and has been exposed to a number of pivotal cases, the biggest of which is currently People v. Pedro Hernandez, regarding the highly publicized Etan Patz disappearance in 1979. She has assisted in court and at trial for some cases, and hopes to apply these experiences to her course material as a law student. She looks forward to a year of "making it on [her] own in New York City," as she puts it, and hopes to spend next summer traveling and resting before the school year commences.

Nathan Ratapu has begun his post-college career as a programming analyst at Syfy in New York City. He helps put together the TV network's air schedule and scouts for international programming. He looks forward to continuing his learning experience at the network and to pursuing a career in the entertainment industry.

Congratulations go to Stuart Cohen, who began his education at Columbia with the Class of 1981 and completed his degree this year as a proud member of our Class of 2013. In his words, "I was supposed to graduate in 1981 but fell three credits short. I got my decision 32 years after I decided it was time, so I got my credit and I am now a real graduate. No more living a lie!"

Now based in Juneau, Alaska, Stuart is a proud father of two and a successful author. Since graduating, he received news that his fourth novel, tentatively called This Is How It Really Sounds!, will be published. Some words of wisdom from Stuart to our class: "I read virtually none of the Core Curriculum when I was in school but I have read just about all of the books now, in their entirety. I guarantee you they read much better 30 years later, and are much more profound. I especially like Pultarch, who identified concentration of wealth as a threat to society long ago, and Cervantes, who is so profound about the separate worlds we all live in. So, keep re-reading: you're just getting started."

A final note: This December marks our seventh month in "the real world" — may our fresh memories of college life provide an impetus to give back and donate to the Columbia College Fund. You can give by credit card at college.columbia.edu/ giveonline or by calling the Alumni Office at 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.

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**Answers to Quiz on Inside Back Cover**

1. Sixteen percent of the College Class of 2017 comes from outside the United States and represents 47 countries.
2. In March 2009, Columbia opened its first Global Centers in Beijing, China, and Amman, Jordan.
3. In January 2013, Columbia opened its eighth Global Center in Nairobi, Kenya.
4. Nevis, British West Indies.
5. Sixty-four students held Columbia Experience Overseas summer internships in 2013 in eight cities.
6. France, to study at Reid Hall.
7. 1964.
9. Twelve Columbians currently are overseas on Fulbrights: John Bailey '12 (Spain), Janine Balekijian '13 (Ukraine), Caitlin Brown '13 (Andorra), Kyle Buchari '13 GS (United Kingdom), Serena Dasi '13 (Indonesia), Scout Katovich '11 (France), Krliza Lopez '13 (Nicaragua), Aaron Primero '13 (Philippines), Katharina Shew '13 (Germany), Elizabeth Shen '11 (Philippines), Lewis West '13 (India) and James Wiseman '13 (Czech Republic).
10. Spanish, with 532 students enrolled in classes in 2013–14.

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One of my first jobs was to play a role in organizing the dinner, to be held in the Waldorf-Astoria. It turned out to be a tough assignment. As I recall, the next Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner was a much easier sell, with the recipient being "Wild Bill" Donovan (Class of 1905), who headed the Office of Strategic Services (a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency) during WWII.

John C. Thomas Jr. '48
NEW YORK CITY

Letters

(Continued from page 6)

Alumni Association, then headed by Frank Hogan ['24, '28L].

One of my first jobs was to play a role in organizing the dinner, to be held in the Waldorf-Astoria. It turned out to be a tough assignment.

for me and the alumni dinner committee. The honoree was V.K. Wellington Koo (Class of 1909), China's ambassador to the United States. The feeling about China and Chiang Kai-shek was bitterly pro and con at that time and to get 450 people to come to that dinner was a Herculean task.

Thomas Dewey ['25L] was the principal speaker. I never saw anyone more confident or sure of himself. Certainly the majority attending the dinner that evening thought he had already won the Presidential election. Harry Truman soon thereafter upset that prognostication.

As I recall, the next Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner was a much easier sell, with the recipient being "Wild Bill" Donovan (Class of 1905), who headed the Office of Strategic Services (a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency) during WWII.
Although upon arriving at Columbia College I became an instant believer in the importance of the Core Curriculum, I just as quickly decided I didn’t like Plato. I also didn’t have the gall to begin my freshman year arguing with my professor that the founder of Western philosophy was pompous and pretentious. That was probably a good call for my future at Columbia but also a good lesson for my career.

In 25 years of journalism I’ve met some unsavory types, from Islamic radicals in Lebanon to creepy U.S. civilians running Iraq to deceitful corporate PR spinners to National Front politicians in France. But they’ve all had at least some valid point to make, and I’ve always told their side of the story. After, of course, double checking everything they say and seeking out opposing points of view. A reporter’s job is to expose and explain, not to preach or mock.

Maybe it was growing up partly as an expat in France, in a family where we discussed politics from an early age, or our extensive travels in Europe and Africa where my father worked, but I knew since high school in the States that I wanted to be an overseas-based journalist. At Columbia, professors dismissed many of my papers and exams for their “journalistic writing style;” I was never so satisfied with the resulting mediocre grades.

I joined WKCR’s news department as soon as I arrived at Columbia and continued to file reports from my 1983-84 junior year abroad at the University of Edinburgh. Those were heady years in the United Kingdom, with the miners’ strike, the invasion of Grenada and protest against the installation of U.S. Pershing missiles. After graduation, I presumed my career would involve covering those same issues of war and peace. It was a shock to discover every newspaper job on offer required a car. I was a city boy and didn’t even have a driver’s license. I don’t know how I was so clueless but it probably didn’t make much difference. Newspapers were already cutting back in 1985 and the jobs were in business news.

A year after joining Dow Jones in downtown Manhattan, I was sent to London to cover currency markets and banking. After two years there and then some personal travel in South America, I came back to New York for a degree at SIPA. A year at Forbes magazine followed before joining in 1992 what at the time a start-up called Bloomberg News. I was hired to open its Milan office, becoming Bloomberg’s fifth reporter on the continent. Now there are about 600 in Europe. We were about half that when I moved to the Paris bureau in 1997. Sometimes I miss those early chaotic days when we were starting a news service from scratch but the hours were insane, and obviously we weren’t the influential media company we are now, even if along with size inevitably comes a certain bureaucracy and anonymity.

I have no regrets about a career in business journalism. When you come down to it, all stories are economic. Bloomberg takes a wide view, covering almost any subject where money is involved. There are plenty of days working the phone from the office or sitting through interminable press conferences. But over the years, I’ve also reported from looted oil fields in Iraq, from the Vatican about its finances, from Olympic Games on their sponsors and from a Greek frigate searching for pirates in the Indian Ocean. I’ve visited a fair share of Italian and French cheesemakers. I’ve accompanied French presidents to African countries as they drum up business and to numerous European capitals for all-night negotiations to save the euro. Nicolas Sarkozy was exhausting and exciting to cover, full of energy and an initiative a day. He could also boycott us for weeks if he didn’t like our questions. François Hollande is patience defined, never losing his cool and always pleasant with the press. But unlike Sarkozy, he refuses to play the game of “feeding the beast,” and sometimes the Elysée press corps returns from his overseas trips without a story to tell.

While I’m often the only non-French reporter on these trips, I’ve never felt any hostility. And that’s been true of living in Europe generally, even at the height of French bashing in the U.S. during the first Iraq war. Even in the Middle East, I’ve never hidden that I’m American, although to soften the blow (Continued on page 95)
A Global Columbia Quiz

In keeping with the issue's theme, this quiz also has a global bent. Try your hand at these questions (answers on page 94):

1. What percentage of the Class of 2017 comes from outside the United States, and how many countries are represented?

2. When and where were the first two Columbia Global Centers opened?

3. When and where was the most recent Columbia Global Center opened?

4. In what country was Alexander Hamilton (Class of 1778) born?

5. How many students held internships in Summer 2013 through the Center for Career Education's Columbia Experience Overseas program, and in how many cities?

6. To what country does Columbia's largest contingent of study-abroad students go?

7. When did Columbia begin offering undergraduate programs at Reid Hall in Paris?

8. Toomas Hendrik Ilves '76 is the president of what country?

9. How many Columbians are studying overseas on Fulbright grants this year?

10. What language (in addition to English) is most popular to study at Columbia?
The Show Goes On

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THE SHOW GOES ON

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    A look back at 120 years in pictures, programs and posters.

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

Building the Best Undergraduate Experience

We recently marked the end of The Columbia Campaign, a University-wide fundraising and alumni relations effort that raised more than $6.1 billion, including $980 million for undergraduate education. We raised $401 million for College financial aid, $25.5 million for student advising and $134.4 million for the Columbia College Fund, which supports the Core Curriculum, summer internship stipends, financial aid and student services. We also endowed 43 new professorships for faculty in the Arts and Sciences. And we did it with the help of you — the generous alumni, parents, students and friends of Columbia College.

Throughout the campaign, many of you gave time, energy and financial contributions to Columbia. You reconnected with your classmates, with your Columbia experiences and with the institution, and helped propel the University forward. You were leaders in The Columbia Campaign, and I thank you for helping make us the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world. I especially thank the Undergraduate Campaign Council and all the other College fundraising volunteers who gave their time and resources to help us reach our goals.

The momentum we have built from this campaign will enable us to focus on key priorities that will enhance Columbia College. We must continue to strengthen the College, build the greatest undergraduate experience for our students and faculty, and provide for the next generation of Columbians. We need to sustain the Core, which unites Columbia College students and alumni; we need to support our students, who are at the core of the College — through financial aid, summer internships, study abroad, research and fellowship opportunities, and other programs and services — and we need to support the faculty who teach our students, who are world-class researchers, outstanding teachers and thought-leaders in their fields. We need to be the best Columbia we can be so we can continue to attract the best students, regardless of their families’ abilities to pay, and ensure a diverse community where students can learn as much from one another as they do from our faculty. Sustaining the College’s success will take a lot of work, and your participation is essential. I hope you will remain engaged, continue to connect with the College and take advantage of programs and opportunities that we offer.

In this issue, you’ll read about some of the remarkable Columbians who have achieved success in the performing arts, and some of the unique Columbia traditions that have influenced them on their path to greatness — in particular the Varsity Show, but also groups like Columbia University Players, King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe and Columbia Musical Theatre Society, to name a few. Columbia College students interested in theater and film can take advantage of the School of the Arts and courses in Barnard’s Department of Theatre.

Columbia University’s resources — including our world-renowned faculty, 16 graduate and professional schools, hundreds of extracurricular opportunities, and many institutes and centers across campus and around the globe — are among the many things that make Columbia College special, and this is especially true for students interested in theater and the performing arts. These opportunities are enhanced by the University’s location in the greatest city in the world, where students can take advantage of countless arts internships, world-class performances and unique cultural opportunities. Our Columbia Arts Experience internship program, for example, provides select students with a New York-based internship in the arts and connects them with special events and educational programming designed to help them explore career possibilities. Our NYC Performing Arts Alternative Spring Break program gives students with a passion for performing arts the chance to attend theater, music and dance performances; participate in workshops on topics such as audience development and careers in arts administration; and reflect on their own work and the performing arts community on campus during spring break.

Performing arts is just one example of the many professions that College students embark on, and one of the many passions that we support through our programs and opportunities. But none of these programs would be possible without the support and guidance of former students, parents of students, and friends of the College. So I thank you, once again, for all that you have done during The Columbia Campaign and all that you continue to do for the College. Your commitment to Columbia is extraordinary, and I look forward to working together to sustain the College, build programs and opportunities, and support the next generation of Columbians.

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

S P R I N G 2 0 1 4
Letters to the Editor

A Football Alternative
So the Lions were winless again this year—more evidence that building a viable football program at Columbia is unlikely. The banging-head-on-wall metaphor seems to describe this entire subject and leads to my suggestion: Just stop it. Give up football.

We don’t need an Eric Kandel to explain that this game can, and too often does, cause permanent brain injury. It is time Columbia made a statement about this by dropping the sport altogether or replacing it with a touch or flag version. Encourage the rest of the Ivies to do the same.

I know, I know. “The alums would never stand for it! What about the University’s investment in facilities?” And so on. No doubt such a change would be difficult. But it’s time. Columbia should lead the way.

Jeff Fereday ’72
Boise, Idaho

[Editor’s note: The writer played lightweight football for Columbia in 1969.]

Seeking Change
A group of alumni that includes former athletes and non-athletes, Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame members, major contributors and a former University trustee has formed the Committee for Athletic Excellence at Columbia (CAEC) to seek change. The immediate spark for this was the past football season but the fuel consists of a long history of sub-par athletic accomplishment.

Since the creation of the Ivy League in 1956, Columbia owns the significantly worst team record of any member school. We have won 89 team championships out of a possible 1,755. Brown is the second worst with 119 titles, 33 percent more than us. This institutional futility comes despite tremendous expenditures for facilities representing a black eye for the University. With rare exception, we do not. Our historic average of 1.6 titles per year has not changed during the past five years, so there has not been any recent improvement, either.

CAEC suggests that the administration concede this history is unacceptable and represents a black eye for the University. Additionally, acceptable fitness facilities for athletes and non-athletes alike are sadly lacking on campus, notwithstanding tremendous expenditures for facilities five miles away.

We request that CU commission a study to analyze the historic failure of CU athletics and make recommendations on how to achieve competitive respectability. We don’t point to specific issues or individuals; we simply want to have a competent third-party analysis. We believe that Columbia’s students, faculty and alumni all deserve these answers. At the same time, we also insist on the University formulating and executing an acceptable plan to provide state-of-the-art campus fitness facilities for the entire Columbia community, athletes and non-athletes.

We welcome all to join CAEC (lionsports.org) and to support these proposals.

Richard Forzani ’66
Garfield, N.J.
never got to see a Varsity Show when I was a student. My freshman year was 1967–68, and the Varsity Show was one of many things at Columbia — just about everything, actually — that fell victim to that spring’s demonstrations. After buildings were occupied beginning on April 23, 1968, and especially after the police bust in the early hours of April 30, what passed for normal activities on campus came to a screeching halt.

Classes were canceled, although some faculty chose to continue meeting with their students either outdoors on campus or in faculty apartments. There were plans for a 1968 Varsity Show based on Erskine Caldwell’s Tobacco Road but it was never staged. And it would not be until 1978 that the Varsity Show was revived with The Great Columbia Riot of ’78.

The first Varsity Show I saw was in 2001, a few years after I began editing this magazine. Sex, Lions, and Videotape also happened to be the first Varsity Show to be staged in Roone Arledge Auditorium of the newly opened Alfred Lerner Hall. I’ve attended several since then, and hope to be in the audience when this year’s edition takes place Friday, May 2–Sunday, May 4.

The Varsity Show is not Columbia’s only student theatrical production — far from it. As you’ll learn in the roundup that appears in this issue, there are many other groups that stage performances during the school year. But the Varsity Show, which was first staged in 1894, is Columbia’s oldest performing arts tradition and, arguably, one of Columbia’s oldest traditions of any kind.

Now, as Thomas Vinciguerra ’85, ’86, ’90 GSAS points out in the essay that introduces this issue’s theme (see page 18), many of our peers have their own versions of the Varsity Show — an annual musical comedy, created by students, that satirizes life at their school. So what’s so special about our Varsity Show?

For one, its alumni. Some of the most prominent names in Broadway history cut their theatrical teeth on the Varsity Show. Composer Richard Rodgers ’23 ranks as one of the creators of the modern Broadway musical, yet before he collaborated on shows like South Pacific and The Sound of Music with Oscar Hammerstein II (Class of 1916) and on Babes in Arms and Pal Joey with Lorenz Hart (Class of 1918), he worked with them on the Varsity Show. Ed Kleban ’59, lyricist for A Chorus Line, and Terrence McNally ’60, who won Tony Awards in consecutive years for writing Love! Valour! Compassion! and Master Class, worked together on the Varsity Show. More recently, Tom Kitt ’96 and Brian Yorkey ’93, the duo who won Tony and Pulitzer awards for Next to Normal and created this spring’s If/Then, met and had their first collaboration on the Varsity Show.

The success of Varsity Show alumni extends beyond the stage — way beyond. Herman Mankiewicz (Class of 1917), who with Orson Welles wrote Citizen Kane, and Herman Wouk ’34, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Caine Mutiny and many other novels, are Varsity Show alumni. I.A.L. Diamond ’41, Billy Wilder’s co-author on The Apartment and The Fortune Cookie, wrote four Varsity Shows, the only person ever to do so. When the MGM movie studio needed a logo, publicist and Varsity Show alumnus Howard Dietz (Class of 1917) thought of the Columbia mascot and came up with the iconic roaring lion. Cultural historian Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 GSAS and Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Sid Luckman ’39 were Varsity Show alumni, as are singer Jon “Bowzer” Bauman ’68 of Sha Na Na and comedian Kate McKinnon ’06 of Saturday Night Live.

But a roster of famous alumni is not enough. What makes the Varsity Show an enduring treat for Columbia is the creativity and dedication of the students who gather each fall to begin the process of producing the latest edition and spend countless hours crafting it into the production that is seen during performance weekend.

Naturally, some Varsity Shows are better than others. The writing may be better in some years than others; same for the music and the acting and the staging. Despite the best efforts of the Admissions Office, not every class contains a writer like Diamond, a composer like Rodgers or a lyricist like Hammerstein. And sometimes even the best talent produces a show that falls short of the mark. Will this be one of those years when it all comes together? At least today’s students will have a chance to find out for themselves.

We hope you enjoy our look behind the scenes at preparations for this year’s Varsity Show, at the visual history of this longstanding tradition, the conversation with Varsity Show alumni Kitt and Yorkey, and the snapshots of the many other talented theatrical groups on campus. And we urge you, whether you happen to be on Morningside Heights or are planning a visit, to check out one of their productions.
Fourteen classes will gather Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, for Alumni Reunion Weekend. The celebration is a chance for alumni to connect with old friends and make new ones, and to rediscover the campus and the city where they created memorable and meaningful moments. Celebrating this year are alumni from classes ending in 4 and 9, from 1944–2009.

Highlights of the weekend will include

- class-specific gatherings planned by each class’ Reunion Committee;
- cultural outings such as the New York Philharmonic, American Ballet Theatre, Broadway theater and an art gallery crawl;
- intellectual classes featuring Mini-Core Courses given by Columbia faculty members;
- the Dean’s Day keynote lecture with Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History;
- affinity receptions for members of Columbia Daily Spectator, varsity athletics, veterans and alumni on active duty, and student leadership;
- Camp Columbia for Kids, an all-day Saturday program for Lion cubs ages 3–12; and
- the all-class Wine Tasting and Starlight Reception with dancing on Low Plaza.

"Reunion and Dean’s Day are opportunities for generations of alumni to return to campus, see classmates and friends, and renew connections with the College," says Dean James J. Valentini. "I
look forward to celebrating with former students who graduated in years ending in 4 and 9 throughout the weekend and invite other alumni, along with parents and friends, to join me on Dean’s Day for thought-provoking lectures on topics ranging from science to art to literature and to engage with the Core Curriculum, the common intellectual experience that connects all current and former Columbia College students.”

Alumni who attended Reunion 2013 noted how wonderful it was to be back on campus with classmates.

“My 60th reunion was a remarkable experience. I reconnected with old as well as long-term friends. The Mini-Core was a step back into heaven,” said Bill Frosch ’53, voicing the sentiments of many attendees.

And for those who helped to plan their class reunion, seeing their work come to fruition was especially rewarding:

“Reunion was a wonderful experience both for me and my classmates who returned to campus, some for the first time since graduation,” said Rachel Mintz ’93. “From the cocktail parties to the Dean’s Day talks to the barbecue to the class dinner to dancing under the stars on Saturday night, Alumni Reunion Weekend allowed me to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. It was excellent, and I am so glad to have been a part of both planning and participating in it.”

Thursday, May 30–Sunday, June 2
reunion.college.columbia.edu
college.columbia.edu/deansday
ccalumni@columbia.edu
212-851-7488

If this is your reunion year, watch for Alumni Reunion Weekend materials by mail and email, go to the reunion website to register for reunion and Dean’s Day events and to get event details (reunion.college.columbia.edu) or refer to the box at the top of your Class Notes column in this issue for staff contact information. Dean’s Day is open to alumni of all class years but if it is not your reunion year, you need to register on the Dean’s Day website (college.columbia.edu/deansday) or by calling the Alumni Office (212-851-7488). Dean’s Day information, with lecture and registration details, will be sent to those in non-reunion years.

For an idea of what to expect from reunion and Dean’s Day, check out the “2013 Reunion Highlights” on the reunion website.
Columbia Campaign Raises More Than $6.1 Billion

The Columbia Campaign, the nine-year, University-wide fundraising and alumni-relations effort that concluded on December 31, raised more than $6.1 billion. This total is the largest sum raised by a single campaign in Ivy League history and the second largest ever raised by any university.

Generous alumni, parents and friends of Columbia gave $980 million to the Campaign for Undergraduate Education, and more than $1 billion for student financial aid across Columbia’s schools, including $401 million for Columbia College students. Donors also gave $25.5 million for advising at the College and Engineering through The Austin E. Quigley Endowment for Student Success, nearly $4 million for internships and nearly $1.5 million for undergraduate research programs. Donors endowed 43 new professorships for faculty in the Arts and Sciences departments that teach Columbia College students and 222 additional professorships around the University; gave $100 million to Columbia Athletics; and gave close to $1 billion in capital funding for projects including Hamilton Hall, the Northwest Corner Building for interdisciplinary science on the Morningside campus, the Campbell Sports Center at Baker Athletics Complex and the first buildings on the new Manhattanville campus.

“Even the bare statistics underlying the Campaign total are amazing and should give us heart for Columbia’s future,” President Lee C. Bollinger noted in a message to the Columbia community. “This vast personal engagement with the institution and commitment of resources is nothing less than extraordinary, and, so too, is the institution’s renewed capacity for Columbia to help society overcome the fateful challenges in the century ahead.” Bollinger also noted that the campaign record would likely be broken by another Columbia campaign, adding, “We will not for a moment pause in the effort to supplement the University’s financial foundation, which is the eternal spring that feeds the creativity of our extraordinary students and unmatched faculty.”

Dean James J. Valentini affirmed Bollinger’s message, saying the campaign was an outstanding success and set the stage for a stronger Columbia. “Our challenge now is to find ways to build upon the remarkable success of the Columbia Campaign and translate that into programs and initiatives that directly impact Columbia College students so that we can continue to create the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world,” he said.

Schiller To Chair Board of Trustees

Jonathan D. Schiller ’69, ’73L, a prominent attorney and the recipient of the 2012 Alexander Hamilton Award, the College’s highest honor, has been elected co-chair of the University’s Board of Trustees alongside current chair William V. Campbell ’62, ’64 TC. Schiller will succeed Campbell as chairman upon the latter’s retirement from the board.

Schiller, who played on Columbia’s 1968 Ivy League champion basketball team, is a co-founder and managing partner of the law firm Boies, Schiller & Flexner. His practice concentrates on complex litigation and international arbitration, and he has successfully tried cases before juries and judges in federal and state courts throughout the United States and before arbitral tribunals in Europe and Asia as well as the United States. He has been honored frequently for his professional service and success and is a fellow of the American Bar Association.

“The University is extremely fortunate to have a person of Jonathan’s talent and character to take on this leadership role on our board,” said Campbell, who has served on the board since 2003 and was elected chair in 2005. “Our board and the University will benefit from Jonathan’s expanded role, and I am looking forward to collaborating with him to build on the substantial progress of recent years.”

“I’m honored to take on this responsibility at an institution that has meant so much to me and my family,” said Schiller, whose three sons are all Columbia alumni. “Under Bill Campbell’s extraordinary chairmanship, the board has become a vibrant community of ideas, hard work and shared commitment to Columbia. I know that in order to maintain Columbia’s impressive momentum, we cannot pause in our collective efforts to help this great University prepare for the future. I am looking forward to fulfilling this role with the same inclusive, affirmative spirit that Bill has brought to the board and the Columbia community.”

“Jonathan Schiller is deeply dedicated to Columbia and brings both great personal insight about the institution and admired professional experience to this important new role,” said President Lee C. Bollinger. “It is especially fitting that at this moment when our University is embracing the opportunities of the 21st century, Jonathan eloquently speaks of the enduring importance of his study of our classic Core Curriculum. He is highly familiar with the initiatives that are essential to Columbia’s future, both here in New York and around the globe, and we look forward to benefitting from his leadership together with Bill Campbell who, in his distinguished service on this board over the past decade, has been an extraordinary resource to this University and a close friend to me personally.”
Joseph Ayala ’94 Heads Double Discovery Center

Joseph Ayala ’94 is the new executive director of the College’s Double Discovery Center, which works to enhance higher education opportunities for local low-income and first-generation youth and adults aged 12–27. DDC’s academic enrichment program, which serves approximately 1,000 students annually and has become a model for similar programs throughout the United States, focuses on ensuring high school graduation, college enrollment and completion, and responsible adulthood.

“We are excited to welcome Joe Ayala, a Columbia College graduate and nonprofit leader, as the new executive director of Double Discovery Center,” says James J. Valentini, dean of Columbia College and v.p. for undergraduate education. “Joe’s experience in youth development and advocacy, as well as his passion for helping the youth of our community, will be an asset to the organization and to DDC’s current and future students and families.”

Founded in 1965, DDC was the creation of Columbia undergraduates who were moved by the disparities between their Ivy League institution and the underserved Harlem community. Annually, 90 percent of high school seniors participating in DDC programs graduate on time and enter college the following fall semester, which greatly surpasses city, state and national outcomes for low-income, first-generation college and minority students.

Ayala is a leader in educational advocacy for the local community with nearly 20 years of experience in youth development. A Bronx native, he has focused on teaching and counseling underserved youth throughout his career. Ayala’s background in youth development dates to his time as a College student, when he coordinated childcare for Columbia’s Harlem Restoration Project.

“The opportunity to lead a program that provides support and guidance for young people who would otherwise not have those opportunities is extraordinarily exciting,” says Ayala. “What I love most, which is at the core of DDC’s mission, are the double discoveries: Columbia has the chance to discover the gold mine right in its own backyard, while our young people get to see one of the finest institutions in the world and create a set of expectations for themselves about what is possible for them to achieve.”

Since 2006, Ayala has designed and implemented educational programs focused on college access and completion at Publicolor, a youth development nonprofit dedicated to enhancing opportunities for at-risk New York City children. Before joining Publicolor, he spent seven years at Prep for Prep, a leadership development program for promising New York City students of color, which he himself attended.

“Joe brings together a passion for the center’s mission with demonstrated experience helping New York City youth make the most of educational opportunities,” says Roger Lehecka ’67, ’74 GSAS, a co-founder of DDC and member of the DDC Board of Friends. “His life is an example of how the right help at the right time can change everything. I am confident that his leadership and vision will provide such assistance to current and future DDC students.”
Annette Insdorf Ph.D. is the director of undergraduate film studies at Columbia and a professor in the Graduate Film Program of the School of the Arts (which she chaired 1990–95). She is the author of Double Lives, Second Chances: The Cinema of Krzysztof Kieslowski; Francois Truffaut, a study of the French director’s work; Philip Kaufman; and the landmark study Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust. Her commentaries can be heard on many DVDs and she has interviewed more than 100 film celebrities in the popular “Reel Pieces” series at Manhattan’s 92nd Street Y.

Where were you born and raised? Paris until I was 3½, at which point my parents decided we could all have a better life in New York. We did not have French citizenship: They were Polish-Jewish Holocaust survivors who met in Paris on a blind date at the circus. My father’s cousin lived in the Bronx and urged us to move there. So we took the SS Liberty and eventually landed on the Grand Concourse.

What did you want to be when you were growing up? I was always extroverted, singing at parties, and turning every street into a stage. Fortunately, my parents didn’t think much of my aspiration and insisted that I take my classes seriously. I did, and loved school. But I had an impressive voice (mezzo-soprano), and I was accepted into the singing program at Juilliard. Every Saturday, from age of 13 to the age of 17, my mother accompanied me on the subway to this very neighborhood of Morningside Heights, where I was trained to be an opera singer. But when it came time to commit to singing in a larger way, my father warned me that the career of a performer is difficult and often short. He and my mother urged me — and I’ll always be grateful to them — to go to the kind of college where my intellect could be expanded, and where I could really choose a career. That led me to CUNY’s Queens College. My mother had recently earned a Ph.D. in French and was teaching there. She inspired me to embrace the same career, and off I went to Yale for a Ph.D. in English.

How would you describe your approach to cinema? My approach is, first and foremost, sympathetic. When I sit down to watch any movie, I try to appreciate it in its own terms — whether it’s mainstream, avant-garde, old or new. I seem to have developed a simultaneous emotional and cerebral response. I am able to feel things with immediacy in the darkness, while taking notes to grasp — and later understand — what I’m perceiving.

What undergraduate courses do you teach? “American Film History, 1930-60” (also known as “Introduction to Genre and Auteur Study”), which is an introductory-level lecture course. And the “Senior Seminar in Film Studies,” through which film majors write their senior essays. On a rotating basis, I also offer such courses as “Polish Film,” “Holocaust Cinema” and “Auteur Study” (whether Kieslowski or Philip Kaufman).

What’s the most valuable thing a professor can do for his or her students? Get them to think with rigor as well as sympathy and to write with clarity as well as elegance.

Are you working on any personal projects right now? I’m starting to work on my next book, which is about the films of Polish director Wojciech Has. He is not well known in the United States but has a certain cult status; for example, his Saragossa Manuscript was Jerry Garcia’s favorite film.

What’s your favorite place to be? In my husband’s arms.

What’s your most treasured possession? I try not to get attached to things but if there were a sudden fire in my apartment, the first thing I would grab while running out is my laptop. Isn’t that awful?

What’s the first movie you recall seeing? It’s either Trapeze or The Greatest Show on Earth. I’m not sure which one because I remember only the exhilaration of the circus scenes.

What reading is on your nightstand right now? The truth? All I have is a remote control to my TV, where the default channel is TCM. Turner Classic Movies. I tend to fall asleep while watching an old black-and-white film.

Interview: Alexis Tonti ’14

Five Minutes with ... Annette Insdorf
Columbia Establishes Butler Aging Center

Columbia has established a University-wide, interdisciplinary aging center with a mission to explore and better understand the aging process and its societal implications, and named it in honor of the late Dr. Robert N. Butler '49, '53 P&S. The inaugural director of the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center is Ursula M. Staudinger, founding dean of the Jacobs Center on Lifelong Learning and Institutional Development at Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany, and v.p. of the German National Academy of Sciences.

Butler was a gerontologist, psychiatrist, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and founding director of the National Institute on Aging. "We are proud to have created this new center that will mobilize the intellectual resources of the entire University to address the challenges and opportunities that demographic change pose for individuals and society alike," said Provost John Coatsworth.

Located at the Mailman School of Public Health on the Medical Center campus, the Butler Columbia Aging Center consists of an Aging Lab and the International Longevity Center, founded by Butler in 1990, and reflects the University's recognition that the study of aging is inherently multidisciplinary. The center organizes and builds on existing aging-related programs and activities, translating scientific knowledge into policy and practice. It focuses on the systemic nature of aging — the continual interaction among biological, behavioral and sociocultural factors that constitute human development — and will forge partnerships with the academic, corporate, nonprofit and public sectors to develop policies on aging, engage communities and effect societal change.

The Aging Lab is dedicated to research on aging as well as on ways that individuals and society can benefit from the latest scientific knowledge. That research enables the International Longevity Center to develop public policies and education and community-outreach programs. The Longevity Center is part of a global consortium of 13 such centers, including ones in Cape Town, Paris and Tokyo.

Dean’s Scholarship Reception Brings Together Donors and Recipients

Nearly 500 named scholarship donors and student recipients filled Roone Arledge Auditorium on February 6 at the annual Dean’s Scholarship Reception. The reception gives students who receive named scholarships and the donors of those scholarships the opportunity to meet and to share stories about their College experiences. The evening's speakers were Dean James J. Valentini (above left, third from right); donor Daniel Loeb ’83 and one of his scholarship recipients, Zack Susel '11; and Phillip Ross '14, a member of the Senior Fund Executive Committee. See more at college.columbia.edu/namedscholarships and facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

- Modern Vampires of the City, the newest album by Vampire Weekend, was No. 1 on Rolling Stone’s list of the 50 best albums of 2013 and No. 4 on The Guardian’s Best Albums of 2013 list. Vampire Weekend’s members, Ezra Koenig ’06, Rostam Batmanglij ’06, Chris Tomson ’06 and Chris Baio ’07, met and began their musical career while College students.

- Melissa Mark-Viverito ’91 was inaugurated as New York City Council speaker on January 29, succeeding Christine Quinn in what the Daily News called “New York City’s second most powerful political post.” Mark-Viverito, a council member since 2005, was elected unanimously with the support of new mayor Bill de Blasio and is the first Hispanic to hold citywide office. At her inauguration ceremony, Mark-Viverito declared, “Today, we live in the most unequal city in the nation. But it is a new day in New York City. Now is the time to embrace our progressive moment and put our values into action.”

- David Henry Gerson ’08, who starred in the film Chapel Perilous, won the YouTube Audience Award at this year’s Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, which took place January 16–26. The College was once again well-represented at the festival, with alumni filling roles from executive producer to principal cast members. In addition to Gerson, others involved in films at the festival were Sam Bisbee ’90, Frances Bodomo ’10, Maggie Gyllenhaal ’99, Yana Gorskaya ’96, Jim Jarmusch ’75, Gabe Liedman ’04, Colin Patton ’01, Jonathan Schwartz ’03, Jenny Slate ’04 and Caroline Suh ’93.

- Adam Kushner ’03, former executive editor of National Journal, has joined The Washington Post as editor of a new digital opinion and analysis venture that aims to deliver wide-ranging commentary on major debates facing Washington, D.C., the country and the world. At National Journal, Kushner ran all aspects of the weekly political magazine, from setting overall direction for coverage to overseeing individual writing. Previously, he was a senior editor at Newsweek, leading foreign coverage and writing on ideas and trends; editor of TNR.com, where he oversaw a site re-launch; and assistant managing editor at The New Republic.

- The film 12 Years a Slave, whose producers included Dede Gardner ’90, won the Oscar for Best Motion Picture of the Year at the 2014 Academy Awards on March 2. Previously, it won the Best Motion Picture – Drama award at the Golden Globes, Movie of the Year at the AFI Awards and Best Film at the BAFTA Film Awards, among other honors.

- John Chun ’91 was appointed a judge to King County’s Superior Court by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, effective January 6. Chun had been a member of the Summit Law Group with a civil litigation practice and clerked for the Hon. Eugene Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

- Terrence McNally ’60’s latest play, Mothers and Sons, opens on Broadway on March 24. Tony Award-winner Tyne Daly stars as a mother who pays an unexpected visit to the New York apartment of her late son’s ex-partner, who is now married to another man and has a child, and is challenged to face how society has changed.

- Eric Goldstein ’80, who had been a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, will become CEO and e.v.p. of UJA-Federation of New York, the organization that our discipline has a good deal to offer those interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.”

IN LUMINE TUYO

- STIGLITZ: University Professor and Nobel Laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz was awarded the 2014 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize for Research on Income Inequality. Named for the late New York senator, the award is presented annually by The American Academy of Political and Social Science to individuals who “use sound analysis and social science to inform public policy, while also contributing to the public discourse on society’s most pressing issues.” Stiglitz will be presented the prize on Thursday, May 8, in Washington, D.C. The academy cites Stiglitz’s recent book, The Price of Inequality: How Today’s Divided Society Endangers Our Future, as important, noting, “Stiglitz has contributed greatly to our understanding of the sources and dire ramifications of economic inequality in America.”

- WILLIAMS: Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and chair of the classics department, was awarded the 2013 C.J. Goodman Award of Merit for his book The Cosmic Viewpoint: A Study of Seneca’s Natural Questions. Williams’ book examines the cultural and historical context that inspired Seneca’s scientific and philosophical explanations of meteorological phenomena in his famous work Natural Questions.

On the importance of Williams’ book, the award committee stated: “In an era when STEM-centered education seems to be crowding out the humanities, The Cosmic Viewpoint is a welcome reminder that our discipline has a good deal to offer those interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.”

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.
Eric Goldstein '80

world’s largest local philanthropy, on July 1. Goldstein has been involved in UJA-Federation activities for 25 years as a lay leader, most recently as vice chair, and will succeed John Ruskay, who is retiring after 15 years as CEO and EVP.

Ganesh Betanabhatla ’06, managing director at Talara Capital and a former J.P. Morgan oil and gas investment banker, and Matthew Schoenfeld ’08, a specialist in Morgan Stanley’s risk arbitrage group, were among those named on Forbes magazine’s “30 Under 30” list in finance for 2014, released in January. Betanabhatla also was recognized in January by Oil and Gas Investor as one of its “20 Under 40” in energy finance. Meanwhile, Amir Rao ’06, co-founder of Supergiant Games and co-creator of the action role-playing video game Bastion, was included on Forbes’ “30 Under 30” list in games for 2014.

Julius M. Genachowski ’85, who from June 2009 to May 2013 chaired the FCC, has been named managing director of The Carlyle Group’s U.S. Buyout, a fund that engages in buyouts, privatizations and strategic minority investments.

Stanley Lubman ’55, ’70L, a pioneer in Chinese legal studies in the United States, received a Distinguished Columbian in Teaching Award from the Columbia Law School Association on January 3. Lubman is a senior fellow at The Honorable G. William and Ariadna Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law and a distinguished lecturer in residence at the UC Berkeley School of Law. He has specialized in China as a scholar and as a practicing lawyer for more than 50 years and taught at Stanford, Yale, Columbia, Harvard, the University of Heidelberg and the University of London before returning to Berkeley in 2002.

Janice B. Min ’90, ’91J has become the co-president and chief creative officer of Guggenheim Partners, which owns The Hollywood Reporter and Billboard. She will be responsible for the editorial direction of the two brands. Min, who had been the editorial director of The Hollywood Reporter since March 2010, previously was editor-in-chief of Us Weekly.

The legacy of former Dean of the College Jack Greenberg ’45, ’48L, a crusading civil rights attorney who argued the landmark case Brown v. Board of Education before the U.S. Supreme Court and won Martin Luther King Jr. the right to march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., was the focus of a symposium at the Law School on January 24. Greenberg, the Alphonse Fletcher Jr. Professor of Law, was dean from 1989 to 1993, after which he became a full-time professor and vice dean at the Law School. He also created its Human Rights Internship Program, which has placed more than 1,500 students in human rights organizations worldwide.

University Trustee Jonathan S. Lavine ’88, managing partner of Sankaty Advisors and managing director of Bain Capital, will be the guest of honor at Columbia/Barnard Hillel’s annual Seixas Award Dinner, to be held in Low Rotunda on May 15. Lavine, a former chair of the Board of Visitors, will receive the Gershom Mendes Seixas Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Jewish life at Columbia.

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College Has Broadened Bintu Conteh ’14’s Love of Theater

BY NATHALIE ALONSO ‘08

From performing Shakespeare to musical roles to an internship at the Apollo, Bintu Conteh ’14 has turned her time at the College into a training in all things theater.

Most influential, however, has been her experience with the student group Black Theatre Ensemble, which began with a lead role in spring 2011 as part of BTE’s annual festival of one-act plays. The show, Prophet’s Wife, was a drama by Harrison David Rivers ’09 Arts about a woman married to a man without genitalia. “I remember thinking, ‘Wow, others think I have the potential to carry a show.’ That was really exciting for me,” says Conteh, who had an ensemble role in the Kings Crown Shakespeare Troupe’s presentation of The Taming of the Shrew that same semester.

She adds, “[Prophet’s Wife] was really hard work because it was such a strange play. A lot of work went into connecting to the character, but I was thankful to be part of that show … It was the first moment at Columbia where I realized, ‘I think I can do this.’”

Conteh has since worn multiple hats with BTE, which showcases playwrights and actors of color. She was stage manager for its fall 2012 production of Funnyhouse of a Negro, a 1964 one-act play by Adrienne Kennedy, and directed the group’s spring 2013 staging of ‘Til Death by Nailah Robinson ’13. Last fall, as BTE president and producer for Eisa Davis’ Pulitzer-nominated play Bulrusher, Conteh managed the show’s budget and secured space for rehearsals.

Bulrusher explores themes of race, sexuality and gender — the same topics that prompted Conteh to major in American studies. “I love that I get to incorporate what I’m learning in my classes into the kind of theater I am interested in,” says Conteh, who cites two Barnard courses, “Black Women in America” and “Explorations in Black Theater,” among those she has found most relevant.

Conteh, whose parents hail from Sierra Leone, attributes her initial interest in performance to a casual remark by a family friend. “I was doing an imitation of my mom, with her accent and all, and my mom’s best friend said, ‘[Bintu] is such a character.’ And I thought, ‘You know what, yes,’” recalls Conteh, who grew up in New Brunswick, N.J., and was around 10 at the time. “Since then, it’s been something I’ve wanted to do.”

Beyond BTE, Conteh has played a disciple in the student troupe NO-MAD’s spring 2012 production of Patrick Blute ’12’s SPEARS: The Gospel According to Britney, which narrates the life of Jesus through Britney Spears songs, and portrayed Chuck Bean in the Columbia Musical Theater Society’s presentation of Bright Lights, Big City by Paul Scott Goodman. She says she particularly enjoyed her contrasting roles in the Barnard Theater Department’s spring 2013 production of Eye Piece. The non-linear play by Barnard lecturer Rinde Eckert explores themes of sight and blindness. One of Conteh’s characters, an elderly blind woman reading a magazine, provided comic relief; her other part was a personification of death.

Conteh was further exposed to the African-American performing arts tradition at the Apollo Theater, where she procured a spring 2013 internship in the programming department through Columbia Arts Experience. The program, co-sponsored by the Center for Career Education and the Arts Initiative at Columbia University, offers art-related internships in New York City and provides support in the form of a stipend and career counseling. Conteh provided administrative support and contributed to the Apollo Archive Project, which involved organizing more than 2,000 colorized images of musicians who headlined the legendary venue.

She continued to intern at the Apollo during summer 2013, when she helped plan and orchestrate the first Breakin’ Convention, a hip-hop dance festival that featured acts from around the world. William Furio, an associate in the Apollo’s programming department, says the event showcased Conteh’s energy and people skills. “She was there to coordinate the back and forth — calling restaurants, getting flowers, all while going up and down the stairs a million times,” he says. “She was just so excited about everything.”

As a result of her diverse experiences with BTE and the Apollo, Conteh is pondering a career as a theater producer. “I began to realize that I like all the aspects of theater, whether it is on stage or backstage,” she says.

Though she always planned to be involved in undergraduate theater, it was the Core that drew Conteh to the College. “I loved that I would take a science class, an art history class and a music class,” says Conteh, who as a campus tour guide shares her enthusiasm for the Core with prospective students. “Something I like to say on my tours is that I want to be a genius. I want to know everything, and the Core is helping me with that endeavor.”

Nathalie Alonso ’08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website.
Roar, Lion, Roar
Boretti Builds Upon Lions' Baseball Legacy

By Lee Lowenfish '63

Columbia baseball has enjoyed its share of success through the years both in team and individual accomplishments, and coach Brett Boretti hopes to add to that legacy when the Lions defend their Ivy League championship this spring.

Columbia's most famous baseball alumnus was Lou Gehrig '25, who slugged home runs on South Field for two seasons before launching a Hall of Fame career with the New York Yankees. Earlier, Eddie Collins (Class of 1907) shone at shortstop for the Light Blue and went on to a Hall of Fame career as a second baseman with the Philadelphia Athletics and Chicago White Sox. More recently, Gene Larkin '84 stroked his way into baseball immortality with his extra-inning, pinch-hit single that won the 1991 World Series for the Minnesota Twins. And don't forget speedy outfielder Fernando Perez '06, who scored the winning run in the only game the Tampa Bay Rays won in the 2008 World Series.

There have been periods of team success as well. Columbia won consecutive Ivy League titles in 1933 and 1934, took three of four crowns from 1960 through 1963 and captured consecutive titles again in 1976 and 1977. Last year's Ivy championship was the 11th for the Light Blue and their second since Boretti arrived on campus prior to the 2006 season.

Fresh from five outstanding years at Division III Franklin and Marshall, where his teams compiled a 116-82 record, Boretti did not take long to establish a winning program. In just his third season he led Columbia to the 2008 Ivy League title, the Lions rallying to beat Dartmouth 7-5 in the deciding game of the best-of-three playoff in Hanover, N.H. Captain Henry Perkins '08 moved over from second base to save the game with four innings of stellar relief and also belted a big insurance home run.

There were no Gehrig Division (Columbia, Cornell, Penn and Princeton) or league titles the following season but for the first time Columbia did beat Division I powers in Texas (Lamar) and California (Cal-State Fullerton). In 2010, Columbia won the Gehrig Division, but Dartmouth turned the tables by winning the rubber game of the best-of-3 playoffs at Columbia. Thus, it was sweet revenge for the freshmen from that team when, in front of a record-setting crowd of more than 1,000 at Columbia's Robertson Field at Satow Stadium last May, the Lions swept a doubleheader from the Big Green 6-5 (10 innings) and 12-5 to earn another trip to the NCAA tournament.

Boretti's 2013 Lions were not satisfied with just winning the Ivy League title, setting a regular season record of 16-4, and leading the league in batting average and ERA. To cap off their memorable season, the Lions won an NCAA tournament game for the first time in school history. Trailing 5-0 against New Mexico in the eighth inning, first baseman Alex Black '13 got Columbia on the scoreboard with a two-run homer that sparked a rally that tied the game. After Columbia took the lead in the top of the 13th inning on second baseman Nick Crucet '13's RBI single, Black moved to the mound to earn the save.

One of the charms of college baseball is that talented position players like Black are often asked to contribute as pitchers. "The more your best athletes are on the field at important moments, the better your chances will be," says Boretti.

After Columbia's season ended with a loss to Arizona State, Black was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the 29th round of Major League Baseball's free agent draft. Working exclusively as a relief pitcher, he made an impressive pro debut with a 2-2 record and 3.24 ERA. He joins in pro baseball two other drafted Lions who played for Boretti: Pat Lowery '12, the 2010 Ivy League Pitcher of the Year who has two years under his belt after being drafted in the 21st round in 2012 by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, and outfielder Dario Pizzano '14, the 2012 Ivy League Player of the Year who was selected by the Seattle Mariners in 2012. Since he was drafted, Pizzano has hit .324, slugged .482 and — impressively in this age of swing-and-miss baseball — has walked seven more times than he has struck out.
Boretti, with trophy, and assistant coach Dan Tischler leave Robertston Field at Satow Stadium after the Lions swept a doubleheader against Dartmouth on May 4 to win the 2013 Ivy League Championship.

Boretti, 42, a native of Beverly, Mass., who was named Ivy League Coach of the Year last season, came to Columbia with a solid baseball pedigree. He was a four-year starter at catcher for Davidson — yes, the same Davidson that ruined the NCAA hopes of Columbia’s great 1968 basketball team. Boretti played for and later was an assistant coach for the highly respected Dick Cooke, who has been on NCAA rules committees and was an assistant coach for Team USA at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2008 Beijing Olympics. During his junior year, in 1993, Boretti made the Southern Conference all-star team and followed it up during the summer by being selected to the all-star team of the prestigious Cape Cod League, where he competed against such future major league players as Nomar Garciaparra, Matt Morris and Jay Payton.

A learning experience that summer proved instrumental in Boretti’s development as a coach. “I struggled with failure as a player. I was a helmet-thrower,” he admits. A Cape Cod League coach called him aside and told him sternly that tantrums had no place in baseball; they hurt both the player and the team. He absorbed the lesson and passed it on after he turned to coaching, and now one of his greatest attributes is his ability to convey to players his hard-earned knowledge about baseball’s inevitable struggles.

“This game eats you alive,” says Mike DeFazio ’06, a catcher on Boretti’s first team, in 2006, which won only six Ivy League games. “I learned from coach Boretti that baseball is a game of failure, but you’re always one pitch away” from making something good happen. DeFazio now coaches for the KIPP charter high school in New York City. Boretti is pleased that the coaching bug has also bitten Jon Eisen ’13, a player he describes as “the greatest overachiever I ever coached” and who is now working for the RBI (Restore Baseball in the Inner City) program in his hometown of Nashville.

Boretti, whose Columbia teams have compiled an 89-71 Ivy League record in his eight seasons, welcomes many voices to explore the subject of the mental game of baseball. He appreciates input from Brett Walker, Columbia’s new director of peak performance and a former college pitcher, who organizes regular seminars for the team. For winter break reading this year, Boretti distributed to the team copies of Heads Up Baseball, a book and tapes by sports psychologist Brian Cain.

As usual, the Lions will spend the early part of their season in warmer climes against opponents like South Florida and Texas before they open defense of their Ivy title on March 29 with a doubleheader against Brown at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium.

Leading the Lions will be their tri-captains, durable catcher Mike Fisher ’14, ace left-handed pitcher David Speer ’14 and steady shortstop Aaron Silbar ’14. Boretti looks for a big season from Speer, whom he says “has increased his velocity from the low 80s [miles per hour] to the mid-80s, and he has a chance to pitch at the next level.”

Outfielder/designated hitter Joey Falcone ’16 GS, a former Marine medic and veteran of tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and son of former major league pitcher Pete Falcone, is back after hitting .331 and compiling a .520 slugging percentage last season. Nick McGuire ’16 may get a chance to fill Black’s big shoes, and Jordan Serena ’15, Gus Craig ‘15E and Robb Paller ‘16 will vie for playing time in the outfield.

In addition to Speer, who was 6-3 with a team-leading 2.34 ERA last season, another pitcher to watch is Joey Donino ’14, who was 7-0 with 69 strikeouts in just 56.2 innings last season. Kevin Roy ’16 and Zack Tax ’14, who contributed important shutdown innings in 2013, and newcomer Ryan Marks ’17 are also expected to see mound action.

Boretti and his staff are well aware that a target will be on Columbia’s head in 2014 — the respected national publication Baseball America has picked the Lions to repeat as Ivy League champion — but they relish the challenge. As associate head coach Pete Maki puts it, “Guys want to win for Boretti not just for themselves or their teammates. They want to win for him because he is so tremendously competitive.”

Lee Lowenfish ’63 is the author of the award-winning biography Branch Rickey: Baseball’s Ferocious Gentleman, and is a member of the national board of the College Baseball Hall of Fame.

Men’s fencing’s national ranking and finish at the Ivy League Championships.

Money raised by Columbia Athletics for cancer research during its Play 4 Kay women’s basketball game.
Columbia’s men’s fencing team earned a share of the 2014 Ivy League Championship on February 9, compiling a 4–1 record to tie defending champion Harvard. It was Columbia’s first men’s fencing title since 2008 and 34th since Ivy fencing began in 1956. The Columbia women finished third at 4–2, behind Princeton and Harvard, even though the Lions lost Olympic Nzingha Prescod ’15 to injury on the first day of competition.

Columbia fencing enjoyed a superb season, the men attaining the nation’s No. 1 ranking and the women being ranked as high as fifth. The NCAA Championships will be held Thursday, March 20–Sunday, 23 in Columbus, Ohio.

Columbia’s men’s team easily defeated Penn and Brown to start the Ivy meet, then beat Harvard head-to-head by rallying from a 13–11 deficit as Jack Hoyle ’16, Harry Bergman ’16E and Brian Ro ’16 scored pressure wins. A 20–7 rout of Yale gave the Lions a 4–0 record going into their final match against Princeton, and the two teams were tied 12–12 before the Tigers won two of the last three bouts to win 14–13 and foil Columbia’s bid for an outright Ivy title.

The Columbia women swept their opening-day matches against Penn, Brown and Cornell, but lost to Harvard 14–13 to start the second day. Columbia beat Yale 19–8 to keep its hopes for a share of the title alive, but Princeton, which won all six of its matches and had not lost in more than a year, beat Columbia 19–8 to drop the Lions to third place.
In a world of planned obsolescence and the latest Internet meme, some things do last.

Every year, the Varsity Show delights the Columbia community with a witty, razor-sharp reminder of what really matters in these parts. The production is a rite of spring, a heady respite before dreaded finals. It's also the savviest take on the undergraduate experience around. If you want to know what's uppermost on the student mind, buy a ticket. All will be revealed in the two-plus hours that send up everything from devilish administrators to micro-trends, from Plato to libido.

Why, though, do such adolescent shenanigans endure? And make no mistake; endure they do. The Varsity Show has been around for 120 years. That makes it one of the oldest things on the Morningside campus — older than the campus itself, in fact.

It's too easy to explain the show merely by thundering, like Tevye, “Tradition!” After all, plenty of our rituals have gone the way of mandatory Latin. Most aren't missed. Can anyone describe the Cane Spree? What was the Goodwood Cup given for, anyway? Is there a single person who cares?

Quite simply, the Varsity Show is still with us because we need it. From time to time, every young woman and man in the College, confronting the triple threat of adulthood, the Core Curriculum and the greatest city in the world, requires some kind of affirmation. The Varsity Show offers it in the best possible way — by mocking what's driving them nuts and celebrating whatever instills confidence. If the show offers up an earful about the aesthetic (and nomenclatural) horrors of the Northwest Corner Building or a particular class creep, fear not. It won't be long before Alma Mater herself arises from her throne and appears on stage before you, ready to reassure and inspire.

Now, the show is hardly unique. Just about every outfit of higher learning worth mentioning has its loopy annual musical comedy. Columbia itself has several. A certain J.D. program here offers The Law Revue. Over at Uris, they unwrap the Columbia Business School Follies not once but twice a year. 

Nonetheless, the Varsity Show is nonpareil. Any effort that can attract such wildly diverse talents as John Erskine (Class of 1900), Herman Mankiewicz (Class of 1917), Jacques Barzun '27, L.A.L. Diamond '41, Sorrell Booke '49, Terrence McNally '60, Howard Kissel '64, Jon “Bowzer” Bauman '68, Jeanine Tesori '83 Barnard, David Rakoff '86, Eric Garcetti '92, Brian Yorkey '93, Tom Kitt '96, Jenny Slate '04, Greta Gerwig '06 Barnard and Kate McKinnon '06 has earned bragging rights. Whenever the kids in Cambridge smugly mention Hasty Pudding, or Old Nassau types pile it on about the Triangle Club, all you have to do is say, “Rodgers and Hammerstein.” If that doesn't shut them up, just add, “And Hart.”

Not that it's an unbroken lineage by any means. In 1895, a bare year after its founding, the show's leading lights, acting out of pure ego, refused to mount a follow-up. WWII preempted the proceedings in 1943. Creative bankruptcy and insufficient funds were at fault, respectively, in 1962 and 1965. The unpleasantness of 1968 seemed, at the time, to be the final blow.

Yet as the campus regrouped, in the four years from 1978 to 1982 precisely as many efforts to revive the show arose. The last one, Columbia Graffiti, was a modest cabaret that wasn’t even called a Varsity Show. Nonetheless, the crew that produced it galvanized the Class of 1920 into donating its treasury the following year to ensure that never again would the production languish. And for a generation, it hasn't.

It's that unspoken ethos, transcending the years, that defines the Varsity Show as more than a theatrical. It's part of the student DNA. Put it this way: In 1906, the audience for The Conspirators was implored to clap its hands and cheer to save Tinker Bell and the football team alike. You could drop that same shtick into the show today and get the same uproarious result.

Talk about spirit. As surely as South Field will always have scuff marks, and as surely as there is a College on Broadway, every year a distinctly Light Blue reality check of gags, ballads, show stoppers and, of course, pony ballets can be counted on to lift us out of our academic doldrums — and, for a while at least, leave us humming.

Former CCT acting editor Thomas Vinciguerra '85, '86J, '90 GSAS directed, performed and wrote — in ascending order of competence — portions of the Varsity Shows Columbia Graffiti and Fear of Scaffolding. He is the author of "Sing a Song of Morningside," a history of the show that appears in the 110th anniversary book The Varsity Show: A Celebration.
John Bateman '38, '39 GSAS, captain of Columbia's 1937 football team, smokes a cigar while being made up prior to 1939's *Fair Enough.*

PHOTO: WIDE WORLD PHOTOS, INC.
Another Opening, Another Varsity Show

Since 1894, the theatrical tradition has satirized Columbia in song and dance

By Nathalie Alonso ’08
Photos: Char Smullyan
A reporter assigned to write about the 120th Varsity Show runs into an immediate access problem. In a friendly but firm email, the producers, Allie Carieri '15, Ally Engelberg '15 Barnard and Renee Kraiem '14 Barnard, decline a request to observe a rehearsal. Having consulted with the cast and other creative team members, they cite a historic policy of keeping the details of the show secret from the press and public.

In its business of satirizing Columbia in song and dance, little is off-limits for the Varsity Show. The popularity of the student-produced musical stems precisely from its penchant for commenting on sensitive issues with a humorous eye. The response from the producers for V120, however, make it clear that if anything remains sacred for the Varsity Show, it's the traditions and collaborative spirit that have come to define it.

Except for a hiatus following the 1968 student demonstrations and three other one-year interruptions, the Varsity Show has taken place annually since 1894, when it was founded as a fundraiser for Athletics. More than 100 undergraduates — the show is open to participation by College, Engineering, Barnard and General Studies students — devote long hours each year to perpetuating this oldest of Columbia's performing arts traditions.

The process begins anew each fall, when the creative team from the previous show chooses its successors. (Seniors who graduated the previous year are expected to return for this purpose.) Consisting of a director, producers, writers, composers, lyricists, a choreographer and an artistic director — nine to 10 students in total — the new team's first task is to audition and select a cast of 10-15 students. In a deviation from conventional theater practices, Varsity Show characters and songs are tailored to the actors' stage personalities and vocal ranges. "It's really nice to have someone write material for you," says V117 cast member and V119 director Chris Silverberg '13.

And then there is the way actors are notified of their selection: with a pie to the face. In a quirky community-building tradition that yields some emotionally intense moments, the creative team startles newly minted cast members in their dorms, often late at night, with tins of whipped cream. "I was in pajamas, my hair was wet, and I wasn't wearing shoes," recalls Carieri, an ensemble member for V118. "I remember bursting into tears because it was a dream of mine. It was just the coolest experience."

V116 cast member and V120 director Emily Feinstein '14 Barnard calls "pieing" a fellow student "the biggest rush" of her life, adding: "Initiating someone into the Varsity Show is more than just this funny thing of putting a pie in their face. You are inviting them into a [more than] 120-year-old tradition."

It is common for a student to be involved with multiple Varsity Shows. Feinstein and Silverberg, both cast members turned directors, agree that having been on stage proves useful in the moments of frustration that inevitably arise over the course of a semester-long production. "It gave me an understanding of when things are going to be rough and the ability to encourage the creative team and the cast at those moments and say, 'Hey, I know that we are not comfortable with this scene or this song right now but it is going to work out,'" says Silverberg.

After selecting a cast, the creative team goes on a weekend retreat during winter break — in recent years, these gatherings have taken place at a team member's home on Long Island and a suite in East Campus residence hall — to develop a plot and scene-by-scene breakdown of the show. "We all bring this Columbia experience with us and what we've felt at Columbia and noticed that year and want to bring out in our show," says Solomon Hoffman '14, the composer for V118 and V120.

Though each member has specific responsibilities, the Varsity Show is distinguished by a hyper-collaborative creative process in which it is typical — and expected — for the choreographer (in the case of V120, Lauren Wingenroth '15 Barnard) to make suggestions about set design, or for the composer to solicit feedback from the writers and director. "It's a unique situation where everyone has input about everything," says Eric Donahue '15, co-writer for V119 and V120. "Final decisions on a matter are left to [the creative team member who's in charge] but, for example, I came up with a song idea last year. Other [creative team members] would pitch us jokes and things would come up in conversation; we came up with the set ideas together."

In recent years, those sets have been constructed at Prentis Hall on West 125th Street, which offers the convenience of a loading dock. Though Jiin Choi '14, the artistic director for V119 and V120, also calls the Varsity Show "one of the most collaborative processes I've been a part of," one of the set pieces she is most fond of is something of her own design: a cardboard sink she...

Last year's Varsity Show, The Great Netscape, centered around a storm-induced Internet outage on campus.
created for a V118 scene that took place in a student’s room in Wien. “Though it felt like a minor detail, a lot of people in the audience were able to see that sink and say, ‘That’s Wien Hall,’” she says. “It really reminded me to think of details like that.”

Mounting a full-length, entirely student-driven musical is, by all accounts, a lofty and demanding endeavor. The stakes are magnified by the show’s rich history — Varsity Show alumni include the likes of Richard Rodgers ’23, I.A.L. Diamond ’41 and Terrence McNally ’60 — and its prominence in the Columbia community. “There is an immense amount of pressure to create something unique and hysterical and touching and relatable to every person in the theater,” says Engelberg, who also was a producer for V119. “Once we get it right, we know it’s going to be fantastic, but throughout the process it’s really on your shoulders, knowing that this is a large event and people are watching.”

As Engelberg notes, chief among the creative team’s challenges is crafting a show that resonates with Columbia’s various undergraduate constituencies. “Students need to feel that the person they are watching sing or act or dance on stage is a part of them, a character that could be one of their friends or someone they know,” says Nick Parker ’14, the lyricist for V119 and V120. “The issue is that there is not one thing that makes Columbia, Columbia; there aren’t just four or five things. What you might think is a very Columbia thing, like the Core, is only specific to CC, and to some extent, SEAS.”

Coming up with a plot specific to Columbia can also be a challenge, as Donahue learned from writing V119, *The Great Netscape*, which featured a storm-induced Internet outage on campus. While he thinks that the show succeeded in giving the audience an opportunity to simultaneously laugh and feel proud of their school, this time around, he and co-writer Rae Binstock ’15 are looking to develop a plot in which the stakes hit closer to home. In that regard, Donohue praises V118, *The Corporate Core*, in which a CC student and self-proclaimed Renaissance man named Phineas takes on an administrator who abolishes the Core in favor of a business curriculum. “The Internet going down in this day and age lent itself to a lot of funny situations. There was a lot of humor in that,” says Donahue. “But bringing the Internet back up wasn’t Columbia-specific and not something that the audience would care about as much as, for example, replacing humanities with corporate training.”

Save for the West End Preview in February, when a selection of scenes and songs are unveiled to the Columbia community at what is now Havana Central at The West End, the premise of any Varsity Show remains a mystery until opening night. The secrecy amps up the excitement and suspense that surrounds the show but it is also a by-product of more practical concerns: the show typically undergoes adjustments right up until the curtain rises.

A key moment in that regard is Turkey Day, a longstanding tradition in which the cast and crew perform a full show for an audience of Varsity Show alumni — the event is open to all former participants — who then offer constructive criticism. It takes place the week before Spring Break, leaving a window of fewer than six weeks for show members to digest and implement feedback. Changes can range from making minor tweaks to scrapping an entire scene to gutting the entire show.

The Internet outage that was the main conflict of V119, for example, was introduced after Turkey Day. V116 and V117 were rewritten in their entirety. In the latter, Silverberg originally played what he describes as a “morose SEAS computer programmer.” But at Turkey Day, “they asked, why are you making this silly, exaggerated performer do this heavy, unenthusiastic character?” says Silverberg. “So [the creative team] went back and came up with something that played more to the silliness I brought as a performer.” The new part was a male student enrolled at Barnard.

“After Turkey Day, you have all of these different opinions in your head: what people have said to you, what numbers people liked, what numbers fell flat. Making sense of all of that and putting in into the final product can be a challenge,” says Hoffman, who had to pen a few songs from scratch in the run-up to V118. “It’s certainly a crunch, but it’s also really exciting to get to develop better material, and by that point you’ve had more practice so it tends to happen more easily.”

Hoffman’s post-Turkey Day responsibilities also include arranging the music for the show’s pit orchestra, which has expanded under his watch to feature more than 20 musicians from various student music groups. “It joins musicians from the classical, jazz, rock and pop communities here at Columbia,” says Hoffman.
Following the final performance of each year’s Varsity Show, the set is struck and parts of it become, as Choi puts it, “souvenirs” for the cast and the crew. Carieri kept the foamcore pizza she donned for “Natural Selection,” a tap dance number in V118 that extolled the virtues of the unusually large slices served by Morningside Heights institution Koronet. Engleberg has a 110th Street sign from V119 that came apart during that year’s Saturday show. “I will have that sign in my room for life to remind me that things are sometimes uncontrollable and you just have to roll with it,” she says.

For Kraeim, taking apart the set was bittersweet. “Everything you put effort into is dismantled at a speed that is incomprehensible compared to the amount of work you put in,” she says. “There is something dramatic about it, but then there is also something really important — the reminder that the actual product that we put out is only so much of what we take away from this. The family and the experience you get is so much more than those four shows.”

Close bonds often develop among the cast and creative team of a single production, which is hardly surprising given the amount of time they spend together. V120 calls for rehearsals all semester long, Monday through Thursday 8–11 p.m., and for three hours on Sundays. Extra rehearsals are usually scheduled right before the West End Preview and Turkey Day, and during the week leading up to opening night, known as Tech Week. “You forge a bond of, quite frankly, shared suffering because when you do a Varsity Show, there is barely time to do homework and you don’t sleep,” says Silverberg. “It takes over your life.”

Among the Varsity Show alumni who have developed lasting bonds are Tom Kitt ’96 and Brian Yorkey ’93, creators of the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning Broadway musical Next to Normal, who worked together on V100 and V102. [See feature in this issue.] More recently, Silverberg, Carieri and other Varsity Show alumni have collaborated on the production of Lydia and Tom, a musical by Hoffman and Parker about two childhood friends growing apart as they become adults; it was accepted for the 2013 New York International Fringe Festival after premiering at the Austin E. Quigley Blackbox Theatre in Lerner Hall in fall 2012. “We were working with actors who had worked on the Varsity Show, so they knew what it was like to handle original material, and our director, designers and producers also were able to guide us using their Varsity Show experience,” says Hoffman.

The Varsity Show, which Feinstein describes as a “rare and all-encompassing” experience, also fosters camaraderie across generations of participants. Each year, a group of its alumni perform songs from shows past — called Class Act — during the New Student Orientation Program. The repertoire often includes “Roar, Lion, Roar,” Columbia’s fight song, written for the 1923 Varsity Show, and “The Stroke,” a song from V102 that pokes fun at the swim test.

Another event that builds camaraderie is the presentation of the L.A.L. Diamond Award for Achievement in the Arts, held prior to a Varsity Show performance. The award, instituted in 2004, goes annually to a Columbia graduate for continued commitment to and success in the arts. Among the recipients are Kitt and Yorkey, and fellow Varsity Show alumni Kate McKinnon ’06, a current Saturday Night Live cast member, and Jenny Slate ’04, a prolific comedian and creator of the animated short film Marcel the Shell with Shoes On.

With such distinguished alumni, the Varsity Show has developed a reputation as a springboard for careers in entertainment. “Producing the Varsity Show was something I always wanted to do because it was the closest thing to a professional experience that I could get in my college time,” says Carieri, who chose Columbia as much for the show as for the Core Curriculum.

While some participants certainly continue to reap the benefits of belonging to the Varsity Show family long after they have graduated, for most, the rewards are much more immediate. Says Silverberg, “It is a very cool way to participate in a Columbia tradition and to be involved in something that the entire student body is interested in and everyone is going to have an opinion about.”

The 120th Varsity Show is scheduled for Friday, May 2–Sunday, May 4 in Roone Arledge Auditorium. For more information, visit thevarsityshow.com. To watch past productions, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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.
One of the Varsity Show’s signature elements has been the pony ballet, shown here by the chorus line from 1929’s Oh Hector!

The Varsity Show Through the Years

A look back at Columbia’s longest running theatrical tradition in pictures, programs and posters

ALL IMAGES COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
Above, Beatrice Kay, a performer from Billy Rose’s Diamond Horseshoe supper club, seems unsure what to make of Alexander McAllister ’40 of 1939’s Fair Enough. Below, the full cast on stage at the Hotel Astor.

PHOTOS: ABOVE, ANDREW COSTIKYAN ’43; BELOW, DELAR ROCKEFELLER CENTER
Top, rehearsing the pony ballet on Low Plaza for 1940's Life Begins in ’40. Bottom left, getting a posture lesson during rehearsals. Bottom right, a pony ballet member is flanked by British soldiers in 1954's Sky's the Limit.

Photos: Top, Wild World Photos, Inc.; Bottom Left, Jack M. Lewis; Bottom Right, Martin Molloy ’55, ’60 GSAS
Above, cast members of 1948’s Streets of New York receive some dance instruction. Below, a chorus girl with a Low Library replica on her head cavorts with the Columbia lion in 1980’s Fly With Me.

PHOTOS: ABOVE, MANNY WARMAN; BELOW, ADRIAN BRYAN-BROWN
The cast of 1980’s Fly With Me, a revival of 1920’s show, with music by Richard Rodgers ’23

PHOTO: ADRIAN BRYAN-BROWN
and lyrics by Lorenz Hart (Class of 1918J).
The Marriage of True Minds

A freewheeling conversation with the Broadway team of Tom Kitt ’96 and Brian Yorkey ’93

By Jamie Katz ’72, ’80 Business
G

ilbert and Sullivan. George and Ira Gershwin. Rodgers and Hammerstein. Dorothy Fields and anybody. Let’s not forget Mozart and Lorenzo Da Ponte, who wrote the libretto for Don Giovanni and, much later, became Columbia’s first professor of Italian.

It’s too soon to say whether the creative partnership of Tom Kitt ’96 (music) and Brian Yorkey ’93 (book and lyrics) will someday join that pantheon. But they’re off to a good start, having won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for their first Broadway collaboration, Next to Normal, which was also nominated for 11 Tony Awards and won three. This was no happy-times stage show: It explored the searing anguish of a suburban American family with a manic-depressive mother at its center. Ben Brantley of The New York Times called it “a brave, breathtaking musical,” writing, “No show on Broadway right now makes as direct a grab for the heart — or wrings it as thoroughly — as Next to Normal does.”

Angels at Columbia Centennial Approaches, the 1994 Varsity Show, was Kitt and Yorkey’s first collaboration on a musical. The experience played a pivotal role in their lives and careers. They were introduced by Rita Pietropinto-Kitt ’93, ‘96 Arts; it was not the only partnership forged among them — Kitt and Pietropinto-Kitt, an actress and drama teacher at the Marymount School and Barnard, were married in 2000 and now have three children. “I often say that I met both of my spouses at Columbia,” Kitt says.

Born on Long Island, Kitt was raised in Armonk, N.Y. His many Broadway credits include Green Day’s American Idiot (which won a Tony Award for Best Musical), High Fidelity, Debbie Does Dallas, Urban Cowboy and 13; he also has written music for the Public Theater’s New York Shakespeare Festival and TV’s Sesame Street and Dawson’s Creek.

Yorkey was born in Omaha and raised there and in Issaquah, Wash., about 20 miles east of Seattle. An alumnus of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, he was associate artistic director for seven years at Village Theatre in Issaquah and Everett, Wash., one of the nation’s leading incubators of musicals. Yorkey wrote the book for Sting’s The Last Ship, which opens on Broadway later this year, and has three screenplays in development. His other theater credits include Making Tracks, the musical adaptation of Ang Lee’s The Wedding Banquet, and the country musical Play It By Heart.

The composer and lyricist took time out to speak with CCT as they prepared for the Broadway premiere of their latest musical, If/Then, another psychological work of feeling and wit, examining the different paths life can take based on a single decision. The lead character, a 40-year-old professional woman in New York, is played by the Tony Award–winning actress/singer Idina Menzel (Rent and Wicked); the director is Michael Greif (Rent), who also directed Next to Normal.

If/Then resonates personally for both Kitt and Yorkey. “Every day we make choices,” Kitt says. “Sometimes they’re just small choices and sometimes they’re bigger ones. But we often wonder about the power of those choices and whether our life would have turned out the way it did. Are we meant for something? If you find that person whom you love, are you meant to find that person no matter what road you take? What if I hadn’t gone to Columbia?” Yorkey agrees. “If we look back to where we met, there was an awful lot of chance involved,” he says. “What if Tom had not been home when Rita knocked on his door?”

If/Then opens at the Richard Rodgers Theater on Sunday, March 30.

Here are edited excerpts of the conversation.

CCT: You have joined a distinguished line of collaborators in the performing arts — Rodgers and Hart, Nureyev and Fonteyn, Bialystock and Bloom. [laughter] When did you realize that your creative partnership was something special?

Yorkey: Telling our story, it may seem like we went running to each other in a field full of pianos. But when I met Tom at The West End over a pitcher of beer, I thought he was sort of a stupid frat boy sitting there with his backward baseball cap. My first instinct was to not like him. But then Tom and I started to write songs together. I wrote some lyrics to the first song that he wrote for the Varsity Show. And it was pretty solid. Then we wrote a song for a dance number called “The College Walk.” It’s kind of a classic show tune in structure. I remember watching that song be rehearsed and watching the choreographer put the dance to it, and realizing that Tom and I had done something special. And it hadn’t felt effortful. It had felt as natural as breathing. That was the moment when I knew that we had something kind of remarkable. It’s hard to explain exactly what that is. But you know it.

Kitt: I was very intimidated by Brian at first, especially because the Varsity Show people were rock stars on campus. It was kind of like hanging out with the cast of Saturday Night Live.

Kitt: I was very intimidated by Brian at first, especially because the Varsity Show people were rock stars on campus. It was kind of like hanging out with the cast of Saturday Night Live. They were all dynamic, they all were comfortable with each other. So when I was a lowly freshman going to that table, sharing a pitcher of beer, I was intimidated. But when Brian and I began working together, I felt very quickly like I belonged, and I was just blown away by his intelligence, by his wit. For the whole semester that we wrote our first show together, I was obsessed with what we were doing. It lived in my head every day. I would go into class and constantly think of new ideas. Up to that point I hadn’t written with anyone else and I hadn’t written for the musical theater. Yet it came so easily to me, working with Brian. I just always felt inspired, and I immediately knew that it was something that I cared deeply about and wanted to pursue. The experience of writing with Brian, the satisfaction that those songs gave us, felt as important as anything I was doing. So I had to believe that it was something that I wanted to preserve and protect.
CCT: Now that you’ve been working together for some 20 years, what would you say makes your collaboration work so well? What is its genius?

Kitt: I think we trust each other, and I think we both bring out really wonderful things in each other. I know that Brian’s lyrics and ideas always challenge me and keep me honest in the most wonderful way. There are times where I wouldn’t necessarily go to a certain place but for his lyrics that push me in new directions. Brian just looks at the world in a way that I find so beautiful and surprising, and yet familiar, because it’s a way that I want to look at the world and the way I want to write about the world. And when I do write about it, I trust him completely, both good and bad. Sometimes with any marriage, with any collaboration, there will be hard moments where you’re not completely on the same page or one person is challenging the other. But those challenges always bring out the best and we always come at it from a stronger place afterward.

Yorkey: For my part—well, first of all I was realizing, Tom, that you shouldn’t expect to find your two spouses in the Varsity Show, and then expect a sort of even-keeled life after that. [laughter] That said, and this sounds very basic, but I love Tom’s music. The music that Tom writes touches me at a very deep level, emotionally. It’s full of meaning, and it’s full of feeling, and it’s probing, and questioning, and romantic and yearning, and all those things that Tom is himself. The ability to truly put yourself into your writing, I think, is what makes a great writer. And Tom’s music embodies him in a way that continues to knock me flat all the time, and to make me want to dig deep, and really be truthful, and be honest, and emotional, and not just try to be clever.

Yorkey: Tom’s music embodies him in a way that continues to knock me flat all the time, and to make me want to dig deep, and really be truthful, and be honest, and emotional, and not just try to be clever.

CCT: That talent helps keep a lot of marriages alive, too.

Yorkey: One of the reasons that I went to Columbia was the writers who had been there before me. And obviously, being a pretentious high school senior, Kerouac ’44 and Ginsberg ’48 were high on that list. But also being a musical theater kid, I knew that that’s where Rodgers ’23 and Hart ’18 wrote their first stuff together, and Rodgers and Hammerstein met. It just seemed like Columbia was the place where musicals were made. I actually didn’t know about the Varsity Show, but I did know about that tradition. That it drew me to Columbia in the first place, and played such a role in how my life played out, is kind of incredible to me.

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CCT: Apart from the Varsity Show, what had the greatest impact on you at Columbia?

Kitt: I was a bit of a mess when I got to Columbia. I procrastinated a lot. I didn’t have a great work ethic. I think what I really got out of Columbia aside from the wonderful education was just the people who were there. Everybody was striving for something and was in their own way doing important things. And that really rubbed off on me.

Yorkey: I think that I chose Columbia in part because it didn’t have a theater major at the time. I knew somehow—and I’m
pretty amazed that I knew this at 18 — but I knew that I needed to study everything but theater. That if I really was meant to do theater, I'd find a way to do it anyway. But if I had gone to study theater, that might be all I ever studied, and I needed to become a more well-rounded person than that. And that's exactly what happened at Columbia — though I think that I took the Core Curriculum maybe not as seriously as I wish I had. I'd like to go back and take those classes again.

CCT: Quite a number of alumni feel that way.

Yorkey: That's good to hear. At the same time I got a lot out of the Core, an awful lot. It really was about becoming a citizen of the world and a person who has a life of the mind of some sort. I double majored in English and religion, which I think most people might think of as two of the least job-specific majors you could pick. But I actually ended up in a job where I use both of those majors every day. And that's pretty remarkable. The things I'm able to do in my work, I know are very much a part of the education that I got in the classroom and outside of it at Columbia.

Kitt: It's the same for me, and I was an economics major. It's really a people science. You're studying people's choices and tastes and what they value. Learning about that science was very important for me. I also took a number of really wonderful music classes that opened me up and certainly brought me back to classical music. I was a classically trained pianist from the age of 4, but I hadn't been serious about studying it again. I took [the Anne Parsons Bender Professor of Music] Elaine Sisman's Beethoven and Mozart classes. I'll never forget the day I walked in and she put the Requiem on — it had such an impact on me. And I just wanted to devour everything that he wrote.

CCT: In the greatest Broadway musicals, and in opera for that matter, there is a beautiful integration of the music and the lyrics and the story — they are braided almost seamlessly. Is that an important goal for you? And how is it achieved?

Yorkey: I think it's absolutely a goal. The music and the songs need to serve the story, and I think that the integration of words and music is the thing that Tom and I strive for most. There are three things that have really made it possible, for instance, on Next to Normal, for us to achieve that, to whatever extent we did. The first is that we're not precious about material. If something doesn't work as well as it can, we'll write something else until we find the thing that really does work. The second factor is that we keep going — we don't stop and say, "That's good enough." We keep going until we get the best thing we possibly can, until we've exhausted every option that we can think of. And the third thing is we have people like Michael Greif, our director, and David Stone, our producer, who really hold us to a standard of integration and a standard of making the music and the text a seamless whole, and help us figure out how to do that — certainly with Next to Normal and with the new show, If/Then. Michael's sense of how to tell a story and how to keep what's essential and cut away everything else continues to teach us lessons.

Kitt: The other thing I want to add is that Brian is actually a wonderful musician. He's very knowledgeable. And even though he may not want to sing, he writes lyrics with a very strong musical sense. So when I get lyrics from him, most times they kind of just sing off the page. He structures them in a way that it's very rewarding to write music for those lyrics. If things aren't clicking, he always has wonderful things to say musically about other ways to go. And even though I don't write lyrics, I think my knowledge of lyrics and scanning and where rhymes want to go also helps serve what we're doing. So I think the great thing about our collaboration is that even though we trust each other in our departments, we have real knowledge of what the other person is doing, so we can write work that will hopefully arrive at the other person's doorstep feeling fully formed and feeling like you can be intuitive and write without much complication.

CCT: How powerful is it for you when all that work culminates in an actual production, where all of it is sung and acted and light and danced?

Yorkey: I really marvel at it every day of a rehearsal process or a tech process. I'm amazed that people are speaking lines that I wrote and singing songs that I wrote the words to. It never fails to blow me away. Especially with some of the people we get to work with, it's astounding and incredibly humbling. It never gets old.
Kitt: I think that Brian and I still get such a rush out of just hearing someone sing a song that we came up with it. And especially when you have the Idina Menzels and Alice Ripleys and Anthony Rapps and La Chanzes of the world singing those songs, it's a pinch-me kind of feeling.

Yorkey: One example: We had struggled to write a song for a very emotional and important part of If/Then, late in the show. It's called "Always Starting Over." We had gone back and forth on it and had not agreed and just weren't having a good time writing it. Finally Tom went away and just wrote something really full of feeling, and sent it to me. I poured out every last ounce of emotion I had into the lyric. It really felt like a last gasp for us. We brought it into rehearsal and we were both sort of exhausted and just a little bit down. And Idina Menzel learned it and sang it. I think we both started to cry because what she did with it was so amazing.

CCT: Let's talk about your winning the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2010. How did that go down, for you?

Kitt: I'll never forget it. I was in tech for American Idiot on Broadway — I was the music supervisor and I did the orchestrations and arrangements — and I was sitting in the audience just talking with Tom Hulce, the show's producer. My phone rang and it was David Stone, who informed me of the news. I walked up the aisle and down the aisle of the St. James Theater going, "No f---ing way! No f---ing way!" [laughter] Then it was announced on the "God mike" and the whole cast came up and hugged me. It was a really, really emotional, wonderful moment, and unexpected. I don't think that was even in our universe, the idea that something like that could happen. It felt like such a privilege because it's an award for writing. That was so clear when we went to the luncheon and sat with journalists and writers of fiction and nonfiction. I felt a little bit like, "What am I doing here?" People are writing these important articles about this and that. I felt privileged to be included in that company.

Yorkey: My story's a little bit less romantic. I had just gotten back from a trip overseas and was still sort of jetlagged. And our publicist, Tom D'Ambrosio, called me and said, "You guys are in the mix for the Pulitzer, and so if it happens, we're going to have to jump right into some interviews. Can you come down to the office?" And I said, "Well, I would need to take a shower." "Well," he said, "can you shower now just in case?" So I said, "Yes, I'll shower now, Tom." But then I got off the phone with him and I thought, "I don't want to shower and be sitting around here all clean and have nothing happen, 'cause then I'll be all clean and sad." So I didn't actually shower. And David Stone called and I picked up the phone and he said, "Is this Pulitzer Prize-winner Brian Yorkey?" And the first thing I thought was, "Oh man, I should've showered." [laughter] I don't know if Tom ever knew that, because I did shower very quickly and I made it to the office in pretty good time!

Yorkey: We balance each other well.
We have very different but compatible ways of looking at the world.
We also are pretty good at giving each other a ribbing, keeping each other honest.

CCT: Once lightning struck, how did your life change?

Yorkey: I think a Pulitzer is not a prize for mortals. Tom and I certainly dreamed of winning a Tony, as I think anyone who writes for musical theater does. But no one dreams of winning a Pulitzer because it just seems like something that happens to gods like Edward Albee and August Wilson, not to people like us. It certainly felt like a bolt out of the blue. The combination of the Pulitzer and the fact that Next to Normal was a hit on Broadway changed our lives probably forever. You do sort of realize that you could do one more damn thing and you'll still be a Pulitzer Prize winner! [laughter] Not that that's my plan.

CCT: Anything you'd like to add?

Yorkey: One thing I wanted to say — I don't know if I can put this into words, ironically — but the thing that was great about Columbia, which made the Varsity Show possible, and made so many things possible, and really sort of helped me form my outlook as a human being, is that Columbia never takes itself too seriously. Or at least it didn't in my time. And if anyone did, there would always be someone there to take them down a peg. No one at Columbia is really all that comfortable with orthodoxy or with authority. It makes for a campus that can be kind of difficult to manage sometimes, but it also makes for really, really sharp and funny and smart and skeptical individuals who look at the world and want to question the received wisdom and want to shake up the foundations of the establishment a little bit. There's a long, long history of that. I hope and believe it's still alive there — absorbing that ethos and looking at the world in a smart and generous way, but also a way that's questioning and wants to find out the truth and wants to upend the apple cart a little bit. That's something that feels to me unique to Columbia and very much an important part of who I am and what I get to do today.

Former CCT Editor Jamie Katz ’72, ’80 Business has held senior editorial positions at People and Vibe, and now writes for Smithsonian magazine and other publications.
Madness, intrigue, and questions of justice and revenge came to Miller Theatre in November with a performance of Euripides' *Orestes*. Graduate students from the School of the Arts' Theater Division staged the production specifically for Literature Humanities students and instructors; they have done so each year, albeit with different plays, since 2008. "This collaboration between the Core Curriculum and the School of the Arts has been tremendously fruitful," says Roosevelt Montás '95, '04 GSAS, director of the Center for the Core Curriculum and associate dean of academic affairs. "While theater students get support to stage a play before a large audience, Lit Hum students can experience the full dramatic power of a text they have only encountered on the page. Experiencing the play as it unfolds in real time is often a revelation for students."
Theater District

Columbia’s many theater groups give students a chance to watch, and perform, everything from Shakespeare to opera to student-written plays

By Shira Boss ’93, ’97J, ’98 SIPA
The Varsity Show isn’t the only ticket on campus. Student theater groups are flourishing and perform regularly, from Shakespeare to musicals to student-written works. There are opportunities for students of every theatrical skill level and inclination, and the shows can pack venues from Lemer’s intimate Austin E. Quigley Black Box Theatre to its huge Roone Arledge Auditorium.

The following round-up offers an introduction to 10 groups that can be seen around campus. All also belong to the Columbia University Performing Arts League (columbia.edu/cu/cupal), an umbrella organization that encourages the sharing of resources and expertise and serves as an advisory board for new groups. CUPAL also sponsors one special project per semester — for example, a multimedia event, fundraiser, or theatrical, musical or dance performance — as well as a spring showcase of student work that includes selections from the most successful or highly anticipated productions of the academic year. This year’s showcase was scheduled for March 8.

**Black Theatre Ensemble**

**MISSION:** “We seek to promote minority playwrights and actors, thus giving students of color on campus, and in NYC, an outlet for creative expression that was previously void.”

**FOUNDED:** 2002

**MEMBERSHIP:** Open to everyone at Columbia, with the occasional non-Columbia cast member; average 10-12 participants, about 80% College

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:** One show per semester; an annual Spring Student-Written One-Acts Festival; this spring, a second show in collaboration with Columbia Musical Theatre Society

**RECENT PRODUCTIONS:** Funnyhouse of a Negro, Bulrusher, Fucking A

**NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI:** Playwright Katori Hall ’03

**WEBSITE:** “Black Theatre Ensemble” on Facebook

**CURTAIN CALL:** “Something I like to stress to those inquiring about BTE is that we are a group that is dedicated to creating community,” says president Bintu Conteh ’14. “Since I have been a member of this organization (since my freshman year), I have always felt like I was part of a beautiful, crazy, loving family. And I am sure anyone who does at least one show with us will feel the same way.”

**Columbia Musical Theatre Society**

**MISSION:** “We pride ourselves on producing original takes on musical revivals. We strive for these types of productions and not just carbon copies of Broadway shows/revivals.”

**FOUNDED:** 2000

**MEMBERSHIP:** 100-150 participants, about 60% College

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:** Average of two musicals per semester and a special project

**RECENT PRODUCTIONS:** Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Carousel, The Rocky Horror Picture Show

**NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI:** Nina Pedrad ’11, currently a writer for the FOX show New Girl

**WEBSITE:** “CMTS” on Facebook

**CURTAIN CALL:** “We attempt to include as many people as possible to expand our musical theater community and provide opportunities for anyone excited to perform musical theater,” says v.p. Sam Mickel ’14. “Our special projects have included musical theater karaoke nights, miscasts (where students sing songs from roles/shows they would never be cast in) and cabarets (students sign up and choose a song to sing) for students.”

**Columbia University Players**

**MISSION:** “The performance of straight plays, providing the opportunity for students to propose and present nearly any theatrical work that is non-musical and non-Shakespeare.”

**FOUNDED:** 1906 (as Barnard College Musical Theatre)

**MEMBERSHIP:** 40-50 participants per semester, about 25% College

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:** Four per year

**RECENT PRODUCTIONS:** Playgrounds, The Maids

**NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI:** Cody Holliday Haeffer ’12, Thomas Kapusta ’12 and Brian LaPerche ’12 founded The Brewing Dept., a theatrical collective in NYC, along with three Barnard alumnues

**WEBSITE:** “CU Players” on Facebook

**CURTAIN CALL:** “CU Players offers students with relatively little theater background the chance to dive into the world
of theater here at Columbia,” says treasurer Danitra Campbell ’15. “Whereas some of the other groups can be rather intimidating for newcomers, CUP manages to feel welcoming.”

King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe

MISSION: “King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe exists to bring outstanding free theater to the Columbia Community and to create an awesome experience for everyone involved.”

FOUNDED: 1995

MEMBERSHIP: Approximately 50 participants per year; roughly 60% College

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: Generally two shows in the fall semester (though not necessarily Shakespeare, they can be anything except musical theater). Large-scale show spring semester (always Shakespeare, outdoors and staged at multiple locations around campus) and usually also a smaller production.

RECENT PRODUCTIONS: Cymbeline; The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged); Henry IV; Part 2

NOTEWORTHY ALUMNI: Ezra Koenig ’06 and Rostam Batmanglij ’06 form half of the band Vampire Weekend

WEBSITE: kcstumbles.tumblr.com and “King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe” on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: All performances are free; every Columbia student who auditions for the spring show is cast.

Latenite Theatre

MISSION: “We have a simple purpose: to offer our playwrights the opportunity to see their work on stage, giving them a freedom to experiment, to take artistic risks, and above all, to have fun in a non-competitive environment.”

FOUNDED: 1995, “by a group of theater and English majors who wanted to produce their own original works,” says Hannah Ceja ’14 Barnard, co-president with Taha Wiheba ’16. “These works were to be performed at 11 p.m., long after other events on campus had ended and prudent artistic sensibilities have gone to bed for the night — hence the name Latenite Theatre.”

MEMBERSHIP: About 45 participants per semester

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: One anthology of student-written, one-act plays per semester


WEBSITE: Latenitetheatre.com and “Latenite Theatre” on Facebook

CURTAIN CALL: “We have four performances, the last being a prank show, where, really, anything could happen,” Ceja says. “The actors and/or directors come up with various ways to prank their respective shows, ranging from adding a few props or extra jokes, to altering an entire script.”

The Mechanicals

MISSION: “We seek to provide the Barnard/Columbia community with a place for students to develop their acting skills in a collaborative, low-pressure peer workshop environment. We are not professionals, nor are we teachers — we are simply a group of students passionate about acting, and dedicated to helping each other improve.”

FOUNDED: 2014

MEMBERSHIP: Just launched in spring semester; about 50 people have expressed interest

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: No performances; the group is
New Opera Workshop

MISSION: “Our goal is both to provide opportunities to classical singers on campus and to push the frontiers of opera by generating new works and engaging new audiences. We hope to rekindle the legacy of Columbia’s Opera Workshop, the campus opera company that from 1941–58 commissioned and performed groundbreaking new opera.”

FOUNDED: 2013
MEMBERSHIP: Spring 2014 production has 38 participants, about 50% College
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: One production per semester
RECENT PRODUCTIONS: Opera Untapped, featuring scenes from Mozart, Bizet, Gilbert and Sullivan, and more
WEBSITE: “Columbia University New Opera Workshop” on Facebook
CURTAIN CALL: “Many audience members have come to us, telling us they’ve never seen opera and were pleasantly surprised,” says co-founder and financial officer Hannah Rose Gorman ’16. “I think the fun, collaborative nature of this project shines through in performances, and makes the art form approachable to new audiences.”

NOMADS

MISSION: “NOMADS (New and Original Material Authored and Directed by Students) gives a home to the creation of unique, experimental and provocative original work by artists from across the Columbia University community. Combining full-scale theatrical projects with multi-media installations, dance, music, playwriting workshops and ‘live artwork,’ we provide a safe, professional and exciting space where any member of our community can develop their creative ideas — however wild, wacky or wondrous — from page to stage (or any other venue we can find!).”

FOUNDED: 2003
MEMBERSHIP: Around 60 participants per semester
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: One student-written, full-length play per year, usually in the Fall semester; an annual festival of student work each spring: Word Play, an annual writer’s workshop, where undergraduate playwrights are mentored by a School of the Arts student and that culminates in a staged reading of their work.
RECENT PRODUCTIONS: The Gift by Anika Benkov ’16; Grieving for Fish by Elyse Pitock ’15 Barnard
WEBSITE: “NOMADS Columbia” on Facebook
CURTAIN CALL: Some productions have been presented off-campus at Theatre Row, Cherry Lane Theatre and the New York International Fringe Festival.
Dr. Arnold A. Hutschnecker in Paradise

Tony Kushner '78, a playwright and screenwriter, is the author of Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes, Homebody/Kabul and Caroline, or Change, among other major theatrical works. Two of his screenplays, for Steven Spielberg’s Munich and Lincoln, have been nominated for Academy Awards. He has won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1993), two Tonys (1993 and 1994), an Emmy (2004) and the 2012 National Medal of Arts, among other honors, and received numerous nominations.

The play that follows, Dr. Arnold A. Hutschnecker in Paradise, is excerpted from a collection of short works, Tiny Kushner: Five One-Act Plays, to be published by Theatre Communications Group later this year. The real Dr. Hutschnecker, who died in 2000 at 102, was President Nixon’s psychiatrist for many years.

Rose Kernochan ’82 Barnard
The setting is a beautiful room in a pre-war, Upper West Side-type apartment building in Paradise: rococo sculpted plaster ceiling, a small chandelier at its center, a handsome marble fireplace with Egyptian and Greek tchotchkes on the mantlepiece, books in oak bookcases and an old Turkish carpet covering a worn leather divan. This is the office for the psychoanalytic practice of Metatron, the Recording Angel, a vast fiery being with a million eyes.

Metatron is seated in an Eames chair at the head of the carpet-covered divan. Sitting, not lying on the couch — this is a supervisory session — is Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker, best-known during his lifetime as the psychotherapist of Richard Milhous Nixon.

Dr. Hutschnecker died in 2000. The play takes place the year after that.

METATRON: And how are we feeling this morning, Arnold? In saying “morning” I am of course lapsing into poesy, since Time doesn’t exist in Paradise.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I feel lousy, frankly. I stayed up all night watching The Sopranos on DVD.

METATRON: Again?! Again with The Sopranos?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I know, I know, I can’t stop myself, I am obviously attempting some sort of negotiation: will the sexy lady analyst cure the gangster sociopath with narcissistic tendencies? It’s that episode with the nympholeptic soccer coach, you know, Tony resists the impulse to whack the guy, her treatment is working! Oh, it’s so tantalizing, so excruciating! She comes so close! He is borderline, not unreachable, I believe had Dr. Melfi employed Pavlovian techniques, it reminds me of the early ’70s, right around the Cambodia bombings, I, I .... (Silence).

Oh forget it. It’s not worth our time. My neck and my back are killing me.

METATRON: I would suggest that these pains are psychosomatic.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: You always say that, but...

METATRON: In this case my proposal gains strength from the fact that you are dead and hence you have no body.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I’m not arguing, I spent my life contemplating the psychosomatic, especially as expressive of the narcissistic personality under duress. But my back hurts.

METATRON: Speaking of the narcissistic personality under duress, how is your patient doing?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Who? Milhous?

METATRON: Who else?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: He told me in session yesterday that he doesn’t believe he’s dead.

METATRON: Interesting that you say discussing this television show — and I agree, it is superb, I watch it all the time, well I watch everything, I am the Recording Angel, it helps having a million eyes, I never have to channel surf — you say it isn’t worth our “time”, immediately after I have mentioned the fact that we are in Paradise and there is no Time here. Are you perhaps manifesting a denial of your own mortality, Arnold?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Oh please, I lived to 102, in Connecticut, for pity’s sake don’t you think I was ready to go?

My leg hurts, and don’t say I’ve got no leg. Look, it’s swollen. And I have hay fever, my face is throbbing, oddly I never had it in Connecticut, with all those trees.

METATRON: The neck and back pains, these were his presenting problems, were they not?
DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Yes.

METATRON: Let’s talk about counter-transference, then, shall we?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Dear Lord, that scarcely describes it! When I was alive I saw him once, twice a year. Up here, it’s five days a week up here, five days a week of Milhous, Milhous, Milhous!

METATRON: He still insists you call him —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Milhous. MMmmilhous. Muh Muh — It’s so obvious I want to giggle, he wears his psyche on his sleeve, it’s always been endearing to me, it saves me so much work, every day he comes in and he says these remarkable things ... Well, you know, his mouth, oral sadistic, a few days ago he was thinking of changing his name to M, just M, the initial he dropped when he became President, and of course we know what he’s really dropping or rather who he’s really dropping or rather trying, still trying to drop after all this ...

METATRON (singing): “M is for the many things she gave me...”

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: That mother. Her dying words to him were “Richard don’t give up. Don’t let anyone tell you you are through.” I am afraid he has taken this literally — he cannot die, mommy told him not to. He has to obey, he must preserve The Idealized Mother, the Saint, formed as he abreacts the depressed controlling woman who couldn’t stop him crying, who breast-fed a cousin, a rival, when Dick — I mean Milhous — was six months, who abandoned him for mastoid surgery when he was 9 months, who gave birth to Donald right after that, more betrayal, more abandonment, who left him in his remarkably awkward adolescence for two years to go nurse the dying brother Harold, more abandonment, more guilt, well is it any wonder? What’s amazing is he did as well as he did, forget the Plumbers and the tapes and the Checkers speech, what’s amazing is he didn’t blow up the planet.

(Silence.)

I think perhaps in Hannah’s obsessional, controlling personality may lie the explanation of the fact that Nixon was the last Republican President who believed in Regulation.

So she says “never die” and he can’t afford to disbelieve her, ambivalent mommy — combined of course with his paranoia — and given her obsessive-compulsive personality, paranoia’s a... given. And his religiously-infected grandiosity, well he always believed he was immortal —

METATRON: Masking of course a terrible fear of —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Of course! (He sneezes) AAAAAAHHHHH-CHOOOOOOOO!

METATRON: Gesundheit.

Metatron hands Dr. Hutschenre a box of Kleenex.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Are you handing me this box of tissues because you are suggesting that I am resisting? That I should be needing them not to blow my nose but to wipe tears away? That I am provoked by my provocative patient rather than moved by him, I’m maybe taking refuge in anger to staunch the inner pain towards which this counter-transference is leading me: my refugee roots, the rejection I felt by my motherland in 1936 when I fled Berlin? An idealized mother, of course, Berlin, Germany, my real motherland was — blech — Austria.

METATRON: Why are you sneezing? You can’t really have hay fever, here where neither pollen nor sinuses nor —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I know I know. He has a sinusitis flare-up every year, starting September 5 on the nose, as it were, and ending October 1. His father died September 4, his mother September 30. Ba da bing! Remarkable, as I said, I used to wonder if he’d read Freud.

METATRON: Have you ever asked him if he had?
DR. HUTSCHNECKER: He'd say yes, but he would probably be lying, he lies easier than breathing — AAAAAAAAAHHHH-CHOOOOOO.

Well of what President could that not be said? They all lie, he's just so transparent, endearing, like I said, at least he wasn't overdosing on Halcyon, like Bush the First, at least he didn't upchuck on the Japanese Prime Minister, at least he speaks in complete sentences, he doesn't have a language disorder like the scary little stugats they got in the White House now, and anyway I wouldn't mention Freud to Milhous because it could trigger an association that could lead him to one of his anti-Semitic tirades, I have a lot of trouble with that, it really interferes with my ...

Did you know that Bush and Nixon, I mean Milhous, are actually related? They're both cousins to the Stewart family, in Virginia, American aristocracy — One of the Stewarts, get this, Gladys I think her name was, she's the mother of —

METATRON: Yes, I know, she's the mother of Geraldine, the Queen of Albania. But speaking of associations, interesting that you bring up mothers just now, right after you —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Nixon and Bush are cousins of the fascist Queen of Albania! You can't make this up! But where was I?

METATRON: Associations, Freud, you —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Yeah, right, but Freud — Who has the time? I tried Pavlov, I tried using Pavlovian techniques to get him to stop the war. Conditioning, behaviorism, that's what works with these frenetic, overly-literal retentive guys, if Dr. Melfi would use Pavlov on... But he went out in the '60s, it got all touchy-feely and drugs were in and... The Manchurian Candidate. Have you ever seen it?

METATRON: Of course. Angela Lansbury, I'm a fan of —

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Great film. I tried to get Milhous to forge an association: "Mom", "Quaker", "Peace." It never took. I used to think Kissinger was thwarting me. Now I see it was just the wrong series of associations. That mother:

Oh am I depressed. And I ache all over. Did I mention my leg? Assah-Choo! Five days a week! Watergate, Lincoln, that guy in the arena with the dust and the sweat and the blood, undaunted et cetera and so forth, you know, that Teddy Roosevelt quote? Jesus wept I could sing you the — expletive deleted — thing, he's been on my couch reciting it for fifty years, and NOW! Milhous! Full-blown stops-out week long psychoanalysis with Nixon! Are you sure this is Paradise and not the Other Place? AAAAAAAAAHHHH-Choooo!

(He reaches for a Kleenex. He begins to weep copious tears.)

METATRON: His father was no picnic either.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER (through his tears): No, but that mother:

He moves me, of course he moves me. Poor Milhous! His mother couldn't stop him crying, when he was an infant, she didn't comfort him, she'd stand over his crib and say "He's not sad he's working on his lungpower, listen to that strong voice, he's born to be a leader!" Hence all the speechmaking, Madonna!, the mortifying rambling speeches, all the, the graphomania — he's writing more books, did I mention that? — the sweaty upper lip, I mean talk about psychosomatic! — and what were all those words?

Tears! Weeping! Milhous crying, crying for the mother, crying out for hard-hearted Hannah, crying out for mother love, for America, the Idealized Mother, which heard but would not love him and would only say "cry more, Milhous, cry more, you are ...."

Dr. Hutschnecker blows his nose and wipes his eyes.

METATRON: Interesting, Arnold, what you said about Germany being your idealized mother, while your real mother, the bad mother — I believe you said "Blech" — is Austria, where you were born.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Na, und? I mean, what's your point?
METATRON: Well, Arnold, I mean, talk about transparent. German ideal, Austrian roots, whom else might you be describing?

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: I don’t — Oh.

Him.

METATRON: Ja! He always referred to Germany as Vaterland, nicht Mutterland.

So perhaps here, the cause of your persistent refusal to consider the bad father introject inhabiting like a shadowy Cronus the cave of Milhous’s unconscious.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Huh. That’s god, I mean good.

METATRON: So we may perhaps want to ask, in our next session, when you first elected to treat this man, this powerful leader, grandiose, paranoiac, anti-Semitic, often described as having a Napoleon Complex ... Who is it you have really been trying to treat, Arnold, whose anti-social impulses and abuses of power are you really trying to control? Who is your real patient, Milhous ... or someone else? The one who drove you from your motherland in 1936? Are you perhaps attempting to rewrite history through your treatment of a less-malevolent surrogate who ...

Dr. Hutschnecker has fallen asleep, sitting up.

METATRON: Arnold?

Dr. Hutschnecker snores.

METATRON (in a voice like seven thunders): ARNOLD!

Dr. Hutschnecker jolts awake.

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: Whoah! I must’ve ... dozed off. I got to get more sleep, I think, it’s the — expletive deleted — Sopranos, I can’t stop watching them. That mother!

METATRON: Oh yes, Nancy Marchand!

DR. HUTSCHNECKER: She’s just the best! Isn’t Nancy Marchand here now? I’d love to meet her. What an actress! What a role! That mother! David Chase is a genius, I can’t wait for the new season!


And I think our time is up.

END

DR. ARNOLD A. HUTSCHNECKER IN PARADISE by Tony Kushner ’78 is part of a collection, TINY KUSHNER, to be published by TCG. Originally produced by the Guthrie Theater; Joe Dowling, artistic director.
With last papers due and finals around the corner, Butler Library becomes a second home to many students in the late spring.

PHOTO: COLIN SULLIVAN '11
As president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA), I strongly believe that one of the most valuable ways alumni can give back to the Columbia community is through the gift of knowledge and experience. Sharing this gift can be done through formal and informal mentorships between alumni and current students, which create direct and personal connections that benefit all for a lifetime.

One of our alumni groups, Columbia College Women, has raised the bar with the CCW Mentoring Program, co-chaired by Michelle Estilo Kaiser ’87 and Selby Drummond ’09. Now in its 20th year, the Mentoring Program pairs alumnae mentors from the Classes of 1987–2013 with rising junior and senior women using an algorithm based on mentor and mentee responses to a short questionnaire. The program’s popularity has grown exponentially during the past two decades, going from 20 matches at its inception to a record-breaking 290-plus matches this year! This spike in interest is due in large part to the time and effort Michelle and Selby have devoted to improving the program, and also due to the demand by women to find connections to one another across generations.

CCW’s student chair, Emily Dreibelbis ’14, has experienced the benefits of CCW and the Mentoring Program firsthand. “I have been working with CCW since I was a sophomore,” she says, “but now that I’m a senior, being part of CCW as well as the Mentoring Program has become even more important in helping me visualize [my future] and prepare myself for graduation. Whether it’s job applications, interview skills or figuring out where to start apartment hunting in NYC, the fact that I have so many people to turn to is amazing.”

Students and alumnae are drawn to CCW because they share many experiences not only during college but throughout their lives. Kaiser says, “I believe a large factor in CCW’s rapid growth and popularity is the fact that women are called upon to continually reinvent themselves, especially if they choose to take a life partner and raise children.”

These shared experiences do not end after graduation; rather, they are only beginning, and they continue to grow in poignancy and gravity. For many, the idea of achieving life balance comes to the fore, whether that means managing career, family, hobbies, philanthropy and/or other interests. As a graduate of the first fully coeducational class of women at Columbia College, there were no footsteps for me to follow in. The experiences that we as College alumnae have had — the triumphs and the missteps — are incredibly valuable to pass on to future generations of Columbia College women.

Now in its 25th year, CCW is in a position to successfully expand its reach and benefit. As Kaiser describes it, “We are now in an opportune moment where the eldest of us are starting to feel the gift of time, with more independent children and/or comfortable careers. We have had several groups of alumnae in the glow of their 25th reunion looking to find a place in CCW, and we fully welcome their involvement in expanding intellectual, social and alum-to-alum offerings. CCW thrives on the diversity of Columbia’s alumnae. We find a huge student demand for non-traditional as well as traditional careers and have found many women’s lives are incredibly interesting and enriched by the panoply of their life experiences.”

While CCW may be best known for its Mentoring Program, it has many other initiatives and its board is looking forward to capitalizing on this moment to broaden CCW’s scope and boost involvement. CCW’s success is supported by Kim Diamon, who joined the alumni relations team last fall. Kim’s efforts have been vital in enabling CCW’s growth and expansion. She also works closely with Columbia College Young Alumni, another group that has strengthened in recent years.

I am also pleased to introduce three staff members who joined the Alumni Office this winter: Executive Director of College Alumni Relations and Events Jessica Green ’05 Business, Associate Director of Alumni Relations Megan Gee and Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Suzy Alpert. With the leadership and support of Senior Executive Director Bernice Tsai ’96, I am confident that we will soon be able to offer alumni a much more robust array of ways to participate with CCAA and to pay back the gift of a Columbia experience to others.
Bookshelf

The Wrights of Vermont: Searching for My Father’s Family by George T. Wright ’45. After his father’s death, Wright digs into his father’s genealogy to discover the stories and relationships of his father and his father’s relatives (Wheatmark, $13.95).

Letters from the Attic: Save the Last Dance for Me by Charles Young ’50. The author recalls his life through letters that he wrote during WWII and reflects on family life, young romance and the war’s influence on his and future generations (iUniverse, $34.95).

I Am Abraham: A Novel of Lincoln and the Civil War by Jerome Charyn ’59. Charyn interweaves fictional events with Lincoln’s already well-documented life to provide a more human and intimate perspective on him (W.W. Norton & Co.: Liveright, $26.95).

Congo: The Miserable Expeditions and Dreadful Death of Lt. Emory Taunt, USN by Andrew C.A. Jam-poler ’62. Through retelling the story of Taunt’s death, which occurred during a 1995 solo mission up the Congo River, the author offers a glimpse into the United States’ role in the birth of a nation (Naval Institute Press, $44.95).

Alien Rule by Michael Hechter ’66. The author argues that alien rule (non-native leaders) can be legitimate if it provides governance that is both effective and fair. Reflecting on historical examples, he then applies his theories to universities, corporations and families (Cambridge University Press, $28.99).

Medimont Reflections: 40 Years of Issues and Idahoans by Chris Carlson ’68. In this collection of essays, Carlson draws from 40 years of public life as a press secretary and journalist to provide a history of Idaho’s politics and northwestern conservation issues (Ridenbaugh Press, $15.95).

Report from the Interior by Paul Auster ’69. Narrated in the second person, this autobiography tracks Auster’s moral, political and intellectual journey as he moves toward adulthood through the postwar 1950s and into the turbulent 1960s (Henry Holt and Co., $27).

Saint Bernard’s Three-Course Banquet: Humility, Charity, and Contemplation in the De Gradibus by Bernard Bonaventura 70. The author digs into the seventh chapter of Saint Bernard’s The Steps of Humility and Pride to provide a spiritual guide for the Cistercian disciple and modern reader alike (Liturgical Press, $18.95).

The Tales of Hoffmann by William Germano 72. Germano argues that the elaborate theatrical requirements of composer Jacques Offenbach’s opera Les contes d’Hoffmann allowed directors Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger to work imaginatively and creatively in their cinematic adaptation (Palgrave Macmillan, $14.95).

Into Daylight by Jeffrey Harrison ’80. The author’s Dorset Prize-winning collection of poetry reflects on the daily familiarities and fragilities experienced in a long marriage, refracted through the shock of a brother’s suicide (Tupelo Press, $16.95).

The Sea & Civilization: A Maritime History of the World by Lincoln Paine 81. Paine uses the lens of maritime travel to retell human history, examining the world’s waterways as the primary means of spreading goods, languages, religions and cultures (Knopf, $40).

The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon by Brad Stone ’93. Stone chronicles the rise of Bezos and the company he founded, providing a behind-the-scenes account of the e-commerce revolution (Little, Brown and Co., $28).

Jessica Darling’s It List: The ( Totally Not) Guaranteed Guide to Popularity, Prettiness & Perfection by Megan McCafferty ’95. Jessica Darling, armed with a “guaranteed guide” from her older sister, stumbles through junior high as she discovers that being herself trumps popularity (Poppy, $17).

The Dead Run: A Novel by Adam Mansbach ’98. In this supernatural and surreal work, an American police officer must track down a runaway girl while another American, incarcerated in Mexico, is tasked with delivering a living, beating heart to an apocalyptic cult leader in Texas (Harper Voyager, $25.99).

Raising Henry: A Memoir of Motherhood, Disability, & Discovery by Rachel Adams, professor of English and comparative literature. Drawing on her background in the study of the physically disabled and outcasts in American culture as well as her experience raising a son with Down syndrome, the author provides context for understanding the ways the disabled and their families are viewed and treated (Yale University Press, $26).

The Rise of Women: The Growing Gender Gap in Education and What It Means for American Schools by Thomas A. DiPaite, the Giddings Professor of Sociology, and Claudia Buchmann. The authors analyze the social influences that have caused the growing gender gap in higher education (Russell Sage Foundation, $37.50).

Wonder Women: Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection by Deborah L. Spar, president of Barnard College. Drawing on research and experience, Spar addresses how the political goals of the feminist movement have evolved into an overwhelming set of expectations for contemporary women to succeed in all areas of life (Sarah Crichton Books, $27).

Karl Daum ’15
Susanna Daniel ’97 Returns to Familiar Waters in Second Novel

By Justin DeFreitas

Susanna Daniel ’97 set her first novel, Stiltsville, in the community of that same name, a mile off the south Florida coast in Biscayne Bay. The book allowed Daniel to explore familiar territory — she grew up roughly 40 miles away, in Coral Gables, south of Miami, and often visited the wood stilt houses whose residents inspired several of the novel’s characters. It also earned her a 2011 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for debut fiction.

When she decided to write a second novel, however, Daniel feared she had exhausted the setting. "I thought I had burned Stiltsville down," she says.

Her husband dissuaded her of that notion, freeing Daniel to return to South Florida for Sea Creatures (HarperCollins, $25.99). "It just seemed the perfect setting for the material I had in mind," she says. "I like to write about marriages and parents, and Stiltsville is perfect for that: families together, trapped on an island."

The novel’s emotional landscape is also somewhat familiar. Daniel, who suffers from insomnia and is the mother of two small children, centered the story on an insomniac, Georgia, whose son, Frankie, is closing in on 3. But from there the story takes on dramatic complications. Frankie refuses to speak and Georgia’s husband, Graham, suffers from severe parasomnia. His dangerous, often threatening sleepwalking behavior causes disturbances in their Illinois community, precipitating the family’s relocation to Georgia’s hometown of Coral Gables. Though they hope for a fresh start, Georgia soon finds herself grappling with the impact that Graham’s sleep disorder is having on their son as well as the implications of her relationship with a reclusive Stiltsville artist for whom she works as an errand runner.

Today, Daniel is a long way from the sunny shores of Florida. She lives in Madison, Wis., and teaches writing at the Madison Writers’ Studio, which she founded last year with author Michelle Wildgen. The pair teach eight-week courses in fiction writing and nonfiction narrative. Daniel’s inclination toward writing began as a junior at Columbia. At that time the College did not have an undergraduate writing program — so I took the playwriting class," she says. "It was a general class, held in the evenings. I took it over and over."

A few years after graduation, while working as an editor, it occurred to Daniel that although she thought of herself as a writer, she hadn’t written anything since her time at Columbia. "I realized I was going to have to make it happen," she recalls. So she applied to the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop in Iowa City. “It forced me to take my writing seriously. It gave me discipline,” she says. “It took years off the process of developing as a writer. Not that I’m through developing, by any means. But it forces you to confront your flaws."

Daniel felt she was strong on character and language but needed to develop her skills in plotting and action. She had a tendency, early on, to write about characters lost in their own thoughts — “people doing nothing, just staring into mirrors or sitting in airports with a drink in one hand,” she says with a laugh.

One story written at Iowa proved a sort of golden ticket. “We Are Cartographers” was included in the 2001 edition of Best New American Voices and earned Daniel a teaching and writing fellowship at Iowa as well as a fellowship at the University of Wisconsin. The story, along with two others, served as the basis for Stiltsville.

Sea Creatures, by contrast, was conceived as a novel from the start. The idea stemmed from an afternoon Daniel spent sitting in her car in a Target parking lot. While her infant napped in the backseat, Daniel listened to the Moth Radio Hour broadcast of Mike Birbiglia’s one-man show, “Sleepwalk With Me,” in which the comedian chronicles his own harrowing experiences with parasomnia. She was struck by the subject’s fictional possibilities. “I just wondered what it would be like to be married to a parasomniac,” Daniel says.

Daniel constructed a tale of a family that hopes and may even believe that it’s merely working its way through a transition. But gradually it becomes clear that the family is drifting amid dire, if understated, crisis, with disaster looming on the horizon. “I like novels where nothing happens until the end,” Daniel says, “and then everything happens — character-based novels that explode into action in the final act.”

Daniel captures the difficult dynamics of family life, including the sometimes conflicting pulls of personal and communal needs. And she conveys the heightened senses that accompany parenthood: the fear, the anxiety, the self-doubt and the compulsion to assess the safety of every situation, not to mention the sudden, blinding panic that can follow even a momentary lapse in attention. The first-person perspective brings Georgia’s predicament to the fore as she weighs the emotional health and development of her child against the viability of her marriage.

“I tend to tell stories from a very personal perspective,” Daniel says. “I like big, messy novels with a lot of heart.”

Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer, editor and artist.
Arnold A. Saltzman ’36, Diplomat and Presidential Adviser

Arnold A. Saltzman ’36, a diplomat, businessman and presidential adviser, died in Sands Point, N.Y., on January 2, 2014. He was 97.

Saltzman, who worked until a week before his death, was involved in many aspects of business, public service and diplomacy. He worked on foreign and economic policy under five U.S. Presidents.

Emigrating from Russia, Saltzman’s family settled in New York City, where Saltzman was born on October 1, 1916. He attended Samuel J. Tilden H.S. At Columbia, Saltzman majored in economics and government. He was the president of his fraternity, Beta Sigma Rho, and a member of the tennis team and the Debate Council.

After graduating at 20, Saltzman left his family business, Premier Knitting Mills to work on economic policy for the Roosevelt administration during the Depression, serving on the Industrial Mobilization Commission and with the Office of Price Administration. He also served in the Coast Guard as an officer, 1943–45. In 1961, Saltzman became CEO of Seagrave Corp. (later Vista Resources), which made fire engines.

Saltzman continued to work on policy in the 1960s, first under the Kennedy administration as a troubleshooter and then as an adviser for numerous committees and agencies. He also participated in diplomatic envoy work in Eastern Europe under the Johnson administration, worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development and advised the Office of Economic Opportunity. Saltzman helped negotiate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty in Vienna in 1967–68, for which he received a Presidential Commendation.

In 1992, while chairman of the investment firm Windsor Production Corp., Saltzman was hired by the former Soviet Republic of Kyrgyzstan as its chief negotiator for contracts to develop the nation’s mineral resources. Acting as the middleman between Kyrgyzstan and western companies, Saltzman had the authority to sign contracts on Kyrgyzstan’s behalf. In a 1992 New York Times article, he said that despite his age, working in foreign policy and development was “better than taking a vacation.”

While negotiating policy and managing corporations, Saltzman remained an active member of the Columbia community, establishing a number of scholarships, including the Arnold A. Saltzman Scholarship Fund. Saltzman was awarded the Alumni Medal in 1964. In 1965, he helped to found the Double Discovery Program (now the Double Discovery Center). In 2003, the Institute of War & Peace Studies — founded by President Eisenhower during his tenure as Columbia’s president — was renamed the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War & Peace Studies. Saltzman endowed two professorships at SIPA: the Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies and the Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs. Saltzman chaired the Columbia College Board of Overseers, the University Trustees, the Columbia College Fund and the John Jay Associates.

Inspired by an undergraduate art history class, Saltzman had a lifelong passion for collecting art. He was a generous donor to galleries and museums; he assumed direction of and revitalized the Nassau County Museum of Fine Arts and was a trustee of the Baltimore Museum of Art. Saltzman is survived by his wife, Joan, whom he married in 1942; sons, Robert ‘67 and Eric ’69; daughter, Marian; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Karl Daum ’15
Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Deaths are noted in the next available issue in the "Other Deaths Reported" box. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Click "Contact us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 6th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

Leonard Ornstein '48

Leonard Ornstein, cell biologist and professor emeritus, White Plains, N.Y., on May 7, 2013. Born in 1926, Ornstein served in the Navy as a hospital corpsman during WWII. He earned an M.A. (1949) and Ph.D. (1957), both in biological sciences, from GSAS. He taught and conducted research in Columbia's biology department 1949–64. Ornstein joined Mt. Sinai Hospital in 1954, where he was director of its Cell Research Laboratory, and was a professor of pathology in its School of Medicine 1966–92. That year, he retired and became a professor emeritus.

Herbert F. "Smokey" Stover, retired pilot, Leon M.D. H. May 26, 2013. Stover was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on January 8, 1925, and graduated from Brooklyn Tech. He enlisted in the Navy and trained as an aviation electrician's mate. After graduating from Columbia he was hired by Eastern Air Lines and served in various capacities for 37 years, finishing his career as No. 1 senior captain while based in Boston. In 1975, Stover met and married Joni (Ballard) Dow; they were married 38 years. After mandatory retirement from Eastern Air Lines at 60, Stover filled his time with building projects, a run for the city council, a brief stint in real estate and several terms on the YMCA Board of Directors. Twenty-five winters were spent at the couple’s retirement home in Fort Myers, Fla., and golf remained a favorite pastime. Stover is survived by his wife; children, Lorinda Steadman and her husband, John, and Herbert F. "Ricko" III; stepchildren, Brenda Daniels and her husband, Dennis, John H. Dow, Linda Hayes and her husband, Todd, and Mary K. Dow and her companion, Leigh Studley; and five grandchildren and stepgrandchildren. Stover was predeceased by a brother, Arthur; and a son, Scott.

Harry W. Pauley, professor emeritus, Newburg, Pa., on February 3, 2013. Pauley was born on April 6, 1921, in Spring Hill, Pa. He enlisted in the Navy in WWII and rose to the rank of chief radioman. He entered the College on the GI Bill ("the best thing the government ever did, which should be expanded to include everyone who can get into college"). Pauley revered the Core, and was grateful to study with professors including Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS and Joseph Wood Krutch '24 GSAS, and classmates who encouraged him to think. Pauley earned an M.A. in English from GSAS in 1952 and taught at the New Hampton School, the University of Minnesota Duluth and Stephens College. He earned a Ph.D. from Missouri in 1965, then taught English at Shippensburg State College (later University), specializing in Shakespeare. He wrote Shakespeare: The Main Story and a play, The Rocking Chair. Pauley is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Ingrid LaBarbiera '81 Barnard, and her husband, Leonard LaBarbiera '82 Business; and five grandchildren. Pauley was preceded in death by five siblings and one granddaughter.

Chester M. "Cheet" Edelman Jr., professor of pediatrics, Bronxville, N.Y., on September 19, 2013. Edelman completed his residency in pediatrics as chief resident at BMH. During his 57-year tenure at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Edelman held many prestigious positions, including senior associate dean and Distinguished University Professor of Pediatrics. He authored 43 scientific abstracts and was a member of 25 national and international medical societies. Edelman was a lover of languages and its usage; a concert level pianist; and a faithful patron of opera, the theater and the Philharmonic. He also created fine furniture and was a loyal Mets fan. Edelman is survived by his wife of 60 years, Norma; children, John, Christopher and Kathy; sister, Maida Heitner; and a stepchild and granddaughter. Memorial contributions may be made to Concordia College, Greenwich Hospital Inpatient Oncology Unit or the Sierra Club.

David A. Braun, attorney, Montecito, Calif., on January 28, 2013. Braun was born on April 23, 1931, in New York City. He earned a degree from the Law School in 1954 and began his career in New York in the television industry before recognizing an opportunity in the late 1950s to represent singers and songwriters in the emerging world of rock ‘n’ roll. Braun was president and CEO of PolyGram Records in the United States in the early 1980s before returning to representing artists. Known as a tough negotiator, he led a move in the industry to demand higher royalty rates for artists. Braun worked with, among others, Bob Dylan; Peter, Paul and Mary; and Gordon Lightfoot. He also taught at UCLA and USC, and helped found the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Braun served on the College’s Board of Visitors, was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1981 and was an Alumni Medalist in 1988. He practiced in New York until 1974 and thereafter in California. Braun is survived by his wife of 57 years, Merna; sons, Lloyd, Kenneth and Evan; daughters-in-law, Lauren, Joana and Shauna; and eight grandchildren.

Seymour J. Mandelbaum, professor, Philadelphia, on January 23, 2013. Mandelbaum was born in Chicago and raised in New York before settling with his family in Philadelphia in the mid-1960s. He earned his graduate degrees from Princeton, and his Ph.D. thesis on New York City in the 1870s led to his book Boss Tweed’s New York. Mandelbaum’s interest was in the development of human communities, the moral order as it emerged and the flow of individuals and information through them. He was the volume editor of Explorations in Planning Theory and served on several editorial boards. Mandelbaum taught briefly at the Carnegie Institute of Technology and Penn’s Annenberg School for Communication before joining Penn’s School of Design as a professor in 1967. He taught planning theory, communication policy and planning, international comparative planning, community design and urban history; he became professor emeritus in 2004. Mandelbaum enjoyed vacationing with his family on Long Beach Island, N.J. Surviving him are his wife, the former Dorothy Rosenholtz; sons, David and Judah; daughter, Betsy; a sister; and six grandchildren. A brother predeceased him. Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Center, University of Pennsylvania, 330 S. Ninth St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, or to the National Parkinson Foundation, 1501 N.W. Ninth Ave., Miami, FL 33136.

Sheldon S. Handler, scientist, physician, musician, San Diego, on November 12, 2012. Handler was born May 12, 1936, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from GSAS in 1969, then conducted post-doctoral studies at UCSD and the Salk Institute, where he made seminal discoveries in the structure of the nucleosome and contributed to the development of the first antiviral drugs. After helping found the Medical School at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Tijuana, and chairing its first Department of Biochemistry, Handler...
Richard D. Heffner ’46, ’47 GSAS, Host of Public Television’s Open Mind

Richard D. Heffner ’46, ’47 GSAS, host of public television’s current-affairs program Richard Heffner’s Open Mind, a communications professor and the former chair of the Classification and Ratings Administration, died on December 17, 2013. He was 88 and lived in New York City.

Heffner was born in New York City on August 5, 1925. He graduated from Dewitt Clinton H.S. in the Bronx and majored in history at the College. Heffner was one of the earliest on-air voices for the Columbia University Radio Club, where he delivered weekly current events reports. He earned an M.A. in history under Richard Hofstadter ’42 GSAS. In 1952, Heffner published his book As They Saw It: A Documentary History of the United States, a collection of primary documents of American history.

After graduation, Heffner taught briefly at Sarah Lawrence but left to pursue broadcasting. In 1953, he visited radio stations throughout New York City to pitch an interview with Eleanor Roosevelt on the eighth anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s death. Accepted by WMCA, Heffner’s interview marked the beginning of his broadcasting career with the weekly half-hour show History in the News. A year later, Heffner moved on to Man of the Year, a public affairs show, and in 1956 he launched Open Mind, which he produced and hosted from its inception until his death, with unaired episodes to air posthumously.

Heffner joined the editorial board at CBS in 1959. In 1961, he helped negotiate the acquisition of Channel 13, a failing commercial station in Newark, N.J. The station became New York’s first public television station and today’s WNET, with Heffner its founding general manager. He left in 1963 over a disagreement over the channel’s direction.

Heffner was the University Professor of Communications and Public Policy at Rutgers from 1964 until his death. He also founded the consulting firm Richard Heffner Associates, which served such clients as American Airlines and Time, Inc.

In 1974, Heffner became the sixth chair of the Classification and Ratings Administration of the Motion Picture Association of America, serving until 1994. Under his leadership, CARA added two new ratings: PG-13 in 1984 and NC-17 in 1990.

Heffner published his book As They Saw It: A Half-Century of Conversations from The Open Mind, in 2004. The book brings together decades of historic and exclusive interviews conducted by Heffner, who was described in his New York Times obituary by John Corry as a man who “would sooner dive under the tablecloth than needlessly interrupt. When he does interrupt, it’s because he has something to say.”

Heffner is survived by his wife, Elaine ’51 SW, ’86 TC; sons, Daniel and Andrew; and four grandchildren.

Karl Daum ’15
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 George W. Sferra, dentist, Gulfport, Fla., on November 6, 2013.
1945 Norman J. Selvinowitz, physician, New York City, on November 5, 2013.
1948 Harvey C. Gardner, editor and author, N.Y., on December 11, 2013.
1949 Albert E. Koska, retired insurance underwriter, Jersey City, N.J., on December 12, 2013.
1950 Joseph A.M. Mehan, communications executive, Fort Myers, Fla., on December 18, 2013.
1951 George E. Chase, real estate broker, Atlanta, on September 16, 2013.
1952 Thomas E. Federowicz, retired physician, Binghamton, N.Y., on November 27, 2013.
1958 Martin E. Stein, physician, Bronxville, N.Y., on November 11, 2013.
1959 Charles A. Swenson, retired software developer and editor, Alpharetta, Ga., on September 21, 2013.
1959 Evon Juro, marketing and advertising executive, Matamoras, Pa., on November 13, 2013.
1960 Earl B. Hathaway II, corporate banker, Falmouth, Maine, on October 18, 2013.
1961 Victor Hao Li, executive consultant and professor, Oakland, Calif., on September 18, 2013.
1972 William A. Pencak, professor and editor, Coburn, Pa., on December 9, 2013.
1987 Karin M. Higa, art curator, Los Angeles, on October 29, 2013.

1981
Alan J. Saffran, otolaryngologist, Winter Park, Fla., on September 27, 2013. Saffran was born in New York City on July 30, 1960. He graduated from Bronx Science, the College and P&S (1986). At the College, Saffran was a founding member of the Roach Motel League, considered the oldest continuously operating fantasy baseball league. As an alum, Saffran was an active member of the Alumni Representative Committee. Saffran did his residency at Virginia and in 1990 relocated to the Orlando area and began his practice. He was ENT chief at both Orlando Regional Medical Center and Florida Hospital. Saffran also was devoted to humanitarian causes, taking trips to Mexico to treat needy children with cleft palates. Back home, Saffran was an active volunteer at Park Maitland School, which his children attended, serving as a science-fair judge and speaking to parents and students about nutrition and health. His wife of 19 years, the former Pamela Thompson, survives him, as do his daughters, Brooke and Patrick. Memorial contributions may be made to an organization to combat cancer established by Saffran’s daughter, Ella, Cross Out Cancer, 471 Virginia Dr., Winter Park FL 32789.

Jonathan Taffler, business executive, Wilton, Conn., on September 13, 2013. Taffler was born on October 27, 1959, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He was the founder and president of Programmed Solutions and was recently president and co-founder of Spitfire Product Management System. He also developed software. Taffler was a pilot, a flight instructor and an avid sportsman, and he loved to travel. Taffler is survived by his daughters, Brooke and Lindsay; parents, Sydney and Elaine; sisters, Robyn, and her husband, Dick Dougherty; nephew, Casey Dougherty; and former wife and mother to his children, Randi Shamitz.

1982
Meredith A. Norton, author, Oakland, Calif., on August 2, 2013. Norton was born on January 18, 1970, in New York City. She earned a degree in fine arts and film studies from the College and spent part of her college junior year in Milan studying fine arts. Norton worked variously as a hymnal editor with the Anglican Church Center in New York, Hollywood assistant talent agent, Sorbonne zoology student, junior high school American history teacher, CEO of Norton Whitaker, graduate engineering student (in preparation to be an astronaut) and a radio sports editor in Paris before finding her métier as an author and editor after marrying, having a son and developing breast cancer. Her book, Lopsided: How Having Breast Cancer Can Be Really Distracting, published in 2008, was hailed as a wickedly funny, unique addition to the genre of breast cancer memoirs for its insightful observations and skewering of cultural attitudes and medical behavior. Norton is survived by her husband, Thibault J. Jousse, son, Lucas; sister, Angelica brother, Douglas, and his wife, Ashante; parents, John and Eloise grandmother, G. Alexandria Edwards; uncle, Edward; a niece; and three nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

2003
Shannon K. Smith, grant management specialist, Jamaica Plain, Mass., on June 5, 2013. Smith was raised in South Weymouth, Mass., and recently lived in Jamaica Plain. She was a 2011 graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where she attended a master’s program in English and library science and was a teaching assistant. During the last two years of her life, Smith was employed in the oncology research department of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Prior to entering the University of Wisconsin, she taught English as a foreign language in Leszno, Poland, and Daegu, South Korea, and had worked at the Harvard School of Public Health in the grants research department. Smith loved music and had performed both in groups and as an experimental soloist. She was also an accomplished fiction writer. Smith is survived by her parents, Richard W. and Mary Jane Sullivan Smith; sister, Deanna, and brother, Patrick. Memorial contributions may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via dana-farber.org/gift.

Lisa Palladino
Class Notes

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Columbia College Today
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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, or you can send news online via CCT’s easy-to-use webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

No news this time but I encourage you to get in touch. Your classmates want to know how you are. You can write me at either address at the top of the column, or use CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. In the meantime, best wishes for a happy spring. May the warm weather come again soon!

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Robert Zucker
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On October 1, I had a note from Paul Hauck, who reported that he and his wife, Betty, sold their 200-year-old house in Maryland and are now full-time residents of Florida. Paul reports that at 93 he still drives to meetings of his local Columbia Alumni Club and his Antique Clock Collectors Club. A former member of the Gulf Coast Runners, he now “just walks in air-conditioned malls.” I last heard from Paul in May 2012, when he sent regrets from his home in Naples, Fla., about being unable to attend our 70th reunion luncheon.

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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.

At Columbia, Paul was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and in 1964 he earned an M.B.A. from The George Washington University. He later served as a consultant to the Navy and Department of Defense. As one of our most accomplished and loyal alumni, we salute Paul for his devotion to Columbia and send him good wishes for many walks in air-conditioned malls.

The New York Times editions of October 24 and 27 contained obituary notices for Philip Sherman Hobel, who died at 92 at home in New York City on October 23, 2013, after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s disease. After Columbia, Phil served in WWII as a Navy officer, a lieutenant and an admiral’s aide in the Destroyer Command-Atlantic Fleet (ComDesLant). After the war Phil established Cortland Furniture Co., a prominent manufacturer and wholesale distributor, where he worked until 1970, when he changed to a career in the film and television business. He became founder and owner of Cinema Guild, Hobel-Leiterman Productions and Document Associates, and produced and distributed many award-winning TV features and documentaries; these include Tender Mercies, which won Academy Awards in 1983 for best original screenplay (Horton Foote) and best performance by an actor (Robert Duval).

At Columbia, Phil earned numerous degrees and was a member of Debate Council and was an advertising manager for Spectator. He served on the Kings Crown Advisory Committee and was chairman of the junior prom. As a member of the Van Am Society and an active member of the ZBT fraternity, Phil’s many contributions to our undergraduate life were recognized by his election to membership in Nacorns.

His wife, Mary-Ann ’47 Barnard, told me that Phil frequently mentioned his happy memories of his Columbia years, especially his colloquium seminar with Professors Jacques Barzun ’27, ’32 CSAS and Lionel Trilling ’25, ’38 CSAS, and his many friendships with his ZBT fraternity brothers. Since 2003 he had served, along with Thorley Wood (who passed away in 2011), as one of our class vice presidents.

Phil is survived by his beloved wife; sons, Joseph ’75 and Michael; daughter, Sarah; and six grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Bernice. We send our condolences to Phil’s family, who suggest that contributions in Phil’s memory may be made to the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain at Columbia University.

Because of illness in the family, your correspondent was unable to attend the Homecoming game on October 19, which we lost to Penn, 21-7. CCT’s alert executive editor, Lisa Palladino, was there as usual and reported to me that our Class of 1942 was represented by Immanuel Lichtenstein. Manny, one of our most loyal and enthusiastic classmates, was an authority on metals and metallurgical technology in his business career and, though he lives in Princeton, N.J., has remained a loyal Lion. I last saw Manny at our 70th reunion luncheon in June 2012 in Hamilton Hall, where he made some interesting comments about the Core Curriculum in an exchange with Dean Kathryn Yiarakis.

As I write some of these notes on November 20, 2013, I see in my perpetual Columbia calendar that on November 20, 1982, 31 years ago, I was at the old Baker Field, watching the football team. When I arrived, it was torn down and replaced by Lawrence A. Wien Stadium. We lost that game to Brown, 35-21. With me were lifelong friends Gerald Green and Ray Robinson ’41.

Gerald, who died in August 2006, was a prolific, famous novelist and television producer. His novel The Last Angry Man was made into a film with Paul Muni. He also was one of the founders of Dave Garropy’s NBC morning news show, Today, with J. Fred Muggs, and his Helcoac television series brought him worldwide acclaim. Ray wrote a biography of Lou Gehrig ’25 (Iron Horse) and more than 25 other books, including biographies and portraits of famous sportsmen. Ray, 92, lives in New York City and is a loyal Columbia alumnus.

The co-captains of that 1982 football team were Jim Davin ’82 and Mike Scavine ’83. Jim became a sales executive with Procter & Gamble in Lancaster, N.Y., and Mike went to Ohio State’s medical school before becoming a cardiologist and in turn scored only 53 points on offense in the 10 games, the lowest total on offense since 1958. That 1958 team scored a meager 35 points during the entire season and was held scoreless in six games. Memories return of Columbia’s record 44-game losing streak, which began in 1984 and ended when we defeated Princeton, 16-13, on October 8, 1988, in the fourth game of that season. Among many students and alumni there is a rising tide of restless and discontent over the dismal failures of Columbia’s football program. These sentiments were recently expressed in an editorial and in a letter to the editor, published in Spectator, calling for the dismantlement of Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy and head football coach Pete Mangurian. The New York Times, which ordinarily does not pay much attention to Columbia athletics, had a feature story in the sports section on November 23, discussing the long-term failures of Columbia football and some of the reasons for it. How President Lee C. Bollinger will react to this situation remains to be seen, although he indicated his support for Murphy in a response to the Spec editorial.

In contrast to our football disappointment, we can celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our men’s cross country team, which was ranked among the top 10 in the nation under the expert coaching of Willy Wood. We also have a nationally ranked women’s cross country star in Waverly Neer ’15, and a national champion women’s archery team. We are still waiting for the men’s and women’s basketball teams to become Ivy League champions.

Though I write these notes in 2013, they will be published in the New Year. I send best wishes and kind regards to all members of our Class of 1942, and I encourage you to contact me with news of your families and yourselves.

Paul Hauck ’42 and his wife, Betty, are full-time residents of Florida, where Paul attends local Columbia Alumni Club meetings.

2013 football season was another major disappointment, with no wins and 10 consecutive losses. The team allowed 402 points scored by opponents (a record).
Bernard Weisberger writes, “What remembrances can we conjure up of the nine months past? It’s almost exactly that since the June 2 reunion lunch. No exotic or even familiar travels — nearest I can come is a trip from here in Chicago to Colorado to visit my daughter and son-in-law in a suburb of Denver. That at least gives me a chance to plug my favorite mode of travel, rail. There’s nothing like relaxing by a big picture window, feet partly elevated, libation in hand, watching prairies, mountains and river crossings roll by, to say nothing of the big cities and dwindling small towns through which you are passing. Even with many scars of erased natural splendor on its face, it’s still America the Beautiful. I wish that someday the price of a sleeper berth would shrink to affordable levels so that I could take even longer trips by Amtrak. At the moment, the most I can handle is one night of economy-class dozing in a chair.

“Like most nonagenarians, which is what all of us who entered Columbia in the fall of ’34 are, the usual topics of conversation are health and grandchildren — and now great-grandchildren! Both generations in my family are in good shape. As one who voluntarily and luckily wants to and can keep working, I have no plans for any more books (though the door remains open) but have published a few political musings from time to time on the indispensable website of my admired friend, Bill Moyers. OK, another plug and a worthy one.”

“Before I ramble further and descend into hawkings of the merits of certain over-the-counter laxatives I’ll sign off. Come on, ’43-ers; don’t leave the two or three of us here as the lone contributors to the annals of our class.”

Leo Stern shares, “We do more reminiscing than we used to! I have always wondered how some professors managed to remember the names of the students they taught. In ’41 and ’42, I was accelerating saying, ‘Hello, Stern!’ Then there was the time when my cousin, Dick Stern, who was visiting from MIT, asked to come to my large chemistry class. Somewhat improperly, I brought him along. There was no assigned seating in the auditorium, but Professor Carpenter looked at Dick of all those seated and queried pleasantly, ‘Who are you?’

From my own diary, Casa D’Angio/Evans has been busy. Our guests for some days were the son of a New Zealand friend, and the young man’s lady friend. They were good company, full of the exuberance of youth. Another guest was the daughter of our incompa-"
Chester J. Semel ’48 P&S reports, “[Columbia] was an exciting time for me. I remember some of my classmates. I see Arnold Zentner ’46 from time to time. I remember luncheons with Howard Schmerz, the cafeteria, the serving lady extolling ‘the good soup today,' professional options, the first year of medical school at P&S, the smell of spring when they fertilized the lawn at Hamilton Hall, the history of the duel and the war.”

Mario E. DeOrchis writes, “I am 90, in good health, living in Delray Beach, Fla., and enjoying my retirement after practicing maritime law for 60 years in New York. After graduating from [high school] in 1941, I received a scholarship and a job at Columbia University: I volunteered in WWII and spent 30 months in Africa and Europe. Fortunately, I came back in one piece.”

Jack Greenberg ’48L reports, “I entered the College in 1941 and by mid-1943 had completed enough coursework to have attained what ordinarily could have been called junior status. I was in the V-12 Navy College Training Program and so I was shipped to Cornell to complete my undergraduate education. At Cornell I took an academic program of my choice for two semesters except that I think I had to take courses in naval architecture and celestial navigation. After those two semesters I went to midshipmen’s school for something like a semester, then became a naval officer aboard an LST (landing ship tank) and went to sea for more than a year. After a few months of that, during which I participated in three invasions where few months of that, during which I participated in three invasions where war years and much later, after we retired.

Perhaps I have said enough to start a conversation. Let me say that I do appreciate the difficult task you have in keeping us old folks sending news to you.”

Barnett Zumoff ’46, in addition to a long career in medicine, has had a parallel career for 30 years as a translator of Yiddish literature.

“I had a phone call from Eugene Rogers ’45E, one of the greats in Columbia’s athletics history. A swimmer for the Lions, Gene won 53 intercollegiate events, losing only once when he and the declared winner were clocked in identical times. After he served in the Navy and when he was 24, he swam for the United States in the 1948 London Olympics. Gene recalled that he was narrowly beaten for a gold medal.

Barnett Zumoff, in addition to a long career in medicine — teaching, research and practicing (still) — has had a parallel career for the past 30 years as a translator of Yiddish literature. He is probably the most prolific living translator of Yiddish, with 23 volumes in print; his most recent are In Pursuit of the Moment by Izchak Luden and Red Shoes for Rachel: Two Novellas and a Story by Boris Sandler. Barnes writes, “It started when I was reading a deeply published book of English translations of Yiddish poems and I remarked to a friend that I thought I could do better. I was immediately challenged to make good on my boast and I was off and running.”

During the past two years Barney has begun writing original poetry in English. He says, “Where the poems come from I cannot say. I have rephrased that answer in the subtitle of my present volume, Gifts from the Muse — a poet’s answer to an unanswerable question.”

John McConnell reported two sightings from Post Falls, Idaho: “A Christmas tree of extra length, reportedly 88 ft., was being transported east for public display that reportedly east for public display that required double 40-ft. trailers. And a 250-lb. cougar killed in a back-yard in neighboring town.”

Ira Millstein ’47E and his wife, Susan, lunched with Harold Brown in Santa Fe, where Harold resides. It was a great visit, said Ira.

The winter holiday season brought Don Summa to New York City for family visits and afforded a chance for this writer and he to have lunch. Don’s talk about his experience flying gliders was fascinating. He has done so until recently.

This column ends with the sad news of the passing of two esteemed classmates.

Joseph Foa of Montgomery, Texas, passed away on January 13, 2013. His company, AJ Foa Associates, was engaged in insurance and real estate.

Richard D. Heffner died on December 17, 2013. His was a career in academia, television and Hollywood’s film industry. For more than 50 years as creator and host of Richard Heffner’s Open Mind on public television, Dick engaged in intense yet civilized discourse with world-renowned persons on a wide range of subjects. In honor of the 65th anniversary celebration of our class in June 2011, he taped a conversation with then-College Dean Michele Moody-Adams. It was presented at our reunion, with Dick and the dean leading a spirited discussion.

Dick and I exchanged emails on December 16 about our next class luncheon; given that the last was in October, as reported earlier in this column, I asked if it would be too soon to hold another in the spring. In support he wrote almost prophetically, “… natural attrition will no doubt have taken its further toll among us Ancients.” He died the next day.

His program sign-off, which he attributed to a mentor, Edward R. Murrow, was always, “Good night and good luck.”

[Editor’s note: See Obituaries in this issue as well as a profile of Heffner in the Fall 2012 issue.]

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 133th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
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Dr. Nicholas Giosa let us know all is well: “I keep busy writing poetry, doing photography, cutting grass and looking after the household.”

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Columbia College Today

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Dr. Peter A. Arturi shared his story: “My folks were both immigrants and I was lucky to have been born here. Also lucky to have gone to Columbia, with a small interception by WWII.

“Unfortunately I commuted to Columbia from lower Westchester County (Port Chester) and I would have enjoyed my college years more if I had lived on campus.

“However, I participated at Columbia on the basketball J.V. team under Lou Rossini ’47 TC and I was invited to go out for the basketball team by John Balquist ’32, the coach after Andy. I played forward and was fortunate to go to NYU med with my GI Bill and war service scholarship.

“I decided to continue my medical experience at a hospital in Greenwich, Conn., and I was a general practitioner (primary physician) in Greenwich for 35½ years. I eventually achieved board certification in family medicine and after 17 years joined five other physicians to start the Emergency Department at Greenwich Hospital.

“My wife, Marilynn, and I have been married for 60 years (she is an R.N.). We have six children, 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and are enjoying ourselves in Greenwich, a wonderful place said to be affluent but better yet a place for great diversity.”

Dr. Murray Stober and Albert Burstein ’47 wrote regarding the passing of Walter Budko ’47E: “[We] must sadly report to you the death of our basketball teammate Walter Budko, on May 25, 2013. Walter was the ‘gentle giant’ who led the Columbia team to the Eastern Intercollegiate League title (as it was then known) in the 1946–47 and 1947–48 seasons. After graduation Walter turned professional and was chosen by the Baltimore Bullets (now the Washington Wizards) and was a co-winner of Rookie of the Year in the NBA in the 1948–49 season. Subsequently, while still engaged as a player, when a coaching vacancy occurred in mid-season Walter was designated by ownership to take on that role as well. In recognition of his illustrious career, Walter was one of the early inductees into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

“But Walter was not solely a world-class athlete. After his basketball career ended he became an insurance company executive, which endured until retirement. He exhibited a natural ability to be a leader whatever the undertaking, whether in the sports world or insurance industry.

“Walter was born and raised in metropolitan New York but remained in Baltimore after his playing career. He had a genial personality that attracted people to him. It was a shock to those who remained in contact with Walter, his passing, after 66 years of friendship, leaves a significant void.”

Dr. Alvin Eden ’48, who lives in New York City, practices pediatrics and is writing another book about childhood obesity. He also plays doubles tennis.

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REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1

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I’m writing this column in the wake of the second storm of January, on my birthday, in fact. I must report that the world is not all bad, either.

In our two-family house in Brooklyn we are blessed with tenants, two young women in their early 20s, who this morning gave me the birthday present of shoveling the snow from our sidewalk and both front stoops. That started the day right!

Our class president, Fred Berman, has been in touch and the reunion planning meetings continue. Please, all of you who can, set aside the dates June 1 and 2 and join us for the Alumni Reunion Weekend and make it a priority to attend: Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. All of us who have attended reunions can attest to the genuine pleasure and satisfaction that is deeply felt when we return to campus. Our class lunch is Saturday and there will be other lectures and events to attend. Go to reunion.columbia.college.columbia.edu to register and for more information.

A personal note: If I may: As I have mentioned in previous Class Notes columns, I have been working with a nonprofit, PortSide New York (portsidenewyork.org), for the past seven years. It has been a struggle to get a nonprofit off the ground and during these past several years of economic difficulties. Nevertheless, we managed to produce some meaningful programming and were the recipients of the White House “Champions of Change” award last year. As an organization, we have reached out for assistance in our efforts to grow, and our director has been in touch with a group that’s dedicated to helping causes like ours. She called me one evening recently to say that she had been contacted by a gentleman who offered his assistance, and who asked if PortSide was the group that John Weaver is connected with. The gentleman is Joe Levie.

It is a source of great pride for me that a classmate has found us and offered his assistance. With the other two principal members of PortSide’s board being Yale alumni, it is heartening to have Columbia more significantly represented at the galaxy table.

I have heard for the first time from Richard H. Miller, who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz. He proudly asserts he is not retired, just unemployed. However, I question that assertion inasmuch as he says he spends a considerable amount of time playing golf and tennis. It is always gratifying to hear from an unfamiliar classmate. For anyone who has been reluctant to write, please let us hear from you. And please, again, try to make reunion a priority. You can boat me up if I am wrong, but you will never know how good it feels to reconnect with your classmates after 65 years if you don’t show up.

See you then.

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On November 23, Juliet Macur '92 Barnard, '97, a sports writer for The New York Times, wrote an article titled "Columbia Football’s Doubled Futility." Juliet, a former member of the women’s rowing team, knows her stuff. She had her share of early morning trips to the muddy waters of the Harlem River for workouts before rushing back to campus for a day’s classes. Her comments about the football program were more sympathetic than accusatory regarding who was responsible for a year when the Lions were outscored by 354-66.

Juliet concluded: “Nicl: Melka [’14], a political science major and defensive lineman on this year’s football team, can explain the dilemma. Melka’s teams have lost 31 of 39 games, but they continue to be obsessed with winning. Turning in his powder blue uniform has not once crossed his mind. ‘I wouldn’t quit for any of my teams because we’re all struggling together; none of us are quitters.’”

Thinking about all of this, I can’t help recalling our 60th class reunion in June 2011, when some of us had an opportunity to talk intimately with a former guard of the Harlem River for workouts — the women’s rowing team, knows us who followed the conversation for the past 34 years. The Columbian of our yearbook, Alexei Kosygin, Sammy Davis Jr., John DeLorean, and Paul McCartney. We are in the football photo section of our yearbook, The Columbia of 1951?

Eric Javits ‘55L writes, “I have recently finished Twists and Turns: Episodes in the Life of Ambassador Eric M. Javits. . . . I devote many pages to my six years at the College and Law School, which alumni, classmates and friends will enjoy. I describe negotiating with Panama’s strong man General Omar Torrijos, of saving Ling Teemo Vought from being sold to a myriad of events and people including, among many others, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, Alexei Kosygin, Sammy Davis Jr., John DeLorean and Dame Margot Fonteyn, and of my highly successful eight years in the field of international arms control.”

“I have now retired from law and diplomacy and have embarked on my third career — venture capital investing in the fields of health and energy. My wife and I live in Palm Beach, Fla., where some College and Law School classmates also reside.”

John Benfield writes, “The Benfields, now including seven grandchildren, have been enjoying each Thanksgiving in Hawaii for the past 34 years. In 2011 (my 80th birthday), I seized the opportunity to go to Vienna to swim in the 13th European Maccabi Games. My family and I had been fortunate to escape from that city weeks after Hitler’s Anschluss, and therefore I wanted the current residual fascists in Austria to know that we had been fortunate enough to survive and that the United States had provided me with wonderful opportunities to succeed.”

“More recently, this past summer, my partner, Mary Ann, and I had a spectacular time in Uzes, France (Provence) and Belgium.”

43 years of thoracic surgery was terrific, but enough — and I teach at UCLA. Having needed to seek refuge from tyranny, I am also doing as much as I can to educate younger generations about the adaptability that leads to survival, and how resilience can lead to success. Most recently, I taught a class as part of Loyola Marymount’s course, The Literature of Exile and Terror.”

Bob Abelman, who notes that he has been class president for more than 40 years, writes of happenings in his life since the last reunion: “My wife, Judith, and I spent summer 2012 in the Svalbard, north of the Arctic Circle, watching polar bears, and summer 2013 playing golf near Salzburg, Austria; Fassau, Bavaria, Germany; Vienna, Austria; and Budapest, Hungary; and cruising on the Danube River.

“The only dark cloud in our lives occurred when our granddaughter, Kayla Abelman, was not accepted for the Class of 2017. (Kayla would have been the fourth generation of our family to attend.) Since 2017 is the year of our 60th reunion and I will be in Charleston, S.C., attending Kayla’s graduation from the College of Charleston, I think it best for me to resign as class president.”

Howard Hansen sent the following note in response to the sad news of the death of Dr. Tom Federowicz ’56 P&S:

Edgar Coghlin ’51 of Richardson, Texas, became a 2nd Lt. in the Marine Corps and had a successful career in material handling equipment sales and distribution.
"After a successful medical care-
"er in the upstate New York ‘triple
city’ area, he retired in Vestal, N.Y.,
and built a magnificent getaway
lakeside log cabin home about an
hour’s drive away. He also owned
a large tract of land, of which a por-
tion was used to harvest a vegetable
garden where family members
enjoyed working together.

‘Tom will always be remembered
as a smiling, warm ‘gentle giant.’
His trademark traits were sincerity,
honesty, loyalty and giving. He
was a most impressive husband
and family man while raising nine
college-educated children and 21
grandchildren.

‘To our teammates and class-
mates, count your age by your
friends, not years, and count your
life by smiles, not tears!’

Lew Robins
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Anthony Robinson recently published
New Water, a collection of
12 short stories of small-town life
in the United States. As we read
his first tale, my wife, Saralee, and
I were seduced by his characters
and didn’t dare to stop reading
until we had finished all the tales.

The following excerpt is from the
beginning of one of the stories,
called “It Can Be Did”:

“When I landed a job in 1974 as
an assistant professor of English
at New Falls State, Kate and I sold
our house in Wichita and bought
a fixer-upper in New Falls, N.Y.
Clearly we needed help. I called
a local carpenter named Oliver
Moore and he came by the house
in an old panel truck a couple
of days later. I went out to the
driveway to meet him. Before he
got out, I saw him lift a small paper
tab to his mouth. What was I go-
ing to do, fire him on the spot? He
was a wiry black man, in jeans and
a rough shirt, a long-billed fishing
cap on his head. I was skeptical. To
see if I liked his work, I told him
that I wanted louveres installed in
the high peaks of the house. No
easy job as I saw it. Oliver looked
up at the gabled roof, studied the
job for a moment and said, ‘It can
be done.’

"We began seeing a lot of Oliver’s
truck in our driveway. He put
a new roof on the house, built a back
porch, finished our basement,
sanded floors, installed new cabinets
and counters in the kitchen, made
built-in bookshelves for the living
room and my study, and painted
the house inside and out. Kate and I
thought the world of Oliver.

"Sometimes after a day’s work
he and I would sit on the porch, have a
beer and talk fishing [and] gar-
dening. I considered him a friend.
My daughter, a senior at New
Falls High, thought I patronized
Oliver and told me in no uncertain
terms that I was a ‘closet snob,’
the college professor in his refurnished
Civil War house having a beer
with a black man who lived in an
unprisingly double wide on the other
side of town.”

The rest of Tony’s story and
his other yams are both intrigu-
ing and heartwarming. They can
be purchased as a paperback or
Kindle edition. He is the author
of seven other novels and for 34
years taught literature and creative
writing at SUNY New Paltz. Now
retired, he and his wife, Tatiana,
live in New Paltz, N.Y.

Art Elkind writes, “I have
reduced my activity at the Elkind
Headache Center but remain presi-
dent of the National Headache
Foundation, a not-for-profit.
In addition, I’m enjoying Core
Curriculum mini-courses for Columba
alumni in NYC and travel with my
wife, Arlene. I proudly announce
that my son, Dr. Mitchell Elkind ’98
of seven other novels and for 34
years taught literature and creative
writing at SUNY New Paltz. Now
retired, he and his wife, Tatiana,
live in New Paltz, N.Y.

Anthony Robinson ’53, who for 34 years taught
literature and creative writing, has published
New Water, a collection of 12 short stories.

Henry Villaume has retired
from his thermal seminar/design
business and now spends his time
writing political essays about the
free enterprise system from his
home in Intervale, N.H. Henry
describes his authorial self as a
‘grumpy old man’; he says he
came to Columbia with liberal
tendencies that were effectively
squashed as he rebelled against
his Republican father, and he is
now a “closed conservative.”

Well-informed classmates who
would like to consider thoughts
about the free enterprise system
from an experienced old man
would do well to read Henry’s in-
telligent essays. You can write him
at P.O. Box 97, Intervale, NH 03845.

Henry writes that his children
have suggested that his attempts
at retirement have been a failure.
They are doing well. His oldest
daughter has retired from a career
as a management accountant. His
oldest son trades fixed income
securities in the city but spends
weekends in New Hampshire.
His youngest son lives in New
Hampshire and a grandson is
a mechanical engineer with a large
controlvalvetax company.

Henry’s advice to Uncle Sam:
“You are broke! Stop spending!”
His offer to all classmates: “If you
get to southern Maine or northern
New Hampshire give us a call and
we can get together to eat a meal
and chat about old times.”
food, exciting events and terrific conversation. Details will be coming soon.

Outside of the U.S., Columbia's Alumni Travel Study Program has put together a package for this June called "Discovering Turkish Treasures from Istanbul to Ankara." It promises to be wonderful.

The monthly dinners among members of our fearsome class are still going on. Attendees have been Anthony Viscusi, Don Laufer (organizing the event), Bill Epstein (adjusting to "big city" life), Dick Kuhn, Roland Plottel (trying to get Richard Ravitch more involved in Columbia alumni work), Stan Zinberg and Aaron Hamburger. Others who have attended are Herb Cohen, Peter Pressman and Berish Strouch.

Allen Hyman took part in a charity bike event in Israel. He finished high in the rankings.

Ralph Wagner's son shared that his father recently celebrated an age that has been (or will be) a milestone for us all — the big 80.

Did you know that Gerry Pomper has a blog and has written a new book, *The New York Times on Critical Elections?* It is engrossing.

We ran into Ezra Levin (who played basketball for Rollie Rourke — that's a trivia name) at a Columbia basketball game. Ezra was wishing he was still on the court and reliving his long, two-handed free-throw. Richard Ascher and Bob Pearlman, two other devotees of round-ball, unfortunately were not in attendance.

Lew Mendelson took his once-a-year trip to the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan. He unfortunately missed Stanley Lubman's award from the Law School in early January. It was the Distinguished Columbian in Teaching Award, one of many awards Stanley has received.

Sad news to report: Cal Jenkins passed away recently in Salt Lake City. Condolences go to Cal's family and friends.

Fellow classmates:

Be of sound mind and spirit. Get ready for what will be the best 60th ever.

It's getting cooler. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Love to all! Everywhere!

Stephen K. Easton
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Our November class lunch was held on November 2 at the Yale Club and was hosted by Len Wolfe. The luncheon was attended by Daniel Link, Mark Novick, Ron Kapon, Al Broadwin and myself.

It seems the discussion among many of us these days focuses on the state of Columbia football. As alumni we would like to see a winning team, but are we prepared to do what is necessary to produce one? Len, our class historian and former *Jester* editor, made two tongue-in-cheek suggestions: 1) Have Robert K. Kraft '63 guarantee a place on his New England Patriots NFL team to one graduating senior (good luck, New England Patriots!) or 2) Introduce a handicapping system, similar to a golf handicap, for our Ivy League football team. This may level the playing field between us and other, better-endowed college football teams. Len also brought an article, salvaged from his recent move, about the average cost and SAT scores from our senior year at Columbia. It indicates that tuition was substantially lower (even affordable) and that the average SAT scores to get into Columbia were significantly higher (think thought), so we were probably a lot smarter than we thought we were.

Our December lunch was held at Alan Press' office, where he presented a talk and description of his trip to North Korea, which interested many in just our Columbia Class Notes. In attendance were Daniel Link, Mark Novick, Ron Kapon, Robert "Buzzy" Paaswell, Jesse Blumenthal and Al Broadwin, in addition to Alan and me. Alan's description of his trip and his observations of the North Korean people were interesting and informative. We were even treated to a video, which is on YouTube, titled "Awesome American Man Dances With North Koreans on May Day," where Alan would like to think a good representation of his current state of being. In any case, it shows that traveling can be both fun and informative. I invite all our class members to share some of their travel experiences by writing me at tkle8000@earthlink.net; then I can include them in a future column.

Len Wolfe has completed his move from Wilton, Conn., to New Haven. For classmates who would like to keep in touch with him, his new address is 360 State St., New Haven, CT 06015. Len also informed me that his book, *Easy Economics, A Visual Guide to What You Need to Know,* has been translated into Thai, its third foreign language translation. Len reports that he's enjoying the amenities of his new digs and he and his wife, Ruth, are partaking of the educational and cultural events available in New Haven, a college city, where he received his graduate degree.

Lou Hemmerding and his wife, Anita, celebrated in mid-December the birth of their ninth grandchild. According to Lou, this is the only event that would bring him back from Florida during the cold NYC winter, from which many of our class members also escape. Lou returned to Florida in late December and is organizing our spring Florida class get-together for our snowbirds, Florida residents and visitors, myself included.

My twin brother, Maurice Easton, reports that he enjoyed a week of skiing at Vail, Colo., in early December. Skiing six days in subzero weather with friends from Detroit is not my idea of fun at our age, but it is a testament to how exercise can keep us young.

Ron Kapon, our peripatetic oncophenile, had knee replacement surgery in December. Based upon his successful rehab, we are looking forward to his being more active in our summer lunch and tennis outings at Danny Link's club.

Once again, please contact me or Lou Hemmerdinger (lhemmer@aol.com) with any news that you would like to share in Class Notes. Also, if you have changed your email or mailing address, please inform the CCT staff: college.columbia.edu/contactus. This is especially important to keep all class members up to date on class news and activities.

As we start to count down to our 60th reunion, only two years away, I look forward to sharing news of our academic year-end events, among them Class Day and the Alumni Parade of Classes, Commencement and Dean's Day.

“Be of sound mind and spirit. Get ready for what will be the best 60th ever.”

69-year-old body could pass the test of time that has been (or will be) a milestone for us all — the big 80. Is President Bollinger brave enough to do it?

“Be of sound mind and spirit. Get ready for what will be the best 60th ever.”

\[Editors' note: See Obituaries.\]

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I am sorry to report the death of Martin "Fritz" Stein on November 11, 2013, as the result of a stroke. He is survived by six children: Fritz, Kimberly, Susan, David, Peter and Maggie, and 14 grandchildren. His wife Helene, a former mayor of Bronxville, N.Y., died earlier in 2013.

Fritz was a member of Sigma Chi and a catcher on the freshman baseball team. He earned his medical degree from Albany Medical Center, went on to specialize in the treatment of kidney disease and was director of the department of medicine at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers.

Beyond his successful career, there was another dimension to Fritz's life, which was revealed in a packet of newspaper clippings he sent me a few years ago. Just a week after he retired from St. Joseph's, he was deployed on a six-month tour to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, returning to the colonel's rank he had attained when he retired from the Army Reserves in 1997. Fritz had heard the military was short of physicians, especially at the main trauma center in Germany where he had served four times. So when he offered his services, he was told that if his 69-year-old body could pass the
physical, the Army could use him. At the time he shared the clippings, he reported that he welcomed the daily challenges he faced in treating wounded soldiers and their families. He observed that the mostly reserve doctors, nurses, chaplains and administrators who made up the hospital’s team were the most dedicated and motivated healthcare professionals he had worked with. The ability to airlift the wounded directly from the battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan to the hospital, together with medical advances, had led to favorable results. Fritz said he found it particularly satisfying that some of the most severely wounded soldiers made partial or complete recoveries that seemed almost miraculous from a medical standpoint. Fritz’s service was the subject of a profile in the Westchester edition of The New York Times.

The annual Homecoming party was festive as always and the guest list was bigger than ever; it was held at the home of Ernie Brod and his wife, Ruthie, in Manhattan. Attending were Barry Dickman and his wife, Carol; Joe Dorinson and his wife, Eileen; Charles Goldstein; Peter Gruenberger and his wife, Carin Lamm; Bernie Nussbaum and his wife, Nancy; Howard Ordin and his wife, Anita; Shelly Raab and his wife, Judy; Arthur Radin and his wife, Miriam Katowitz; Bob Waldbaum and his wife, Ruth; Mark Weiss and his wife, Joan; Arnie Abrams ’61 and his wife, Phyllis; Michael Berlin ’59 and his wife, Nancy; Peter Cohn and his wife, Joan; Ira Jolles ’59 and his wife, Joan; Ira Jolles ’59 and his wife, Carol; Joe Dorinson and his wife, Anita; Shelly Raab and his wife, Nancy; Howard Ordin and his wife, Anita; Shelly Raab and his wife, Judy; Arthur Radin and his wife, Miriam Katowitz; Bob Waldbaum and his wife, Ruth; Mark Weiss and his wife, Joan; Arnie Abrams ’61 and his wife, Phyllis; Michael Berlin ’59 and his wife, Nancy; Peter Cohn and his wife, Joan; Ira Jolles ’59 and his wife, Andrea; Linda Lynn, widow of Ted Lynn; Elizabeth Ostrow, daughter of the late Allan Gardner ’59; and her husband, Jeff Ostrow (Allan was a primary organizer of this get-together for many years until his death in 2013); Ruth Schwartz Cowan ’61 Barnard; and Pat Mullins ’59, who succeeded Ernie as sports editor of Spectator.

Last November saw the publication of Double Down, a book about the 2012 presidential election by John Heilemann and Mort Halperin’s son, Mark Halperin; it is the sequel to their bestseller, Game Change, about the 2008 campaign. Mort’s youngest son, Gary, is a yoga instructor; his second book, Feel Better: Essays on Yoga, Meditation, Mindful Living, and Love, was published last year.

Elliott Gross sent a brief summary of his medical career. Since graduating from Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, he has been a practicing neurologist in Westchester County. He is the founding president of the New York State Neurological Society and a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology.

Last year German authorities confiscated a huge art collection held by an eccentric collector named Cornelius Gurlitt, which theNazis had looted by the Nazis. Gurlitt claimed he inherited the works from his father, an art dealer, but the government says the works were either looted or bought by his father at rock bottom prices from fleeing Jewish owners. In covering the story, The New York Times turned to Charles Goldstein for expert advice. Charles, who is counsel for the Commission for Art Recovery, which was founded by Ronald Lauder, said he understood the Germans’ difficulty in proceeding, saying, “They’ve got a hot potato. The stuff belongs to Gurlitt, and they have no proof that it’s not; they have to make a determination that it was stolen or taken from the museums.” In addition, he said restitution to the families of the Jewish owners was problematic because of the difficulty of proving ownership as well as the statute of limitations.

The alumni 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. The cost is $31 per person. Email Art Radin if you plan to attend, up to the day before: aradin@radingglass.com.
"As an avocation, I have been an academic migrant worker in higher education at Bay Area universities for nearly 45 years, serving as an adjunct faculty member on a part-time basis without tenure. It was interesting, therefore, some months ago to hear that Steve Trachtenberg's defense on the PBS NewsHour of the right of aging tenured faculty to maintain employment while newly minted Ph.D.s without academic job prospects pile up unemployed at the end of the production line. It brings to mind the economic divide in academia, which mirrors that in our larger society. The current debate about tenure is one sign of the turmoil in higher education that will likely be intensified with the advent of online courses. Meanwhile, our adjunct faculty members muddle along doing our thing, many of us mainly because we enjoy it, asking for the dust to settle.

"On a different front, personal efforts to maintain some level of physical health in running in PE and weight-lifting classes at the local junior college. There, the college's former football coach screams at us continuously to "put more effort into it," reminiscent of Joe Stanzig, PE instructor at Columbia in the 50s, to whose similar, well-intended verbal blasts I now realize I should have listened. After two years of classes and ongoing exertions, the strain has become tolerable, the sag and belt size are somewhat reduced, and the hearing is still OK. At the same time, with a nod to the inevitable, my wife and I are getting our (financial) affairs and so on in order while we still retain a modicum of rationality. It turns out not to be so easy to face the task of completing health care directives and end-of-life instructions. But, once done, it is a relief."

David was writing from Cabrera;

"Cabrera is famous for its paleolithic cave, Peche Merle, which is full of beautiful paintings. The cave was discovered by the old man who lived next door when he was a boy. Another cave has been discovered nearby and archaeologists believe some of the paintings are by the same hand that painted in Peche Merle. Sadly, it's not yet open for viewing."

"We spend a quiet time here. My wife, Helen, paints and I read and write. After 3½ months in the western and northern isles of Scotland, the food is exquisite. This is fois gras and crepes country, with several Michelin star restaurants in the surroundings."

"By now, David should be home, having made a subsequent stop in Venice."
Richard Friedlander had a celebratory dinner with several of us: David Kirk, Art Delmhorst and David Goldman, who favored us with his photo album of class reunions.

**Bob Beme ’62** Business celebrated at Walt Disney World along with a party of eight that included children and grandchildren.

Those who attended our monthly class lunch were asked to describe our most memorable personal event of 2013, apart from the 75th milestone. Bob offered two: Walt Disney World with family present, and an educational, thought-provoking trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum to commune with family past. At the museum, Bob examined a roster of residents in the district that included the names of his grandparents and their employees, immigrant residents in buildings that no longer stand. Bob related how his grandfather arrived twice in New York circa 1901-02: At first he was turned around and sent back to Europe because he did not have a job waiting, but he was persistent and, successful upon his second voyage, he set about to begin a new life.

**Bob Meyers ’62** is enjoying retirement and taking continuing education classes in landscape architecture and horticulture at his local community college.

In the family narrative it was the grandfather who imparted a lesson in economics. Having just enough money for a first installment payment, he acquired a cheap watch when he retired. He put a down payment on a watch or who inherited the expensive watch and he hocked for its full value. His grandfather imparted a lesson in economics. Having just enough money for a first installment payment, he acquired a cheap watch, and then promptly took it to the pawn shop where he hocked it for its full value for a second day.

David Kirk informed me that Wayne had been roommates with Orlin Tandhali and Paul Nagano, whom I sought out to email to inform them of Wayne’s passing. Both promptly responded with memories of Wayne: Paul from his home on the East Coast in Boston, Orlin from his home on the West Coast in Washington, and each unknowingly to the other remarked on Wayne’s regional dialect.

As Bob Beme ’62 related, after both went into the Navy but remember their undergraduate days fondly. He writes, “While at the College, Wayne worked at the Men’s Faculty Club (now Faculty House) as a bartender. He helped me get a job there, also as a bartender. We served the Castros, the Lodges and others at various Columbia functions. I got to serve Harry Truman with Grayson Kirk, who was University president from 1953-68, and a professor of history, in a private room. Wayne also worked the football concessions. He was at all times a perfect gentleman. I never heard him use profanity or utter a bad word about anyone.”

Orlin offers that while he and others were footloose and fancy-free, always looking for girls, “Wayne was very much in love with a girl named Sue, whom I assume he married. He was always loyal to Sue.”

As for that dialect that left a lasting impression, Orlin remembers this exchange: “When we were roommates, Wayne said that something was too ‘shot.’ I said it looked fine to me. Wayne repeated that it was too ‘shot.’ After several go-rounds of similar comments from me, Wayne finally said that it was not long enough. That’s when I learned a little about New England accents.”

Paul recalls, “Wayne was the first New Englander I remember meeting at Columbia, and we used to joke about the pronunciation of his hometown, Haverhill, Mass. I must have said, ‘Have-er-hill,’ when he corrected me: ‘Hav-er-ill.’ There were a few exchanges about some of the names of streets and towns in Haverhill after that. I thought Haverhill was pretty exotic, then. But I’ve now lived in Boston for 46 years, and all of that has become familiar territory both geographically and in pronunciation.”

To Susan, Wayne’s wife of 53 years, their family and friends, we send our deepest condolences.

**Michael Hausig** 19418 Encino Summit San Antonio, TX 78259

Michael Hausig is a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New York, was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on August 9. His term expires in May 2020.

According to The New York Times, Jose’s appointment was announced as some lawmakers were working to change the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which gives chief justices unilateral power to assign federal judges to the 11-member Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and its three-member review panel, to provide greater ideological balance. The court hears arguments on surveillance matters from the Justice Department, with no opposing lawyers to offer contrary views or file appeals.

On the FISA review panel, Jose joins another Democratic appointee, Judge William C. Bryson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The full article, “Newest Spy Court Pick Is a Democrat but Not a Liberal,” was published in the Times on August 20.

Please send news! Write to me at either address at the top of the column or send your note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

**John Freidin** 654 E. Munger St. Middlebury, VT 05753

From San Francisco, Bob Meyers (rmmyersal@aolglobal.net) writes that he is enjoying retirement from his planning consulting practice but that “adjusting to not working is still very challenging” — not only to himself but also to his wife, who now has him “under foot” more. “To keep the brain engaged and fingers facile,” Bob continues, “I am taking continuing education classes in landscape architecture and horticulture at the local community college. I get a kick out of being a senior citizen with the much younger students there. The professors like having me in class so they can call on someone with real-life experience. We enjoy living in the Bay Area, with its Mediterranean climate, and we enjoy year-round biking, hiking, swimming, and surfing. The older I get, the more I appreciate our Core Curriculum. It really did teach us how to think, how to put ideas together and how to express them.”

Russ Abbott (russ.abbott@gmail.com) teaches computer science at Cal State-Los Angeles. He is particularly enthusiastic about a paper he recently finished, saying, “It applies computer science concepts to problems in philosophy. As it was recently submitted for publication, I can’t point to a journal reference, but a draft is available at philpapers.org/rec/ABBAAl. I’m also in the middle of organizing a 60th birthday party for Deborah Shuger, my wonderful wife.”

Russ loves bicycling but confesses never to have taken a multi-day tour, which I asked him about. “Sounds like a great thing to do,” he says. When Deborah and I were in Tokyo 1½ years ago, I joined a one-day bicycle tour of the city and liked it so much I kept the bicycle for a second day. In Tokyo people ride on the sidewalks, which are wide enough most places to ride, even in downtown. It would be terrible to ride in the streets.”

At the end of 2012 Alex Firestone (alex.stone@ucsd.edu) retired fully from his last job, as program officer for high energy physics at the National Science Foundation. For some years, in his words, “I had been giving out (or at least, recommending to give out) U.S. taxpayer dollars to universities and laboratories to support research in elementary particle physics. Previously, as a professor of physics, I had been taking such dollars for EPP research, so that was a nice reversal. I had given up teaching and research some years earlier, becoming a professor emeritus and resigning all my lab appointments, including the CERN lab in Geneva, Switzerland. It’s the largest high-energy physics lab in the world. Recently the long-sought Higgs particle was found somewhere and resulted in a Nobel Prize: “Thus, for the first time since I was 14, I am completely without a job, and I love it! I’m enjoying life in New York City — what better place is there? — and writing a
graduate-level textbook on quantum mechanics. It keeps me off the streets at night.”

Bart Blanchard (jblanch61@gmail.com) retired in 2009 and moved with his wife to Denver, because, he says, “All nine of our grandkids live west of the Mississippi. Our main hobby is our grandchildren and their activities. I spent a few years with the Denver Curling Club, and I now am active with the Denver Cribbage Club. We travel when health and energy levels permit.”

Daniel Fife (d_fife@verizon.net) practices epidemiology related to the adverse effects of medicines and works for Johnson & Johnson. He summarizes, “A wife, three grown children and two grandsons (1 and 4). I live in Merton, Pa., just outside Philadelphia.”

In 2012, Harry Green (harry.green@uc.edu) received the Reobling Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America, its highest honor. He continues to work at the University of California, as he has for 43 years. He no longer teaches but maintains his laboratory, where he and his graduate students work on the physical processes by which earthquakes occur. Harry remains active in the Senate of the University of California, where he’s on the Academic Council and chairs the university-wide Committee on Academic Personnel. Harry and his wife, Manuela, have nine grandchildren, seven of whom (along with their parents) shared Thanksgiving. “Chaos reigned,” he recalls, “but a great time was had by all.”

John Garman (john@garman.net) begins with an anecdote: “Wore one of my old Columbia sweatshirts to the supermarket in Durham, NC. The lady at the checkout asked if it really was from Columbia College in NYC. I said it was, and she asked for help on how to apply. I asked her about her grades, and she replied that she was a junior and had straight As. She was interested in what Columbia has to offer. Got the wheels rolling with the Admissions Office! They were most helpful.”

This November, John and his wife, Nancy, plan to visit China for three weeks: Beijing, Xian and then Yangtze River cruise back to Shanghai. They have also visited China in 1998 with a delegation led by Wayne Smith, founder of Friendship Force International, to open Chinese homes to foreign visitors. (In a typical Friendship Force program, a local chapter prepares an itinerary of cultural activities, inviting members from chapters in other countries to come and stay with them in their homes for up to a week.) “Now,” John says, “Nancy and I will just be tourists seeing a country many of us only have read about. We have five grandchildren growing like weeds (oldest 14; youngest 3): two boys, three girls; two here in Durham and three in Minneapolis. Keeping busy. Recently finished my 525th goodwill visit with members of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Chamber of Commerce. Lots of fun.”

Hilmi Toros is a freelance writer and explorer from bases in the southern Turkish coastal town of Fethiye and the tiny island of Sogvayee, which has only 50 houses and does not have any vehicles. Hilmi sails and travels to wherever the wind or sun takes him. He’s anxious to keep in touch with classmates and welcomes meeting them. “It’s like a second measure (or sun and wind) brings them to Turkey. His email is wordsmith sailor@hotmail.com; his website is maisondesogvayee.com.

From Italy, Anthony Valerio sent this email in December: “I’m on tour: lecturing, reading, teaching in Rome, Bologna, Genoa, etc. If any of you visit Italy between now and next spring, drop me a line on my website: anthonyvalerio.com. In his last email [asking for Class Notes updates], John asked about our plans. At least for me, the less and less of a future I sense, the more immediate becomes the present.”

Jerry Kessler’s 63 is planning to perform one of John Boatner’s compositions in 2014 with the Topanga, Calif., orchestra, which Jerry conducts. The piece is Celto Ludens — a work for cello solo and orchestra. John composed it in 1969 and published it in 1999. John thinks Jerry will probably play the cello and John will conduct. Crawford Killian continues to have fun writing about Canadian politics, environmental issues and books for The Tyee (thetyee.ca), an online magazine based in Vancouver. Three of his “old” science fiction works were recently published in Chinese. In case you were unaware, Crawford says, “Science fiction is a little-known genre in China but my publisher and I are hoping that combined Chinese and English texts will attract college-age readers.”

Crawford and his wife revisited Scandinavia this past fall, traveling to Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Malmo. They found some places, like the high-tech city of Espoo and the Copenhagen Metro, to be intensely modern; other places, like the Finnish architects’ retreat at Hvittinska, looked up to date, even though they are a century old. To Crawford, “going back into Sweden on the Metro and a commuter train over the bridge took only 40 minutes, and Malmo was worth the trip. Copenhagen was gorgeous but made the equally gorgeous Stockholm and Helsinki look like bargains.”

On his blog, H3N1 (crosblogs.typepad.com/h3n1), Crawford tracks outbreaks of new diseases such as H7N9 and MERS and natural disasters such as Super Typhoon Haiyan, which pose public health problems that, he says, “we had better start solving.”

He continues, “You never really retire from teaching. At the moment I’m discussing dissertation issues with a super-smart young Iranian woman, helping a Qingdao English professor with the fine points of translation and dealing with usage questions from all over, thanks to my blog Ask the English Teacher (crosblogs.typepad.com/ english). But probably the best parts of my day are walks in the woods with my dog. We watch the changing of the seasons, the surprisingly effective logging operations of the piloted woodpeckers and very rarely the resident barred owls as they glide from tree to tree. Occasionally we get black bears in the neighborhood but it’s the skunks you have to watch out for. It’s not exactly The West End, or even Riverside Park, but it’s pretty good.”

Just before my deadline in mid-December, Bernie Patten sent this delightful note: “Somewhere the Declaration of Independence mentions the right to pursue happiness. My wife, Ethel ’63 Barnard, and I have taken that right seriously and sponsored many family vacations for our kids, grandkids and in-laws to Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy and France. Last summer we all went to Ireland for three weeks. We returned home by crossing the wide and wetering North Atlantic aboard the Queen Mary 2. This was the first time that I traveled to Ireland on my Irish passport, which came to me courtesy of my grandmother, Mary O’Connor, who was born in Mayo, and my aunt, Joan Patten, who worked hard assembling the necessary documents. Of course, none of the documents made absolute sense, as my Irish relatives were in the habit of embellishing, exaggerating and fibbing. But the Irish Consulate understood: ‘If it made sense, we would know right away that it was not genuinely Irish.’

‘Last year I again taught logic at Rice. On the final exam there was
Homecoming this past October was a great day for the Class of ’63. The Alumni Office organized a pre-game event just for our class at the Gould-Renners Boathouse. We were invited for a champagne toast to salute our recent 50th reunion but when I arrived I was surprised to find that a large group of my friends had actually used the event to surprise me with a presentation of a beautiful bronze lion. Doug Anderson, Steve Barcan, Henry Black, Steve Clineburg, Ed Coller, Jerry Dwyer, Doron Gopstein, Bob Heller, Bruce Kaplan, Lee Lowenfish, Don Margolis, Larry Neuman, Tom O’Connor, Frank Partel, Phil Satow and Stan Yancovitz were among the group who came, and I thank them, the Alumni Office and everyone else who organized this surprise. Now, I suppose, I will have to start planning our 55th!

Richard Tnerk writes, “I was delighted to read in the Fall 2013 Class Notes Frank Sypher’s reminiscences of the people who called the Yumpkee Man. I’m sure that the label we used for them was a misnomer and that it’s spelled with an ‘Y’ and not the ‘Y’ you’re using. I wasn’t very jealous that Mark Dientefause used the Yumpkee Man in his first book; I wish I had used him in mine, a study of Henry David Thoreau. He would have been at home in the company of Thoreau, Fuller and especially Amos Bronson Alcott and Jones Very. I’d love to hear more reminiscences about him and the uniperversity, the sophmorons and the yumpkees that inhabited his universe.

“I enjoy my retirement in Commero, Texas, where my wife, Roz, and I have lived for 41 years. In June we celebrated our 50th anniversary. I volunteer for our local hospital district, read, exercise and even write a little.”

“Havinganooga to 70 GSAAS writes, “I wish I could have attended a reunion. I was wrestling with some medical issues as well as preparing for a demanding, seven-week trip to Turkey, Bosnia, Croatia and Greece that began later in June. I’m hoping to be able to the 60th I re¬tired in 2011 after 41 years of teaching philosophy full-time (at Kansas and then Richmond), preceded by five years as a Columbia preceptor and instructor while finishing my PhD.”

“Retirement has not been quiet, I had an intensive five-week teaching gig in beautiful Stockholm shortly after leaving work, and I continue to write, publish and give talks. A few years ago my then-colleague, artist Tanja Softić, invited me to write an essay for the booklet accompanying her series ‘Migrant Universe.’ The collaboration flowered and now we are happy companions. The reason for our recent travel was Tanja’s research for an artist’s book on memory and loss in her native Sarajevo, and the trip began and ended with my conference talks in Assos, Turkey, and Athens. My three children from two marriages are distributed around the United States and each has given me two wonderful grandchildren.

“When I left Columbia to teach elsewhere I was carrying the torch for the Core, having been not only a student but also an instructor of Humanities A and Contempo¬rary Civilization B. After that was always an uphill struggle to convince hidebound departments to think outside of their silos, I like to think that I had some impact on a few students (and maybe even colleagues). I seem to have taken root in Richmond, Va., something I never could have imagined in the heady days of the NYC ’60s. New Yorkers are often quite surprised by the vibrant art and food scenes here. The setting helps me to work on one more book, many smaller projects and my urban garden.”

David Alpern reports a special reason to enjoy this past Thanksgiving: “Call it my ’63 Ring Cycle,” he writes. “More than 40 years ago I tried to master the mystery of SUNfish sailing off the beach at Chatham and Cape Cod.” He then told an amusing story about Newseum colleague Ed Kosner, later editor of Newsweek, New York Magazine, Esquire and the Daily News. But he and I were flogs at sea. After we tipped over and pulled the boat to shore, I realized I’d lost my class ring, with no reasonable chance of retrieval. And somehow I made it through life all the years since.

“But the week before Thanksgiving, Paul [Neshamkin] emailed to say that someone had found a Columbia ’63 ring with DMA engraved inside the band and that I was the only class member so initialed.

“Turned out the finder was a young, retired information systems consultant named Jim Wirth. Jim lives in San Francisco but sum¬mers in Chatham, where he passes much time behind a water-proofed metal detector. He found the lost ring at that same beach, while standing knee-deep at low tide and digging 18 inches under the sand. “It cleaned up well; he contacted Columbia to report the year and initials, exchanged emails with Paul, then me, and handed it back two days later during a previously scheduled trip to NYC. Maybe gold shrinks underwater over our decades, but more likely my digits have fattened along with the rest of me, so it only fits on my little finger now.

“This is actually the second time that ring has been lost, found and returned. One winter in the early ’60s, while working ‘overnights’ at United Press International in the Daily News building, I pulled my gloves off in the elevator and didn’t notice until 3 a.m. that the ring was gone. Some two years later, a woman called to say her dad was a printer at the News and had found a Columbia ring at some point, but that she had just thought of contacting the school with the initials as a means to track down the owner. I picked it up the next day.

“Guess I’ll have to find a more creative way to lose it a third time. Suggestions?”

Lee Lowenfish is continuing his love of baseball scouting and all things Branch Rickey (who, after all, perfected the farm system based on good scouting and talent evaluation). In mid-December he hosted a panel of three baseball scouts in a lively discussion of the profes¬sion of baseball scouting at the Greenwich Village gallery Bergino Baseball Clubhouse. He tried to avoid rubber-chicken stomach while attending hot stove league baseball banquets in Hazelton, Pa. (home town of Joe Maddon, Tampa Bay Rays manager), Portsmouth, Ohio (Rickey’s home area, where the City of Portsmouth baseball Clubhouse and Great Neck, Long Island. [Editor’s note: See article by Lowenfish on Columbia baseball and coach Brett Boretti in “Roar, Lion, Roar.”] I have the sad duty to report the death of Richard L. Knopf in Man¬teca, Calif., on September 15, 2013. 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 lunches, scheduled for March 13, April 10 and May 8 — it’s always the second Thursday. Check ccf3ers.com for details.

In the meantime, let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1 ALUMNI AFFAIRS Vanessa Scott vs2470@columbia.edu 212-851-9148 DEVELOPMENT Esfir Shamilova es3333@columbia.edu 212-851-7833

Our 50th reunion is approaching, and I hope you’re saving the date: Thursday, May 29-Sunday, June 1. Steve Case and Bob Friedman are co-chairing the Reunion Com¬mittee, which has been meeting in conference space graciously provided by Steve Rodner at his law firm in Manhattan, and sub¬committees are also at work. Those involved in the planning at this writing are Joel Abramson, Adam Bender, Bernard Catalinotto, Lion¬el Etra, Marty Isserlis, Howard Jacobson, Gil Kahn, Fred Kantor, Beril Lapson, Peter Lowell, Marshall Meyer, Jeff Newman, Steve Rosendfeld, Merv Rodstein, Don Schlichter, Stuart Silverman, Peter Thall, Allen Tobias, Ivan Weiss¬man and Marty Weinstein.

I think the event will be the sort of memorable occasion a 50th reunion should be. There will be a range of multi-class and class-spe¬cific events that we can participate in. Saturday is also Dean’s Day, which offers the chance to relive our classroom experiences through lectures with some of Columbia’s finest professors. It all leads up to our class dinner on Saturday, followed by day-long baseball games at the Starlight Reception.

For more information and to register, go to reunion.college. columbia.edu. See also the reunion preview in “Around the Quads.”

Steve Rodner has been named the chairman of the New York State Bar Association’s section on entertainment, art and sports law.

Ron Padgett has published a new book, Collected Poems, which gathers the work of more than 30 years. In 2012, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

SPRING 2014
Allen Tobias is proud to report that he has started a thriving business in career counseling and presentation campaigns for entrepreneurs and people seeking new jobs or new careers. He was inspired by career facilitation breakfasts he attended at the Columbia Alumni Center. He can be reached at tobiasnewyork@aol.com.

Avi Dector writes, "In June 2012 I retired after 13 years as executive director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore. This small but lively institution has won national recognition from the American Association for State and Local History and was the recipient of numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. "My wife, Naomi '64 Barnard, and I spent the year after my retirement selling our longtime home in Haddonfield, N.J., and moving into a lovely apartment in Philadelphia. We have very much enjoyed our new home and our new lifestyle. "For 15 years, we have punctuated our calendar with summer stays at a family cabin in Addison, Vt., a former dairy farm where we live in a restored horse barn, replete with a resident colony of brown bats (who have dibs on the place, having resided there since circa 1910). The viewscape out over the Champlain Valley and toward the high peaks of the Adirondacks is a constant pleasure. "Our married son, Eliav, his wife, Alyce Callison, and their boys (9 and 7) live close by, so we get to see them regularly. And we have a daughter-in-law and friends going back to our middle school days. I look forward to seeing classmates at reunion. Until then, all good wishes to the Class of '64."

Ron Padgett '64 — a 2012 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry — has published Collected Poems, which gathers a lifetime of more than 50 years.

In attendance from our class were Jay Woodworth, Bob Kromely, Jim Murdagh, Alan Green and myself, Leonard Pack. I asked Jay (woodyl7620@aol.com) for an update here is his report: "It was great to see you [Leonard], Jim, Alan and Bob at the Sachsens 100th. The Krons was the guy who, at our class' 45th reunion, buttonholed me and asked what Sachsens was going to do for our 100th. I replied with something like, 'I have no idea.' He then said, 'Good luck; I'm based in Atlanta.' Thus a bunch of us in the NYC area got together and did our best to plan for the group's centennial event and lay the groundwork for its second century. "Roger Lehecka ['67, '74 GSAS], Columbia's retired dean of students and our advisor, will probably be very upset to see all this Sachsens stuff in print, but the organizational effect produced by a bunch of old fogies, plus a large number of youngsters who graduated in the '90s, the '00s and the pre-teens, was really impressive. We've all suffered major disappointments in life when dealing with committees but Sachsens' planning committee worked well. Everyone had a specific area of responsibility in planning for the centennial and everyone delivered. The dinner itself was a sell-out success. Along the way, we raised a fair amount of seed money for scholarship assistance and the group's ongoing expenditures. I'm very proud of the group. "In addition to that crunch in September and October, life has been very hectic. Or is it that our productivity declines so much as we age? We've talked a lot longer to do what we used to do in our 30s and 40s?"

"Larry Guido swung through New York at the end of September and we got together to drown some sorrows. He had just lost his wife, Jane, to the side effects of a decades-long battle against rheumatoid arthritis. The specific occasion was one of great sadness but we found some good old times to remember." Jay continued: "I'm mostly retired but still am involved in the business economics profession. As I write, I will take off in two days for a round of quarterly meetings in Washington with about four dozen of my colleagues from around the world. We meet, analyze the world's economic problems and solve many of them. Unfortunately, not many people listen to us. We live in times where facts and knowledge are not really essential for decision makers, especially in the Congress. This thought is in my train room is thriving, and I apologize for not having made more

CLASS NOTES
Ken Wasserman (kenwass@gmail.com) sent a nice note: “I have two kids, Sara (19) and Mike (23), and am happily married to Amy Berlin, who is a court lawyer in family court. We have lived in Brooklyn Heights since 1993. I practice criminal law in Manhattan and invest in micro-cap stocks. I travel a bit to attend micro-cap conferences. The criminal practice is nothing fancy — run-of-the-mill state court crimes — but it is very social, which balances nicely the computer-driven investment work. I have kept up with Mike Moore, who is an inspiration.”

Peter Wallenstein (pwallens@vt.edu) reports, “After teaching history in the 1970s at the college level at various places in New York, Canada, Japan and Korea (pretty special experiences all), I landed at Virginia Tech 30 years ago, where I’ve had wonderful students and gotten to write as senior author of books on U.S. history. I’m still at it. Shortly I’ll be sending off final copy for a second edition of my Cradle of America: Four Centuries of Virginia History (the subtitle will change) and Free to Marry: Loving in Virginia, both to be published in 2014.

“I’m in touch with classmates I met during freshman orientation in 1961, among them David Osher and Ahovi Kponou, though we’ve been distressed as one by one our finest teachers, including James Shenton ’49, 54 CSAS and Alan Westin, have left us.

“I still live in Appalachia, albeit in western Virginia instead of rural New Hampshire — what I long ago came to refer to as ‘19th-century Northern New England’ (I tell people I was an affirmative action admit, as the only applicant to the College my year from that time and place).”

Serge Wind (swind26@nyc.rr.com) writes, “While working for AT&T and Lucent Technologies, I was fortunate to have been given responsibility for formulating plans for an array of fascinating industry issues and analytically challenging problems in a rapidly evolving external environment. Activities included the analysis of major mergers and the design of variable compensation for 110,000 management employees based on a measure of shareholder value. I also served directly as a senior adviser to the CFO and v.p. of enthusiasm hasn’t declined.

“Our youngest, Rich, is in the middle of 2L at Richmond and doing well with law journal and learning a southern accent.

“I enjoyed getting together at Homecoming with Tom Chorba, Harvey Kurzweil, Ed Malmstrom ’65, Ed Botwinick ’56, Tom Harald, Ron Brookshire, the family of the late Steve Franke ’67E, ’69E and other alums.

“Announcement: I am chairing the recently formed Committee for Athletic Excellence at Columbia. It is dedicated to improving competitive and non-competitive athletic capability and performance at CU. We welcome any inquiries or members; you can write me directly or go to lion-sports.org.

Steve Weinberg writes, “Four married kids and seven grandkids. Work split between affordable housing and Halonim Dtor camps. Hoping we’re about to end this 30-year nightmare. (In the selling of the 99 percent and rebalance our society. There’s still no other country with anything like the DNA of the United States, so we’ve got to return to respectability and leadership, even as planetary concerns increasingly trump local concerns. Let’s all sit and watch around the earth as we turn the large hadron collider back on again and think what that means for our planetary civilization.”

David Paglin will direct The Trial of Franklin D. Roosevelt at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in May.

Serge Wind, Harvey Kurzweil, Ed Malmstrom ’65, Ed Botwinick ’56, Tom Harald, Ron Brookshire, the family of the late Steve Franke ’67E, ’69E and other alums.

“The big news is that the latest family census, Elisabeth Williams, arrived on October 16. Her sister, Gene Aurelia, greeted her with glee. This event the score for my daughters at duce: Elisabeth has a son and a daughter, and Sayre has two girls. I am happily managing some friends’ finances, hoping to honestly beat TIAA. (So far, very good.) Missed my Little Rock Central High reunion but caught up with some alums while on a cross country wedding trip. Still single, but open for nominations for candidates.”

Michael Garrett writes, “The organization I co-founded a few years ago and now lead, Columbia Alumni Singers, is thriving and a number of classmates are participating, among them Bruce Trinkle and David Telford. Our group is the choral home of those who sang in any group while a Columbia student, faculty member or administrator in any school or division. There are 2,000 of us on the mailing list, and we strive to support Columbia and today’s choral singing on Columbia’s campuses. We distribute music over the Web and rehearse, socialize and perform under the direction of distinguished conductors. We perform college songs, folk songs, spirituals, classical pieces and more. Our signature event each year is our reunion concert during Alumni Reunion Weekend (we’ve had as many as 100 members make joyful noise together there). All ’66 classmates are encouraged to join us in making Columbia Alumni Singers a thoroughly enjoyable, harmonious, valued and essential component of Columbia tradition.” For more information, write Michael at michaelgarrett@earthlink.net.

Elwyn Schaefer writes, “Many years ago I chose the University of Colorado Law School over Columbia and headed west. I’ve been in Boulder/Denver ever since. No regrets. A full time teaching career may be found at elwynschaefer.com. In December, I became of counsel to Bachus & Schanker, a Denver-based law firm with 20 trial attorneys and 50 members. “My Nebraska-born-and-bred wife, Barb, and I live adjacent to a 165-acre city park with views of Pikes Peak, the Rockies and the Denver skyline. We have three daughters and two granddoggs. We recently spent quality time with Lew Davis (North Carolina), Ken Rollston (California) and Tom McMahon (also North Carolina).”
Expect to re-up shortly with good buddy Jim Larson (Delaware). It’s been a fun time since leaving my little town of Patchogue, on Long Island, in 1962.”

Rudy Van Bemuth reports, “The Indian summer of my long career continues, with another extension of my assignment in London, this time through September 2014, to manage the transition of a newly acquired medically focused charity, Merlin, into Save the Children. More walks to work past Buckingham Palace and through St. James’s Park.”

Joe Steinberger ponders: “At this point, the news from our cohort is inevitably dimming. I wonder if any classmates are as foolish in old age as I have been. My first and only child, Takuma (meaning, ‘pathfinder’), is 6. Is he the youngest of a newly acquired medically focused charity, Merlin, into Save the Children? More walks to work past Buckingham Palace and through St. James’s Park.”

Cliff Rosenthal is finishing a two-year stint at the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C., focusing on low-income issues after closing out a successful 32-year career running the Catholic Campaign for Housing in the nation’s capital. “I moved to this great city, which I have lived happily since college days. My daughters, Kerry and Erin, are almost forgotten that era of my life. My wife, Mary, and I have welcomed two grandsons in the past two years, which is a delightful experience. One big surprise this year was my induction into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame (the ceremony was held in Worcester, Mass.) — only 50 years late! I had almost forgotten that era of my life. My daughters, Kerry and Erin, are nurses at Bristol Hospital, following in Dad’s footsteps.”

Charles Pitchford wrote in for the first time: “You may remember me as Barry Nazarian’s roommate. If not, I will certainly understand, as Barry wrote a while back, mentioning names of acquaintances I met directly through Barry and my managing the student laundry at school all the way from third grade through Columbia, was a dedicated educator... a Columbia man through and through.”

Randy Bourscheidt says, “This Oklahoma native never ‘graduated’ from New York, where I’ve lived happily since college days, working in the cultural community in Carman Hall. Quite a few of us graduated from the cultural community in Carman Hall.”

Philip Shopoff reported on the passing of Leonard Don Diego, which was noted in the column last issue. “Lenny, with whom I went to school all the way from third grade through Columbia, was a dedicated educator... a Columbia man through and through.”

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Pete Janovsky wrote a few months ago with a brief account of the Marching Band’s activities during our Alumni Reunion Weekend. “On the Saturday of reunion, the cross-class Columbia University Marching Band gathered in Carman Hall. Quite a few former band managers, and others from the ’68 period and all the time since, attended and reminisced about the ’64 ‘moral decay’ and other halftime shows, 3 a.m. Barnard fire drill concerts, Carnegie Hall appearances and other landmarks of the modern era.”

“A group of alumni, including Dan Carlinsky ’65, J. Donald Smith ’65 and Sam Ruwan Barnard ’96, have helped the Columbia Band Alumni Association. It’s an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization, with Sam as president. The association plans regular events for alumni and provides support for the current band, such as encouraging donations of instruments by alumni. Non-alumni also can donate instruments if they happen to have a clarinet, trumpet or E-flat double-reed contra-bass sarrusophone gathering dust in the attic (see columbiabandalumni.org/ instrument-help.html).”

“The band alumni association arranged a reunion at Homecoming,
You may recall John Lindsay was in scope but with entertainment. Momingside Heights in fall 1964. ing an event in the fall to celebrate a point. I've been thinking of our hav¬
ing to Bill and his band perform on like yesterday that we were listen¬
ning the Spartans took out there in
Michigan State) almost lost to the nationally ranked Spartans (he
with great cheer.

I was at a Columbia basketball game recently, and the band was there in large numbers, performing with great cheer. It was a treat to hear from Nigel Paneth, who observed that his nationally ranked Spartans (he is a professor of public health at Michigan State) almost lost to the Lions in basketball in Lansing, Mich. He was flummoxed, for sure. He also acknowledged the whip¬
ing the Spartans took out there in wrestling from the Lions.

As I write, I'm planning to have a lunch with Bill McDavid. Bill is general counsel at Freddie Mac and continues to amaze me with his energy and involvement with some of today's financial issues. It seems like yesterday that we were listen¬
ing to Bill and his band perform on campus. But in fact, it was almost 50 years ago. I really shouldn't note that, I suppose. (Although, to that point I haven’t been the one to bring¬
having an event in the fall to celebrate our good fortune of landing on Morningside Heights in fall 1964. Maybe a grand dinner in the city, either on- or off-campus, modest in scope but with entertainment. You may recall John Lindsay was running for mayor when we ar¬
rung any interest? If so, write me: arthurbspector@gmail.com.)

I chatted with Greg Winn a few times in the last few months and am grateful for the years of good humor and friendship with him. I heard from some classmates about the fate of football this past fall, and clearly the program had a major setback. Jim Shorter and Ira McCown commented on it, among others. Paul de Bary and I went to games this year.

I will be diplomatic and note only that the women's swim team has beaten Harvard, Yale and Penn so far this year. Tennis also has been fabulous, for example.

I was negligent with respect to the last Class Notes column and this one; I have been swamped with personal stuff and work, so I am sorry for the relative lack of news. The next one will be back in full force.

This being the first column of 2014, I wish all of the class — as well as family, partners, spouses, children and grandchildren — a healthy new year. I figure we all have about 30 more years to go, at least, so I get more time to do this column.

REUEN WEEKEND MAY 29-JUNE 1
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Jonathan Schiller ’73L, was elected on December 19 as co-chair of the University’s Board of Trustees and is slated to become chairman upon Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC’s retirement from the board. Jonathan is the father of three sons, all of whom graduated from the College. In his non-Columbia role, Jonathan is managing partner and co-founder of the Boies, Schiller & Flexner law firm. Jonathan has received both the John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement (2006) and the Alexander Hamilton Award (2012). Classmates will have the opportunity to congratulate him at our 45th reunion (see more later in this column).

This news-seeking columnist always appreciates an assist from the general news media, which happened twice in this cycle. The New York Times Book Review of December 23 featured Paul Auster’s latest, Report from the Interior, a companion memoir to his 2012 Winter Journal. This new book is a history of Paul’s psychological development. The review calls him “one of the great prose stylists of our time.”

The second item appeared in mid-December in numerous sources. Judd Gregg has, after seven months, stepped down as CEO of the Secur¬i¬ties Industry and Financial Markets Association. Now, here is my difficulty; I am filing this column at the end of December for the Spring issue. What Judd plans to do next is an open question of current speculation but may be answered by the time this issue is published. So, I leave for a later column a report on Judd’s next step. Judd, by the way, also was a recipient of a John Jay Award (1993).

“Some news, reflections, both happy and sad,” from Dusan Twer: “For the second consecutive year, Ron Tarrington traveled six-plus hours north to see my son, Aden, compete as a wide receiver for Gettysburg. As fate would have it, Ron’s back was turned to the field, looking for me in the stands, on the first play of the game from scrimmage, as Aden hauled in a 62-yard TD pass. (Aden finished his career as the leading receiver in school his¬
tory in total yards, career-receiving TDs and receiving TDs in a season — and led all active players in NCAA DIII in 2013 in career yards per catch — 19.2.) As I write this, Ron is getting a new knee. I hope all goes well.

“Wanted to pay public respects to Rich Arcaro ’72, who passed away in January 2013. I roomed with Rich at the Phi U house senior year and traveled with him for a dozen weeks across the country in summer 1971 on our so-called ‘holy war’ — take of which I’ve embellished and then bored my family and friends with through¬
out the ensuing decades. Gas was 25 cents a gallon when we reached California — a good thing, as the truck we purchased from the bread man in Fairview, N.J., got only six miles per.

‘Rich was a person of tremen¬
dous physical and mental strength. A loyal friend. Better yet, he knew how to repair the truck. But Rich could be painfully shy, and on days four of the trip he killed a deal I negotiated to travel along to Aspen (upon invitation) with two gorgeous (at least that’s the way I remember it), lapsed (at least that’s the way I imagined it) Mormon girls in a green MG who followed us into a Colorado gas station and proceeded to engage us as they purchased a dollar’s worth of gas. I only wish Rich were here so I could tell him that I still don’t forgive him. Rest in peace.

Also, congratulations to Joe Santostassio (we share a birthday two hours apart), who pedaled from the northernmost point of Maine — where America starts, according to the sign he posted on his ‘crazyguyonabike’ site — to Key West, Fla. An unsupported solo ride of just about 3,000 miles from August 11 to November 4. Amazing.”

John Bernson is returning home to Armonk, N.Y., following 3½ years of bank advisory and corporate finance projects in the Middle East and is slated to become chairman with David Alger, on Martha’s Vineyard, and David Parshall and Ron Dronczek, in NYC.

Jesse Goldner attended the memorial service for Mark Drucker in St. Louis on November 9, and he provided this report: “Family members, friends and former students recalled Mark’s love of movies, TV, reading, history, trivia, learning and talking. He was an inveterate viewer of C-SPAN. As they said, ‘He knew a lot about a lot and never stopped learning.’

“They recounted his many efforts to help members of various groups, in addition to his family, about whom he cared in particu-
lar. These included the poor and underprivileged and mystery writers. He was described as a ‘kind and gentle man and an omnι-
vorous intellectual’ who had a unique ability ‘to know how to be a friend’ and to demonstrate ‘unconditional acceptance’ of others.

Mark was a humble person who was known for always treating others with dignity.”

This issue is the last one sched¬
uled ahead of our 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend, and I urge all classmates to attend. The dates are Thursday, May 29-Sunday, June 1. The Reunion Committee is trying to plan a calendar of events that will maximize the opportunity for classmates to catch up with one another. For encouragement, I’ve gone back to my September/Octo¬
ber 2009 column, which reported on our 40th reunion; here are some reactions to that one, beginning with my own:

“I would sum up the reunion in these few words: ‘really good conversations and respectful reminiscences.’ Our goal all along was to create opportunities for
classmates to spend quality time with each other, and we met our goal. The lunch program was the subject of singular attention during the planning, and Rich Wyatt suggested and then hosted the main event: an open microphone session called ‘40 years in 3 minutes.’ After a few volunteers kicked off the discussion, a majority of attendees shared their thoughts and exposed their feelings about the reunion, the College years, and that long time in between. What struck me was the cohesiveness of the class, comprised of individuals who saw the world in different ways back when and who have traveled varying paths since. And yet, we were a group who felt like connected classmates.”

From Jeffrey Klein: “A reunion virgin, I’m happy to report a highly satisfying experience at our 40th. Reconnecting with old friends was an expected pleasure. Unexpected was how much pleasure I felt connecting with classmates I’d never really known well while in college — Jim Alloy, Jerry Avorn, William Bonvillian et al. Repeatedly I was struck not just by the intelligence of our classmates (that’s a given), but also by how much work for the public good each had done in his chosen field. On the plane ride in, I’d read our yearbook — unopened for 40 years, with a nifty mildew smell as proof. It’s a striking, iconoclastic volume. How many yearbooks sport a funny audio/video script from a class dropout announcing he’s a sell-out? Post-strike interviews with several professors and with Provost Truman are at once insightful, nakedly confused and poignant. At the reunion, before I could congratulate Roy Feldman, our yearbook editor, on how well he and the Columbian staff had captured that historical moment, Roy said he’d re-read the volume the night before and was swamped with second thoughts about what he should have done differently. This led me to consider and reconsider showed up in many reunion conversations. Could it be the true core of our curriculum?”

From Eric Within: “I thought our reunion was a great success, because so many of the people that I know and admire showed up at Mike Schell’s terrific cocktail party on Thursday, at the cocktail party at SIPA the next evening and at both lunch and dinner on Saturday. Jerry Nadler gave a very interesting talk on a highly controversial issue at Saturday’s dinner. Many classmates gave fascinating accounts of their Columbia and post-Columbia lives after lunch on Saturday, and even the weather cooperated with a sunny day and a beautiful evening after dinner on Low Plaza. I didn’t make it to any of the theater events or lectures but for me reunions are about people, and many splendid people in our class made it a great success.”

From Rod Reed ‘69E: “This was my most memorable reunion to date. We had many chances, both formal and informal to talk to both Engineering School and College classmates. I was able to meet, talk to and listen to interesting life events from people I had not seen in many years. Although Dean Hub bard’s economics lecture was interesting, it is fast receding from memory. This is not true for the interactions with the members of our class. I am glad we adopted Richard Wyatt’s idea for the Saturday afternoon event and I will remember the value of our time talking and laughing together when we plan the next reunion.”

And from Jim Weitzman: “Reunion was good to me. I enjoyed it immensely. ... I especially found touching the luncheon comments of Jory Berkvits, sitting at my table, who stood to ask for forgiveness that he had essentially gone through most of his four years without interfacing with the rest of the class. My visit to WKCR knocked me off my feet: I walked into a studio only to lay eyes on four guys, most of whom I hadn’t seen in 40 years, arrayed around a table, recording recollections of the past: Steve Silberblatt, Roger Berkley ‘68, Bob Papper and the famous Robert Siegel ‘68 of NPR, who gave up his seat for me. A half-hour down memory lane recorded on, gap, a reel-to-reel recorder.”

As this column goes to press, our Reunion Committee is working hard on outreach, aiming to raise a great turnout for the weekend. Hope you join us and thereby avoid the nagging concern about what you miss under the premises. Thomas Shane, is a monthly feature for Arcadia’s Online Sundries blog (arcadiamagazine.org).

Steve Stahler writes, “I continue to pursue my passion in astronomy and am embarking on the second edition of my 2004 book, The Formation of Stars. For recreation, I tramp up and down the hills of California and sketch humans and others around me. I would enjoy hearing from classmates!”

You can write to Steve at stahler@astro.berkeley.edu. Joel Richard Glucksman proudly reports the birth of his third granddaughter (no grandchildren). He writes, “The kids all live in Los Angeles, which gives me and my wife, Freddie, the excuse to visit the Left Coast regularly. Otherwise, I do bankruptcy law here in New Jersey and am waiting for the economy to turn around.”

Robert Launay writes, “I had a heart attack in July but am recovering well.”

Tom Keenan’s new book, Technocreep: The Surrender of Privacy and the Capitalization of Intimacy, will be published in March. He writes, “It’s a chilling look (excuse the hyperbole; that’s what authors are supposed to do, I’m told) at the ways in which technologies — from surveillance cameras and online tracking to sensors inside our bodies — are eroding what’s left of our privacy, often with our consent but without our full understanding. The revelations of Edward Snowden and Chelsea Manning have given us a glimpse into some of the ways this is being done by governments. This book lifts the covers on how we ourselves are surrendering our most personal information. Technocreep is based on more than a year of research in computer security, along with attending and presenting at hacker conferences such as DEF CON.”

David Lehman wrote a follow-up note about the launch party for his new book. He says, “The official publication date for my New and Selected Poems was November 5, and a day later the launch reading was held at the NYU Bookstore on Broadway and Waverly Place. The space was crowded, and it was great to see some old pals from Columbia College days, including Bill O’Brien, Jim Periconi, Steven Silberblatt ‘72 and Jamie Katz ‘72. The presentation began with my reading a half-dozen of the new poems from the book. Then Ken Tucker of NPR’s Fresh Air interviewed me about my career and my work. He is a veteran interviewer, very skillful, and my only regret is that the interview was not taped. At his suggestion I read certain poems (such as ‘Nineteen’, ‘I Hang My Hat’) to illustrate points. The last poem I read, ‘Story of My Life,’ provoked a man in the audience to leap to his feet and shout ‘Bravo!’ I am happy to report that my book received favorable reviews in The New York Observer and Publishers Weekly. Interviews with me ran on NPR and PBS, and Garrison Keillor read my poem ‘Radio’ on his show The Writer’s Almanac with Garrison Keillor. So it was quite a week.”

“In addition, the November 16-17 issue of The Wall Street Journal contained a Masterpiece...
column — under the heading of “The Palpable Presence of Time” — that I wrote about Wordsworth’s great poem “Tintern Abbey.”

Finally, Bill Schur writes, “After 23 exciting years with the Southwestern Bell, then SBC, now AT&T legal department, I retired at the end of December. I’m considering whether to teach, write, consult, do legal work pro bono, volunteer or just quietly disappear.”

Lloyd Emanuel ’71 was inducted in the New Rochelle (N.Y.) Sports Hall of Fame for his tennis career as a player, college coach, professional coach and instructor.

“Tennis is something I hope to do for several years more. I like it and I will not be joining the chorus of those from ’71C who will happily announce their retirement in the next year or two. Good for them, but I’m not ready. As far as I am concerned, the rock ’n roll generation that saw 1968 doesn’t head for the rocking chair that easily.”

“Some of the stories I have covered for the WJS include Latvia’s progress toward joining the Eurozone on January 1, and last summer’s Latvian Song and Dance Festival. I’m one of the constructors of a 15,000-voice choir was a 100-year-old man from Michigan (born in Latvia under the Russian czar). I also wrote a feature on a Soviet-era garbage dump that has been transformed into a mainly clean facility that grows strawberries and tomatoes year-round in automated greenhouses heated and lit by biogas from the mountain of decomposing garbage (most of which is covered by grass that is trimmed every summer by a herd of sheep).”

“One story I would rather have not had to cover was the disaster in November, when a supermarket roof collapsed in a Riga neighborhood, killing 54 people (including three firefighters hit by a second collapse when they rushed in to rescue victims) and injuring dozens of others. I was at the disaster site twice, mingling with people awaiting word on the survivors and the dead, or just laying flowers and candles as the scope of the catastrophe became evident. The supermarket opened in 2011 and was part of an award-winning project that combined retail space with a high-rise condominium building, rumored to be teetering after the roof of the attached supermarkeet collapsed.”

“After that, we also had an unexpected resignation of Latvia’s government, the 18th in 22 years (I think we beat Italy!).”

“In Latvia, eyes are also on developments in the Ukraine, torn between an opening to the European Union and pressure and enticements from an increasingly authoritarian and corrupt Russia, which offers a customs union but little aside from oil and gas to circulate inside the customs union. There are some superficial similarities with conditions in Latvia — or rather, what Latvia could have been transformed into a mainly automated greenhouses heated by biogas from the mountain of decomposing garbage (most of which is covered by grass that is trimmed every summer by a herd of sheep).”

“Of more immediate concern to both New Rochelle and the Wall Street Journal is the fact that the 19th anniversary of the first American AIDS research institute planning. Bruce Jacobs recently presided over the inaugural Forum on Quantitative Finance in NYC, sponsored by the Jacobs Levy Equity Management Center for Quantitative Financial Research at the Wharton School (wharton.upenn.edu/jacobslevycenter). He and his wife, Leona Levy, endowed the center in honor of the 25th anniversary of their firm, after which it’s named. The forum drew a large crowd of practitioners and academics, who heard the partners give the keynote address on a concept they developed called “leverage aversion.” It updates one of the foundational theories of modern finance regarding the risk—return tradeoff to factor in the potentially harmful effects of leverage, or borrowed money. They also presented the first Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize for Quantitative Financial Innovation to Nobel Laureate Harry Markowitz in recognition of his recent work on individual retirement investment planning.”

Jeffrey Laurence was featured in a recent HBO documentary, The Battle of amfAR, about the founding of the first American AIDS research organization. Jeffrey directs the Laboratory for AIDS Virus Research at Weill Cornell Medical College and the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and is a senior scientific researcher.
Mark Hoffman, who sent a dramatic set of then-and-now pictures showing a marked transformation in hair distribution and startling similarities in facial features, is still in the insurance business after 41 years. He consults on all sorts of group insurance, pensions, executive benefits and property and casualty plans for business. He writes, “I spend much time these days interpreting the Affordable Care Act and its benefits and tax consequences for clients and prospects alike. My wife, Jana, and I have been enjoying the Dallas area since October 2006, having lived in Tulsa, Okla., for the previous 24 years.”

Fred Schneider has lots of good things happening. His older daughter, Lauren, is working on an M.B.A. at NYU and at this writing was to be married in February in Manhattan. His younger daughter, Stephanie, will have her law degree from CUNY in May. His wife, Harriet, received the Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare last May in Albany. And Fred (not to be outdone) recently celebrated his second anniversary as a partner and chair of the matrimonial and family practice at Ballon, Stoll, Flack, and Miller in New York.

Bill Miller was recognized in October by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers for contributions spanning decades. Bill was governor, section chair and engineering v.p. at various times, and pioneered a program where he matched donations made by other SMPTE members to pay for student memberships; more than 250 students are now members as a result. Bill retired from ABC in 2008 after 33 years in the technical side of television and consults from time to time to “keep myself out of trouble.”

Moving west, Bruce Rush is writing in (for the first time, brave soul) from Santa Monica, Calif., where he is a clinical psychologist and an adjunct professor of psychology at Pepperdine. He has a “wonderful” family, including wife Lynn; daughter Claire; and son Colin. Bruce also is a fee-for-service provider at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, testing and evaluating children. In his spare time, he is the California program director and a martial arts therapist for Kids Kicking Cancer. And he “eats and sleeps once in a while.”

New York’s Yiddish Quartet and Piano Quintet are touring the United States and Israel and being recorded on Paumanok Records; and his new piano concerto, Archangel, will premiere at the New York Repertory Orchestra and the Orchestra Sinfonica de Puerto Rico. Finally, his Second Symphony will be recorded in England during the 2014–15 season.

Fred Bremer 532 W. 111th St. New York, NY 10025 fbremer@ml.com

One of the unique aspects of our time at Columbia was that we each were free to form our own subculture. There was no sense of having that infamous figure, “the big man on campus.” It wasn’t the quarterback of the football team (though we had a good one), the president of our class or the heads of any of the many clubs or groups on campus. We each formed our own community that combined floorsmates from different years, Colombians who shared our political or social interests, and people we simply enjoyed being around. There was no caste system that placed some classmates in groups higher or lower than others.

So here we are almost 40 years after graduation, with Alumni Reunion Weekend planned for Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Sure, there will be great events, but what many of us really are looking forward to is seeing members of our “posse.” That said, reunion alumni shared reflections off the late fall snow scene. By the time these Notes are read it will be 2014, 45 years post our year of entry into the College. Who woulda thunk?”

East Coast news first: Michael Shapiro conducts not only the Chapparock Orchestra but also the West Point Band’s Jazz Knights, the Traverse Symphony Orchestra and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he has created scores for a new NBC crime show; his second Sonata is being performed in Los Angeles and

SPRING 2014
John Chen ‘74 posted on Facebook that he has traveled to 750 cities in 30 countries. Among the latest was a stop here in the U.S., in Virginia Beach, Va.

School in Kansas City, Mo. But the Times says that he now works in New York “overseeing maintenance and budgets of telecommunication networks at CenturyLink” (the lesser known, third largest telecom, which provides services in 38 states). He also freelances as an organist at various churches in the New York area and was a fellow at UC Berkeley for a degree in administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard.

It was not hard to be impressed by the Facebook posting by John Chen announcing that he had traveled to 750 cities in 30 countries. “How about you?” he added. His latest photo was from his vacation in Virginia Beach, Va. Just a wild guess, but I bet that Ken Krug (CFO at The Asia Foundation and nominally living in Berkeley, Calif.) could give John a good run for the title of ‘most traveling classmate.” In October, I saw a Facebook post that he was in Naples, Italy, and then a week later on the Cote d’Azur, France. In December he posted from “near Bali, Indonesia, on the nearby island of Lombok” while on work for the foundation. He added, “Going next to Jakarta.” That was three countries in three months!

Barry Klayman, a partner at the law firm Cozen O’Connor in Wilmington, Del., posted photos on Facebook of his son’s wedding last November and added, “Kim and Matt’s wedding was a typical 350-person Israeli wedding. Beautiful, big families, big traditions, big party!”

Kevin Ward, a longtime financial adviser in Paramus, N.J., tells us that the daughter of Ted Gregory attends Barnard. Ted is the director of diversity initiatives and talent retention for Columbia Alumni and Development and is once again living in the Morningside Heights area.

An update came in from Dan Angius, soon to be the retired senior partner of the Angius & Terry law firm in Walnut Creek, Calif. His son, Dan, had a “beautiful baby boy, Daniel Vincent Angius, in October.” I asked him the significance of the “Dan” name, and he replied, “I think passing down the name ‘Dan’ is a product of both my own and my son’s ego. So much for noble causes.” To which I responded, “As it was written in The Book of Fred (a long-lost, and rightfully so, scripture): ‘And Dan begat Dan that begat Dan.’”

When a classmate has four children, we need to spread the news on his offspring. Dr. Steve Blumenthal, a pediatrician in Portland, Maine, shared news on two of his four. His eldest daughter, Kelsey, is a violinist who earned a B.A. from The Colburn School, in Los Angeles, and is finishing a master’s degree in composition at UC Berkeley for a doctorate in administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard.

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He noticed it featured Dr. Mark Mehler of Medicine, in the Bronx. While working for the foundation. He added, “I can’t let the opportunity to report the following pass: In the fall, I attended one of my favorite Columbia events — Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, held on campus October 11-12. Alumni were there from many University schools, although I spent most of my time with College folks. We talked about many things, among them the Core Curriculum, Class Notes for Columbia College Today, networking and especially reunion planning. And yes, I’ve been talking about that last one for a while!”

The highlight of the weekend for me and for Ira Malin was his recognition at the CAA Alumni Medalists Gala on Saturday evening. I reported last spring that Ira had been recognized, and this was the big finale — another outstanding Low galal! I was so pleased to see Ira’s wife, Janet Serle, and children, Beth ‘11 and Allyson ‘17. Ira, Janet and I walked into Low just before Dean James J. Valentini, and Ira’s brother, up from New York, to the rest of Ira’s family at the reception.

Now, it’s time for all of us to get to work on some of the items mentioned above. Our next reunion is fast approaching, and we need to start thinking about it. Please look on Facebook for the “Columbia College Class of 1975” page. Like it and contribute to it! And then, too, let me know if you are interested and willing to serve on our (gulp!) 40th reunion committee.

Finally, send cards, letters and emails! I will have lots to report. You can reach me at either of the addresses at the top of the column, or submit an update through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note. Go Lions!

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Gara LaMarche shares the good news of his marriage on September 28 to Lisa Mueller, a Seattle native and director of development and communications for Sanctuary for Families, a New York City organization working against domestic violence and sex trafficking: “We were married in Watch Hill, R.I., near Westerly, where I grew up and where I worked at the beach during the summers of my childhood and Columbia days. Dan Baker, my Carman Hall roommate, was in the wedding party and played the part of me in a performance during the rehearsal dinner of Lisa and Gara: ‘The Early E-Mails. A few days after we returned from our ‘mini-moon’ on Nantucket, the Democracy Alliance, an organization of progressive donors and activists, announced my appointment as president. I started on November 18.”

Until September 2011, Gara was president of the Atlantic Philanthropies, a global foundation, and for the past two years he’s been a senior fellow at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU, also doing stints as a senior fellow at the Tides Foundation and a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley.

In addition, he has been taking care of his grandson, Sam (2), while his older daughter, Una, has published one young adult novel and finished a second; she is now working on a collection of humorous essays to be published this year.

My close friend from Carman Hall days right through to graduation and after, Paul Sterne, writes that he has time to report some news. First, on the progress of getting older: “I often make you want to take a few days off from New York and get out to the ‘littler’ world. In the fall, I attended one of my favorite events — the CAA Alumni Leaders Weekend, held on campus October 11-12. Alumni were there from many University schools, although I spent most of my time with College folks. We talked about many things, among them the Core Curriculum, Class Notes for Columbia College Today, networking and especially reunion planning. And yes, I’ve been talking about that last one for a while!”

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under 40” list in Fortune. She lives in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, with her entrepreneur husband, Max Hoat, CEO of Livestream.

While Paul’s career is winding down — General Motors, Deutsche Bank, IBM, E2open, Open-Xchange AG and now Match My Email for Salesforce.com — his wife Anna’s is blossoming. She is the director of Community Care Professionals at St. Mary’s for Children in Queens. In the last five years, he says, she has finally found his true vocation: building handmade fences from black locust (a kind of tree) and blogging on GroundReport. He attached a picture of one of his fences in his message to me. Very handsome.

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Hmnn (riffing through papers) — looks like I have reports from Larry Moss and Harold Lehmann (see below); a shout-out from Dave McAvo (from Boston, where he is a managing partner with Northwestern Mutual); and an update on Neal Walkoff, who chairs the board of OTC Markets Group.

Larry is with Seyfarth Shaw, where his practice mostly involves commercial real estate. He works out of the New York office but started in Chicago, wait, let me backtrack.

So, after college, Larry spent two years at the Jewish Theological Seminary and got married. After that he earned a law degree from Chicago and spent many years at the firm of D’Ancona and Pflaum, which merged into Seyfarth in 2003. Divorced in 2000, Larry has been “dating” (as he puts it) Lauren Class Schneider, who lives in midtown Manhattan, which explains his move (back) to New York. Larry has two daughters: “Elena (26), who is married and lives in Chicago and manages a pet store, and Adelle (22), who is a graduating senior at the ‘other’ CC (Colorado College).”

Larry conveys greetings to his buddies from Columbia soccer, adding, “I’d love to go to a CC soccer game sometime but haven’t made it yet.” Larry notes that he won the Dwight D. Eisenhower Student Watch Award in 1977.

“Alas, the watch was stolen a couple of years ago. Memories of the College remain.”

As for Harold, he recently received two promotions at the Johns Hopkins Medical School — one to full professor and one to interim director of the school’s Division of Health Sciences Informatics. In reference to the latter, he says,

“There are a number of reasons why the transition is needed. First, the current director is retiring, and the division is in need of a new leader. Second, the school is looking to increase its focus on health informatics, and the new director will be instrumental in achieving this goal. Third, the division is facing some challenges, and the new director will be able to address them effectively.”

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As I write, it’s 15 degrees and starting to snow — New Year’s Day morning. I’m thinking of a long ago December day, shortly after finals, when I was walking across the South Field walkway toward the subway with a suitcase in hand, an incomplete paper tucked in my backpack. Snow was collecting on the octagonal black bricks and I was filled with the sense that winter break offered an endless and needed rest. Probably I took a trip to Florida to see my grandparents after hanging out with high school friends over New Year’s. Time to wake up …

“Tom Mariam has made the move to an iconic NYC law firm, but I’m sure the ex-WKCR maven will still be found in his spare time in the dressing rooms and press boxes of New York sports teams, filing for his own network of radio stations. He writes, ‘I am happy to report that I have become the director of business development and marketing for Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, one of the leading international law firms and the second-longest continually operating law firm in the United States.’”

“James ‘Huck’ Hill offers these kind words: ‘My first and last stop on the radio is WKCR. A year of listening to its music — jazz, classical, ragga, bluegrass, funk, folk, blues, electronic oddities, etc. — feeds the soul now as it did in 1974. When our sports get airplay, win, lose or draw, their songs are our songs, too.’”

Chuck Callan, whom I saw at Homecoming with Alex Demac, is keeping up with folks in the College tradition. He writes, ‘Alex Demac and I met for lunch last fall and discussed birthdays, the Core and related topics. Ben Caplan and I got together in Washington, D.C., between one of his many European trips. We all had a lot of fun at my pre-reunion Cinco de Mayo soiree.”

As for Alex, he says, “I’ve been practicing psychiatry in suburban Connecticut for 23 years. Now that my two eldest sons are in college and the two younger ones are in high school, I’ve indulged my intense longing for my hometown, Manhattan, by opening an office in Greenwich Village. I come in at least one day each week to see patients, visit with friends and walk, walk, walk. Would love to hear from any NYC classmates and get together for whatever.”

Don Guttenplan has great news: “My wife, Maria, and I are very proud that our daughter, Zoe, has been accepted to the Class of 2018! Time to dust off that Lit Hum shelf in my study.”

“Not to be undone, Jeffery Moerdler’s son is at grad school at Columbia: ‘Eric is getting a master’s in real estate development from the Architecture School and he loves it. He is the first one of my kids to attend Columbia!’”

More family updates from Joseph Schachner: “I am an empty-nester, my older daughter is married and my younger one now lives in Manhattan, which she learned to love while she was a student at Barnard. She thought living in suburbia (for free) and having to take a train to Manhattan was a form of child abuse. She is student-teaching; she wants to be an English teacher. Both my parents passed away in the past year, my mom at 89 and my father at 92. At work, I’m a senior software engineer at Teledyne LeCroy. (LeCroy was bought by Teledyne last August).”

“Kevin Vitting also has kid news: ‘My son, Matt, finished his first semester at Rensselaer. He’s dual-majoring in computer science and computer systems engineering. I told him to hurry up and finish; the way ObamaCare is going, his country really needs him!’”

Jeff Canfield ‘78, who works in the Department of Defense, is the deputy director for battlespace awareness for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Jeff Canfield is keeping us safe in the Department of Defense, where he was “appointed in April 2013 as a defense intelligence senior level executive and assigned as deputy director for battlespace awareness for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I’m also celebrating my granddaughter Maia’s fourth birthday.”

Rob Freeberg writes, “Since I have only sent updates to CCT when I’ve reached a milestone, I figured it’s about time to announce my retirement from teaching. After 30 years of directing the New Rochelle H.S. band program, I hung up my baton in June 2012. My wife, Judy Fink, also retired from her job directing school and public programs at the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture. We sold our house in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., and moved to Dummerston, Vt., near Brattleboro, where we live on 17 acres at the top of a mountain overlooking the hills of southern New Hampshire. I keep busy cutting wood to heat the house and building trails on our property so we can hike, cross country ski and snowshoe from the back door.”

“I recently began teaching jazz part-time at The Putney School (where Harry Bauld ’77 used to teach English), and I’ve gotten involved playing trumpet in the surprisingly decent music scene in Brattleboro. Judy is involved in various volunteer projects, and there are many things to keep us occupied. Our son, Nathan, will soon reach the age where he needs to purchase his own health insurance, and leads mountain-
Of Columbia interest, during the past two years I have sung the The Star-Spangled Banner at several CU basketball games."

Midwesterner (now) Rob Blank sends this update: "I was delighted to catch up with many classmates at reunion last spring. On returning home, I started a job as chief of endocrinology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. After a sheltered career in which I only had to worry about my own lab and patients, I now find myself responsible for a group practice and others' research programs as well. I'm finding the management side both challenging and fun, despite the turmoil related to the Affordable Care Act and the NIH budget research budget."

Henry Aronson is in Brooklyn and plying his career on the Great White Way. He writes, "I continue to sport the '80s big-hair as musical director of Rock of Ages on Broadway, the 34th longest running show, in a bad-way. The show which is coming up on its fifth anniversary. My own show, Loveless Texas, is on the development roster of ROA producer Jeff Davis, with a workshop in Florida scheduled for 2014. My wife, Cailln, and I lost our old Italian greyhound, Wee Sean, who passed away in September at 16, and have welcomed a new IG puppy, Wee Chappie, who is a rock star: beautiful, endlessly energetic and dangerously destructive. His hobbies include terrorizing his 11-year-old sister, Luna Rae."

Another of our musical classmates is Paul Phillips, who writes, "In 2013 I led the Brown University Orchestra on a concert tour of Ireland. Also, with librettist Bill Harley I won the North Carolina Sacred Opera Competition and plan to spend much of 2014 on sabbatical from Brown composing the opera with Bill. The premiere is scheduled for March 2015."

Jonathan Soffer writes, "I teach history at NYU and am working on a book on Tammany Hall and the construction of New York's infrastructure."" I may need Jonathan's book because after 10 years I have left the presidency of the Connecticut Technology Council to become the new economic development administrator for the city of New Haven and our new mayor, Toni Harp. Aside from steering what should be a billion dollars in new building and housing development, I get to oversee the fun department, even in all, including around 300 people. We create jobs; train people; and oversee the fun departments, seven locations and offerings as anything.

Richard Cooper is "considering seeking the Libertarian Party nomination for governor of New York. I have previously served as state chair of the Libertarian Party." News from Mark Itzkowitz: "I have a strong Columbia connection now. My older daughter, Laura '13 Arts, received her M.F.A. in October. She is the managing editor of Untapped Cities and has had her articles featured there and in The Huffington Post, Business Insider, Words Without Borders, The Culturist and elsewhere. "My younger daughter, Melissa '13 Barnard, was the school's 'poster child' in the Summer 2013 Barnard Magazine, displayed in two exhibitions at Barnard during her senior year, and she combined her photography with my father's to prepare a grandchild/granddaughter book (one of her senior projects), Losing Balance. She is helping me in my legal practice while she looks for a more desirable (as if that were possible) position in her chosen fields of anthropology and photography and contemplates graduate school."

"You can guess their mom's (Ellie Louise '79 Barnard) and my pride at both. Ellie and Melissa were featured in the 'Alumnae Daughters' section of Barnard Magazine some time back, and both attended the mother/daughter celebrations at graduation. Those of us from the across the street were able to enjoy the events on campus."

"It was wonderful to spend so much time in Mother's Day Heights while the girls/women were in school. It's amazing to see how much the area has changed since 1979. Hard to believe that it's been 35 years since I was the first to graduate college in my family. Ellie and I continue our private practices, psychology and law, in the Boston area, which somehow seems further from New York now that the girls have graduated. Best wishes."

Robert C. Klapper: My wife and I saw an incredible movie by Ron Howard called Rush, which takes place around the 1976 Formula One season (essentially our freshman year at Columbia — as if that were so long ago for many of us, it's like yesterday). It was incredible because of the story the film tells about two men, drivers James Hunt and Niki Lauda. And it made me think about a moment from my time at Columbia that has
Stayed with me all these years: One night during our junior year, Robert Darnell M.D., Ph.D., M.O.U.S.E. and man from U.N.C.L.E. — now professor at The Rockefeller University and, in my opinion, future Nobel Prize winner — and I were watching the news in the TV lounge at John Jay. Our heated conversation took us from the lounge into his dorm room, where one entire wall was covered by a red poster of Lauda in his Ferrari Formula One car. His face was permanently disfigured by a burn from a horrific crash he suffered in a race in Germany. It was at this moment, staring at this poster, that Bob relayed the story that is the subject of Rush. But he said something that night that has stayed with me. He said that Lauda’s wife was a beautiful model and that even after this life-threatening and disfiguring tragedy, she did not leave him. I remember looking at his face and imagining the power in their relationship. These decades later, whenever the phrase ‘true love’ is mentioned, I go back to that dorm room and look at that poster and hear that story again. Thanks, Bob. Go see that movie. Can you believe all we had was a TV lounge? Roar, lion, roar!

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Spring is a wonderful time here in New York City as Central Park begins to bloom, people are out and about, and the baseball season is in full swing. Coach Brett Boretti and a group of alumni got together in February to kick off the season. Coming off one of the best seasons ever last spring, the coach and his staff have assembled a high-quality team that surely will continue the winning tradition. [Editor’s note: See story on Boretti and Columbia baseball in “Roar, Lion, Roar.”]

I had a nice dinner with Jack Hersh ’80E, Dave Maloof and Harlan Simon ’81 at Carmine’s in Manhattan. The red sauce was delicious, and the great stories kept us in laughs! Jack is managing money out of Santa Monica, running marathons and flying planes in his spare time. Dave is an expert in merger law, a Jets fan and has a son, David II ’17. “The Big H” (Harlan) is a partner in a hedge fund business in NYC.

Stan Lazusky checked in from Hershey, Pa., where he runs his executive search firm focusing on the healthcare industry. Always up for a debate, we have been trying to figure out the direction of the stock market and where the economy is headed.

Eric Goldstein is leaving Paul Weiss, where he was a partner in the litigation department, to become CEO and executive v.p. of UJA-Federation of New York, the largest local Jewish charity in the world. He has been involved with the organization for 25 years as a lay leader and in 2013 was named vice chair. He begins in his new post this July.

I look forward to hearing from you. Send your submissions to either address at the top of the column, or you can use CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

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I apologize to the class for missing the deadline for the Winter 2013–14 edition of CCT. I did receive one update prior to the deadline, which appears first here.

On October 1, 2012, the Hon. Paul Feinman was designated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, First Department. The First Department hears appeals from the trial courts in Manhattan and the Bronx, which represents a tremendous number of cases due to the high number of appeals from these boroughs. Paul says that appellate decision making is a collaborative process and very different from being a trial judge but he enjoys the new position. In close proximity to Paul are several Columbia: Roland Acosta ’79, ’82L, the Hon. David Saxe ’63, and the Hon. Rosalyn Richner ’76 Barnard.

The next update is for all classmates who either a) have a tattoo they’d like removed or b) have a son or daughter with a tattoo, which they would pay to have removed. (I fall in the latter category; it’s a long story.) Dr. Jeffrey Raif is a board-certified dermatologist in Manhattan with a specialty in laser tattoo removal and is the only doctor in the country whose practice is exclusively devoted to removing unwanted tattoos. Jeffrey uses the PicSure laser, which he says reduces the number of treatments by half and allows for effective removal of difficult colors. In his practice, Jeffrey sees many Columbia students and children of Columbia alumni as well as international patients who book appointments while visiting NYC.

He recently celebrated his 31st anniversary, and he and his wife have four children: Michael (27), Adam (25), David (21) and Daniel (15).

Congratulations on a successful medical practice and on a long and fruitful marriage!

This next update came to me from Elliot Cafriz ’82 via Jeff Pundyk and concerns a new book by Lincoln Paine, The Sea and Civilization: A Maritime History of the World. The online reviews are very favorable. And on June 11, there was a gathering of several alumni at the Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington, D.C., where Lincoln gave a reading.

Mark Allen sent sad news about the death of his dear friend Dr. Alan Saffran ’86 P&S. Alan passed away on September 27, 2013, at 53, from pancreatic cancer. At the College, Alan followed a pre-med track and was a sportscaster at Columbia Television. He did his residency at Virginia and was a board-certified otolaryngologist and a partner in an Orlando practice. Beyond being an accomplished doctor, Alan was a great father, husband and friend. He was a member of the Roach Motel League, a fantasy baseball league that was formed in 1981 and is the oldest continually operating fantasy baseball league in the world (I’m not in a position to confirm or deny this fact but you have to admire their persistence — wow). Alan participated in this league from 1981 until his death, officially winning the league’s 2013 title on the day after he passed away. He is survived by his wife, Pam; mother, Dolores; brother, Bruce; and children, Miles, Nathaniel and Ella.

Thanks to Mark for bringing this to my attention and for providing such a thoughtful message to the Class of 1981. Our condolences go out to the Saffran family.

I also was informed of the death of Jonathan Taffler, who passed away on September 13, 2013, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Jon was a business executive who resided in Wilton, Conn. He was the president and founder of two firms (Programmed Solutions and Spitfire Project Management System). Jon was described by his friends as a force of nature who was a pilot, flight instructor and sportsman. He developed software, possessed a photographic memory and had an insatiable curiosity about the world.

He is survived by his daughters, Brooke and Lindsay; parents, Sy and Elaine; and former wife, Randi Shamitz.

Our condolences go out to the Taffler family.

[Editor’s note: See Obituaries for more on Saffran and Taffler.]

I am stepping down as the CCT class correspondent for 1981. It has been a privilege reporting on the class, as it has allowed me to stay in touch (albeit from a distance) with Columbia College. While attending Columbia and living on the Upper West Side in the late 1970s was not easy for me, it was a tremendous life experience and great preparation for all that has followed. If you have not attended a reunion in many years, you should before too long, as the campus looks fantastic and the undergraduates actually look happy!

Paul Feinman ’81 was designated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, First Department. I turn this column over to Michael Kinsella, a longtime friend. Michael resides in Connecticut with his wife and two daughters, who are about the same age as mine, so we have much in common (note: Michael has been able to retain his hair; mine has departed). I hope you will support Michael as the class correspondent as you all have supported me. He can be reached at mkg1200@gmail.com or 16 Millwood St., Milford, CT 06460.

Very best to the Class of 1981!

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Greetings, gentlemen! I trust all is well and that all your “doomsday prepping” came in handy during the recent polar vortex. Checking in this quarter is our award-winning physician Sal Valpe. Not only has Dr. Sal been running his own high-tech primary care practice for more than 20 years but he also is chief medical officer for Physicians Desk Reference (PDR) Network, a technology firm that integrates vital bio/pharmaceutical information with electronic health records to support healthcare professionals. He is happy to report, “My two sons continue to refine their acting chops by participating in their schools’ dramatic and musical productions. The position at PDR continues to prove interesting”.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY

CLASS NOTES

SPRING 2014

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as the company develops products and services, many of which integrate with electronic health records.

It is also worth noting that Sal fully revealed himself as a CC graduate by taking exception to the fact that my current employer, Janus Capital, has three chief investment officers (one of which is yours truly); he pointed out that the Roman god Janus had two faces and therefore we should only have two chief investment officers. I’d point this out to the CEO but he’d probably can me if I did, so I guess I’ll hold off for now.

Also touching base this quarter is noted esquire David Shine, who has an interesting update complete with a Homeric reference: Before I get to it, though, I wanted to share that I did a bit of (to quote Derek Zoolander) “investigATORY journalism” and discovered that David is co-head of Fried Frank’s Mergers and Acquisitions Practice. Among other achievements, he has named a “Dealmaker of the Week” by *The American Lawyer* for his role in advising Merck in its $41 billion merger with Schering-Plough, and he is the director of New Class-rooms Innovation Partners, a not-for-profit K-12 education reform company.

So, David, what are you doing with all your spare time?

David writes, “Our friend David Fishman and the eminent architect Robert A.M. Stern ’69 have published their architectural history book, Paradise Planned: The Garden Suburb and the Modern City. To celebrate, several classmates held a dinner in David’s honor at the original Wolfgang’s Steakhouse on Park Avenue (where, David noted, the Gustavino tile interior is one of the few landmarked interiors in New York City). After four years of work on the book project, David reports that he finally understands that man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains.

“Larry Sacks ’82E was at the dinner, flying over the wine-dark seas from London where he works in financial services and where he is getting ready to move with his family from a flat to a proper house in the suburbs. Stately plump Evan HOLLANDER was also there. Evan lives on the Upper West Side with his wife and daughter and reported that he is content at his law firm, Arnold & Porter, where he is a partner specializing in restructuring and bankruptcy.

“Michael Offen ’84, the group’s favorite investment banker, was a bit late to dinner, but when he did appear he reported that he is now with Guggenheim Partners in New York and lives with his wife and three kids in Rockland County. There, he said, he cultivates his garden, because he must. Gavin Miles, executive ADA (rackets bureau) in Brooklyn, won the night’s ‘Best Hair at Age 52’ contest; he mentions that this son, Ben, has started college at Oberlin, where he will seek to forge in the smithy of his soul the uncreated conscience of the Miles clan. Phil Teverow is the founder of a specialty foods consulting business based in Brooklyn and has two kids in college (Oberlin and the University of St Andrews) and one soon to be entering. The financial impact on him of all this college, Phil reports, has sometimes left him feeling like a patient etherized upon a table.

“(David Shino) have been living in Armonk, Westchester, for 15 years, but my wife and I have been unable to resist the sirens call of NYC and will be moving back this fall when our youngest leaves for college. The dinner was long, we stopped by before we now it rosy-fingered dawn crept in.”

Gents, thanks for writing in, and I look forward to hearing from all of you again soon.

“1990. ‘Four weeks, gentlemen. Four.’ Professor Gray’s baritone boomed through the small seminar room in Hamilton Hall. It was a gray, cloudy, chilly day outside the slightly grimy window, and nearly all the students in the room had not been painted in 20; no, 30 years. Brown streaks ran down over what had once been ornately carved wooden molding, staining the paint where the heating pipes leaked hot water during the winter months. The inn radiator under the window hissed occasionally during class to remind the students that they sat in the same room, with the same hissing radiator, where Lionel Trilling had first taught Ulysses to eager boys in tweed jackets. Wallace Gray had been one of them, and now he was teaching another generation of philosopher kings, only Joyce was not on the fall semester reading list for Contemporary Civilization. But Plato’s Republic was, although the memories of it were fading in the minds of the 15 young men sitting in silence before the gray-haired professor. Only four weeks until the semester exam. A thousand pages left to read, and 3,000 behind them to review. Wally Gray was an icon: chairman of the English department and professor for over 20 years. His senior seminars and lecture classes on Eliot, Joyce and Pound were always oversubscribed. English majors battled to have him for an adviser. Yet he still cherished the opportunity to teach freshmen and sophomores in the ‘Core Curriculum’ classes of Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilizations. The great works of literature, philosophy, politics and economics — the basis of Western civilization. They were the bedrock of the Columbia education, and brutal courses for young college men, no matter how well prepared in high school. Professor Gray was molding minds; shaping the course of lives. He loved every minute of it. He prowled the front of the crowded room, making eye contact with each student, pouring ideas into their minds like fine wine into a two-week-old jack-o’-lantern.”

David Rubel writes, “Thought I’d pass on the good news. Columbia admitted my daughter, Abigail, early decision. Yippee! In October, I was invited to take part in the annual CAA Alumni Authors Book Fair, which is part of Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend. During the lunch, held in Lerner Hall (a far cry from the old Ferris Booth), we were treated to a conversation between President Lee C. Bollinger and chair (now co-chair) of the Board of Trustees William V. Campbell ‘62, ’64 TC (still the football coach to me). Listening to them sing the University’s praises, I found it hard to believe that they were talking about our alma mater. I always thought of the school I attended as the ‘scruffy’ Ivy, but Columbia is scruffy no more. ‘I felt much more at home, however, after serendipitously sitting down at a table already occupied by my freshman-year John Jay roommate, John CODY. My eyesight isn’t what it used to be, so I didn’t recognize John across the table. But when he heard my voice (which still wavers in my head) and boomed out a very welcome greeting, I also caught up with another alumni author and *Spectator* columnist, Eric Laursen ’82, who has written a book about the history of Social Security called *The People’s Pension*. I’m looking forward to reading it.”

Teddy Weinberger had dinner with my family during his recent visit to the United States for his niece’s bat mitzvah. Teddy also spent time with Adam BAYROFF. Adam and his wife, Rachel, now graduated from Penn. Teddy and his wife have raised five children in Giv’at Ze’ev, Israel. He is a true Renaissance man, having been an assistant professor of religious studies, writer (he recently hit No. 399 in the hits weekly columns on life in Israel, and he writes for several American Jewish newspapers), businessman and tennis instructor. Teddy’s daughter, Rebecca, is a professional Israeli basketball player.

Bruce Abramson reports, “I am about to launch a series of monthly continuing legal education webinars through Lawline.com on the broad topic of ‘Strategy in the Age of IP Holdup.’ The talks will run one hour each, and the first is planned for October. My favorite talk is ‘Winning the After-market.’ The other talks are not yet scheduled but I plan to cover the following topics: patent strategy in the modern economy, the strategic benefits of IP valuation, the strategic uses of big patent data, the strategic side of IP licensing, strategic copyright in the digital age, strategic navigation of the standard-setting process and strategic IP exclusivity in a competitive economy.”

“Although I am presenting the materials in a CLE course, the materials and presentations are geared toward anyone interested in the interplay between IP rights and business strategy, including entrepreneurs, managers and investors as well as lawyers. If you would like details or know anyone who might want details, please let me know. I will share the abstracts of the various talks.”

I met Paul Foglio ’84, ’85E at
a mutual friend's birthday party. Paul is married to Libby O'Connor Foglio '83 Barnard and teaches math at The Brarley School. He is a former CU marching band member and is in touch with Robert Kahn '83. His daughter, Gisela '84 and Steve Greenfield '82.

Jon Ross wrote toward the end of the last year: "I wanted to take this moment, in this season of thanksgiving, to express my appreciation for your support. And I want to specifically mention the tragedy in the Philippines. Of course, my heart goes out to the survivors of that disaster and hope that the emergency response is continuing to help those in dire need. I want you to know, since [my nonprofit] MicroAid is a long-term, disaster-recovery organization, I will go there to help down the road. Our mission is to stay focused on areas after the world's attention has moved on. MicroAid is still working in the Indian Ocean basin (tsunami 2004), Myanmar (cyclone 2008), and Haiti (earthquake 2010). In your thoughts and generosity surrounding this new disaster, please don't forget those left behind."

I spoke to Steve Coleman at Homecoming on October 12. He has a daughter, Sarah '15. Steve attended the 100th anniversary Sachems dinner. More than half the members of the Senior Society of Sachems attended, including former Dean of Students Roger Lehecka '67, '74 GSAS.

Steve also sent in a press release issued about David Nagle, who has been named president of Nature's Way Purewater Systems of Pittston, Pa. The press release notes that David had been the company's v.p. of sales and marketing, and that he has more than 25 years of business experience, having managed two start-ups in addition to holding executive level roles in other companies. He holds a master's from Scranton.

Wayne A. Lynn Root sent me a holiday card noting that his book The Ultimate Obama Survival Guide, was a No. 1 national bestseller, staying in the top five in bookstores for 10 consecutive weeks and was No. 1 in the world in three categories at Amazon. His new book, The Murder of the Middle Class, is coming out in July.

Wayne traveled the world in 2013 for speaking engagements, visiting South Africa twice and going on his first safari. He was invited to address the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C., alongside Mitt Romney, Sarah Palin, Newt Gingrich, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz. The card adds, "[My wife, Debra, and I] are so proud of [our daughter], Dakota. She received three firsts during her two terms at Oxford in the spring and will graduate with honors from Harvard in May."

This past October I attended Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, which included a talk about the Manhattanville campus. To share some of the highlights, the new campus brings the future forward, as there will be 17 acres and 6.8 million square feet of space, links among disciplines and campuses, the highest standards for sustainability (New York City's first LEED platinum plan for neighborhood development), 6,000 new university jobs and thousands of construction-related jobs during the next several decades, and an urban campus that welcomes visitors through open streets, ground-floor retail, plazas and public programs.

The New York Post ran the following story about Dan Loeb's holiday card: "Trascendable hedge fund billionaire Dan Loeb's holiday card is full of over-the-top family achievements past, present and future — including a Loeb moon landing. Bearing the tag line 'Not Your Ordinary Family,' it features on one side a Facebook page-inspired spread of Loeb clan pictures that include the wet suit-wearing Third Point founder surfing an enormous wave, a mock-up shot of him cheekily engraving a giant 'LOEB' tattoo on his wife Marga's back circa 1963,' plus shots of the couple and their kids in exotic locations, one of them on a boat."

The grandfather of one of my son's Little League teammates is a great Columbia supporter. Herbert Soroca '63, '66, was a varsity crew member and coached crew after graduating from CC. He also was close friends with later former Dean Harry Coleman '46.

Steven Greenfield writes, "It took about 12 months longer than it should have, but my 2012 music survey is complete and available at permanenttransitions.blogspot.com. Please have a look when you get the chance. Remember 2012? The year of Psy's 'Gangnam Style' and Carly Rae Jepsen's 'Call Me Maybe'? If it already seems a distant memory, this survey will serve as a refresher of sorts."

"Because it took so long for me to get through this time around, I am dispensing with the usual introductory material, snark and all, in favor of getting to the heart of the matter.... I want to thank, as usual, Steve Holtje and Luis Rueda for their suggestions about what was worth paying attention to in 2012 and my darling Melissa for bearing with me all the time it took to get this survey finished."

"My list of the Top Twelve (of the pops) for the year follows: 1, The Mars Volta, 'Noodtourniquet'; 2, Burial, 'Street Halo/Kindred'; 3, Actress, 'R.I.P.;' 4, Flying Lotus, 'Until the Quiet Comes'; 5, Goat, 'World Music'; 6, Tame Impala, 'Lonerism'; 7, Sigur Rós, 'Valtari'; 8, Battles, 'Gore'; 9, Bat for Lashes, 'The Haunted Man'; 10, Crystal Castles, 'Crystal Castles (III);' 11, Stars, 'The North;' and 12, Ondatra, 'Ondatra.'"

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Steve Coleman '83 attended the 100th anniversary dinner of the Senior Society of Sachems.

Thanks to the leadership of Reunion Committee chair, Arthur C. Kohn, meetings have expanded to included Ben Pushner, class president Larry Kane, Alfred Torres, Paul Auwaerter, John Perfetti, James Gorton, Ken Ofori-Atta, Virgilio Lozza, Averyl Powers and Dennis Klainberg.

Special note: Many of you have mentioned through the years that you wanted greater participation with our friends across Broadway. So this year, we are pleased to report that the Barnard Class of 1984 has been working with us from the start. What's more, our first reunion event will be a shared event, much like last year's successful Thursday evening event at the home of Roy Pomerantz '83.

So please save the date: Thursday, May 29-Sunday, June 1. For details and to register go to reunion.college.columbia.edu.

Now, on to the updates:

With health care a major topic, National Kidney Foundation president Bruce Skyer is in the news. As noted in various outlets, Bruce expressed "[thanks] to NKF's patient constituency and those of our professional members who are on the front lines caring for dialysis patients for their work in reaching out to lawmakers. However, our work is not over; and we will continue to make sure kidney patients have access to the care and treatments they need."

Despite a little rainfall, the annual outdoor Columbia Alumni Association soiree during Art Basel Miami provided a well-needed break during an otherwise terribly hectic time. Yours truly (Dennis Klainberg) was able to jog over from the beach (I was handling the 'Scope Art Fair's shipping needs) and met with dear friends Bernardo Burstein and his wife, Lynn, and Seth Schachner '85. Bernardo is one of Miami's best legal eagles, while Seth wheels and deals in international media. Seth, his wife, Allison, and their two kids visited the show the next day, and my sons and I met Bernardo, Lynn and his daughter two weeks later at Bernardo's second business, The Guitar Nook. Check it out (and make purchases) online. The lunch at the nearby Jewish deli wasn't too shabby, either!

On December 11, two of our former varsity wrestlers, Andy Barth '83 and Yossi Rabin, who both won the Dwight D. Eisenhower Watch Award for the highest GPA among athletes (in 1981 and 1982, respectively), had a personal 30-year reunion in Los Angeles. Andy is the chairman of and a portfolio manager at Capital Guardian Trust Company, a division of the Capital Group Companies. Yossi is the owner and manager of Kovichin Real Estate in Jerusalem, Israel. Also, Yossi and his wife, Ko- cha, get a nazet tov on the birth of their third grandchild, Bat-tyan Rabin, on January 4.

Fasstrom dreams, and hope to see you all at reunion.

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This edition's updates include a variety of news from around the world, around the New York area and around campus.

Joseph L. Novak continues his career with the U.S. State Department. He is based in Montreal.
where he serves as the deputy chief of mission and alternate U.S. representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization. The U.S. Mission to ICAO is focused on improving the security, safety and economic sustainability of international civil aviation, an area in which the United States is the world leader. During ICAO's recent General Assembly, the U.S. Mission hosted a large delegation from Washington, D.C., which included the Secretary of Transportation, the (acting) Secretary of Homeland Security and the administrators of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board. The mission's activities can be reviewed at icao.usmission.gov.

A member of the State Department's political core, Joe also has served in Jakarta, Indonesia; Islamabad, Pakistan; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Manila, the Philippines, and Colombo, Sri Lanka. He has served in Afghanistan, meeting with Hamid Karzai, Ahmad Shah Massoud.

Paul Getzels '85 is a member of the New York City Bar Chorus, the legal professionals' chorus, which held its 20th anniversary concert last fall.

and many other Afghan leaders. He has studied French, Indonesian and Bengali in depth. No matter where he is, Joe follows the Giants, the Yankees, the Lions and Notre Dame football, and can be found reading The New York Times.

Back in New York, Paul Getzels continues as a member of the New York City Bar Chorus, the legal professionals' chorus, which held its 20th anniversary concert last fall. The chorus is directed by Paul's wife, Cathy Schneider. Its mission is to be a goodwill ambassador of the New York City Bar, performing primarily at community venues such as senior residences, homeless shelters, AIDS and cancer patient residences, and pediatric and rehab facilities. Paul's expanding voice-over career (comprising nearly a decade) includes projects for companies such as WFAN (the sports-talk radio station in New York), Phillips (corporate videos) and a variety of films, commercials and book trailers.

On Morningside Heights, after 20 seasons as head coach of women's soccer, Kevin McCarthy has resigned to pursue other opportunities. Kevin was only the second head coach in program history; in his 20 years, he compiled an overall record of 162-145-36. His most successful season came in 2006, when Columbia went undefeated in conference play and won the Ivy title. Of course, Kevin's relationship to Columbia soccer extends back to his membership on the team 1981-84 (during the heart of the team's eight consecutive Ivy titles); he also was an assistant men's soccer coach 1988-93.

At a Columbia event this past fall, I was truly fortunate to catch up with a group of classmates. In the corporate world, Michael Cho, who founded Destination RX, now DRX, in 1999, sold the company to Conncord in January 2013. Michael now leads Conncord's private Medicare exchange business as chief innovation officer and will no doubt continue to do great things.

Ed Scott is a managing director at Conncord Investment Partners. Holdings in Riversine, Conn. Concord is a private equity firm specializing in buyouts, middle market and turnaround investments, with a preference for investments in the manufacturing, distribution and high technology sector.

In the legal arena, after extended work in the public sector, Hector Morales has shifted to the private sector, both as counsel to Baker & McKenzie in Washington, D.C., and as vice-chair of Global Strategic Associates, which provides strategic consulting and investment services to leading international businesses with a focus on Latin America, Asia and the United States.

Brian Margolis enjoys his legal practice at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (he has been recognized by IPO Vital Signs as one of the top 100 IPO lawyers in the U.S.).

Outside the law and medicine, Bryan Barnett, having left Conncord Investment Services, is an independent consultant and Microsoft Office specialist/instructor.

John Phealan's daughter, Unity, has been asked to join New York City Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet.

In the medical world, two classes have new positions: Lane Palmer is now secretary-elect at the Society for Pediatric Urology, and Lucas Collazo is now surgical director of the Adult Congenital Heart Program at Inova Health System.

Kudos to Mark Rothman for joining me and others among the Class Agent ranks.

Aside from being a Class Agent and helping the Columbia College Fund raise money for the next generation of Columbians (the total four-year bill can now approach a quarter of a million dollars), let me make a plug for two other things for which you can volunteer. First, the Admissions Office is always looking for alumni volunteers to interview prospective students through the Alumni Representative Committee; you can find more information here: undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/admissions/archandbook. Second, the Center for Career Education is looking for alumni who can offer help (clearly, if you are located in New York, it is easier for internships during the semester; but summer or between-semester opportunities are valuable as well). Go to careereducation.columbia.edu.

Finally, congratulations to those of you who have children who received early decision acceptances at Columbia or elsewhere. You may remember that the Class of '85 led the way last year in legacy admissions to Columbia, and in the Fall 2013 issue, look for the list of classmates who will create a multi-generational relationship with the College. My middle son, Noah, was blessed to receive good early news and will be joining the Duke Class of 2018. We are extremely happy and proud and we get to continue wearing blue and white college attire — albeit a slightly different shade.

Happy 50th birthday, classmates! I know; it's painful to see that in print but it's true. Of course, we are the youngest of the Baby Boomer generation, or those born between 1946 and 1964. Throughout 2014, 12,500 of those born in 1964 will turn 50 each day. So, happy birthday and congrats on hitting the golden jubilee of birthdays!

Also, I hate to remind you, but age 50 is when the American Cancer Society suggests you should start screening for colorectal cancer. If you want to make a party of it, contact Jack Merrick, who, as was reported here four years ago, helps organize “Scopefest” colonoscopy parties.

Congratulations to Mark Fortier for being appointed managing director, head of global defined contribution research and product development at State Street Global Advisors. He joined from Alliance Bernstein and previously worked at Aegon for more than 20 years.

The proverbial mail bag was far too empty this time around. Send in your updates! You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column, or submit news via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Although thankfully these occasions are still not the norm, I once again find myself with a heavy heart at having to report the death of Karin Higa, who passed away on October 29, 2013, following a battle with cancer. Her friend Karen Walker sent the following remembrance.

"Karin was an expert in Asian-American art who worked for many years as a curator at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. She was well respected for her expansive knowledge and numerous contributions [toward] increasing understanding of Asian-American contemporary art. Karin organized many notable exhibitions, including a landmark 1992 show of art made at internment camps during WWII and a 2008 show devoted to the art of Ikeda, an Japanese flower arrangement. She had been named a curator for the Hammer Museum's 'Made in L.A.' Biennial for 2014 but was forced to step down due to her illness. Karin lived in Los Angeles, where she grew up. She is survived by her husband, Russell Ferguson, as well as her mother and brother.

"Throughout her illness, Karin was remarkably courageous and continued to live her life with zest, even taking up cycling and traveling to visit the White House for an event organized by The White House Historical Association and hosted by Michelle Obama in celebration of American art. Life is precious and short, and goes fast. Karin was an inspiration for how we should make the most of every single day, and appreciate every single hour. It is a testament to Karin’s gift for friendship that more than 500 people attended her memorial in Los Angeles in early December. Karin was a wonderful classmate and a dear and loving friend, and she is missed hugely."

Thank you, Karen.

As an existential psychologist, I know — and I always remind people — that while death is what makes life precious and fragile, we have to celebrate life. And we do have a celebration in our class as well, as we congratulate Nancy Silver Basri and her husband, Bill Basri '84, who received the wonderful news on early decision that their son Noah will be a member of the Class of 2018. Nancy wrote,
"He will join our older son, Ross ’15E, on campus next fall. Bill and I are excited and proud to share the Columbia tradition with our newest Lion-to-be and are looking forward to four more years of eating at V&T."

Eric Fusfield
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Positive reviews of last spring’s 25th Alumni Reunion Weekend continue to roll in. Margaret Traub-Aguirre writes, "It really warmed my heart to see so many fantastic people, whom I’ve missed and whose lives have developed so wonderfully. We really have the greatest graduating class. Plus I feel like no one has aged!"

Another parent who is kvelling (bursting with pride) is Carl Schaef, whose son, Gabriel, completed his bar mitzvah ceremony at Congregation Agudath Israel of West Essex, in Caldwell, N.J., in December. "My son performed beautifully and led the service from start to finish," Carl writes. "He put on tallit (prayer phylacteries) competently, unlike his father, who stumbled on it." The Class of ’88 was well represented at the bar mitzvah, as Jonathan Lavine, Daniel Goldebor, Andrew Hyman, Hal Shapiro and Molly Chein ’88 Barnard were all on hand for mazel tovs.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to your notes. I also encourage everyone to join the Columbia College Class of 1988 Facebook page; it’s a convenient way to stay in touch.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1
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I’m thrilled that our long-awaited reunion is nearly upon us and even more importantly, that I’ve heard from so many classmates who are planning to go. The Reunion Committee has been in full swing planning a full and exciting weekend. Even if you can only come for a few hours, it’ll be worth it because, as one of our 25th reunion organizers, Matt Engels, says, "The 25th reunion is it — the next big reunion after this one, we’ll all be running around NYC with artificial hips and knees, and it just won’t be the same."

It’s never too late to sign up to attend and join in the fun. But why not do so now? The dates are Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, and you can register at reunion.college.columbia.edu.

Sharon Bernecki DeJoy is an assistant professor of health at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, where she directs the undergraduate program in health promotion. Sharon says, "I am also a certified professional midwife, although I am not currently practicing. My husband, two youngest kids, dog, cat, hamster and I live together amicably in southeastern Pennsylvania."

Amy Asch recently shared that she lives in Inwood (the tippy top of Manhattan, near Columbia’s football stadium) and is working for Playbill, singing with Riverside Choral Society and "looking forward to reunion."

Michael Barry writes, "I am a real estate developer and hotelier. I own a company, along with my brother, David ’87, called Ironstate Development (ironstate.net). I develop and own properties in New York City, Jersey City, Hoboken and other urban areas in the region." Michael also shares that he has joined the Columbia University Medical Center Board of Advisers. Michael is not a medical doctor but the board is made up of individuals with varied professional backgrounds.

I heard from fellow Carman 11 resident Eric Altbach, who has lived in Washington, D.C., since 1997. He worked primarily in government before moving to the private sector last year to join the Albright Stonebridge Group, a global commercial diplomacy firm founded by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former National Security Adviser Sandy Berger. Eric is an s.v.p., assisting clients in China and other Asian markets. Prior to joining the firm, Eric was the deputy assistant U.S. trade representative for China affairs, responsible for Taiwan and China. From 2004 to 2006 he was at the White House as the National Security Council’s director for Asian economic affairs. Eric also has held a number of positions at the State Department, focusing on Asian economic issues in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Eric is married to Michelle McGrath, a social worker, and they have a daughter, Catherine (6). Eric has periodically stayed in touch with a number of his CC classmates from Carman 11, including Rob Kaplan, a partner at Debevoise & Plimpton, who also lives in Washington, D.C.; Gina (Shishima) Sosa, a patent attorney in Austin; Laura Offut, a doctor in Philadelphia; Matt Irvine, a police lieutenant in San Francisco; and honorary Carman resident Karen (Mochizuki) Kano. Eric’s New Year’s resolution is to catch up with all of them soon.

Mark Zoland is a surgeon in private practice in NYC, practicing open and advanced laparoscopic surgery. He writes, "My specialty and passion is sports hernia surgery. I have recently been granted patents on two inventions: a new mesh for inguinal hernia surgery, and a tray that promotes sharp safety in the operating room. The
Jenji Kohan ’91 Finds Humor and Truth In Life’s Darker Moments

BY KIM MARTINEAU ’97J

I
n a period that many would describe as a golden age for television, Jenji Kohan ’91 has created not one but two hit TV shows: Weeds, a satirical take on the war on drugs, and Orange Is the New Black, an equally subversive look at the criminal justice system. Queen of a new, edgier brand of storytelling, the Emmy-winning Kohan has found a way to bring laughs and sharp social commentary to mainstream television.

"Jenji is one of the great show-runners of our time," says Kevin Bega, chairman of Lionsgate Television Group, producer of Weeds, Orange and Mad Men. "It feels like every one of her characters is real, and not a television creation. That is a unique skill set.

To survive in show biz it helps to have a thick skin. Kohan developed hers around the dinner table, where she tested wits against a family of writers: Emmy-winning father, Buz; acclaimed novelist mother, Rhea; and twin older brothers, Jono and David (co-producer of the ’90s sitcom Will & Grace). In the Kohan household, bathroom humor was dismissed as too easy, and the bar to say something funny and original was set almost impossibly high. "Comedy was serious business in my house," she says.

Growing up in Beverly Hills, Kohan had an early narrative ear that was tuned toward the Valley, where her mother insisted all the “interesting stories” could be found. But when it came time for college, Kohan went East, first to Brandeis, then transferring to Columbia as a sophomore. "I liked the legacy, the campus and the Core Curriculum," she says. "You’re there to learn and grow and absorb and figure stuff out."

One of the things Kohan hoped to figure out was how to break into New York’s spoken word scene. Aspiring to be the next Spalding Gray or Joe Frank, she landed an internship at Franklin Furnace, a performance art space located at the time in TriBeCa, where she ran errands and helped set up shows.

On weekends, Kohan explored. From Morningside Heights to SoHo, she wandered a different avenue each time. "I’d stop in places and listen in on conversations," she said. "In New York obnoxious," says Lippit. "It was just her curiosity; she was always observing."

While honing her powers of observation off-campus, Kohan concentrated in English and pushed the envelope in her writing at school. Lippit remembers with a hint of envy the "A" that Kohan earned for a paper that used an Elvis bust lamp to launch a discussion of philosophers John Locke and David Hume.

City, there’s always something funny going on." Her friend Miya Lippit ’91 remembers Kohan dragging her to estate sales not so much for the vintage finds but more to catch a glimpse of something intimate about people’s lives. "It was never

In her spare time, Kohan wrote fiction. After winning several contests, she wondered if she might be able to write for TV after Columbia. Her boyfriend was skeptical. "You’d have a better chance of getting elected to Congress than getting on the staff of a television show," he told her.

Undeterred, she drove cross-country and settled with a friend in Santa Cruz, Calif., where she began writing speculative scripts for Roseanne, Seinfeld and The Simpsons. One day she handed her scripts to her sister-in-law’s father, who passed them to a literary agent. Soon Kohan was working on The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air starring Will Smith.

Kohan worked on several more shows, including Friends and the sketch-comedy show Tracey Takes On, with Tracey Ullman. Itching to create a series of her own, she wrote the pilot for Weeds, a comedy-drama about a widowed soccer mom turned dope dealer. Kohan says she wanted to do an outlaw show, and that while pot was illegal it was the "funny drug. It served my goals," she says.

Showtime bought it, and across an eight-season run that ended in 2012, Weeds racked up numerous awards, including Emmys for cinematography and sound mixing. The show was nearing its end when a friend mailed Kohan a copy of the memoir Orange is the New Black, about a Smith graduate who goes to jail for a drug-smuggling stint in her past. Kohan saw in author Piper Kerman the opportunity to create a fictionalized version of the girl-next-door who could bring together worlds divided by race and class.

"We talk about this country as this big melting pot, but it’s a mosaic," she told Terry Gross on NPR’s Fresh Air last summer. "There are all these pieces that are next to each other. They’re not necessarily mixing. I’m looking for those spaces where people actually do mix, and prison happens to be a terrific one."

Kohan pitched the idea to Netflix, which bought the series
unseen. With its second season premiering in June, Orange has also received critical acclaim. Taylor Schilling ("Piper Chapman") was nominated for a Golden Globe; Regina Spektor, who wrote the show’s theme song, "You’ve Got Time," was nominated for a Grammy. Though Weeds and Orange are both premised on privileged white women breaking the law, Kohan warns that it would be "reductionist" to read more into her artistic intent. She is similarly cagey about whether drugs should be legalized or not.

Kohan credits Ullman with helping her make the leap from writer to show-runner, a kind-of CEO of the series who controls all creative decisions, from writing to casting to the final cut. The Emmy she won as supervising producer on Trayce Takes On in 1999 sits on her mantle, and to this day, Kohan follows Ullman’s "sane and healthy" management style. By that, Kohan means wine with lunch, no slack off so that everyone goes home at a decent hour and creating a safe environment that encourages risk-taking. That combination has inspired an unusual degree of loyalty among her crew on Weeds and Orange, where "Jenji’s sets and Jenji’s rooms are happy sets and happy rooms," says Beggs.

In those sets and rooms, Kohan is training the next generation of talent, which will most certainly include more women. For now, she is one of few women to have risen so high. Her main motivation in striving to become the boss, she says, was to have flexibility in raising her family. As for her own creative needs, Kohan says she likes to work in a noisy room, usually coffee shops, with a bag of sunflower seeds and above all, a deadline ticking away. She is working now on a new series about witches in Salem. It sounds like more gloomy material awaiting a humorous treatment but Kohan promises the series will look nothing like what has come before.

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To listen to the interview with Kohan on NPR’s Fresh Air, go to Web Extra at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Kim Martineau ‘97 writes about earth and environmental science at Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, N.Y.

two companies owning the mesh, SurgiSure and Conform, are in the process of bringing the products to market. I live in Scarsdale with my wife, Stacey, and have three boys, two dogs and a whole lot of fish."

Gill Greenman was married in September 2012 to Dr. Lisa Hehner Vila, a clinical psychologist. Gill says, "I split time between Washington, D.C., where I work at the law firm of Williams & Connolly, and Seattle, where Lisa lives with my three stepchildren, Audrey (15), Sam (13) and Joey (9). My children in Washington, D.C. (really, Alexandria, Va.), are Quinn (17) and Jacqueline and Julia (both 13)."

See you all very soon, I hope.

Rachel Cowan Jacobs 313 Lexington Dr. Silver Spring, MD 20901 youngrcjac@hotmail.com

Our class’s Facebook group (Columbia College Class of 1990) is growing by leaps and bounds, right in time for reunion next spring (Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015). This group is a great place to catch up with classmates professionally and socially in between issues of CCT. To join, please message administrator Emily Glickman on Facebook and she will add you. To hold you over until you can get on Facebook, let’s catch up with a few folks. Nancy Pak; her husband, Jim Marshall; and their two children and dog are firmly ensconced in Warsaw, Poland, where they moved in July 2012. Nancy is the marketing director of the Central Europe East region for Colgate-Palmolive. The family is enjoying a more suburban existence (compared to their previous home of Bangkok) but Nancy still misses the Big Apple.

Adam Jacobs is "living on a former farm in rural New Hampshire with my wife, Vivian, and our daughter, Kara (3), who warms my former-linguist heart with her animated chatter in her three native languages: Italian, Hungarian and English. I left academia in 2006 and am now chief scientist at 1010data, a NYC-based ‘big data’ software firm. Most weeks I spend a couple of days in NYC and/or Cambridge, Mass.; I’d love to catch up with classmates in either area. Or come visit us in Hungary, where we spend a few weeks a year at our little place in the village of Hosszúháthy, near Szentendre."

Margaret Flynn reports that her son, Carson Robinson (6), Alexandra and Madeline Nobert (Lisa Dabney and Craig Nobert’s daughters) and Zachary and Lilah Shapiro (Kirsten Mellor’s kids) spent the night before Thanksgiving together in New York, continuing their parents’ tradition of going to see the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons being blown up. Margaret has a new job as a private banker at J.P. Morgan. This is the next step in a career that began in tech startups and then progressed to private equity/VC investing and advisory services. Margaret now helps individuals who have wealth created through tech IPOs and other sources to manage and grow their assets. She loves the more personal aspect of the work.

And that’s all, folks. Hope to hear from you soon. You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column, or via CCT’s webform at college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Happy spring!
other highlight of the past year was her admission to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. She was sponsored by Justice Jeremy Weinstein.

Elizabeth Porter is a supervising attorney at the Legal Group in Fort Lauderdale but her greatest joy is curating in her home her growing collection of her 4-year-old son’s wonderful art (still using that art history degree).

Hope you all are having a great 2014 so far. And send in your news! You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or via CCB’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ctd/submit_class_note. Until next time ... cheers!

David and his wife, Ishaani, recently bought and renovated a co-op in Jackson Heights, Queens. I eny Patricia Nanus Ireland’s ability to hit Tom’s anytime — she’s on West 108th Street — and admire her self-discipline. “In 2012 I started swimming in the mornings with a masters/triathlon team at Dodge. Anyone nearby who is looking for a workout should join us,” she writes. “I’m in the slow lane.” She and her husband, Kelly, recently welcomed their fourth child, Rieve, whose arrival made it two boys and two girls. Patricia also gives seminars as a licensed presenter of “Parenting is Heart Work.”

Our next update takes this column from the Upper West Side to Tokyo. Laurie (freeman) Lebrun has been living in Japan for 8½ years with her husband, Ken; their daughter, Sylva (11½), and son, Max (10). “Oh yes, and two Labradoodles,” she says. Laurie has moved from being a practicing lawyer to recruiting them, as she built a Tokyo office for Major, Lindsey & Africa.

First-time Class Notes contributor Chris O’Brien recently launched a start-up, iKeedo.org, which he describes as “the only fundraising platform to monetize the actions of an opposing force.” Suppose you support Cause X. You pledge to give a certain amount every time a powerful interest group takes to the Twitter social media site to oppose it. You can set a cap so that the interest group won’t break the bank.

Dickie Bernard broke his Class Notes silence with a dispatch describing how he went to Miami Law, clerked for a bankruptcy judge in Miami for a year, did stints for two NYC-based firms there and ultimately returned in 2001 to the Big Apple, where he practices corporate bankruptcy law and raises two daughters (15 and 10). You’ll want to keep an eye out for Kiernan O’Connor’s book, expected in mid-2014 and tentatively titled Boomer Doom: Why Boomers are Doomed to Fail at Retirement, and What You Can Do About It — Before It’s Too Late! To tide you over until then, how about kiernanoconnor.blogspot.com?

David Abbott is finishing a master’s in music therapy at NYU and interning at Beth Israel Medical Center. Music therapy, a college league’s nutball description is “like shrinks with guitars,” he explains, adding, “In the hospital, we tend to focus on alleviation of pain and anxiety but can also get into deeper, more psychotherapeutically oriented work, especially with patients facing life-threatening illness.”

Chris O’Brien ’92 launched a start-up, iKeedo.org, which he describes as “the only fundraising platform to monetize the actions of an opposing force.”

Barnard (née Karin Zuckerman), who passed away in October 2010, and by Iana Sobol ’89 and her family. The couple moved back to North Red & White Ball, which is hosted by the Red Cross.

As I write this column, there’s a snowstorm in Jerusalem — a rare occurrence — per a report from Tobie Strauss Sberzin. Tobie moved to Israel a month after graduation and earned a Ph.D. in Hebrew language from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She embarked on a one-year post-doc fellowship at the University of Toronto in August 2009, then extended her stay as a professor of modern Hebrew. That second year was “over winter break,” in fact — and she and Shirebzin got married in New Jersey. A blizzard deterred about one-third of the expected guests but did not prevent Tobie and Shiri from boarding a plane for Israel the next day for a celebration in Israel. That one was attended by the family of Rivka Matiya ’89.

The Dynamic Duo is at it again! I recently heard from Alan Freeman, who reported that he and his wife, Remy, “joined (literally) dozens of other Columbia alumni for a showing of If/Then, the newest production by Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt ’96. Tom’s wife, Rita Pietrponi-Kitt, was on hand for the show, as was Jon Mathews, and it was great to catch up with both of them. There were quite a few other Columbia friends there as well, including Amit Bose ’94 and Liz Hale ’93 Barnard. We had a preshow cocktail reception as well as a post-show “talk-back” with Brian and Tom, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2010 as well as three Tony Awards for their show Next to Normal. The new show was terrific, and it’s been great fun to see them enjoy such success in such a difficult field. My best advice to classmates in the New York area is to buy tickets for the Broadway debut ASAP; they won’t regret it.”

I ordered tickets to see the show in March and can’t wait. [Editor’s note: See feature with Brian and Tom in this issue.]
Advanced Study, in Budapest, to husband, Phil Howard, is also a of Risk in Innovative Industries, recently wrote a book on startup of Washington and spent 2012-13 have two children, Sebastian (10) and Paloma (6). She had a blast another short commute was had by Joe Laszlo. Living at West 110th and Broadway meant he couldn't claim travel as an excuse another short commute was by Joe Laszlo. Living at West 110th and Broadway meant he couldn't claim travel as an excuse. Joe is making good use of his master's in international relations (from The Fletcher School), and he manages the mobile division of the Interactive Advertising Bureau, which he describes as "the United Nations of Internet media companies." Getting a fractionally and highly competitive industry to agree on standards for digital marketing is a continual test of diplomatic skills.

Arsenio Santos traveled far to partake in reunion, coming from his home in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he has lived for 20 years. For the past two years, he has been quietly focused on breathing life into Circa, his news company in the equities depart¬me

Alex Khutorsky, who lives in downtown L.A., Eric Garcetti '92, '93 SIPA.

Our 25th reunion is getting closer. Hard to believe that so much time has passed since graduation but I hope you're saving the date for Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Our Reunion Committee has been hard at work planning activities for our group, plus there will be a range of multi-class events that we can take part in. Saturday is also Dean's Day, which offers the chance to relive our classroom experiences through lectures with some of Columbia's finest professors. It all leads up to our class dinner on Saturday, fol¬lowed by dancing under the stars at our class bonfire. For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. And now, a few updates from our fellow CC '94 classmates:

Olivia Gelano '94 is a reporter at Bloomberg News in London, and he and his family enjoy life across the pond.

Eliza Gallo was unable to make it to reunion due to the birth in May of her first child, Ivy, who was promptly modeling Columbia garb. Eliza is enjoying the adventure of parenting. She recently moved back to New York City from Santa Monica, Calif., and is doing social media consulting for several education and nonprofit clients.

Thanks to Rachel for all the updates and thanks to all of you who shared them. Please continue to send news!
head in New York during Thanksgiving weekend, as we wandered our kids at the Museum of Mathematics in Manhattan. Catching up on two decades in five minutes is a challenge but I can tell you that Shawn lives in Brooklyn, is a lawyer for a foundation, looks great and has a beautiful family. More than anything, I'm grateful that she saw me and shouted out as I aimlessly wandered around with the baby in her stroller.

Also on that Thanksgiving trip, I caught up with Danny Franklin and his kids, who trekked into Manhattan from their home in Brooklyn to hang out for an afternoon. Danny is on the leadership team at Benenson Strategy Group, the research and consulting firm that ran award-winning polling programs for President Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns. Danny is developing opportunities for the business after its recent acquisition by Kantar, the data and investment management division of WPP.

Keep the updates coming! Until next time.

Jesse Levitt '97's new Brooklyn restaurant, 1 Knickerbocker, is located in a former speakeasy and brothel and will offer a contemporary take on turn-of-the-19th-century fare in NYC.

CSR programs and tools, and their philanthropy division champions informed giving through the development of tools, processes and research while also helping families and corporations better design their giving programs. Aun writes that it is an exciting and rewarding path for him.

Stephen Gargiulo is a managing director in the fixed income trading director in the fixed income securities division of Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. Stephen joined Cantor from Citigroup, where he was a director and senior CMBS trading director in the global securitized markets business. Prior, he was a managing director in mortgage trading at Bear Stearns.

Keep those notes coming, my fellow C'96ers. Otherwise I will have to fill this column with personal notes about my children (e.g., Isabelle lost her third tooth recently and Maxmillian is obsessed with Batman). Until next time, I leave you with this throwback:

“Lunch is for wimps.”

— Gordon Gekko

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In November, Sarah Bunin Benor won the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature’s Choice Award for her book, Becoming Fram: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism. In addition she was included in The Jewish Daily Forward 50” 2013 list of influential Jews.

Jill Jacobs gave birth to a daughter, Dvira Halil, in July. Sister Lior is 4. Jill is the executive director of T’ruah, a rabbinic human rights organization. She and her husband, Guy Austrian, also a rabbi, live in Washington Heights.

Dr. Nelson Tieng is one of five physician owners of a new urgent care practice, MDExpress Urgent Care, in Mamaroneck, N.Y., which opened in March 2013 (mdexpress.com).

Boris Kachka reports that his son, Asher Elias, was born October 5; he's happy, healthy and growing nice and chubby.

Abi (Yankail) Rogers and her husband, Bradford Rogers, welcomed a daughter, Ari, on September 7.

Jesse Levitt ’00 GSAS has opened a restaurant, 1 Knickerbocker, in Brooklyn. The restaurant is located in a former speakeasy and brothel, of which some of the original architectural features have been restored, and will feature a contemporary take on turn-of-the-19th-century restaurant fare in NYC. Everyone is invited for dinner and hopefully soon for brunch as well.

Liliana Lopez is senior officer of corporate communications at Amtrak. She is editor in chief of Amtrak Ink magazine. Liliana lives in Bethesda, Md., with her daughter.

Malla Haridat has a new role on the Center for Career Development’s Professional Pathway Program’s team at Manhattan College as the employer and alumni outreach specialist. Last summer, she was named a finalist in the Count Me In Urban Rebound program for her business, Mom and Daughter.

Desiree Ramos Reiner is celebrating two years as deputy director of communications at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, where she says she has the pleasure of working with lots of Columbia College alumni, including its president, Michael Waldman ’82. Desiree is also enjoying her newest family addition, Alejandro Noah, born last April. He and his brother, Antonio Tomas (3), should be hitting Morningside Heights in 2028.

Nicolay Todorov lives in Los Angeles and is producing a documentary on tornadoes for The Weather Channel. Another documentary series he produced this year, Pathway, aired in the fall on Discovery Science.

Tracy Hammond, director of the Sketch Recognition Lab and a professor at Texas A&M, is making waves with computerized navigational technology that she...
REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–JUNE 1
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By the time you read these Class Notes, we’ll be a few months shy of our 15-year Alumni Reunion Weekend, which will be held Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1. Our Reunion Committee is in full swing with planning; we had an informal gathering at the Lamb’s Club in NYC on November 21, and will continue organizing and finalizing events through the spring. Of course, the highlight will be our class dinner on Saturday, followed by the Starlight Reception on Lower Plaza. Check our Facebook page for news: facebook.com/groups/ColumbiaCollege99. And for information about the weekend at large and to register, go to reunion.columbia.edu. On to some updates! Rebecca Pawel shares the good news that she returned to Columbia in September as a Ph.D. student in the Department of English and Comparative Literature. She says it’s utterly weird being a full-time student again, especially after spending so many years on the other side of the desk as a high school teacher — a bit like being 18 again! She had a pretty good time as an undergrad but admits she’s having even more fun the second time around. We wish her the best of luck in her new journey! Boris Pereschenchikov has been living in Florida for 10 years. (No doubt he enjoys better winter weather than we in the Northeast, given our single-digit temps of late. I’m envious!) Boris manages fixed income investments at a boutique investment management firm, Semper Capital Management. Classmates, please do not hesitate to email me with updates or questions as we approach reunion! You can also send news via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

SANDIE ANGULO CHEN
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Happy spring, Class of 1998! I’m afraid there’s not much to report this issue, although I do have our first update from Eugenia Zuroski Jenkins.

Gena writes, “I’ve never submitted an update for CCT, but 2013 was a pretty big year so I thought I’d share. I live in Hamilton, Ontario, with my husband, Derek. We have a daughter, Ruby Lynn (2). I’m a professor of English and cultural studies at McMaster University, where I recently received tenure, and my book, A Taste for China: English Subjectivity and the Prehistory of Orientation, was published in May.”

Congratulations, Gena! And to the rest of the class: Let’s aim for a full column next time — I know you have exciting news to share, whether it’s about family, career, travel or personal accomplishments (or perhaps you have something to say about all of them!). You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.
Sheetal Shobowale’s son will turn 2 on April 15. She has been working at Google in media research for 3½ years and can be reached at sheethalshobowale@gmail.com.

Trevor Sagan was married to Lauren Connor in Palo Alto, Calif., on October 5. Left to right: John Culley ’04; Laura Pietropinto ’00; Victoria Dower ’03 and her husband, Graham Dower ’03E; the bride; the groom; Sarah Keck and her husband, best man David Keck ’04; and Leslie Goodman and her husband, Eli Goodman ’02.

Photo: Vero Su

26 months older.

Michael Novielli
World City Apartments
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Happy Year of the Horse, to those who celebrate the Lunar New Year.

I was fortunate to catch up with a few classmates during my travels during the winter holidays, including Jeffrey Hsieh and Andrew Han ’03E in Hong Kong and Kenneth Sim and Shaun Ting in Singapore. Jeff was visiting Andrew, who is doing a rotation with Hasbro in its Hong Kong office, and Kenneth and Shaun live in Singapore.

In other news, Adam Libove writes, “In October my wife and I moved to Sunnyside, Queens. It’s a great community and we are enjoying have more space.”

Ariel Schrag writes, “My novel, ADAM, will be published in June.”

Justin Sellman shares, “I’m developing a travel bag line for the savvy international traveler and festival-goer. I’m also working with fashion brands to make their businesses more efficient through the use of iPad logistics technology.”

Jessica Macari writes, “My husband, Ariel, and I welcomed Eli Isaac on July 19. He was 21 inches long and weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz. He joins sister Layla (2). We live in Raleigh, N.C.”

Lien De Bruckere writes, “Last summer I moved to Washington, D.C., to join an NGO, Global Rights, as its director of natural resources and human rights. I really enjoy my work with local civil society organizations in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Kenya to ensure resource-rich communities can assert their legitimate rights, meaningfully participate in the decisions that affect them and share in the benefits of resource development! Too often local communities are trampled on and forgotten, kicked out of their houses and off their farmlands, even though the iron ore, copper and other minerals their lands produce let us build our buildings, bridges, cars and essentially live our modern lives.”

Jenny Bach-Lee (nee Bach) married David Lee in June in Manhattan. Jenny is pursuing a master’s in mental health counseling at Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, which is part of Alliance Theological Seminary; she will begin a counseling internship in May and will graduate in 2015. David graduated from Binghamton in 2005 and is an associate at RCC Ventures in Manhattan.

Matthew A. McMillan writes, “In November I was conference chairman for the 46th Annual International Association of Political Consultants World Conference, held in Antigua. I also sit on the board of directors of the organization. Through my firm, BuzzMaker, I’ve now advised heads of state, opposition leaders, senators and governors in 16 countries.”

Please do send me updates about you and your classmates — I’d really appreciate them!

Hello CC’04! I hope this edition of Class Notes finds you all well in your corner of the world. Before we get to the news, I remind you to mark your calendars: Thursday, May 29—Sunday, June 1 is our 10-year Alumni Reunion Weekend. Yes, it’s hard to believe but it’s been a full decade since we donned our Columbia blue caps and gowns and said goodbye to College Walk. The Reunion Committee has a number of great events planned, all culminating in a class dinner on South Lawn on Saturday. Please like the Columbia University - Class of 2004 Facebook page (facebook. com/CU2004) to stay up to date on all events and news. Also, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu to register for reunion and to the reunion preview in this issue’s “Around the Quads” for info. Five years ago, we smashed reunion attendance records … let’s aim to
David Johns ’04, ’06 TC Works to Improve Equity and Accountability in Education

By David McKay Wilson

Long involved in issues of race and education, David Johns ’04, ’06 TC now works in the White House, where he helps to lead the effort by President Barack Obama ’83 to narrow the achievement gap for African-American students.

“I’ve had an interest in how educational opportunities are afforded to nontraditional students, including low-income minority students,” says Johns, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African-Americans. “I’ve been grappling with these issues over the course of my lifetime.”

Since joining the White House in February 2013, Johns has crisscrossed the nation, speaking to educators and community groups about the administration’s dedication to improving equity in the U.S. education system. Its program begins with increasing access to quality pre-kindergarten and extends through K–12, where the administration wants to increase the supply of well-qualified teachers, develop more public-private partnerships and provide funding for community-based organizations that support students in their educational journey.

The administration has also pushed its accountability agenda through grants in its Race to the Top competition, which aims to hold teachers responsible, in part, for their students’ academic achievements.

In the Midwest, Johns has worked with officials and educators in Detroit and St. Louis on creating access to school-based employment development opportunities for African-American men and boys. Making that leap from school to workforce is crucial for black men, who, Johns notes, face considerable challenges in American society. Johns talks often about a 2002 study that said there are more black men in prison than in college. As a counter, he cites the work of Howard University associate professor Ivory Toldson, who found that in 2012 there were 600,000 more black men in college than prison. Johns says it’s important to change the narrative and support educational programs for African-American men.

“We need to invest our time to engage with young boys of color,” says Johns. “Black men are achieving at higher rates than in the past.”

Education has played a big role in Johns’ rise to the White House. Raised by a single mother in the predominant minority Los Angeles suburb of Inglewood, he rode a bus 45 minutes each way to a charter school in Pacific Palisades, an upscale neighborhood on the city’s west side.

At Columbia, Johns helped found Columbia University Concerned Students of Color after a series of campus incidents — including a satirical article in a campus publication and an organization’s critique of affirmative action — sparked student debate on racial issues. It led to a week of silent protests in February 2004 by hundreds of students, who urged changes in the Core Curriculum, sensitivity training on racial issues and the creation of an office of multicultural affairs.

After graduation, Johns began teaching kindergarten at The School at Columbia University, where he was one of the few African-American teachers. A year later, he enrolled at Teachers College, where he delved into education policy.

“David is a terrific amalgam of idealism and pragmatism,” says Aaron Pallas, professor of sociology and education at TC. “He remains idealistic about the promise of extending the American Dream to all children, regardless of the color of their skin. And his experience working on Capitol Hill has taught him how to craft policies that can garner bipartisan support.”

Johns’ studies at TC led him to Washington, D.C., where as a fellow with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation he worked on the reauthorization of the Head Start program, which funds early education for the children of poor families. He landed a job as an aide to U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) and subsequently become a senior policy adviser to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

“I came to Washington to make a more systemic impact,” says Johns. “It’s important to find ways to scale up best practices, using policy as a tool to make changes on a larger scale.”

Working on the Senate committee, Johns learned that legislation can move at a glacial pace. Talks on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act — known as No Child Left Behind — began in 2007; they were not concluded by the time Johns left the committee in 2012 to work on Obama’s reelection campaign, where he was policy and research director in the swing state of Nevada. Obama won the state by six percentage points, which raised Johns’ profile in the Obama camp.

While acknowledging that No Child Left Behind was not a panacea for all that ails the U.S. education system, Johns says that the law’s requirement that student achievement data be made public — and broken down by a student’s race and socio-economic level — has brought much-needed attention to the needs of schools in the nation’s poorest neighborhoods.

“The shining of a bright light on this data has resulted in a more thoughtful conversation on the underachievement of African-American students,” says Johns. “And that conversation needs to continue.”

David McKay Wilson, a columnist at The Journal News in White Plains, N.Y., also writes for TC Today at Teachers College.
biking, paddling, caving, shooting, cliff-diving, rappelling and urban tunneling.

Phil Wallace is now v.p. of business development at Ranker.com, which is based in Los Angeles.

In September, Sophie Beat's book, *Brazil under Construction: Fiction and Public Works,* was published. Also, on Halloween, Sophie and her husband welcomed daughter Simone Victoria Shen into the world. Congrats, Sophie!

Christine Vu Luu moved to Memphis in August. She is a law clerk for a federal district judge and is having a great time. She hopes to begin practicing patent law after her clerkship, perhaps in Northern California, Seattle or Chicago.

Matthew McAndrews is starting an M.B.A. at Indiana's Kelley School of Business as well as a marketing leadership development program at DuPont. His plans also involve moving to Philadelphia, and he would love to connect with any Columbians in the area. You can reach him at mmcanndrews@gmail.com.

Walker Young and his wife moved to Los Angeles so that he could start a job with The Walt Disney Co. He works in the international labor standards division, focused on the social compliance audit process across the extended supply chain. This division ensures that Disney-branded products are manufactured according to ethical and humane standards and best practices.

Jesse Stowell sent in news on a number of alums: "Jaclyn Duran recently returned from American Samoa for a program with the Department of the Interior. She lives in Washington, D.C., and regularly sees Margaret Johnson '04E, who moved to Baltimore with her husband. Britney Williams was recently named a director at USA Network in program acquisitions, and Dan Jacobs is attending the Business School's Executive Education Program while working at Clayton Dubliler & Rice. Dominique (Phillips) Clayton moved to Atlanta, while Jon Sabatini doesn't spend more than three days in any one city (though he's based in Boston) working for Accenture.

"I was recently made v.p. of public relations at Full Picture (the same company I worked for in college) and I'm handling publicity for Brooklyn Decker, Adriana Lima, Camila Alves, Revlon, vitamin-water, Living Proof and Zappos Couture."

"See you all at reunion!"

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Happy 2014, Class of 2005. Those two numbers are growing startlingly distant from one another...

Speaking of long distances, in November, I traveled from San Francisco to Delhi to celebrate the marriage of Aashit Bhartia '06 to Kunal Agarwal. It was a lovely celebration, not least for the wonderful Columbians in attendance.

Courtney Johnson (a second-year M.B.A. student at the Stanford Graduate School of Business), Elizabeth Dwoorskin and I were there from California. Michael Crowley and Josh Hadro made the trip from New York. Matt Niederhauser hopped over from his home base of Beijing (you might have seen his photographs recently in *The New Yorker, Bloomberg Businessweek* or London's National Portrait Gallery).

Anya Chemeff, who lives in Amsterdam with her husband, Bennett Cohen, stopped en route to Nepal where her nonprofit, Empower Generation (empowergeneration.org), brings clean, affordable and safe energy products to people in need. All in all, Aashit and Kunal were thoroughly feted by their friends from around the world.

Read on for updates on adventures the world over.

Yuma Terada owns a Tokyo-based literary agency startup, Cork, exclusively representing Japan's most prominent novelists, manga artists and critics. He'd love to hear from anyone interested in working with his agency or its artists: y2006@columbia.edu.

Ruvan Ellberger '80L and his wife, Lauren Aliza, welcomed their second daughter, Liana Sarit, on December 23. Maya Rose (2) is thrilled to have a baby sister.

Ruven is an in-house attorney and v.p. at Two Sigma Investments in New York, a technology company that applies a rigorous, scientific method-based approach to investment management.

Daniella Ross is graduating from Michigan State's College of Veterinary Medicine this May.

Caitlin Verrilli '14 Business is a director at New York City Health and Hospitals Corp., focusing on healthcare IT.

Mollie Melissa Kornech '09, was married in November to Matthew David Podolsky '09L. She is a litigation associate at the Manhattan firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Also in November, Nick Summers married Eliza Gray '10. Nick is a staff writer at Bloomberg Businessweek in New York, where he covers Wall Street.

Peggy Hannon reports, "In 2012 I relocated to San Francisco to be closer to my family and to work out of my company's headquarters in the Bay Area. As a small sales manager at SunEdison, I bring financing solutions to solar energy projects around the country. In 2013 I helped to build commercial and municipal renewable energy projects in California, Arizona, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. Other highlights of 2013 included a swim from Alcatraz to San Francisco with my dad, and getting engaged to Ryan Flannery '06 to a bike ride uphill at Mount Tamalpais!"

Phil Sandick writes, "In 2013, I began wrapping up law school at Northwestern (J.D./L.L.M. in international human rights) and helped my African Lookbook business partner launch and direct the Museum of African Diaspora in Johannesburg, South Africa, my wife's daughter and I will move to Atlanta, where I'll clerk for a federal judge for two years."

Mike Camacho reports, "After spending 4½ years in Amsterdam, in November 2013 I relocated to Hong Kong to lead one of AlpInvest’s business lines for the Asia-Pacific region. I’ve been with AlpInvest for seven years, taking up posts in New York, Amsterdam and now Hong Kong. I’m looking forward to meeting more Columbians in Hong Kong, so please reach out!"

Michael Sin advises, “Last year was a great one in real estate and 2014 looks to be even better. I have been having a wonderful time helping people find the investment of their dreams or meeting their investment goals. If you have [New York City] buying or selling real estate needs, please feel free to reach out at msn@townrealestate.com. I love to help!”
for a network of 29 Chicago public
am the digital learning coordinator
ning, looking at November 2014.
we are starting to plan our wed-
to Jamie Thiessen in October and
weekend and summer programs.
"Last year was an exciting one! I
funds so that we can put together
recognized as a 501(c)(3) organiza-
education to students who would
meaningful computer science
I co-founded CSTUY (cstuy.org),
students Columbia's way. Last year
through the years to send good
computer science at Stuyvesant
my update: I have been teaching
I have a dog, Winston."
these columns. I so enjoy hearing from each of you, even if it’s just to say hello. Thanks for helping our class stay connected even as life takes us to far, distant and exciting places! Best wishes always.

07

David D. Chait
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I hope this edition of Class Notes finds everyone well! Here are some exciting updates from our classmates.

Katerina Vororova has turned her passion for travel into a business. In May 2013, she launched her passion for travel into a business.

Try The World, the first online discovery platform for international products. Starting with curated gourmet subscription boxes from cities such as Paris, Tokyo and Rio, Kat hopes to bring the joy of discovering foreign cultures to hundreds of thousands of people across the globe. The company has received coverage on ABC News, The Huffington Post and NY1, among others. She is graduating with an M.B.A. from the Business School in May.

Rina Harary writes, “A new bar will be opening in Bushwick, Brooklyn, at the hand of a CC ’07 alum! The Bad Old Days will model itself on a vintage living room and will welcome both locals and far-flung individuals who want a soft place to land. Please join us in late spring for food and drink and a relaxing evening on our rooftop deck. Updates as to our opening schedule and construction progress will be posted on our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing some friends back in the city.”

Yonatan Brafman and Ariela Rosenberg Brafman ’09 welcome the birth of their daughter, Elleora Zahara. Yonatan writes, “She is already working her way through The Ham! More chowing than reading at this point, though.”

Alex Alvarez shares, “I recently wrote for a satirical, animated news program for Fusion, the new cable network from ABC/Univision. I’m moving to Los Angeles early this year in order to pursue more TV writing work with Fusion while trying to avoid driving for as long as humanly possible. Fortunately, there are plenty of amazing college friends — including my freshman year roommate from Carman 3, Sasha Silver — in L.A. to ease the transition. I’ll miss New York every day but am excited for the new opportunities That Other Coast has to offer.”

Josie Swindler Raymond ’08 has exciting news. “My husband, Adam, an NYU grad who spent way too much time in Wien, and I welcomed our little girl, Pippy May, in November. Last summer we moved to Oakland so I could start career No. 3 — as an academic affairs director at the nonprofit College Track, which supports under-resourced high school students on their way to college. Before that I taught middle school in Indianapolis with Teach For America and edited websites after graduating from the Journalism School.”

Charlotte Russell, Marc Tracy and Avi Zenilman attended Kanye West’s concert in Brooklyn on November 20. They sang along to every word of “New Slaves” and applauded when Kanye argued that Drake had been robbed of an MTV Video Music Award (“Best Male Video,” which was given to Bruno Mars).

Ambalika Pinto Sudan hosted a wonderful, Bay Area CC reunion in September. Among the guests were Casey Levine, Annie Honart, Luci Kettel-Reyes ’06, Lukas McGowan, Earnest Sweat, David Schor, Marco Zappacosta, Stephen Wang ’06E, Alana Weiss, Jessica Isokawa and Diego Pontoriero ’07E.

After graduating with an M.B.A., last spring, Kelsey Dooley launched a website, Vow To Be Chic, where people can rent designer bridesmaid dresses. Check it out if you or a friend is planning a wedding! Love is in the air for many classmates.

I’m particularly thrilled to share that I, David Chait, married Amanda Mullens ’13 Arch. on October 20 in Palm Beach, Fla. Columbia College alumni in attendance included groomsmen Andrew Russell, Marc Tracy, Avi Zenilman, as well as Wayne Ting ’06, Kwame Spearman ’06, Subash Iyer, Helam Gebremariam, James Williams, Neda Navab ’08, Arvind Kadaba, Nishant Dixit, Martin LaSalle and Tom Lightcap. Also joining in the celebration were Mani Ramamurthy ’04E, Christina Giaccone ’07 Barnard, Zulekha Inayat ’07E, Jason Chekofsky ’11 Business, Jarod Were ’07E, Angelo Serratore ’13 Arch., Maureen West ’14 TC, Michael Glennon ’15 Business and Alex Ely ’16.

Nick Weiler writes, “On June 22, I married my longtime sweetheart, Meaghan Pugh, in Calistoga, Calif. I also defended my thesis last fall and am in the final throes of completing my dissertation for a Ph.D. in neuroscience. I traveled to Washington, D.C., in January for a short fellowship with the National Academies of Science and work at the Marian Koshland Science Museum, and will pursue opportunities in science journalism and education.”

Giovanni Alvarez and Christin Moné were married on October 6 in Brooklyn at The Green Building. They fell in love at Columbia and were happy to celebrate their wedding with friends that have been there from the beginning.

08

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David Henry Gerson recently produced and acted in a feature film directed by a filmmaker he met at Sundance in 2011. It was shot this past summer on the beautiful island of Martha’s Vineyard (eternalrealturfilm.com). He writes, “We are now editing and raising additional funds for post-production. Having a vision, and then watching over time as hard work brings it together and inspires others, has made this both incredibly challenging and the most gratifying of experiences!”

Zak Ringelstein founded UCLass, the global lesson exchange, after teaching in U.S. public schools and international schools for four years. Just a year old, UCLass connects teachers and students across 86 countries. Wendy Kopp, founder of Teach For America, sits on the UCLass board. Last summer, Zak was invited to the White House to discuss education policy with President Barack Obama ’83 and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. If you are a teacher, sign up for free at uclass.org.

Caroline McNamara did a 717-mile road trip through California at the end of August. She started at the west end of the San Francisco Bay with some of her Singapore friends, then drove to the Mojave to visit Rebecca Kelly ’09 and ended in Los Angeles with Paul Soto and Sam Roberts. Caroline writes, “It was a great adventure and I feel lucky for all my Columbia friends who made my trip possible!”

Rachel Belt recently finished her degree in humanitarian management and is working in the Haitian Prime Minister’s Office in communications and aid effectiveness.

Calvin Sun is finishing up medical school and hopes he will be an emergency medicine doctor by April! He adds, “I’m also leading an expedition to Antarctica this December and then possibly going direct from the southernmost part of the world to Pakistan for a wedding!”

Christine Han graduated from Boston Law last May and, after traveling in Asia and Europe, started a position with the U.S. Department of Justice based in San Juan. She writes, “I’ll be here for two years and I’d love to catch up with any Columbians who visit the Caribbean.”

Gabriella Barbosa ’13 happily reports she is working at a public interest law firm called Public Counsel in Los Angeles.

Maxim Pinkovsky earned a Ph.D. in economics from MIT and is an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He says that he’s “looking forward to reconnecting with my fellow Colombians.”

Betsy (Remes) Purves was married in Suffolk, England, on August 24 and she and her husband were delighted to be joined at the wedding by Camillo Rockefeller, Emily Low, Taylor Harwin and Hannah Grier-Rosencrantz ’08 Barnard. Betsy works in arts fundraising in Washington, D.C., and her husband will move from London to join her in the United States early this year.

Claire Blatz earned a master’s in professional French-English translation from the ITI-RI translation school of the University of Strasbourg (France), and is a professional translator in Strasbourg.

In the wake of the Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda that struck the Philippines in early November, Mark Clemente felt he needed to do something that could help. He came up with the idea of having a charity tennis event and exhibition match that would support the Haiyan victims. After sharing the idea with some of his Singapore friends, and through the great support of the Columbia University Club of Singapore, “Hit for Haiyan” was put into motion.

A former captain of the men’s varsity tennis team, Mark’s goal for the event was not only to share his love of tennis but also to bring the Singapore and tennis communities together for a common cause. As this project began to take shape, Mark realized something remarkable. He explains, “The immense support, kindness and generosity that emerged among so many people from different backgrounds joining together to help support the Philippines [was incredible].

From the planning stages to the organizing to coordinating donors and volunteers, it was a proud moment to witness such dedication and resolve by everyone involved in making this event a true success.

The event included speakers including the vice-chairman of Gawad Kalinga, Margo Encarnacion, and Jo-e Villagarcia, founder of Giving is Social. Each speaker shared their own journey and how Typhoon Haiyan affected so many lives in the Philippines and how the community could help in the rebuilding process.

In the end, Mark writes, “The Hit For Haiyan charity tennis event, held at the prestigious Hollande...
Club, was indeed a great success. Attracting more than 150 kids and adults, the event raised more than $15,000 in donations. One hundred percent of the proceeds have been donated to GK1 World (Singapore), the official representative of Gawad Kalinga Philippines, to support the rebuilding of the 11.3 million lives affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Through the generous support of SACAC and the Hollande Club, the tennis fundraiser offered fun tennis games, raffle prizes and a chance for spectators to watch Singapore’s top-ranked tennis players compete in a series of exhibition matches.”

**REUNION WEEKEND MAY 29–JUNE 1**

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09

Alidad Damooei

c/o CCT
Columbia Alumni Center 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530 New York, NY 10025 damooei@gmail.com

If you enjoy reading these Class Notes to learn what your classmates are doing, you might want to enjoy our first Columbia Alumni Reunion Weekend! Mark your calendars: the Class of 2009 will celebrate its five-year reunion Thursday, May 29–Sunday, June 1, with events planned for on campus and throughout NYC. It's a not-to-be-missed opportunity to see your friends and catch up on all the adventures you've had since graduation. And let's be honest, we all wish a morning and evening from the Low Steps to our favorite spots on Broadway and Amsterdam. For more information and to register, go to reunion.college.columbia.edu. You can also check out the reunion preview in “Around the Quads.”

**Stephanie Russell-Kraft** recently married Zachary Henson in Brooklyn, surrounded by many dear friends from Columbia including maid of honor Hyun Young Kim. Stephanie spent the last two years earning a master’s in Berlin and is excited to be back in New York, where she is a reporter for the legal news site Law360.

**Camille Williams** is moving to Buenos Aires in March on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for nine months. Afterward, she will spend a couple of months traveling around South America. Sadly, she will miss our five-year reunion, but she welcomes our classmates to let her know if they are in Buenos Aires.

**Akash Gupta** is taking a year off from medical school at Yale to do an epidemiology fellowship at the STD Prevention Division of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. He finds that his new position creates entertaining conversations with his conservative Indian relatives. He is also enjoying some newfound free time in which he has been playing capoeira, hiking and losing at trivia night.

**Morgan Parker** was recently in Miami. She finds that her new position creates entertaining conversations with her conservative Indian relatives. She is also enjoying some newfound free time in which she has been playing capoeira, hiking and losing at trivia night.

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year at Yale Law and have the privilege of visiting alma mater every so often as a fellow at the Columbia Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies."

Lauren "Casey" Hayes-Deats writes, "I am still adjusting to the terms 'husband' and 'wife' after marrying Caleb Hayes-Deats '11L on August 24. It was a beautiful, perfect day on a farm in West Virginia, and lots of Columbians were in attendance. Alice Sturm '10 was bridesmaid and Jacob Lasser '12 sang during the ceremony. After the wedding, Caleb and I honeymooned in France, where I discovered that there is a limit to the number of croissants that I can consume."

"[As I write,] having returned to New York, I am now working to produce the inaugural production of The Cake Shop Theater Company, which I co-founded with Katie Lupica '11. Our New York premiere of Ferdinand Bruckner’s "Pains of Youth" will open in February."

"Anne Reilly writes, "I graduated from Fordham Law in May 2013 and am a federal law clerk for the Hon. William J. Zloch in the Southern District of Florida."

"Jill Larson became engaged to David Byef on November 29. Jill is the director of special projects and strategy at Sakar International, a consumer electronics manufacturer, and David is an attorney at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. They are planning a summer 2014 wedding."

"Finally, Chris Yin shares his quarterly musings: "Is there anyone out there with some good advice about how to convince a girlfriend who lives in New York to make her way out west to San Francisco? I love New York and all, don't get me wrong, but I've had a sip of the California Kool-Aid and am here for the time being. I'll give you some pros and cons."

"Pros: 1. It's cheaper to live here. You can spend a lot of money on rent but you can also snag some deals. You just have to get really good at Craigslist. 2. You live more healthfully because the work-life balance is better and because the bars aren't open until 4 a.m. You can wake up on Sunday and have a full day. 3. California has so much to offer — mountain ranges, beaches, a coastal highway and fresh herbs."

"Cons: 1. Instead of a bro finance culture, you have a bro start-up scene. 2. The public transportation kind of stinks. A car is nice if you can have easy access to parking. 3. People are more attractive in New York, in case you're shallow like that."

"In other news, there have been some Columbia moments these past few months. We found a random roommate on Craigslist who was CC (what up, Maciej Paluch '07?), forming an intergenerational apartment. I also have recently joined a CU 2010 book club, opening up many intellectual pores and stimulating conversation on trans- scent levels. We're recruiting Lit Hum with wine and food, mixed in with juicy Columbia gossip and talk of how great it is to be an Ivy League graduate. Deep stuff."

"I had the honor of being present at the engagement of Mr. Kanye West and Miss Kim Kardashian at AT&T Park in the fall. Getting into the small get-together through a connection in tech, I had the chance to raise a glass to the happy couple and say a brief toast in their honor about the importance of commitment, dedication and unconditional love."

"My son, Jackson Carman (named after the dorm), is starting to walk, and it's a miracle witnessing him via FaceTime every day. Love is kind, love is patient..."

"I close my update with this: Please follow me on Instagram @fatboyrim."

"Tiffany Jung followed up Chris' note by saying, "I recently joined Chris Yin's book club, which has been life-changing. We read novels that Chris has written.""

"Ting Ting Guo writes, "After spending the past 1/2 years as an expat in China, I'm excited to share that I'll be back on campus in August to start at the Business School (with a few CC '10 and CC '11 classmates). Leading up to school, I've chosen to leave my job — I previously worked at a venture capital fund — to volunteer with an NGO dedicated to providing protection, personal well-being, economic empowerment and reintegration services to women and children who have been affected by human rights abuse. I will volunteer in Hanoi for 12 weeks. I'm always happy to meet up fellow alumnae: ting2251@columbia.edu.""

Lauren Patrick '10 is a second-year medical student at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

"Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell were married."

"Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell were married."

11

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell

c/o CCT
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
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sean.udell@gmail.com

We are thrilled to report that the 2011 Class Notes column has been resuscitated with your new, bicoastal class correspondents!

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell are teaming up to deliver the most up-to-date alumni information that a quarterly magazine could offer. Starting today, you can send your news to Nuriel (nuriel@ gmail.com) and/or Sean (sean.udell@gmail.com), or by using CCT's webform (college.columbia. edu/cct/submit_class_note), and we'll make sure that it makes it into the hands of 2011 alumni worldwide.

Since graduation, Sean and Nuriel have been trying to keep themselves busy.

In June 2011, Sean became part of the Teach For America 2011 Colorado Corps, where he was a special education teacher in a Denver middle school. During that time, Sean's students achieved the second-highest improvement in standardized test scores of all special education students in the city. While teaching, Sean earned a master’s in curriculum and instruction from Colorado. After finishing the corps in May 2013, he joined the founding administrative team for Academy 360, a health-and-wellness elementary school in Denver’s Far Northeast community. As the student services coordinator, he supports teachers and service providers, manages education programs for students with special needs, carries out the school discipline process and analyzes academic and behavioral data. In June, Sean will move to Philadelphia to start a one-year, post-baccalaureate pre-medical program at Bryn Mawr as he pursues a career as a physician.

Nuriel is back home in California in his second year of an M.D. / M.P.P. program at Stanford. He spends most of his time somewhat successfully trying not to fail out, and his research interests are currently in surgical outcomes and in patient-physician (or surrogate-physician) communication. He is a voting member of both the American Medical Association and California Medical Association Houses of Delegates. Two years ago, Nuriel co-founded The Insider — the authoritative source for unquestionably reliable entertainment news — with Jonathan Tanners, Dhruv Vasishtha and Rajib Mitra '11E, and TRI continues to be his main distraction outside of school. He is also working on launching The Prognosis, a healthcare issues blog featuring the voices of young leaders, with Jason Han '12.

With all of that self-aggrandizement out of the way, we're ready to hear about the cool things that you are doing! Send your updates our way via email, text, Facebook, carrier pigeon, et cetera, et cetera!

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

The notes below were received by CCT before Nuriel and Sean helmed the column.

Zila Acosta writes, "This past Christmas break, Brian Grimes and I got engaged. We met in Lit Hum and he proposed on College Walk among the lights."

News also has reached CCT of several CC '11 weddings.
Nicole Catá ’11 and Benjamin Theodore were married on June 22 in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. Left to right: Hilary Baboukis ’11; George Escandon ’11; Sara Weaver ’12 Barnard; Stephanie Tarras ’10 Barnard; Laura Benton ’11 Barnard; Ivy Fortmeyer ’11; James Caldarise ’13; Camille Hutt ’11; Amanda Wild ’11E; Jon Jager ’11 GS, ’11 JTS; Sarah Sechan ’11 GS, ’11 JTS; Daniel Miranda ’10E; Nancy Huemer ’10 Barnard; Louise Beck; Paul Lerner; Brian Wong ’11E; Jose Delgado ’12; Melissa Caffrey ’11; Kristin Berry ’11; Adina Levin ’11; Janine Balezdzian ’13; Neeraj Borle ’11; Rebecca Greenstein ’10 Barnard and Devon Grandy.

PHOTO: ALAN WEISS

Nicole Catá married her high school sweetheart, Ben Theodore, on June 22 at the River View in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. The Jewish ceremony took place at sunset in a setting overlooking the Hudson River and the Palisades. The couple live in Washington, D.C., where Nicole is a joint degree candidate at The George Washington University Law School and the Elliott School of International Affairs. She is scheduled to graduate with her J.D. and M.A. in May 2015. She is a legal fellow for the International Human Rights Clinic at the Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics and this June will be a summer law clerk in the New York office of Fragomen, Del Rey, Benssen & Loewy, an immigration law firm. Ben works on teacher retention and recognition at DC Public Schools.

Michal Cohen shared news of the wedding of Oren Benzaquen and Emily Berkower ’12 Barnard, which took place in “a beautiful ceremony in New York on January 26. Their wedding celebration was a wonderful opportunity for friends from Columbia to reconnect and reminisce about their years on campus. In attendance were many College alumni, including Michal Cohen, Gilad Bendheim, Jordan Katz, Daniel Swartz, Miriam Wiseman, Jonathan Berliner ’09, Jonathan Fuld ’10, Eric Bressman ’10, Jacob Hartman ’10, Boaz Cohen ’10, Ariel Schapa ’12, Michael Abramson ’13, Tzipora Quint ’13, Daniel Boiarsky ’13 and many others.

“The couple had been dating since college and everyone had a blast seeing them tie the knot.”

Paul Hsiao, Jennifer Ong, Diane Wang and Michael Chan ’12E say farewell and good luck to Chris Cheung as he shifts within Unilever to its Shanghai division.

Paul thanks Emily Ahn for hosting him for Thanksgiving in Massachusetts. He was looking forward to spending the New Year in Hong Kong with Columbia and Hong Kong Students and Scholars Society alumni, including Andrea Mul and Justin Cheung ’12E.

Emily Kwong dropped a note from Fairfield, N.Y.: “Since Columbia, I’ve continued to fall head over heels for radio. After graduating I taught youth media in India and then returned to the United States to study documentary [making] in Maine. I am splitting my time between two radio internships — with StoryCorps and Radio Rookery. I am still involved with 10 Speed Labs as a part-time contractor. It’s a bit too much, really, but this is the eclectic and relentless lifestyle that I am used to”.

Aditya Mukerjee, who began pursuing a master’s in computer science with the Cornell NYC Tech program this past fall, is taking a leave of absence in the spring semester to participate in the Blueprint Health accelerator for Boardrounds, a startup he co-founded with Benjamin Jack ’07E. Aditya shares, “Boardrounds reduces emergency room readmissions by improving communication among inpatient and outpatient physicians and offering dynamic incentives for scheduling timely post-discharge follow-up care. Benji and I are looking forward to building Boardrounds this spring.”

Congratulations are in order for Amanda Schiff ’14 TC and Scott Bromberg, who were married on June 30 in Roslyn, N.Y. A number of Columbians attended the beautiful ceremony.

Tarini Shrikhande sent an up-
date from Toronto. "Not unlike the blockbuster hit The Hangover, Tarini Shrikhande is unsure how she came to be living in Mayor Rob Ford’s backyard. Yes, alums, it’s true. This unwilling expat is currently living the dream: advertising to Canucks. What she misses desperately about New York (other than good raman and friends — yes, in that order) are her fellow Colombians. Where are all you snow-loving, poutine-eating, hockey-playing CC&T SEAS people? Get at me. I’ll buy the first round of drinks."

Derek Turner continues to enjoy life in Michigan. He writes, “Dispatch from Detroit: As a Venture For America fellow, along with the unstoppable Todd Nelson, I’m continuing my contribution to the quest to get the city back on its feet. But with only a few months to go in the fellowship, life is starting to take on the exciting yet intimidating openness that we all felt as graduation approached. While the next step is unclear, I have learned a lot in the time I’ve been here. “This city is a special place. Take a trip here and I’ll introduce you to some of the people who are doing their part to overcome a bankruptcy, to the startups trying to fuel economic growth and to the community organizations that take on responsibilities that are usually left to municipal authorities. “Detroit has something for everyone. For libertarians: public sector failure. For conservatives: corrupt unions. For liberals: self-interested corporations. For progressives: both white flight and gentrification. Come one, come all! "Roar, lion, roar — wherever you may be. Miss you, Class of 2012.

Miyako Yerick ‘12 made the 2013 U.S. national Taekwondo team and represented the United States in the 8th World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships in Bali in November.

Miyako Yerick will graduate in May with a master’s in global policy studies from the University of Texas. She also made the 2013 U.S. national Taekwondo team and represented the United States in the throes of new interests and adventures. Our class has taken full advantage of its Columbia education, with many members achieving great things around the globe. Here are some of their updates:

James Caldarise wrapped up his first semester in Austria, where he has been teaching English as a language assistant at a local school. Living in a small, rural town called Tyrol, he has found enjoyment working with local teenagers, both in and out of the classroom, on developing their conversational English skills. In his free time, James has been working on his own cultural education, focusing on learning the local Tyrolean dialect. He has taken to his environment, hiking in the Alps and experiencing all that the alpine culture has to offer. He made a short visit home to the United States for the holidays before returning to Austria for a second semester.

Katie Benivoglio also has been involved in education overseas. Last August she moved to Cairo, Egypt, to work at the American University in Cairo with its president, Lisa Anderson ‘76 SIPA, ‘81 GSAS. During college, Katie studied modern standard Arabic for four years, including three summers studying in Tunisia and Morocco through the Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship. Katie first traveled to Egypt during summer 2012, when she interned at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and witnessed Egypt’s historic presidential elections. She subsequently parlayed her passion for Egyptian politics into a senior thesis on the sharia and legislative authority in the 2012 Egyptian constitution. Katie could not be happier to be back in Egypt, she says, this time on the educational side, working with a Columbia graduate. In her spare time, she enjoys brushing up on her knowledge of the Egyptian dialect by wandering the streets of the city.

Continuing with the international trend, Madhavan Somanthan has moved to France to pursue the study of classical guitar. He is studying the instrument under Professor Judea Perroy at the Conservatoire d’Aubervilliers. With this education he plans to work toward a performance career.

Tyler Simpson also has had the opportunity to travel internationally, through her job as an associate at the NBA. Last July, Tyler began working in a rotational program that has her moving from department to department within league headquarters, learning about different aspects of the business. She has worked in the player development department and human resources, and in a position as the ambassador at the 2013 NBA Global Games, during which she traveled to Manila and Taipei. There, she met coaches and team executives from the Indiana Pacers and the Houston Rockets. In January, Tyler transferred to the global merchandising group.

Tyler has been fostering her passion for basketball outside of her career as well, as a volunteer for the youth basketball program New Heights in Harlem. She helps coach basketball teams for girls in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. In addition to having a full-time job as an IT research analyst in New York, Takeshi Kaji volunteers as a social media coordinator for the ice hockey organization Arctic Cup. This past October he took a weekend off to attend its annual assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland, where he live-tweeted and updated the organization’s Facebook page during the event. He observed conversations and debates among major figures in Arctic public policy, business and science. He also met Kuupik Kleist, the former prime minister of Greenland, and Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, the president of Iceland, as well as Google’s Eric Schmidt, during a panel discussion. Although he only spent 50 hours in Reykjavik, Takeshi looks forward to attending the conference next year and hopes that next time he will be able to accept his invitation to dinner at Bessastaor, the residence of the Icelandic president.

Devyn Tyler played the role of Margaret in the final scene of Steve McQueen’s newest film, 12 Years a Slave. The film is sparking many conversations about race in the United States, and Devyn says she is excited to have had the opportunity to bring arts and academics together in discussion. She auditioned for this role during her time at Columbia. Of the films that she has been in, she says this is her favorite because it engaged her “not only as an artist but also as a scholar.”

Devyn has been acting professionally in New Orleans since childhood but took a break while at Columbia so that she could focus on academics. She was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow with research interests in the placement of New Orleans in the Francophone diaspora and the city’s free people of color. Her goal is to complete a Ph.D. in French and Francophone studies. In the near future, Devyn plans to act professionally again and hopes to be involved in more projects that allow her to interact with history and art. Her research at Columbia supplements her work as an actress, and she says she’s excited to see the possibilities for her career now that she has come to this realization. [Editor’s note: See “Senior Snapshots” in the Summer 2013 issue.]

Constance Boozer is also indulging her academic passions. She recently moved to Hyde Park and began a two-year program at Chicago, where she will pursue a master’s in public policy with a focus on political institutions and urban policy. The material has been manageable for her so far, and she says her biggest challenge is surviving the winter in the Midwest.

Constance continues, “Another CPR has entered my life. This time it’s not the Columbia Political Review but rather the Chicago Policy Review, where I am the senior editor on urban affairs. I have been in the computer lab trying to figure out why my STATA code doesn’t work, I’m either at an Institute of Politics event or uptown exploring Chicago.

Samantha Warren sent an exciting update about her rowing life. She writes, “After graduation I moved to Princeton, N.J., and began training for the World Rowing Under 23 Championships, which were held in Linz, Austria, last summer. After racing and traveling around Europe for a couple of weeks I flew home and got a call from the Olymp-
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pic rowing coach inviting me to train at the Elite Rowing Center in Princeton. After a couple of months of a trial period in the fall and my second-place finish in the single at the East Coast speed orders in November, I was invited to stay full-time. This training center is home to Olympians, Olympic medalists and world record holders. As there are only about 25 women training at the center, it is a huge honor to be considered, let alone invited, to be here. The level of excellence of these women is both inspiring and intimidating; I am awestruck on a daily basis by the quality of the athletes. Some women have been to two and even three Olympics, and just this past summer the women’s eight broke the world record. It’s exciting to be a part of all this.

With two or three practices a day, this training is a full-time job. My daily practices combine on-the-water training, weight lifting and cross-training on an erg, some sessions lasting up to about 100 minutes of work. The training is the hardest I have ever done and leaves me at a level of exhaustion I didn’t think was possible. While the training is grueling it is easier because of my remarkable teammates. The women at the center are from schools all over the country and from all different backgrounds yet we train every day as one team with one goal — to win gold medals at the Olympics.

"At Columbia I rowed in the varsity eight for four years and was a two-time captain. I am so grateful to be part of the Columbia athletics family and I hope to one day represent the United States and Columbia at the Olympics. Go Lions!"

For a final update, I congratulate Allison Lieblein ‘13E and Will Kender on their recent marriage! Allison and Will met at Columbia and were married on October 12 in Dana Point, Calif. More than 20 Columbia grads attended the wedding.

Answers to Varsity Show Quiz on inside back cover

1. Joan of Arc
2. Terrence McNally ‘60 (sidelight: music and lyrics for that VShow were by Ed Kleban ‘59, Tony-winning lyricist of A Chorus Line)
3. Herman Mankiewicz (Class of 1917)
4. Dick Hyman ‘48
5. The pony ballet
7. Richard Rodgers ‘23, Lorenz Hart (Class of 1918J) and Oscar Hammerstein II (Class of 1916)
8. False. For many years the Varsity Show was staged in midtown, in theaters and hotels including the Waldorf-Astoria.
9. Sid Luckman ’39
Bonus: Women first appeared in the Varsity Show in 1936 but adverse audience reaction led the show to return to male-only status until 1956, when women were reintroduced to the cast.
The cast of the 120th Varsity Show hams it up during a promotional photo shoot.

PHOTO: CHAR SMULLYAN
How well do you know the history of one of Columbia’s great traditions?

1. What was the name of the first Varsity Show, which was staged in 1894?
2. This four-time Tony winner wrote 1960’s *A Little Bit Different*. Name him.
3. The writer of 1916’s *The Peace Pirates* collaborated with Orson Welles on the Oscar-winning screenplay for *Citizen Kane*. Name him.
4. *Dead to Rights*, performed in 1947, was composed by what noted jazz pianist?
5. When the College was all-male, one of the regular features of the Varsity Show was a chorus line of students in women’s outfits and makeup. What was this VShow staple called?
6. The writer of 1928’s *Zuleika* achieved fame as an educator and author. Name him.
7. Three Broadway legends collaborated on 1920’s *Fly With Me*. Name them.
8. True or false: The Varsity Show always has been staged on the Columbia campus.
9. What Hall of Fame quarterback, wearing suit in photo above and escorting former Columbia football captain John Bateman ’37, ’38 GSAS, appeared in 1939’s *Fair Enough*?
10. Only one man has written four consecutive Varsity Shows by himself. He later teamed with Billy Wilder to pen screenplays for classics such as *Some Like It Hot*, *Fortune Cookie*, *Irma la Deuce* and *The Apartment*. Name him.

**Bonus:** When did women first appear in the Varsity Show?

Answers on page 35.
Walk through the Broadway Gates once more at Alumni Reunion Weekend 2014, May 29–June 1. If your class year ends in 4 or 9, please join us back on campus. reunion.college.columbia.edu.
"I knew that Columbia would be life-changing, that it would introduce me to inspiring people and give me the opportunity to explore what is, in my opinion, the greatest city in the world. What I wasn’t expecting was for Columbia to become my home."

Sophia Golec ’15

"My experience at Columbia College has taught me to challenge my existing notions and perceptions. I have learned the value of personal challenges and the demerits of comparisons with others. Everyone’s journey is unique. Columbia taught me to push myself and discover my limits."

Sundas Amer ’15

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Gifts to the Columbia College Fund help create the leaders of tomorrow by providing valuable resources for financial aid, the Core, student services, research opportunities and internships. Your generosity strengthens our students' experiences, leading to academic achievement, professional success and personal discovery.
In the Groove
Particle physicist Carl Haber ’80, ’85 GSAS preserves sounds of the past.
By David McKay Wilson

A Savory Tradition
Mauro Maccioni ’95, youngest son of “the first family of fine dining,” keeps making food lovers smile.
By Nathalie Alonso ’08

Class Day and Commencement 2014
The Class of 2014 joins the ranks of alumni; plus Academic Awards and Prizes.
By Alex Sachare ’71

Senior Snapshots
A look at the achievements and ambitions of seven members of the Class of 2014.
By Nathalie Alonso ’08

Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean’s Day 2014
Classmates reconnect on campus and throughout New York City.
By Lisa Palladino
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Ed Weathers ’68, ’69 GSAS writes a song of the unsung alumni.
A Plan for Lifelong Engagement

In May, 1,026 Columbia College students marched from Butler Library toward the Sundial in their Class Day ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments, commemorate their graduation and join our community of almost 48,000 alumni. Two weeks later, nearly 1,500 Columbia College alumni and more than 700 guests returned to Morningside Heights for Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean’s Day to celebrate on Low Plaza, take Mini-Core Courses and catch up with friends.

As I’ve written here, life as a Columbia College student is a continuum — you start as a “future student,” spend four years as a “current student” and graduate to a “former student,” a category in which you will typically spend more than 60 years. The events of each spring represent this, as current students transition to former students and former students reconnect with their Columbia College experience. But I don’t want that to happen only at reunion. My goal as dean is to keep you connected and engaged in the life of the College throughout your personal and professional lives.

To figure out how best to engage you, the alumni of Columbia College, I appointed a College Alumni Relations Task Force last year. The 13-member committee, which included members of the University Board of Trustees, Columbia College Board of Visitors, Columbia College Alumni Association Executive Board and Columbia College Young Alumni, convened focus groups, benchmarked with other institutions and created a five-year strategic plan for Columbia College Alumni Relations. The committee believes this plan will enhance your Columbia experience, help you remain involved in the life of the College and connect you with other Columbians — both students and fellow alumni.

The plan that the committee presented to me earlier this academic year has four pillars:

- Intellectual Experience: To provide content-rich, unique, intellectual experiences, ranging from Mini-Core Courses to virtual programming;
- Power Network: To help you build personal and professional connections through the energy and accomplishments of our community, including career programming, mentoring and other tools;
- Pride and Recognition: To build upon the traditions that connected you to the College and to your peers, and to recognize and celebrate your accomplishments as alumni; and
- Columbia Service: To inspire you to get involved with students, other alumni and the College, and to give your time and talents, while having meaningful volunteer and leadership experiences.

Our Alumni Relations team did a lot this academic year to carry out this plan — expanding our staff, strengthening our relationships across campus and enhancing our outreach efforts. I hope that you have begun to notice the changes. You are already connecting to the College by reading this issue of Columbia College Today. But I encourage you to get more involved with the Columbia College Alumni Association, to sign up to interview future students through the Alumni Representative Committee or do mock interviews for the Center for Career Education, to attend alumni events in your region and to come back to campus for the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day and for the Alumni Procession at Convocation, or for reunion and Dean’s Day each spring.

This is a plan for you, so if you have questions or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to ccalumni@columbia.edu. Have a great summer!
Letters to the Editor

The Varsity Show
What a great [Spring 2014] issue! Of course, being a member of the Pony Ballet, I’m prejudiced. I don’t remember the theme of the Varsity Show that year, as we of the Pony Ballet figured it was all about us and not the rest of the show.

We had a lot of fun. I remember that to jazz up one of our numbers, Claire Schiel ’49 Barnard (our dance teacher and choreographer) suggested I sashay out during our Hawaiian number and roll my belly. I did, and it brought the house down (or so it seemed to me). In any case, thanks again for bringing back those fun times.

Raymond Annino ’50
North Smithfield, R.I.

We enjoyed the piece on the Varsity Show in the Spring 2014 issue, remembering the days of the all-male productions. And the so-called dance instructor (she was not our dance instructor — Claire Schiel ’49 Barnard was) in the picture on page 27 was none other than Broadway star Nanette Fabray, uptown for the day to pose for publicity photos.

We also recalled that in the late ’40s, the Columbia Players produced other shows, with Barnard women in major and supporting roles. In the early fall, under the direction of Preston Munter ’46, ’49 P&S, we did Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet, Coriolanus) in McMillan; Thornton Wilder’s The Skin of Our Teeth; and an original verse drama, The Edge of Perfect, by Ferdinand Booke ’49, both of whom went on to be featured actors in movies and TV and on Broadway.

The highlight was always the Pony Ballet. The Varsity Show each year 1937-41 (the great I.A.L. Experiment was halted the following year. In the spring semester we performed T.S. Eliot’s Murder in the Cathedral in St. Paul’s Chapel for three years running. And one winter we performed Euripides’ Iphigenia in Aulis in the Low Rotunda. Many of those shows starred Delph Sweet ’48 and Sorrell Booke ’49, both of whom went on to be featured actors in movies and TV and on Broadway.

Dr. Marvin M. Lipman ’49, ’54 P&S (Pony Ballet 1948, 1949)
Naomi Loeb Lipman ’51 Barnard (Eloise, Iphigenia, among others)
New York City

2014 issue. I wish to fill in some omissions in the articles.

First, missing from the list of Varsity Show participants who went on to significant professional achievements in show business are:

William Goldenberg ’57: Billy continues to have a great career in Hollywood and on Broadway and TV. His credits include two Emmys (22 nominations); composing the music for the Broadway musical Ballroom, innumerable films and TV theme songs; and acting as music director and appearing as a conductor for Nichols and May; Kukla, Fran and Ollie; Barbra Streisand; Liza Minnelli; and Bea Arthur, among others.

Richard Chodosh ’49 and Barry Alan Grael ’52: Dick wrote the music and Barry the book and lyrics to the 1963 Off-Broadway show The Streets of New York, which was the subject of a laudatory article in Time. They also wrote the show Berlin Is Mine.

Second, regarding women in the Varsity Show, from inception men played both male and female roles. Then, in 1956, the all-male cast concept was breached with the addition of women. The story was that it caused a riot at the Astor Hotel, where the show was being presented, and the experiment was halted the following year. In 1956, we decided to once again make the cast coed. There was no riot, the change was a success and women were in to stay.

Jerome Breslow ’56
Potomac, Md.

Thanks for the nice issue [Spring 2014] about the Varsity Show in modern times. Much of what is described is not “traditional,” however. I was in the Varsity Show each year 1937-41 (the great I.A.L. “Izzy” Diamond ’41 wrote them) and they were wonderful and satirical but not about Columbia. There was no “pie in the face” at selection. The World’s Fair was satirized, as in Izzy’s great song: “Give me the trylon and the perisphere, And let them pile on the good old atmosphere.” The highlight was always the Pony Ballet. We, alas, had no girls in our casts.

Charles Plotz ’41
Brooklyn, N.Y.

I enjoyed the Spring 2014 edition, which focused on the Varsity Show: In “All the Columbia World’s a Stage,” [“Within the
with The Great Columbia Riot of ’78.”

I had the great fortune of working on the 1978 show. Behind this resurrection were then-students Mike Eisenberg ’78 and Steve Werner ’78, who made it their mission to revive what had effectively become a lapsed tradition. At the time, no organization really supported the production. (For that matter, there was no one to approve or disapprove of their plans to do the show at all.) So, with the optimism of the young, they decided just to go ahead, with Steve largely supporting the production with his own funds.

There were, of course, other unsung heroes. Ken Kalb produced the show, arranging such things as rehearsal space and publicity. The show also benefited from the help of a first-rate director, Joe Klein ’58.

Sometimes meaningful traditions die out. But thanks to Steve and Mike, Columbia students today continue to take part in (or see) a dramatic spectacle that thankfully has persevered.

Bennett Caplan ’78
BETHESDA, MD.

Professor Danto

While I appreciated the tribute to Arthur Danto in CCT (“Around the Quads,” Winter 2013–14), it focused almost exclusively on his contributions to art criticism. I knew Danto in a much different context that I believe deserves equal (or greater) attention, namely, as a teacher and mentor.

The first semester of my freshman year I enrolled in Danto’s introductory philosophy course. He was an inspiration in the classroom [and] a vibrant force as an instructor. In an age when many senior scholars disdain teaching large introductory courses, he relished the opportunity to do so, teaching the class annually. I admit I disagreed with his approach to philosophical inquiry — I was 17 and, of course, knew better — yet he always made himself available to engage with me.

In the intervening years, even when I was not taking a class with Danto, I camped out in front of his office in order to discuss with him whatever philosophical dilemma was bothering me at the moment. He was forever gracious in permitting me to pick his brain.

I was in the first class in Columbia’s philosophy department to enjoy the opportunity to write a senior thesis. Danto, to my great good fortune, agreed to supervise mine, demonstrating remarkable patience and affable support.

Although his contributions to the world of art criticism deserve recognition, I shall always remember Danto as a masterful teacher and a forbearing adviser.

Cary J. Nederman ’78
College Station, Texas

Editor’s note: The author is a professor of political science at Texas A&M.

Hoop Dreams

As we look back on the 2013–14 Columbia men’s basketball season, one cannot underestimate the magnitude of what coach Kyle Smith, his able staff and most of the student-athletes on this year’s team have accomplished.

Going far beyond the numbers (21–13 overall record, 8–6 Ivy League, first post-season berth in decades) and personal accomplishments (Alex Rosenberg ’15 and Maodo Lo ’16 garnering All-Ivy first and second-team honors, respectively), a sense of pride and vitality has been instilled in this program. Our Ivy League games are particularly entertaining and something to look forward to in the winter months, and the atmosphere in Levien Gymnasium has been a sight to behold with several contests being sold out or nearly sold out.

In addition, the chemistry of this group was really evident this year and is a tribute to Smith’s recruiting philosophy and his emphasis on “team first, check your ego at the door.” Look at the field goals attempted for the season and you can get a good idea of how this group bought into the concept of ball distribution and a “pass first” mentality.

Several of the New York City tabloids have started to pick up on the resurgence of the basketball program on Morningside Heights and with good reason. Smith has amassed 63 wins in his four years at Columbia and his and the program’s future looks bright, with I hope a good recruiting class being shored up.

Congratulations to the 2013–14 Lions. Roar, Lion, Roar!

Anthony Piscitelli ’78
BRONX, N.Y.

Hoop Memories

The first two 1948 Class Notes in the Spring 2014 issue landed me back on the basketball court for the ’46–’47 season. In his note, Dr. Peter A. Arturi ’48 mentioned he played on the JV team under Lou Rossini ’47 TC, as I did. After all these years, I am sorry to say that I can’t conjure up a face with the name, but I’m sure Peter can’t, either. I also remember scrimmaging against Lou during the second semester in 1946. I had been discharged in February from the Army Air Corps, just in time to pick up where I had left off three years earlier. Lou was named JV coach, a position he held until he succeeded Gordon Ridings as varsity coach at the start of the 1951 season.

Lou was a teammate of Walt Budko ’47E, whose death in spring 2013 was reported in the Spring 2013 issue of the magazine. He and I played together there, or more accurately, we played against each other, as I was the JV center while Walt was the star center on the varsity team. If Murray or Al had to defend against Walt under the basket, they would not have remembered him as a “gentle giant.”

George Woolfe ’48
FALMOUTH, MASS.
“Daily” No More: Spectator Will Emphasize Digital Publication

The Columbia Daily Spectator is daily no more — at least, not in print.

On April 27, the venerable 137-year-old newspaper announced that in order to “make its journalism — and its online presentation — the priority,” it would cease daily publication of its print edition. Instead, Spectator said it will publish “a weekly print product while bolstering its commitment to sharp, round-the-clock coverage of Columbia and the surrounding neighborhoods.”

Columbia will become the only Ivy League school without a daily student-produced paper.

Nonetheless, the announcement claimed, “While we will no longer print five days per week, we will be more ‘daily’ than ever. This move will strengthen our efforts to be a 24/7 news source for Columbia and the local community, putting us in a position to fund enhancements to our website, overhaul our newsroom culture, and spend more time producing the top-quality journalism that is — and always will be — at the core of Spectator’s mission.”

Sounds reasonable, right? After all, many daily newspapers have cut back on their publishing schedules during the past decade and longer, and others have folded entirely. The announcement from Spectator stated, “We know the vast majority of our readers consume our content online, not in print.”

So if the majority of your audience isn’t reading the print product, why go to the expense of printing it in the first place? Why not devote those resources to producing the best online edition you can? Or, as the announcement put it, “By untying ourselves from the daily print production schedule, we will free editors and writers to focus on providing our readers with the stories they want through the medium they prefer.”

If it’s all so reasonable, why did I find this news so sad? And not just me — every former Speccie I contacted, even one former editor who is now an online journalist, expressed the same feeling.

When asked my major at Columbia, the Registrar will tell you sociology but I usually say it was Spectator. I spent far more hours at the Spec offices on the third floor of Ferris Booth Hall or out covering events for the paper than I did studying at Butler Library, or anywhere else for that matter. And, with the perspective that comes from more than four decades in the work force, I can say without question that I learned more at Spectator than I did in any class, or two or three.

I’m not talking just about the nuts and bolts of journalism, although I picked up enough of those in four years at Spectator to land a job with Associated Press and start work the week of graduation. I’m talking about the teamwork and the sacrifice and the dedication it takes to see a newspaper through from concept to completion, from story list to delivery, so it can be read — surreptitiously, of course — in 9 a.m. classes.

The most important thing I learned during four years at Spectator, including two years as sports editor, was accountability. I learned the importance of getting it right. I learned to gather facts, to check them, to question them and recheck them until I knew the story I was running was accurate — and not just accurate, but fair and responsible as well. No, this wasn’t like heart surgery where a patient could die if a mistake was made. But if there was an error or a misrepresentation in one of my stories when the paper arrived in the morning, it was on me — and that was one feeling I never wanted to have.

That’s what worries me about the new Spec. Despite the pledges to produce “top-quality journalism,” will it devolve into just another blog? Unlike print, where a mistake lives forever, an error online can be fixed at any time with just a few keystrokes. Without that specter of seeing a mistake you made, or one you let slip past your vigilant eyes, in print the next morning, will there be one less layer of fact-checking, one less source to contact for verification, one less reading to make sure there are no unintended meanings, one less check to make sure a name is spelled correctly? That’s the kind of accountability I’m talking about. It’s a valuable lesson I learned at Spectator by poring over copy, galleys and page proofs, and I hope it remains part of the Spec culture as the emphasis moves to digital delivery.

I hope Spectator flourishes in its new format. I will miss picking up a copy of the paper in the morning and reading it at my desk, but I will log on whenever I remember. It won’t be the same experience for me, but that’s not what’s most important; my hope is that legions of Species present and future will have the same rich, challenging and fulfilling experience at Spectator that I had.

Alex Sachare
On May 6, graduating seniors gathered under a tent on South Lawn at the annual Senior Dinner to celebrate the end of classes. More than 900 members of the Class of 2014 enjoyed dinner and mingled with friends while a photo slideshow played on the ceiling, projecting images of four years’ worth of their favorite photos. In the background, upbeat music kept the energy high while students lined up for a turn inside the event’s photo booth.

After an introduction from Class President Conan Cassidy ‘14, Senior Dinner Co-chairs Luisa Lizoain ‘14 and Abigail Pucker ‘14 recited a short poem about friendship and thanked everyone for coming. Next to speak was Dean James J. Valentini, who congratulated the seniors on their accomplishments.

As of June 3, the Senior Fund raised more than $22,600 and more than 250 seniors participated in Valentini’s “3-2-1 Challenge,” which encourages students to contribute for three years, encourage two friends to donate and have their donations matched one-to-one by an alumnus/a — for the third consecutive year, Gene Davis ‘75, ’76 SIPA, ’80L. Because the class met its participation goal, the Senior Fund also received a gift of $100,000 from Charles Santoro ’82.

Student Council President Daphne Chen ‘14 gave a toast to their new lives as graduates, saying, “It’s a hello toast, because I’m not ready to say goodbye to you.”

Kyra Tirana Barry ‘87, outgoing president of the Columbia College Alumni Association, welcomed the students to the CCAA and asked them to stand and cheer if they had participated in certain Columbia traditions, which brought the attendees to their feet for everything from passing the swim test to finishing off a giant Koronet pizza slice. Calvin Sun ‘08, president of the Columbia College Young Alumni Board, closed out the evening by inviting the students to their first alumni event, a party on the U.S.S. Intrepid during Alumni Reunion Weekend.

View a Facebook album of the dinner and shots from the photo booth: facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums.

Above, seniors and Gerald Sherwin ’55 (middle) spell out a superlative message. Top and middle, Dean James J. Valentini poses for a group selfie and students don costumes for the photo booth.

PHOTOS: RICH ORMANSKOWSKI
T
he Columbia Startup Lab, a collaboration among the College, Engineering, SIPA and the Business School, opened in Manhattan on June 10 with a mission of fostering entrepreneurship among young alumni. The startup lab provides a co-working space with heavily subsidized rent — members pay $150 a month per seat, with the remainder covered by Columbia — for alumni who have graduated within the last five years and have started their own businesses.

The lab is located at WeWork, which runs communal work spaces around the world, including 12 locations in Manhattan. Columbia rented the first floor of the West SoHo space (existing startups already occupy the upper floors), allowing young alumni to interact with one another and with more established tech and media startups. WeWork generally uses open floor plans, with couches, tables and recreation centers to encourage discussion and idea sharing.

"If you think about it, the whole thing is networking. You’re bringing people together from different disciplines — it’s all a big mixing pot," says Chris McGarry, Columbia’s director of entrepreneurship.

More than 35 Columbia alumnus-established businesses have joined the space, including six run by College alumni. Aditya Mukerjee ’12 founded Board-Rounds, a healthcare startup that focuses on patient follow-up care. Matt Star ’12 is coding for Rawr Denim, a blog about raw denim that offers a suite of tools to help men find the perfect pair of jeans. Brian Valero ’12 and Nicholas Cox ’11 launched Drop Global, both a mobile community where surfers, snowboarders and other action sports athletes can connect and an e-commerce site for action sport-inspired clothing and gear. Carolyn Yim ’11 created a way for consumers to directly purchase her luxury knitwear with her online shop, +PLY. Cooper Pickett ’10 started Longneck & Thunderfoot to help companies develop online media strategies, and John Mascari ’08 is serving up organic pasteurized juices designed for expecting mothers through Bundle Organics.

Alumni applied for the space in February and March and the chosen businesses, which can use the space from four months to a year, were announced in early April. McGarry says the teams were selected by the Columbia Entrepreneurship Initiative for their ability to bring a range of skills and interests, so members can learn from one another. "The biggest victories that we’ve scored are when we broker collaborations between schools and create programs and resources that are greater than the sum of their parts," says McGarry.

Anne-Ryan Heatwole ’09

Columbia Joins edX

Columbia has launched a partnership with edX, a nonprofit online learning platform founded in 2012 by Harvard and MIT. The first Columbia course offered through edX will be "The United States in the Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction," taught by Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS, the Dewitt Clinton Professor of History and a Bancroft Prize, Lincoln Prize and Pulitzer Prize winner.

"Professor Foner is a legend," said Anant Agarwal, the president of edX, which has offered more than 150 courses from 33 colleges and universities in a range of subjects. "Having his course on the Civil War on edX will significantly enhance the quality of the courses on edX."

Foner plans to retire at the end of the 2014–15 academic year and taught his Civil War course for the last time this past spring, when the lectures and discussion sections were recorded. Of the partnership with edX, Foner told Spectator, "To me, this is just a way to disseminate knowledge to a broad audience." He added that he was glad that the course "can be available to people long after I’ve left the University."

Though Columbia professors have taught massive open online courses through other platforms, including Coursera, no University-wide partnerships had been established before the March 13 announcement about edX.
Five Alumni Honored at John Jay Awards Dinner

Five accomplished alumni were each presented a 2014 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement at the annual John Jay Awards Dinner, held at Cipriani 42nd Street on March 5. This year marked the 36th annual dinner; 195 honorees and 11 decades of alumni have been honored. The dinner raised $1.1 million for the John Jay National Scholars Program, which provides financial aid and special programming to enhance the academic and extracurricular experiences of outstanding students.

The 2014 honorees were Joyce Chang '86, managing director, global head of fixed income research, J.P. Morgan; Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz '62, '66 P&S, an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and professor of biochemistry and chemistry at Duke University Medical Center; James L. Melcher ’61, founding partner, Balestra Capital; Michael S. Solender ’86, Americas vice chair and general counsel, Ernst & Young; and Mozelle W. Thompson ’76, ’81L, CEO, Thompson Strategic Consulting.


Greene Speaks to Alumni in California

On April 29, almost 140 alumni, students and guests joined physics and mathematics professor, and author, Brian Greene (below, far left) at The Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills for an illuminating conversation moderated by writer, award-winning TV correspondent and Los Angeles resident Gideon Yago '00. Greene discussed with Yago the new World Science U, an online learning platform, as well as the Columbia Science Initiative, which celebrates Columbia’s leadership in research and innovative teaching. The conversation was followed by a reception at the center’s roof garden.

Go to alumni.columbia.edu/columbia-science to watch the full livestream of the event and to learn more about the Columbia Science Initiative. Go to facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums to view photos from the event.

IN LUMINE TUO

KATZNELSON: Ira Katznelson ’66, the Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, was awarded the 2014 Bancroft Prize for his most recent book, Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time, in which he exposes the racial politics that enabled Franklin Delano Roosevelt to secure Congressional support for many New Deal measures.

The prize, which was established at Columbia in 1948 with a bequest from Frederic Bancroft, a preeminent historian, librarian, author and Columbia lecturer, is considered one of the most distinguished academic awards in the field of history. It is awarded annually by the University trustees to two authors of distinguished works in American history or diplomacy. Ari Kelman, a professor of history at UC Davis, also received the award this year for his book A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek.

AXEL: University Professor Richard Axel ’67 has been elected to The Royal Society, the United Kingdom’s national academy of science, as a foreign member. Axel, a professor in the Medical Center’s Departments of Neuroscience, of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics; and of Pathology and Cell Biology, has headed multiple studies in neuroscience and gene transfer techniques. He is a member of The Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute and of The Kavli Institute for Brain Science and an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Along with Linda Buck, Axel was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2004 for a series of pioneering studies that clarified how the sense of smell works.
Alondra Nelson is a professor of sociology and gender studies, and director of the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Raised in San Diego, she earned a B.A. in anthropology from UC San Diego and a Ph.D. in American studies from NYU. Her 2011 book, Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination, was recognized with four scholarly awards.

What's your specialty?
I work at the intersection of the sociology of race and/or ethnicity and the sociology of science. I went to graduate school at a time when a great deal of new scholarship was helping us to better understand how ideas about race (and justifications for racism) were drawn from the biological sciences and medicine — including books like Tiegege's Truths by Susan Reverby, which traced the notorious syphilis experiment, a scientific inquiry partly premised on spurious theories about fundamental differences between black bodies and white bodies, and Robert Proctor's Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis, which explored the way that medical research was used for ideological purposes in Hitler's Germany. This new wave of scholarship highlighted moments in which science and technology were mobilized against marginalized groups. As someone also interested in African-American history, I was struck that a lot of this literature suggested a one-way street. It gave us a picture of race making “from above” — in science and medicine — but offered little insight into how the communities detrimentally impacted by these ideas responded to them.

And that led you to the Black Panthers?
Yes. We often think about the Civil Rights Movement as being about access to schools and to lunch counters but it was also about access to medical care and medical facilities, and to nursing schools and medical education. The Black Panthers emerged in 1966 as an organization that was trying to curb police harassment, and violence and often deadly engagements with police came to be the way that we think most about them. But part of their story is also radical and fairly ambitious health care activism. I wrote about their sickle cell anemia campaign, which best I could discern is the only case of a grassroots genetic screening and counseling program in the United States. I also wrote about their challenge to a planned research center at UCLA that was gathering together researchers interested in studying the idea that there were biological causations for violence. In this instance, the Black Panthers were successful in working with a coalition of other activists, including the NAACP and the National Organization for Women, to block state funding to the center, so it never came to be. What's interesting about this Black Panther story, surprisingly, is that it's not a poignant postscript about the damage that was done to vulnerable communities by biomedical experimentation. Rather, it's a powerful story that says, "we learned about this as it was happening, we understood what the stakes were and what the implications of this research was and we were able to stop it."

What's your current project?
I have a book coming out next year called The Social Life of DNA. It started as ethnographic research in 2003 when direct-to-consumer genetic ancestry testing companies were introduced in the U.S. Given the complicated history of genetic science, I was initially interested in whether these tests were contributing to consumers thinking about themselves in essentialist ways: Are we coming to think about our genes as our destiny, both for our health and for our identity? For me, that was a potentially dangerous thing. But what I found is that people were both more judicious than I would have thought and also more nuanced and sophisticated. What became more interesting was the way that people navigated the different threads of information that can make up one’s identity: the tests, the family stories, the things written in the front of a bible, oral history, even the things you might feel about what you think your ancestry is.

What undergraduate courses do you teach?
A lecture course called “Post-Racial America?” It looks at facets of American life, such as the workforce, mass incarceration, urban and suburban living, the intersection of race and ethnicity with gender and class, and growing populations of people who call themselves multi-racials. As someone who is a post-Civil Rights Movement sociologist, I think many things have gotten better, some things have not changed and some things have gotten worse. So to pose that question every week — post-racial America? — makes students think with complexity about contemporary racial politics in the U.S.

What historical figure would you most like to meet?
Ida B. Wells-Barnett. She was a journalist, lay sociologist and an anti-lynching crusader as well as a woman leader working in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when there weren’t many well-known women leaders. It’s one thing to take the helm of an organization; it’s another to have unpopular opinions and to be disliked both because you’re operating outside of the realm of normative, polite womanhood and outside of the realm of status quo politics. And at the same time she was a mother, she was a grandmother, she was a wife. Ida B. Wells was able to accomplish things that most of us can only aspire to.

Interview: Alexis Tonti '11 Arts Photo: Bruce Gilbert
IN MEMORIAM

Robert L. Belknap ’57 SIPA, ’59 GSAS, Professor Emeritus

Robert L. Belknap ’57 SIPA, ’59 GSAS, Professor Emeritus of Russian in the Department of Slavic Languages, a longtime Literature Humanities instructor and a former acting Dean of the College, died on March 17, 2014. He was 84.

Belknap was regarded as one of the world’s foremost experts on Russian literature, particularly Dostoevsky. He authored two major studies, The Structure of The Brothers Karamazov (1967, reprinted 1989) and The Genesis of The Brothers Karamazov: The Aesthetics, Ideology, and Psychology of Making a Text (1990). Together with Columbia colleague Richard F. Kuhns Jr. ’55 GSAS, Belknap also wrote Tradition and Innovation: General Education and the Reintegration of the University (1977).

Belknap was bom in New York City on December 23, 1929, and graduated from Princeton in 1951. He began teaching at Columbia in 1956 following Army service and earned a Ph.D. in 1959 from GSAS in Slavic languages and literatures. He also studied at the University of Paris and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) State University.

Belknap began teaching Lit Hum in 1960 and continued for nearly every year thereafter. He chaired Lit Hum in 1963, 1967–70 and again for two years in the 1980s. He also taught courses in Russian and comparative literature and literary theory and major Asian classics. He was acting Dean of the College in 1975 and was associate dean for student affairs, chair of the Slavic languages department and director of the Russian (now Harriman) Institute. In 2000–01, Belknap was honored for distinguished service to the Core Curriculum. He was presented the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching in 1980 and a Society of Columbia Graduates’ Great Teacher Award in 2010.

In fall 2013, Core lecturer Anne Diebel Ph.D. ’13 GSAS was appointed the inaugural Robert Belknap Core Faculty Fellow, a named lectureship endowed by Belknap’s former student Jay Lindsey ’75. Teaching Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature: Essays in Honor of Robert L. Belknap was released in February.

Lisa Knapp ’85 GSAS, department chair and associate professor of Slavic languages, said, “Bob was a magisterial teacher of literature in true Columbia tradition, a guiding intellect and scholar in the field of Russian literature and a committed educator who devoted his energy and vision to making Columbia an institution to be proud of.”

Belknap is survived by his wife, Cynthia Whittaker; daughters from a previous marriage, Lydia Duff, Ellen ‘86 Arch, and Abigail Krueger; stepchildren, Erica and Andrew Whittaker; and sisters, Louise Belknap Carter and Barbara. A memorial service is scheduled for St. Paul’s Chapel on Friday, September 12, at 2 p.m.

Karl Daum ’15

Ten Faculty Receive Lenfest Awards

Ten Arts and Sciences faculty members have been honored with Lenfest Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards for their ability to engage, challenge and inspire students. The awards were established by University Trustee (now Emeritus) Gerry Lenfest ’58L in 2005 and award each honoree a stipend of $25,000 a year for three years.

Two of this year’s honorees are College alumnai: Christine Philiou ’94, associate professor of history, and Valerie Purdie-Vaughns ’93, assistant professor of psychology.

The others are Elizabeth Blackmar, professor of history; Virginia Page Fortna, professor of political science and chair of the Department of Political Science; Erik Gray, associate professor of English and comparative literature; Peter Kelemen, the Arthur D. Storke Memorial Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences; Ioannis Mylonopoulos, associate professor of art history and archaeology; Joanna Stalnaker, associate professor of French and romance philology; Brent Stockwell, associate professor of biological sciences and chemistry; and Rafael Yuste, professor of biology and neuroscience.

Lavine Honored with Seixas Award

On May 15, University Trustee Jonathan S. Lavine ’88 received the 14th annual Gershom Mendes Seixas Award from Columbia/Barnard Hillel. The award is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to Jewish life at Columbia.

A former chair of the Board of Visitors, Lavine is the managing partner and chief investment officer of Sankaty Advisors. President Lee C. Bollinger said, “Jonathan Lavine is a joy to us on the trustees. We depend upon his enthusiasm. Every day, we’re grateful for his involvement.”

Held in the Low Rotunda, the event raised more than $1.3 million thanks to a matching gift of $500,000 from Lavine and Robert K. Kraft ’63, setting a record for the largest gift in the award’s history. Kraft, who also presented the award, spoke about Lavine’s passion for social justice.

Robert K. Kraft ’63 (left) and Seixas Award honoree Jonathan S. Lavine ’88. PHOTO: JOHN COSTELLO
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Maggie Gyllenhaal '99 will make her Broadway debut this fall, starring opposite Ewan McGregor in Tom Stoppard’s Tony-winning play *The Real Thing*. The Roundabout production is scheduled to begin performances on October 2, officially open on October 30 and run through January 4, 2015. Best known for her work in films such as *Mona Lisa Smile, Secretary, The Dark Knight, Sherrybaby* and *Crazy Heart*, Gyllenhaal's stage credits include *Closer, Antony and Cleopatra, Three Sisters* and *Homebody/Kabul.*

Michael Sovem '53, '55L released his memoir, *An Improbable Life: My 60 Years at Columbia and Other Adventures*, which is in part about his time as University president 1980-93. He was featured on public radio’s *The Leonard Lopate Show* on March 3, was interviewed in the Spring 2014 issue of *Columbia* magazine and will write about his book and his career for the Fall 2014 issue of *CCT.*

Sam Bodkin '12 founded Groupmuse, a website that matches people who want to volunteer their home for a classical musical performance with musicians and guests. The performances are typically free but afterward, hosts pass a hat for the musicians. More than 100 events have been held since January 2013, and Bodkin has attended almost all of them. "The goal of Groupmuse is to revitalize the role of classical music in contemporary society by emphasizing and accentuating its inherently social nature, and to create lots of legitimately fun, stimulating and enriching opportunities to encourage folks to expand their minds and their social circles," says Bodkin.

Dr. Robert J. Lefkowitz '62, '66 P&S and Dr. George Yancopoulos '80, '86 GSAS, '87 P&S returned to their high school, Bronx Science, on March 4 to speak with students and teachers about careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Lefkowitz, an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and professor of biochemistry and chemistry at Duke University Medical Center, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2012 for his work in receptor biology, and Yancopoulos is the chief scientist and president of Regeneron Laboratories, the largest biotechnology company in New York and one of the fastest growing in the nation.

Former New York Gov. David Paterson '77 has donated papers detailing his time as lieutenant governor and governor to Columbia’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The donation covers Paterson’s political career 2007-11, and the majority of the papers will be available to the public without restrictions.

Marc DaCosta '06 and Hicham Oudghiri '06 were featured in a *New York Times* article about their website Enigmaio, which standardizes and makes searchable public data sets from federal and state agencies. With $4.5 million raised from investors, the company allows the public to search data sets free of charge. The website launched for public use on March 23.

Barry, Fergang Recognized for Service as Alumni Leaders

Classmates Kyra Tirana Barry '87 and Yale M. Fergang '87, '88E will complete their terms as president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) Board of Directors and chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors (BOV), respectively, on June 30. Both were honored for their service to the College with a toast from Dean James J. Valentini at the final meeting of the academic year of their respective boards.

Barry completed a three-year term as president of the CCAA Board of Directors and will be succeeded by Doug Wolf '88. Valentini praised Barry for her leadership, guidance and support during his first years as dean, calling her a key partner whom he frequently turned to for advice and counsel during that transition and praising her for her dedication and devotion to the College. He also thanked outgoing CCAA board members for their service.

Fergang, who will be succeeded as BOV chair by Alexander Navab '87, was presented with a personalized chair by the dean for leading the BOV for two years. Also thanked for their service were outgoing BOV members Alexandra Wallace Creed '88; Gene I. Davis '75, '76 SIPA, '80L; Allen I. Faigin '71; Robert L. Friedman '64; Thomas H. Glocer '81; Jeffrey D. Knowles '71; Sami W. Mnaymneh '81; J. Michael Schell '69; M. Glenn Vinson Jr. '67; and Rory Wilfork '97.
Two young alumnae have won prestigious awards this year: Amirah Sequeira ’12 received a Gates Cambridge Scholarship while Katie Bentivoglio ’13 received a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Junior Fellowship. Sequeira plans to pursue a one-year M.Phil. in history, philosophy and sociology of science, medicine and technology at the University of Cambridge; Bentivoglio will work for one year as a research assistant for the Carnegie international affairs think tank.

Lisette Camilo ’98 is the new director of the Mayor’s Office of Contract Services for NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio. Formerly the office’s acting general counsel, Camilo will now focus on procuring services and contracts for the New York City government.

Three alumni made Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People list this year: U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, ’76L, President Barack Obama ’83 and showrunner Jenji Kohan ’91 of Weeds and Orange Is the New Black. The list, released on April 23, cited Holder for working to end discriminatory sentencing practices as well as for taking on banks for mortgage fraud and tax evasion. Obama was viewed through the first 100 days of his second term and his plans for the rest of his presidency, and Kohan was noted for her ability to create non-traditional television shows with characters that cover a range of races and sexual orientations.

Three alumni were nominated for 2014 Tony awards: Terrence McNally ’60’s play Mothers and Sons was nominated in the Best Play category, while Brian Yorkey ’93 and Tom Kitt ’96 were nominated in the Best Original Score category for their musical If/Then.

Allen I. Fagin ’71, a prominent attorney and former chairman of Proskauer Rose, has been named EVP and chief professional officer of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, for which he had served as a lay leader. The Orthodox Union, as it is known, is the world’s largest kosher certification organization and also has an impact on the Jewish world through its array of religious, youth, social action, educational, public policy and community development services, programs and activities. Fagin was at Proskauer 1976–2003 and was its chairman 2005–11.

Jim Jarmusch ’75 was celebrated April 2–10 with the Film Society of Lincoln Center’s “Permanent Vacation: The Films of Jim Jarmusch,” a retrospective of 11 of his feature films as well as several of his shorts and music videos. Jarmusch’s latest film, Only Lovers Left Alive, stars Tom Hiddleston and Tilda Swinton as a vampire couple who have been together for centuries. The film was first shown at the Cannes Film Festival last year and was released in the United States in April.

Ifill Honored at CCYA Fund Spring Benefit

More than 200 young alumni attended the eighth annual Columbia College Young Alumni Fund Spring Benefit on April 25 at The Racquet and Tennis Club. This event brings together alumni from the Classes of 2004–13 not only for a fun evening but for a good cause, as a portion of each ticket goes to the Young Alumni Fund. The Gerald Sherwin ’55 Young Alumni Service Award is presented at the event, and this year’s honoree was Justin M. Ifill ’06, shown above with Sherwin (who was celebrating his 80th birthday, hence the sash). The benefit raised almost $10,000 for the Young Alumni Fund and the silent auction raised more than $2,300 to support summer internship stipends.

View a Facebook album of the event: facebook.com/alumnicc/photos_albums.

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Roar, Lion, Roar

Men’s Tennis Wins Ivies, Reaches NCAA Sweet 16

In a season coach Bid Goswami called “pretty historic,” Columbia’s men’s tennis won the national indoor doubles title, compiled a 22-2 overall record, swept the Ivy League championship while losing only one point in seven matches and recorded the first two NCAA tournament victories in program history.

Columbia’s only losses of the season both came at Athens, Ga., to then third-ranked Georgia early in the season and to top-ranked Southern Cal in the NCAA Tournament’s Sweet 16. Columbia’s two losses were the fewest in the NCAA. USC went on to win its fifth national title in six years.

Columbia got an early taste of success at the ITA/USTA National Indoor Championships in November when Ashok Narayana ’15 and Max Schnur ’15 stunned the top-seeded and No. 1 nationally ranked pair of Mikelis Libietis and Hunter Reese from Tennessee 6-3, 6-2 to win the doubles crown at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

After beating Marist and Monmouth to open their regular season, the Lions headed south to Athens for the ITA Kickoff Classic, where they were beaten by the Bulldogs 4-2 before they bounced back to defeat Washington 4-0. That began an 18-match winning streak for the Lions, capped by a sweep of their Ivy opponents for their first league title since 2010 and their 11th Ivy crown overall.

“All the things that we wanted to accomplish since September, we have now,” Goswami said after Columbia blanked Princeton 4-0 on April 20. “This was the last, to win the Ivy League outright.” Well, not quite the last. “This feels good,” Narayana said before quickly adding, “This wasn’t our biggest goal. We want to make a dent at the NCAAs, and we feel confident.”

Traveling to Nashville for the NCAA Regionals, the Lions beat East Tennessee State 4-0 for their first NCAA tournament win. Then they surprised host Vanderbilt 4-3 as Winston Lin ’15, the Ivy League Player of the Year, fought off cramps and defeated Austin Gonzales 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in No. 1 singles, the last match of the day. That earned Columbia a return trip to Athens, site of the NCAA Championships, where the Lions were defeated by Southern Cal 5-0.

“It has been a remarkable, remarkable year for us. We could not be any prouder of what this team has accomplished,” associate head coach Howard Endelman said. “If you would have told us in the beginning of the year that we’d play the entire 2014 season with just two losses, one to No. 3 Georgia and the other No. 1 USC, both in national tournaments? I think we’d take it. It is easy to be disappointed because our mentality is we don’t want to back down from anyone, but that being said, when we reflect on this year, we know how special it was and how blessed we are to have such a unique group of players.”

Playing at No. 1 singles, Winston Lin ’15, the Ivy League Player of the Year, compiled a 31-3 record and won 20 consecutive matches.

PHOTO: BILL KALLENBERG

SCOREBOARD

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

3 Ivy League baseball championships since 2008 under coach Brett Boretti
31 Singles wins by Winston Lin ’15, men’s tennis’ Ivy Player of the Year
.917 Winning percentage by men’s tennis, which compiled a 22-2 record
21 Victories by men’s basketball, Columbia’s most since 1968
Men’s Golf Tops Ivies

Men’s golf won its fourth Ivy League championship in the last seven years, posting a 12-stroke victory at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., on April 25–27. Columbia took control of the three-round tournament by registering a team score of 276 in the middle round, 13 strokes lower than any other round shot at Baltusrol in the championships.

Leading the Lions was Brandon Jowers ’15E (74-69-75—218), who finished fourth overall and was named the co-Ivy League Player of the Year. Harrison Shih ’16 (77-70-73—220) joined Jowers on the All-Ivy first team after finishing tied for fifth and Tharussyian Pillay ’17 (77-69-77—223) earned a spot on the All-Ivy second team, finishing tied for ninth. Christopher Chu ’17, who matched his career-best round with a 68 on Saturday, and Andrew Kim ’14 made it five Columbia golfers in the top 25.

SPORTS SHORTS

BASKETBALL: Men’s basketball, picked to finish last in the preseason Ivy League media poll, won 21 games and made its first playoff appearance since 1968, reaching the quarterfinals of the CollegeInsider.com Tournament. The Lions (21–13 overall, 8–6 Ivy), without a single senior on the roster, finished tied for third with Princeton in the Ivy League behind Harvard and Yale, Columbia’s highest finish since 2000. The 21 victories were the most since the 1968 team went 23–5 and won the Ivy championship. Alex Rosenberg ’15 and Maodo Lo ’16 led the Lions in scoring with 16.0 and 14.7 points per game, respectively.

ROWING: Columbia earned its first gold medal in a national championship event since 1929 when the lightweight four of Anders Smedsrud ’14, Lane Brokaw ’14, Matt Bellesheim ’15 and Steven Boyle ’14E and cox Erica Cunningham ’14E won at the National Men’s Lightweight Championships on June 1.

TRACK & FIELD: Columbia won four individual titles at the 2014 Ivy League Heptagonal Outdoor Track & Field Championships on May 10–11. Marvellous Ihekwumene ’14 successfully defended her crown in the 200m for her fourth outdoor Ivy sprints title in two seasons, Nadia Eke ’15 won the women’s triple jump, Harrison McFann ’14 captured the men’s 800m and McFann teamed with Brendon Fish ’15E, John Gregorek ’14 and Robert Napolitano ’17 to win the 4x800m relay.

ARCHERY: For the first time in program history, Columbia posted top-three finishes in both the compound and recurve divisions at the U.S. Intercollegiate Archery Championships, held in Long Beach, Calif., on May 14–18. The compound team of Judy Zhou ’17, Julie Hoffmann ’16 and Mary Quien ’14E won the silver medal and the recurve team of Sarah Bernstein ’15 Barnard, Tiffany Kim ’16, Joy Chang ’17 and Grace Kim ’15 captured the bronze medal.

Baseball Repeats as Ivy Champions

It is often said that the hardest thing to do in sports is repeat as champion, as every opponent takes special pleasure in knocking off the defending titlist, which goes through the entire season wearing a target on its back. That didn’t stop the Columbia baseball team.

For the second consecutive season, the Lions won the Ivy League Championship, defeating Dartmouth in a doubleheader 6–2 and 4–1 on May 10. It was the Lions’ third crown since 2008 under coach Brett Boretti and their 12th overall title.

Columbia was 5–12 after its spring trip to Florida, Georgia and Texas. But after splitting their next six games, the Lions launched a school-record 15-game winning streak with a 5–4 victory at Dartmouth in the second game of a doubleheader on April 5. Columbia split a pair of doubleheaders against Penn to finish the Ivy season tied with the Quakers atop the Lou Gehrig Division. They then won a one-game playoff 4–0 in Philadelphia on May 3 behind David Speer ’14’s five-hit, nine-strikeout pitching.

That set up a rematch of last year’s best-of-three playoff against Dartmouth, winner of the Red Rolfe Division. Columbia hosted the first two games at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium and made sure there was no need for a Game 3 in Hanover, N.H. Speer pitched eight strong innings and David Vandercook ’15 and Robb Paller ’16 hit home runs for the Lions in the opener. In the nightcap, Vandercook and Gus Craig ’15E homered to support Columbia starter Kevin Roy ’16, who allowed three hits over six innings before turning the ball over to Thomas Crisp ’16 and George Thanopoulos ’16 for three innings of scoreless relief.

In the double-elimination NCAA Regional in Coral Gables, Fla., the Lions lost their first game on May 30 against Texas Tech 3–2 on a run-scoring double by Eric Gutierrez in the ninth inning. The next day, they fell behind Bethune-Cookman 6–0, rallied to score five runs in the final three innings but came up short and lost 6–5.

Columbia finished with an overall record of 29–20, the most wins in program history, including an 18–5 mark against Ivy opponents.
Dean James J. Valentini chose punctuation as the theme for his remarks to the Class of 2014 at Class Day on May 20, and in particular the importance of the comma.

Valentini said that while graduation might seem like a period or a full stop, coming at the end of students' undergraduate years, it should rather be regarded as a comma or a pause. "It tells you to take a breath before beginning the next phase of your life," he said. "It separates an independent clause — your four years here as a current student — from a dependent clause, the next 62 years or so that you can expect to live (as I'm told by the actuaries of the Social Security Administration), a period of 62 years during which you will be former students. ... This dependent clause is one in which we want you to be engaged and continue to be nourished by Columbia but now also want you to be nourishing others. We invite you to a lifelong engagement."

The keynote speaker was screenwriter and actor Dan Futterman '89, who noted that the graduates had drawn a lucky card in life but added, "With that privilege you have responsibility. Do not shut the door behind you. Turn around and give someone else a hand up the stairs and through the door." He urged them to be open-minded to what life has to offer: "Take the blinders off, look at all the paths available to you. You will get pushed back, you will get knocked down, you will. But you can handle adversity. The force of being set back can either injure and debilitate you, or it can propel you with greater force in a different and unexpected direction."

Salutatorian Samuel Walker '14 and Class President Conan Cassidy '14 delivered remarks; awards were presented by Interim Dean of Student Affairs Terry Martinez, Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis and Columbia College Alumni Association President Kyra Tirana Barry '87; and Senior Fund Chair William Maxfield '14 presented the class gift. The next day, the members of CC '14 were among the more than 14,000 degree candidates from the University and its affiliates who officially became graduates as President Lee C. Bollinger presided over Commencement, which he described as a chance to look at the world that awaits them. "Yours will be the biggest world ever invented, and yet also the smallest," he said. "And like it or not, your fates will be more intertwined with those of all humanity than ever before, for good or ill depending on how you handle it."

Several College alumni were honored during Commencement: David Rosand '59, '65 GSAS, the Meyer Schapiro Professor Emeritus of Art History, was one of eight honorary degree recipients; cellist Alisa Weilerstein '04 received the University Medal for Excellence, awarded annually to an accomplished alumnus or alumna under the age of 45; and Mitchell B. Feinberg '73, '77 Business and the Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. '78 were among 10 Alumni Medalists who were honored for distinguished service of 10 years or more to the University.

In a move to a more sustainable ceremony, half the gowns worn by the bachelor's and master's candidates were made from recycled plastic bottles — 46 water bottles per "green" gown, to be precise. The remaining gowns came from inventory. In future years, all graduation gowns will be made from recycled plastic bottles.
Clockwise from top left:

Members of the Class of 2014, before and during Class Day and Commencement; President Lee C. Bollinger speaks to the more than 14,000 degree candidates and their guests; the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day; celebrating a job well done.

PHOTOS: EILEEN BARROSO AND CHAR SMULLYAN
Academic Awards and Prizes

Dean James J. Valentini and Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis were on hand to congratulate the students at the 2014 Academic Awards and Prizes Ceremony, held on May 20 at Faculty House. To view photos of the ceremony, as well as the Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony and other 2014 awards presentations, go to facebook.com/columbiacollege1754/photos_albums and select the album “Senior Awards - Class of 2014.”

Special Achievements

To Be Noted

Presented by Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis

HARRY J. CARMAN FELLOWSHIP
Juan Grana ’14

HOLTHUISING-SCHINDLER SCHOLARSHIPS
Claire Blakey ’09
Gena Miller ’09
Ashley Lherisson ’12

CLASS OF 1939 SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Brendan Donley ’15
Luke Foster ’15
David Froomkin ’15
Grant Gutierrez ’15
Joseph Lee ’15
Elora Lopez ’15
Quitite Valenzuela-Stookkey ’15
Estefania Chavez ’16
Yekaterina Kovalyova ’16
Nicolas Sambor ’16

JAMES P. SHENTON PRIZE IN LOGIC AND RHETORIC
Hardik Shah ’17

JONATHAN THRONE KOPIT PRIZE IN THE ARTS

CLAIRE BLAYKEY FELLOWSHIP
Jessica Geiger ’14

Presented by Professor John Parsons,

THOMAS J. KATZ PRIZE
Lisa Zhou ’14
Evan Munro ’14
Samuel Kazer ’14

ABE AND MARY M. KOLB FELLOWSHIP IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEAN HAWKES MEMORIAL PRIZE IN LITERATURE HUMANITIES
Peter Andrews ’14

TARAKNATH DAS FOUNDATION AWARD
Bernardo Sarmiento Hinojosa ’14

CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN HISTORY
Shirlynn Shaq ’14

CHARLES PATTERSON BARRATT-BROWN MEMORIAL PRIZE
Abigail Struhl ’14

DOUGLAS GARDNER CAVERLY PRIZE
Isabel Wiggans ’14

PERSUASIVE WRITING PRIZE
Casey Ross ’14

BUNNER PRIZE
Amy Mitchell ’14

RICHMOND B. WILLIAMS TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP IN ART HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE
Maria Vazquez-Campillo ’14

DEUTSCHER VEREIN PRIZE IN GERMAN
Julia Slotnick ’14

SUSAN HUNTINGTON VERNON PRIZE
Sophia Kittlinski ’14

RICHARD S. WILLIAMS TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP IN ART HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE
Catherine Chen ’15
Brendan Donley ’15
Luke Foster ’15
Joseph Lee ’15
Michael Menna ’15

Prizes in Science and Mathematics

Presented by Professor John Parsons, Department of Physics

RICHARD BERSOHN PRIZE
Samuel Kazer ’14

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AWARD
Evan Munro ’14
Lisa Zhou ’14
THOMAS J. KATZ PRIZE
Seokjoon Oh ’14

ALFRED MORITZ MICHAELIS PRIZE
Rohitvarma Basavaraju ’14

PROFESSOR VAN AMRINGE MATHEMATICAL PRIZE
First Year: Hardik Shah ’17
Sophomore: Samuel Nicoll ’16
Junior: Yefei Zhao ’15

JOHN DASH VAN BUREN JR. PRIZE IN MATHEMATICS
Si Cong Zhang ’14

BRIDGES AND STURTEVANT PRIZE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Margaret Dziadzio ’14

DANIEL LISTWA’S SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Anna Scipioni ’14
Anjali Doshi ’16
Shea Jendrusina ’16
Sarah Kellner ’16
Vedika Kumar ’16
Kevin Liu ’16

Prizes in the Social Sciences

Presented by Professor Gregory Warner, Department of Political Science

CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
Varun Char ’14

CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN HISTORY
Jenne O’Brien ’14

CHANDLER HISTORICAL PRIZE
Peter Andrews ’14

TARAKNATH DAS FOUNDATION AWARD
Priom Ahmed ’14

ALBERT MARION ELBERG PRIZE
Jessica Geiger ’14

LILY PRIZE IN HISTORY
Bob Sun ’14

MARIA GIMENEZ DE LOS GALANES PRIZE
Maria Gimenez de los Galanes ’14

PRIZES IN THE HUMANITIES

Presented by Professor Susan Boynton, Department of Music

WALLACE A. GRAY PRIZE IN LITERATURE HUMANITIES
Luca Marzorati ’16

DEAN HAWKES MEMORIAL PRIZE IN THE HUMANITIES
Daniel Listwa ’15

JONATHAN THRONE KOPIT PRIZE IN LOGIC AND RHETORIC
Veronica Handunge ’17

JAMES P. SHENTON PRIZE IN CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION
Daniel Listwa ’15

SANFORD S. PARKER SUMMER RESEARCH PRIZE
Meir Brooks ’15
Laura Fritsch ’15
Noah Morgenstein ’15
Miryung Yang ’15
Nicolas Sambor ’16

EDWIN ROBBINS ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP
Jordan Freisleben ’15
Noah Morgenstein ’15
Julian Brave Noisecat ’15
James Vasco Rodrigues ’15

ROXINE PRIZE
HONORS THESIS: Evan Munro ’14

SEMINAR PAPER: Dylan Glendinning ’14

PHILLYS STEVENS SHARP FELLOWSHIP IN AMERICAN POLITICS
Gregory Graff ’15
Morgan Roney ’15

CAROLINE PHELPS STOKES PRIZE
Abigail Fisch ’14

WITHDRAWN: Gabrielle Atwood ’14

DAVID S. STEVENS MEMORIAL PRIZE
Kaitlin Pet ’17

AMERICAN HUMANITIES PRIZE
RICHARD BERSOHN PRIZE
Amy Mitchell ’14

ALBERT MARION ELSBERG PRIZE
Gustav Reed ’14

TARAKNATH DAS FOUNDATION AWARD
Bernardo Sarmiento Hinojosa ’14

CHARLES A. BEARD PRIZE IN HISTORY
Shirlynn Shaq ’14

CHARLES PATTERSON BARRATT-BROWN MEMORIAL PRIZE
Abigail Struhl ’14

DINO BIGNIARO PRIZE
Casey Ross ’14

BUNNER PRIZE
Amalia Scott ’14

DOUGLAS GARDNER CAVERLY PRIZE
Isabel Wiggans ’14

EARLE PRIZE IN CLASSICS
Ridge Montes ’15E

JOHN VINCENT HICKEY PRIZE
Bernardo Sarmiento Hinojosa ’14

ADAM LEROY JONES PRIZE IN LOGIC
Daniel Listwa ’15

HELEN AND HOWARD R. MARRARO PRIZE
Fifi Zhang ’15

MARIANA GRISWOLD VAN RENSSELAER PRIZE
Ethan Plaue ’15

RAPAPORT SUMMER MUSIC PERFORMANCE FELLOWSHIP
Abigail Fisch ’14

Fifi Zhang ’15
Yujin Ariza ’16
Fernanda Douglas ’16
Annalise Perricone ’16
Paul Bloom ’17
Samantha Bottom-Tanzer ’17
Hannah Murphy ’17
Yong Murray ’17
Javier Llaca ’15
Madeleine Tucker ’15
Fifi Zhang ’15
Yujin Ariza ’16
Fernanda Douglas ’16
Annalise Perricone ’16
Paul Bloom ’17
Samantha Bottom-Tanzer ’17
Hannah Murphy ’17
Yong Murray ’17
Javier Llaca ’15
Madeleine Tucker ’15
Fifi Zhang ’15

Prizes in the Humanities

Presented by Professor Eugenia Leen, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

SANDFORD S. PARKER PRIZE IN ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
Victoria Robson ’14

EURETTA J. KELLETT FELLOWSHIP
Anabel Bacon ’14

SENIOR THESIS PRIZE IN ART HISTORY AND CULTURES
Hwee Ru Ong ’14

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY
Senior Snapshots

The Class of 2014 is remarkable for its achievements and ambitions. Following are seven members' stories.

By Nathalie Alonso '08

Photos: Char Smullyan

Onella Cooray Helps Consumers Make Healthful Choices

Onella Cooray '14 envisions a career in which she can help average consumers make healthful decisions for themselves and the planet. "There's so much information about sustainable living floating around," she says. "Not everyone has the time to sift through it or the knowledge to unpack it to see what actually goes into [the food] they eat and [the things they] use."

In her last semester, the self-professed foodie interned with Clean Plates, whose offerings — which include restaurant guides and a free app for Manhattan, Brooklyn and Los Angeles — direct consumers to sustainable, healthful and flavorful food sources. Though the company is based in Manhattan, Cooray mostly tele-commuted thanks to the Center for Career Education's Virtual Internship Program. She both conducted research for the Clean Plates newsletter and contributed to a glossary of nutrition and sustainable food terms.

Previously, Cooray interned with GrowNYC, a nonprofit that operates more than 50 farmers' markets throughout the city. Once or twice a week from June 2013 through January 2014, she managed food stamp transactions at the Lincoln Hospital Greenmarket in the Bronx. Cooray also visited the hospital to encourage beneficiaries of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children — federal food assistance for low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children ages 5 and under — to use their checks at the market "to buy fresh produce that is in season and probably less exposed to pesticides and chemicals," she says.

A Kluge Scholar from Colombo, Sri Lanka, Cooray was drawn to Columbia's emphasis on the liberal arts. After completing a concentration in environmental science, she opted for a second concentration in sustainable development to see "the social and human aspects of environmental issues." She had an "aha" moment when she took "Global Food Systems" as a sophomore. "I was aware of issues surrounding food, but I hadn't really considered pursuing that as a career," says Cooray, who during her first two years was a member of Columbia University EcoReps, a student group that works with Housing and Dining to make the campus more environmentally sustainable.

Cooray's most significant co-curricular activities, however, revolved around the International Students Orientation Program, a Student Affairs initiative that helps foreign students transition to the United States and the College. For Cooray, the friendships and insight she gained from the program were so vital that she volunteered as an ISOP orientation leader the next two years and was one of two paid student coordinators for ISOP 2013. She was recognized for her dedication to the program with a King's Crown Leadership Excellence Award. "ISOP was definitely one of my more important commitments and has brought me a great sense of accomplishment," says Cooray.

After graduation, Cooray will be an editorial consultant at Clean Plates before turning her attention to graduate school. For now she'd like to stay in the Big Apple, where she relishes the culinary scene. "I really enjoy good food and good ingredients," says Cooray. "So coming to New York City was just marvelous."
Marvellous Iheukwumere Runs Toward 2016 Olympics

The 2012 Ivy League Heptagonal Indoor Track and Field Championships occupy a special place in Marvellous Iheukwumere ’14’s memories. The sprinter captured the first of her seven Ivy League titles at the event, hosted that year by Cornell, as she prevailed in the 200-meter dash and helped Columbia win the indoor championships for the first time.

“No matter where I am in life, that will always be something I helped accomplish at Columbia,” says Iheukwumere, who was 9 when her family moved from her native Nigeria to Austin, Texas.

As a sophomore, Iheukwumere was named the 2012 Armory College Athlete of the Year for her indoor performance. As a junior, she won all the sprint titles in both the indoor and outdoor Ivy League championships and, at the NYU Team Challenge in January, won the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.46, breaking her own school record. She also received the 2014 Scholar Athlete Award and 2014 Arthur Ashe Sports Scholar Award.

Excelling in track and field while carrying a full academic load required a balancing act, but Iheukwumere welcomed the challenge when she chose the College. “I wasn’t interested in going to a school where my experience would just be centered on sports,” she says. “I wanted to expand my academic horizons.”

A psychology major, Iheukwumere received a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, awarded each spring to up to five sophomores from underrepresented backgrounds to prepare them for Ph.D. studies. For the remainder of their college career, fellows receive financial support and research training and engage with faculty. The fellowship allowed Iheukwumere to study the relationship between use of the drug ecstasy and cigarette smoking. She found a mentor in Associate Professor of Psychology Carl Hart, the program’s faculty coordinator. “It was a great experience,” says Iheukwumere. “It’s really powerful to produce knowledge and tell people something new.”

Eager to inspire others to pursue higher education, Iheukwumere mentored middle school students through Level the Field, a nonprofit started by Erica Woda ’04 that connects youth in Washington Heights and East Somerville, Mass., with student-athletes from Columbia and Tufts. For six weeks each fall during her first three years, Iheukwumere visited the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School once a week to help students establish goals and teach them time management strategies and other skills. In turn, the students “taught me to continue to dream,” says Iheukwumere, who as a senior recruited and trained fellow Columbians to serve as mentors for Level the Field.

Iheukwumere has pondered a career in the sports industry. Last summer, as an intern in the NBA’s facilities and crisis management department, the Miami Heat fan helped devise security plans for various events, including the NBA Draft. After graduation, she will work full-time at the NBA in one of its Associate Programs as well as focus on running with the goal of representing either the United States or Nigeria in the 2016 Olympics. “I don’t see that I’m done yet,” Iheukwumere says of her running. “I really want to push my potential and get to the ultimate stage of competing.”

Luisa Lizoain Uses College Experience for Urban Exploration

Given Luisa Lizoain ’14’s primary reason for choosing the College — “I was excited about the cultural opportunities New York City provided,” she says — it’s no surprise that her favorite memories of the Core are the supplemental outings. “When I took Lit Hum, we got tickets to see Sleep No More [an interactive retelling of Macbeth]; that was definitely a highlight,” says Lizoain, who also relished her Art Hum-related visits to the Met.

Lizoain, who majored in urban studies with a focus in sustainable development, also used her time at the College to explore other cities. She spent eight weeks during summer 2012 as an intern at ClearWorld Media, a social media consulting group in Beijing, through Columbia Experience Overseas, a program of the Center for Career Education. ClearWorld Media uses social media to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote its clients. Lizoain managed Facebook, Twitter and other social media accounts for two of the company’s projects, Climate Action and Upcycling, which encourage individuals to reduce their carbon footprints and limit waste. “It was interesting to learn how companies like these [generate] the content they post,” says Lizoain. “I hadn’t really thought about online branding in that way.”

Lizoain spent the Spring 2013 semester at the School of Land and Environment at the University of Melbourne, where she took four courses. She particularly enjoyed “Cities: From Local to Global,” an urban planning course that involved excursions to the suburbs of Melbourne to study the use of space and to get local residents’ perspectives on what they liked and disliked about their neighborhoods. “The field work forced me to pay attention to elements of the landscape that I might ordinarily take for granted,” says Lizoain.

A movie buff who enjoys all genres, Lizoain initially thought...
to major in film. Instead, she pursued her interest through electives and the Ferris Reel Film Society, a student group that organizes on-campus screenings for Columbia students for free or at discounted prices. This year, Lizoain, who became president of the group as a junior, helped arrange advanced screenings of *Don Jon* at the 84th Street AMC Theater and of the mid-season premiere of the USA Network drama *Suits* in Roone Arledge Auditorium. The latter included a Q&A with cast members.

“There’s a sense of community when students are watching the movies [and TV shows] together; that’s been really rewarding,” says Lizoain, who was honored as a Senior Marshal. The Toronto native also volunteered with the Global Recruitment Committee beginning in her sophomore year, was an orientation leader for the New Student Orientation Program 2011–13 and co-chaired the 2014 Senior Dinner.

In her last semester, Lizoain interned in the film and television division of Random House, where she evaluated the potential of book manuscripts for motion picture adaptation. In the short term, she plans to pursue a career in film or television production, but has not ruled out attending graduate school for urban studies. “I love them both,” she says.

Luisa Lizoain ’14

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Darpan Patel Researches Cancer Cell Death Mechanisms

Guaranteed research funding made the College an easy choice for **Darpan Patel ’14**. A biology major, he was among the select few admitted to the LL Rabi Scholars Program as incoming first-years on the basis of “exceptional promise in the sciences.” As a Rabi Scholar, Patel received stipends and free housing for three summers while he researched cell death mechanisms with Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and Chemistry Brent Stockwell.

Broadly speaking, Patel’s research sought ways to kill cancer cells while avoiding the recurrence of the disease seen with conventional therapies. Most current treatments work by inducing a naturally occurring mechanism known as apoptosis, or programmed cell death. “The problem is that cancers eventually develop resistance to apoptosis,” says Patel, whose experiments involved using small molecules — potential treatments — in attempts to destroy cancer cells through non-apoptotic means.

Each fall, as required by the program, Patel shared his summer work with his fellow scholars at the Rabi Scholars Program Annual Research Symposium. “What I really liked about the Rabi program is that it brought me into contact with people from many disciplines,” says Patel, who received the Bridges and Sturtevant Prize in Biological Sciences, awarded every year to a graduating senior for “highly original and fruitful” research.

In his senior year, Patel worked with Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Hazel May to lay the groundwork for an intergenerational mentoring program for Rabi Scholars. He held biweekly office hours during which he fielded questions from first- and second-year Rabi Scholars about life as an undergraduate researcher. He also gave talks to undergraduates on such topics as scientific writing and finding the right lab to work in. “It’s helpful for them to think about these things early on so they can gauge for themselves whether they are having the best research experience possible,” says Patel, who grew up in Morrisville, N.C.

Patel hopes to make the mentoring program available to all Columbia undergraduate science students. He is working toward that goal by continuing his research in Stockwell’s lab as well as applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs. In the long run, Patel sees himself as a professor of clinical oncology at a research hospital or medical school. Accordingly, once a week during the spring 2014 semester, he volunteered at the Beth Israel Cancer Center, where he evaluated proposals for clinical trials and shadowed doctors. “I wanted to get an inroad into how clinical research is done, especially cancer clinical trials, and, more generally, get a better notion of how cancer patient-doctor interactions work,” says Patel.

Also in his last semester, Patel gave lectures and created study guides as a teaching assistant for “Molecular Biology,” co-taught by James Manley, the Julian Clarence Levi Professor of the Life Sciences, and Jennifer Punt, assistant professor of pathology and cell biology at the Columbia Medical Center. “I learned an astronomical amount during the last semester, just in terms of how differently people think about [scientific] problems and how valuable that is,” Patel says.
Kai Schultz Pursues Law, Writing and Human Rights

From a nonprofit internship to literary research to extra-curricular activities, Kai Schultz ’14 used his time in the College to explore LGBT issues from a variety of angles. Among his most informative experiences, he says, was an internship with the American Civil Liberties Union’s LGBT and AIDS/HIV Project in the spring of his sophomore year, which entailed summarizing legal cases the nonprofit was considering for representation. He also was involved with the organization’s “Don’t Filter Me” project, which aimed to stop public schools from using web filtering software that blocks access to sites containing positive LGBT-related information. His experience at the ACLU “solidified my interest in going to law school,” says Schultz, who now is a paralegal at a boutique securities litigation firm in Manhattan.

An English major, Schultz spent summer 2013 in London, where he conducted research on homoeroticism in Matthew Lewis’ The Monk and other 18th-century Gothic texts. He studied one of Lewis’ unfinished manuscripts, The Effusions of Sensibility, at the Victoria and Albert Museum. “[The Monk] treats homosexuality in more careful terms compared to its depiction of other transgressive sexualities,” says Schultz, who concluded that “Lewis was thinking carefully about how to inscribe homoeroticism into the text without specifically calling attention to something that resonated in his personal life.”

A $4,000 Richmond B. Williams Traveling Fellowship, awarded by the Department of English and Comparative Literature to English majors in their junior year, covered Schultz’s travel and living expenses. While in London, Schultz started the website Let Me Speak (letmespeakproject.com), where he showcases “the diversity of queer life in urban spaces” through interviews with members of the LGBT community. He now conducts interviews with LGBT New Yorkers. “It’s been a great way to meet people and to develop my writing in other ways,” says Schultz.

Schultz, whose long-term plan is to “combine my interests in law, writing and human rights,” was president of the Columbia chapter of Amnesty International in his senior year. The student group organizes events such as speaker panels and film screenings that are centered on a semester-long theme — for Spring 2014, it was transgender awareness — and other human rights issues espoused by Amnesty International.

Schultz, who grew up in the Phoenix suburb of Gilbert and now calls Scottsdale home, was drawn to the Core and New York City. In his first year, he joined the Undergraduate Recruitment Committee and began leading campus tours and hosting prospective students through the Lunch and Overnight Visits program and Days on Campus. As a URC member, he also interviewed prospective students in conjunction with the Alumni Representative Committee.

Schultz was a member of the URC Advisory Board in his senior year, during which he was responsible for coordinating all campus tours. “You learn to articulate your thoughts much better when you are in front of a group of people and have to talk about the school,” says Schultz of his experience as a tour guide. “It’s definitely one of the activities I’m going to miss the most.”

Finn Vigeland Has the Right Word for Just About Anything

Finn Vigeland ’14 was just a few weeks into his College career when, in October 2010, The New York Times published one of his crosswords. Though he attained at an early age what is considered the holy grail of crossword puzzling — and he’s had two more puzzles published in the Times since — Vigeland is hardly complacent. “It’s fun to try to get a word or phrase in that hasn’t appeared in the Times puzzle,” he says.

Vigeland, who was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and grew up in Westchester, first submitted a crossword to the Times in 2008. Crossword editor Will Shortz rejected it but suggested ways to improve the puzzle and invited Vigeland to compete in the Westchester Crossword Puzzle Tournament. Shortz organizes the annual event, followed by a reception at his area home.

Vigeland’s interest in crosswords began in earnest when he saw Wordplay, a 2006 documentary about the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, which was founded by Shortz in 1978. (Vigeland has twice competed in the event, most recently in March, when he finished 246th among 580 competitors.) The DVD extras, which include interviews with crossword constructors, inspired Vigeland to create his own puzzles. “It’s important to have an aesthetic grid but it’s very much a science of getting interlocking letters to fall into place,” says Vigeland, who also has had a crossword published in The New York World, the Journalism School’s online newspaper, and another in Twenty Under 30, a collection of puzzles by constructors under the age of 30.

Up until his last semester, when he was not in class or constructing a puzzle — his collection of unpublished crosswords is “sizeable” — Vigeland often could be found in the Spectator office, where he was managing editor for a year beginning in
December 2012. “It’s mind-blowing to me that at the ages of 20 and 21, I was responsible for something I like to think had a big impact on people’s lives around campus and around the city,” says Vigeland, who as city news editor in 2012 reported from President Barack Obama ’83’s election night rally in Chicago.

An urban studies major who chose the College largely because of the Core, Vigeland envisions a career in transportation planning. As a historical franchise intern last summer with the New York City Department of Transportation, he helped digitize the city’s centuries-old utility company contracts for internal use. Using his knowledge of geographic information systems, he laid the groundwork for a database that allows users to search for contracts by keyword or by clicking on a map of the city.

A biking enthusiast, Vigeland hopes to find work that allows him to build upon the alternative transportation initiatives enacted by the Bloomberg administration. “I really think [they] moved the city in the positive direction of promoting more cycling and walking and less reliance on cars,” says Vigeland. “I would love to work in a field that allows me to promote these policies and make them better.”

Kalena Zimmerman Spreads the Columbia Gospel to Hawaii

As she was planning Perspectives in Diversity and Days on Campus this spring as co-chair and programming coordinator for the Multicultural Recruitment Committee (MRC), Kalena Zimmerman ’14 paused to reflect on her time in the College. “I’ve come full circle, as these are the programs that got me to pick Columbia,” she says.

As an incoming student, Zimmerman traveled from her hometown of Hilo, Hawaii, for the overnight visit programs, held each April. “I really enjoyed the atmosphere,” recalls Zimmerman, a Kluge Scholar. “I wanted to experience four years in a place where I didn’t know anyone and I would have to find myself.”

As a member of MRC, Zimmerman also interviewed prospective students in collaboration with the Alumni Representative Committee (ARC) and contributed to a college application guide expected to be available online to the Class of 2019. Designed with first-generation students in mind, it includes a timeline. “The idea is to spread everything out so they know what is coming,” says Zimmerman, the first member of her household to go to college.

From November 2012 until she graduated, Zimmerman also was an outreach intern with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, which entailed corresponding with prospective students and leading campus tours and information sessions for groups from local schools and community organizations. Zimmerman, who is part native Hawaiian on her mother’s side, contributed to recruitment efforts by helping to establish relationships with community organizations that reach indigenous populations in her home state.

Zimmerman was a liaison between Admissions and two student groups: Mālama Hawaii and the Native American Council. As a junior, she helped revive the former, which celebrates the islands’ culture through an annual luau and other activities. During her first three years in the College, Zimmerman also helped plan and promote the Native American Council’s annual Powwow and Native American Heritage Month.

Strengthening the Native American and native Hawaiian communities at Columbia “has been my biggest goal here,” says Zimmerman, who as a senior mentored a Native American student raised in Hawaii through the Columbia Mentoring Initiative, a program of the Office of Multicultural Affairs that pairs first-years with upperclassmen. She received a King’s Crown Leadership Excellence Award for her support of current and prospective students and for fostering a “diverse, tolerant, and inclusive community” on campus.

Zimmerman, who also was honored as a Senior Marshal, majored in East Asian languages and cultures and wrote her senior thesis on tourism marketing techniques in Hawaii, Japan and South Korea. Among her favorite memories of her College years is writing a paper for Art Hum on Pieter Bruegel’s *The Harvesters* while sitting in front of the painting at the Met. “I loved that Columbia allows students to learn from the city,” she says.

Zimmerman plans to return to Hawaii to share her knowledge of college admissions with indigenous and first-generation high school students. “I want to work with students to give them the opportunities I was given,” she says.
Particle physicist
Carl Haber ’80, ’85 GSAS preserves sounds of the past

BY DAVID MCKAY WILSON
PHOTOS: BERKELEY LAB - ROY KALTSCHMIDT
Carl Haber ’80, ’85 GSAS holds a 78 RPM shellac disc of Ida Cox performing *The Chattanooga Blues*, released on the Paramount label in 1923.
article physicist Carl Haber ’80, ’85 GSAS was listening to National Public Radio one day in 2000 when he heard Grateful Dead percussionist Mickey Hart discussing the problems inherent in audio preservation. Many early 20th-century recordings used primitive technology, with the sound etched in media such as wax cylinders, metal or shellac, and had become so fragile that playing one with a stylus could destroy the historical artifact.

Haber, whose day job has him designing instrumentation that detect the positions of sub-atomic particles to an accuracy of a few thousandths of a millimeter, wondered if he might adapt those imaging techniques to read the hills and valleys of sound encoded in the grooves of those centuries-old surfaces.

“I just thought: We’ve been doing optical measurements in the lab, which were ultra-clean, ultra-precise, and done with light and imaging,” says Haber, a senior scientist at the federal Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, located adjacent to UC Berkeley, where he has worked since doing his post-doctoral work in physics there in 1985. “I decided to investigate the scale of measurement needed.”

At a used book store, Haber found the classic text Acoustical Engineering, by Harry Olson, a pioneer of acoustical engineering, which confirmed that an imaging instrument in his lab was precise enough for the task. Then he did some moonlighting with a colleague, Vitaliy Fadeyev, to determine if the images could be translated into sound.

By 2002, they were ready. It was time to see if digital maps — gleaned from the surfaces of the recordings without contact — could produce genuine sound. Fadeyev wrote a program to scan a few revolutions of a shellac disc, taking the analog version of the music and creating a digital data file that could be converted into sound. The test case: a 78 rpm pressing of the Weavers’ 1950s hit, Goodnight, Irene.

“It was one of those moments,” Haber recalls. “It actually worked!”

Haber’s manner of retrieving sound from old recordings was a breakthrough in the field of audio restoration. His technology, developed in association with the Library of Congress, has since proved successful in helping bring to life sound from the oldest known recording of the human voice, made 154 years ago. It also worked to reveal the only known recording of Alexander Graham Bell’s voice and to reconstruct the voices and instrumentation that were embedded in tinfoil in 1878 by a machine developed by Thomas Edison — the oldest recording of an American voice.

The technology can also mitigate damage to recordings, helping to produce clearer sound.

Haber’s first trial took an hour of measurement to produce
Haber, who grew up in Flushing, Queens, entered the Engineering School in 1976, thinking that he might want to design prosthetic devices for amputees. But that all changed after taking a Core Curriculum class taught by a doctoral candidate who was studying the epistemology of quantum theory. Haber became enthralled by this area of physics, which explores the physical behaviors of matter at the molecular, atomic and sub-atomic levels.

He started reading quantum theory on the side, and couldn’t put it down. By the end of his freshman year, Haber was so enthralled by the subject that he transferred to the College to major in physics. That summer, he landed a job in the Columbia physics department. "I fell in with these people," Haber says of the department’s students and faculty. “It was a hospitable place to be.”

He continued to research under the tutelage of physics professor Michael Shaevitz, now the director of Columbia’s Nevis Laboratories in Irvington, N.Y., who was his thesis adviser. By 1982, Haber was collaborating with Shaevitz on high-energy experiments at Fermilab, the federal research center in Batavia, Ill. Haber’s thesis experiment involved the search for the transformations of neutrinos, which are subatomic particles that had been assumed to be massless, traveling at the speed of light.

“His experiment, however, did not locate the effect for which he was searching. “Twenty years later, the effect was observed, but not in the region in which we were looking,” he says. “It turns out, at very, very low energy, you could see it. We were just not looking in the right place. It’s like if you were taking an opinion poll and you wanted to see how Republicans felt about an issue, you could be waiting for a very long time if you were asking in Berkeley. You should have been in Sacramento.”

Haber headed west for his post-doctoral work, becoming the latest in a long line of Columbia physicists to go to Berkeley Lab. There, he joined a research team led by William Chinowsky ’49, ’55 GSAS and Bill Carithers, who had been a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia in the 1970s. Their team was working on developing a collider detector for Fermilab, which at the time was directed by Leon Lederman ’51 GSAS, a former Columbia professor who shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1988.

Haber’s team developed a device to track the trajectories of subatomic particles created in high-energy collisions. It was like a 3D camera that could create images of the particle tracks as they emerged from the collisions — at a precision of 10 microns, or 10 millionths of a meter. “Being able to obtain that level of precision was the starting point also for thinking about understanding grooved sound recordings, where the groove undulates again on a scale of microns encoding the recorded sound,” says Haber.

Haber keeps in touch with his Columbia physics colleagues, including Shaevitz and professor Michael Tuts. Haber designed the invitation for the bar mitzvahs of both of Shaevitz’s sons and, at Tuts’ invitation, presented a colloquium on his audio preservation work at Columbia in late March.
Haber says he has an open mind as to ways in which the MacArthur grant will benefit his work.
Haber is collaborating with Tuts — and 3,000 other physicists from 178 institutions in 38 countries — on an experiment taking place at the CERN Large Hadron Collider near Geneva. Haber has helped design the system, which is 10 stories and uses silicon electronics to detect the sub-atomic particles that are set free by the collision of protons at close to the speed of light.

Tuts says that Haber maintains a steady hand in his high-stakes research. “He’s very calm,” says Tuts, “and he’s very thoughtful in the tools he needs to develop.”

Haber also visits the class of UC Berkeley Professor of Physics Saul Perlmutter, a colleague at Berkeley Lab, as a guest lecturer in his popular class on the physics of music. “There’s a huge physics component to music,” says Haber, “but there are also ideas of [personal artistic] expression.”

In 2003 — when Haber first contacted the Library of Congress about his findings — audio preservationists had a limited range of options for the restoration of mechanical sound carriers. Discs or cylinders composed of shellac, wax, lacquer or metal, which were not otherwise too fragile or broken, could be played back with professional grade turntables and a range of styli and cartridges. An optical laser turntable existed but was useful mainly for vinyl LPs that were in very good condition.

Peter Alyea, a digital conversation specialist at the library, read Haber’s paper explaining his breakthrough. Alyea’s father was a physicist as well, so Alyea had an inkling of what Haber was developing.

There were concerns, however, among others at the library. While the institution had purchased tools to assist in its preservation work, it rarely supported research that would require designing a tool like the optical device Haber had proposed.

“It was worth the risk,” Alyea says. “No one was building the tools we needed to solve our problem. There was no guarantee that Carl’s idea would solve everything. But it seemed like it would be useful for frail and damaged recordings, and it could be used as a tool for analysis. The advantage was that if we hit any of these, it would be useful.”

Haber says the MacArthur funding will help extend his work into areas not supported by his current grants, which are targeted at specific collections. “The MacArthur grant is spread across five years, so it can help with flexibility,” he says. “I have an open mind. I don’t know what other ideas will come up. I’ll take it one step at a time.”

Of particular interest to Haber are the Alexander Graham Bell-Volta Laboratory Collection at the Smithsonian, late 19th- and early 20th-century recordings made in the field by ethnographers who documented the folklore and language of Native Americans, and the Milman Parry Collection of 3,000 recordings from the former Yugoslavia, which includes songs, poetry and epic tales that were passed down through oral tradition.

Then there’s Alan Lomax’s vast collection of folk songs, recorded in the hills of Appalachia and in the Deep South during the 1930s, which are stored at the Library of Congress and at Columbia. Many of the recordings were etched into aluminum.

“There are huge amounts of stuff on discs and on cylinders,” Haber says. “I want to develop a more systematic campaign to make the transfers.”

Haber’s emergence as a leader in the field of audio preservation, including historical musical recordings, combines his scientific prowess with his interest in the arts and his knack for building. At Columbia, he delved into both science and the arts. Even as he pursued his doctorate in physics, he continued studying in the School of the Arts under print-maker Robert Blackburn.

In one of his art classes Haber caught the eye of an undergraduate, Elizabeth McCoy ’83 Barnard, and they became friends. They went their separate ways upon her graduation, only to meet three years later in Berkeley; she’d moved back home after spending three years teaching English in the Central African Republic, and he was ensconced at Berkeley Lab.

One day, in the heart of town, at the corner of Euclid and Hearst Avenues, their paths crossed. By 1998, they were married. They live in Berkeley with their children, Theodore (14) and Lena (12).

Haber likes to work with his hands, be it drawing on a sketch pad or working in his garage woodshop building cabinets and furniture for his family’s home.

This winter the workshop was also a place to explore the world of sound and physics with Theodore, whose physics teacher assigned a project in which students were asked to build a musical instrument that played a scale in the key of C. Theodore turned to his father for help.

First, Haber consulted with his brother-in-law, Roger Waxler ’86 GSAS, a research scientist at the National Center for Physical Acoustics at Mississippi. Then Haber dug out another textbook by Olson, whose writings had served as a foundation for his audio preservation invention.

Haber and his son bought pieces of 1/8-inch aluminum, measured the lengths that would deliver the precise tone and mounted them. They struck the bars, which resonated in what they asserted was the C scale.

But the teacher sent the project back for revisions, saying the notes weren’t in the right key. When Haber measured the bars’ thickness, he discovered that the aluminum strips were actually 10 percent thinner than advertised, which had thrown off the calculations. They ground off two or three millimeters from each bar. They had their C scale.

“In these projects, you need to measure everything,” Haber says. “We discovered physics actually works.”

Restaurateur Mauro Maccioni '95 prepares his family’s famous pasta primavera — a dish invented by his father, Sirio, in 1975 — tableside during lunch at Osteria del Circo.

PHOTO: NATALIE KEYSSAR
A Savory Tradition

Mauro Maccioni '95, youngest son of “the first family of fine dining,” keeps making food lovers smile

By Nathalie Alonso '08

It’s lunchtime on a humid summer Tuesday and a suit-and-tied Mauro Maccioni '95 is seated in a harlequin-patterned chair in the dining room of Osteria del Circo, the Midtown West restaurant inspired by his mother Egidiana’s Tuscan home cooking. He’s been back from Italy for less than a day, but defies any jet lag to watch over the flow of service beneath a ceiling adorned with trapezes and silhouettes of simian acrobats. The whimsical décor continues the circus theme conceived by his father, Sirio, for the family’s first venture, the renowned French restaurant Le Cirque.
With the elder Maccioni now in his 80s, Mauro and his older, NYU-educated brothers, Mario and Marco, have taken over the family business and expanded it into a global restaurant empire. In the process, they've turned the Maccionis into what celebrity chef Anne Burrell has called “the first family of fine dining.” Although they run a much bigger operation, the brothers, like Sirio, pride themselves on being visible, hands-on restaurateurs who tend to all aspects of the business, from employee management to hosting and, in the case of the culinary-inclined Mauro, menu planning.

“When you put a smile on people’s faces and they say, ‘Ah, the food is great. I want to come back,’ you can go home and sleep well. Your feet may be tired, but it’s very satisfying,” says Mauro, who was a toddler in 1974 when Le Cirque opened at the Mayfair Hotel on East 65th Street, and less than a year removed from the College when Circo opened in January 1996. The family’s third New York City restaurant, Sirio Ristorante, opened in October 2012 at The Pierre hotel. Maccioni Restaurant Group also operates three restaurants in Las Vegas, two at the Casa de Campo resort in the Dominican Republic and a growing number of ventures in India and the United Arab Emirates. Holland America Line also offers the dining experience “An Evening at Le Cirque” on its cruise ships.

That the Maccioni brothers would become enamored of the restaurant business seems inevitable, especially for Mauro, whose formative years coincided with the heyday of Le Cirque. Back then, Frank Sinatra, Woody Allen, Richard Nixon, Jackie Onassis or Nancy and Ronald Reagan could drop in on any given night and order the house’s signature paupiette of black bass. Many of Mauro’s childhood Saturdays were spent serving coffee and refreshments to the restaurant’s elite patrons.

While Sirio has said he envisioned his sons becoming “a lawyer, a doctor and an architect,” Mauro doesn’t buy that his father wanted them to pursue other careers. “He always jokingly said, ‘I didn’t send you guys to NYU and Columbia for you to sell soup,’” says Mauro. “And then all three of us went into this business of selling soup — very good soup — but selling soup.”

Born and raised in New York City, Mauro traces his passion for food not to Le Cirque but to a 1982 family trip to Europe. “After spending time in France, eating the croissants, the amazing butters and marmalades, I fell in love with food,” says Mauro, then 10. His teenage memories include strolling into the Le Cirque kitchen after school with a basketball tucked under his arm and asking chef Daniel Boulud, now a world-renowned restaurateur, to make him a burger. Boulud, seafood guru Rick Moonen, Food Network personality Geoffrey Zakarian and chocolatier Jacques Torres are among the star chefs whose careers were launched at Le Cirque.

In contrast with his sons’ upbringing, Sirio, recipient of the 2014 James Beard Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, was orphaned by 12. He supported his sister and grandmother by working at a hotel in his Tuscan hometown of Montecatini Terme. Sirio later worked in prestigious hotel restaurants throughout Europe before taking a job on a New York-bound cruise ship in 1956. In the 1960s, he made a name for himself as the maître d’ at The Colony, a Manhattan café society restaurant with an A-list clientele. When The Colony closed in 1971, Sirio decided to open his own restaurant, which he named Le Cirque — French for “the circus.”

Among the patrons who became fixtures at Le Cirque was the late pioneering television executive Roone Arledge ’52, a University trustee who was also an occasional guest at the Maccioni home. “He knew I would be going to college soon and he would tell me, ‘You should go to Columbia,’” says Mauro, for whom “being in the city and being able to attend such a pres-
At each restaurant, and in particular at Les Crayères, Mauro devoted some days to learning the nuances of being a host and running a dining room. It was the kitchen, however, where he spent most of his time.

Mauro lived at home on the Upper East Side and drove to campus — “I’m Italian; I’m a mama’s boy,” he says — though he occasionally crashed with his fraternity brothers at the Kappa Delta Rho house. He also spent considerable time at Dodge Fitness Center playing basketball. Even during his College years, however, Mauro devoted many nights and weekends to Le Cirque. He often would sit in budget meetings, but it was the food aspect that captivated him.

On his own initiative, Mauro spent his college summers in Italy and France, honing his skills through stages, or culinary internships, at such Michelin-starred restaurants as Enoteca Pinchiorri in Florence, Les Crayères in Reims and the Hôtel Ritz in Paris. In 2001, he spent a month under chef Juan Mari Arzak’s tutelage at Arzak in San Sebastian, Spain, the first restaurant in the Iberian country awarded three Michelin stars.

Mauro's love of food has long been evident to chef Cesare Casella of New York City’s Salumeria Rosi Parmacotto; an authority on Tuscan cuisine, he has known the Maccionis for more than 30 years. Casella notes that of the brothers, Mauro is the most in touch with his Tuscan roots. “His passion was not only to be a restaurateur like his father but also to be knowledgeable about food...
and international cuisine. He respects simplicity and has great respect for the food that he provides to his customers.”

Mauro also has a reputation for sparing no efforts when he cooks for friends and family, including his 8-year-old daughter, Stella. “You would think a guy who works in a restaurant five or six days a week, on his day off, the last thing he would want to do is cook. But that’s what he does,” says Mario, who prides Mau-ro’s seafood pastas and marvels at the time his youngest brother will devote to stuffing calamari or zucchini blossoms. “He goes crazy, makes a huge mess and everyone has a great meal.”

Mauro grew up playing with dough and making sundae-s with Marisa May, daughter of Tony May, the Italian restaurateur behind former New York institution San Domenico. The father-daughter team currently owns SD26 near Madison Square Park, a modern spin-off of their original restaurant. “If Mauro cooks for me and other friends, it’s always Italian, not French,” says Marisa May. “He realizes what authentic Italian flavors are and which ingredients are top-of-the-line, which is extremely important when you are cooking Italian food because it’s not worked like French food, where you simmer sauces for hours.”

When it came to burgers, May notes, Mauro’s taste was not limited to those made by Boulu: “If we were allowed to, we would love to go to McDonald’s and have quarter pounders with cheese, which would make our parents pull out their hair.”

Mauro eases into a typical work day with a cappuccino at Circo around 10 a.m., followed by an informal meeting with the chef. Most days he devotes entirely to Circo. Other days, after touching base with Circo’s general manager and checking reservations, he’ll spend the early afternoon assessing things at Sirio, Le Cirque or both. Still an avid basketball player, if he’s not spending time with Stella after school, he’s at the gym shooting hoops before returning to one of the three restaurants for dinner service.

The responsibilities among the Maccioni brothers are divided in a way that, in Mauro’s words, keeps them “out of each other’s hair.” While Mauro is hands-on at Circo and plays a supervisory role at Sirio, Marco is more focused on Le Cirque. Until recently, Mario lived in Las Vegas and oversaw the family’s restaurants there. “It is quite a headache,” says Mauro of running a business with his parents and siblings. “It does compromise the family relationships, but we all love each other very much and we make it work. It is not an easy thing. Sometimes my brothers and I see things quite differently.”

Each of the brothers has carved a niche within the business. Mario considers himself “back-of-the-house and employee-oriented,” while Marco’s forte is service and wine programs. The culinary side is Mauro’s territory. “Mauro is side by side with the chefs of all these restaurants, not trying to micromanage them but definitely having his input,” says Mario.

Keeping the Maccioni brand current while preserving Le Cirque is part and parcel of the brothers’ challenge. The restaurant enjoyed its prime at a time when New York City’s dining scene was much smaller, and now faces competition from the city’s seemingly endless food options. Le Cirque no longer draws most of its patrons from the upper echelon of society but Mauro believes its diners still seek the luxury associated with classic French fine dining. “If I was a customer, I’d go to all the other trendier places for variations on tuna and things like that. Le Cirque, for me, is about caviar and champagne, Dover sole and soufflé,” says Mauro. Nonetheless, he recognizes the need to adapt to a changing culinary industry. “It’s difficult to maintain that ‘edge’ with the journalists, the media and customers. We think we do a pretty good job at it. We go around. We visit all the restaurants. We’re pretty involved trying to keep the younger edge.”

The balancing act manifests itself at Le Cirque’s latest incarnation, at the Bloomberg Building on East 58th Street, where it relocated in 2006. (After shutting down its original location in 1996, the restaurant operated as Le Cirque 2000 at the Villard Houses in the Palace Hotel 1997-2004.) Jackets and an ample budget are still required in Le Cirque’s main dining room, but not at the adjoining Le Cirque Café, which according to Mauro, “is based on the principle of a simpler presentation of food at a more moderate price point.”

May underscores how difficult yet crucial it is for a restaurateur in Mauro’s position to strike the right balance between tradition and innovation. “He had to reinvent his father’s concept, like I had to at SD26,” she says. “Taking the torch and taking it to another level and bringing in a new generation — but not forgetting the past — is what helps him be such a successful restaurateur.”

The Maccioni’s willingness to evolve with the industry is evidenced by a foray into reality television. The family accepted a proposal to conduct a search for an executive chef for Circo Abu Dhabi, expected to open later this year, on the Food Network show Chef Wanted with Anne Burrell; each episode features four contestants competing for a position at a different top restaurant. Mauro represented his family in their episode, which aired in August 2013. “The industry has changed; I’ve gotten a lot of feedback from people who saw the show. They recognize me,” he says. “Not that I’m a star now, but for business it definitely makes a difference, puts you on the map. It helps the brand.”

Mauro’s “all-in” approach to the restaurant business, whether he’s in front of a camera, designing a menu or observing service from a back table at Circo, has earned him the praise of his family. “There are people who do this because they have to do it and they want to bring home a paycheck,” says Mario. “[Mauro] really throws himself into it — both food and marketing. He eats it up. He’s very passionate. Not to say that the rest of us aren’t passionate, but he’s the one who gets all bent out of shape when something isn’t right.”

For someone who once advised his children to pursue other paths, Sirio lauds his youngest son’s passion. “Mauro is good because he’s never happy,” says Sirio. “He’s always after the chefs: ‘We should do more, we should do this.’ And that’s how a really good restaurant guy should be.”

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.
Workers prepare for the 1926 Commencement, as seen from the Low Steps. The Sundial's sphere is still in place and Butler Library has yet to be built, leaving an unbroken view of Morningside Heights.

PHOTO: COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
At Reunion and Dean’s Day, Alumni Reconnect and Reminisce

Nearly 1,500 alumni caught up with old friends and relived their classroom experience at Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean’s Day 2014

By Lisa Palladino

Almost 1,500 College alumni and more than 700 guests returned to campus and to venues throughout New York City May 29–June 1 for Alumni Reunion Weekend and Dean’s Day 2014. Gathering this year were classes that end in 4 and 9, and all alumni were invited to Saturday’s Dean’s Day, which offered Talks Across Campus and Mini-Core Courses that recreated the educational experience that bonds all alumni.

Among the weekend’s other highlights were class-specific panels, receptions and dinners; the Young Alumni Party aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid; Dean James J. Valentini’s Continental Breakfast and Address; and two perennial favorites, the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception. At Valentini’s address, Jonathan Sobel ’88 was presented the President’s Cup, awarded annually to an alumnum/a for contributions to his or her class’ reunion the previous year. Sobel co-chaired his 25th Reunion Committee.

Gifts to the Columbia College Fund are an important part of reunion, and as of June 6, the Class of 1964 was on the verge of $6 million in gifts and pledges, which would tie it with the Class of 1963 for a 50th reunion record, and the Class of 1989 was approaching its goal of 70 John Jay Associate-level donors ($1,500 or more), which if reached would set a record for leadership gifts in a 25th reunion.

To view more photos from Alumni Reunion Weekend, Dean’s Day and the Young Alumni Party as well as to view class photos and to read the list of Dean’s Pins recipients, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.
Opposite: The Young Alumni Party aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid; a proud member of the 50th reunion class. This page, clockwise from top left: Dean James J. Valentini addresses members of the Class of 1989 at a dinner; catching up during Saturday lunch on South Lawn; many weekend attendees bring their families; Professor Susan Pedersen lectures on the League of Nations; balloons and banners festoon campus; mugging for the camera at an outdoor photo booth before the Starlight Reception.

PHOTOS: SCOTT RUDD/SCOTTRUDEVENTS.COM
Looking Back and Looking Ahead

As alumni, or former students as Dean James J. Valenti often calls us, many of us share a desire to advocate for current students to ensure that their Columbia experiences are as meaningful as ours were. This support takes many forms. Many of us volunteer as a way to connect with students and stay up to date on campus life and activities. However, another, and even easier, way to support current students is simply to take an interest in their lives — read Spectator or browse through stories on Bwog.

In the Spring 2014 CCT we were treated to an in-depth look at the Varsity Show; the issue was rich with stories of former and current students, and it helped connect alumni to life on campus. For this issue, let’s shift our focus to athletics. At the final Board of Directors meeting of the 2012-14 term, Director of Athletics M. Dianne Murphy briefed us on CU athletics and challenged board members to a trivia contest, with Columbia Blue gear as prizes. For us proud alumni, it was a fun way to test how vigilant we have been about staying up to date on student news. I am happy to offer the same opportunity to you, and the first four alumni who can correctly name these four teams will also win Columbia Blue gear (send your answers to ccalumni@columbia.edu).

- Which Columbia team has won the Ivy League Championship three of the last seven seasons?
- Which Columbia team this year became the second in Ivy League history to move to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament?
- Which Columbia team finished its dual meet season 7-0, compiling its first undefeated dual meet season?
- Which team has the most all-time Ivy League championships in its sport (second is Penn/Princeton with 14)?

Another important area for undergraduates is the Center for Student Advising (CSA). Dean Monique Rinere reviewed the recent four-year report with the board and it’s safe to say that the CSA — and our alumni, who volunteer their time — provide an invaluable resource to students. We are proud of the progress the College is making in this area. The adviser/advisee ratio at the CSA has been reduced and the program is consistently reaching and serving more students in a meaningful way. The CSA has done a remarkable job recognizing and being responsive to the changing needs of students. The CCAA board will remain involved with CSA so that we can achieve the excellence that Columbians expect and deserve in this important area.

While many of us want to know how we can better advocate for current students, I have spent the past three years pondering a similar thought: How can the CCAA better support and advocate for you? The goal seemed simple enough — find out what alumni want and give it to them. But what do we want? As is typically the case, the answer proved to be much more complex than the question. The more alumni we talked to, the more different answers we heard. We realized that — in true Columbia form — we are an incredibly diverse group! We want different things — from the simplest aspect of alumni engagement to the most complex — partly because of who we are, but also because of where we live, what stage of life we are in and how Columbia College had an impact on us.

As the board continues to ask questions and collect responses, we know that we will need to become more dynamic and responsive, and include more alumni volunteers in our expanding network. To that end, we have already made several important changes to the CCAA board for the 2014-16 term in order to better represent the diverse voices among our alumni population.

Reflective of our population’s growing geographic diversity, our new president, Doug Wolf ’88, is not from the tri-state area — a happy coincidence considering our increasing efforts to engage alumni outside of NYC. I pass the torch to Doug, who lives in the Boston area, with excitement and gratitude, knowing that he will carry us even further beyond the point on the horizon where, three years ago, I envisioned we’d be today.

We have reorganized our committees to focus on four important areas: the ongoing Intellectual Experience of alumni; the Power Network through which our alumni and students connect to each other; Pride and Recognition, which creates more shared experiences for us to celebrate our Columbia Blue as well as our accomplished individuals; and Columbia Service, to meet the aspirations of Columbians who would be leaders and make a true impact.

We have added three VPs to the leadership team to grow our reach, and I am excited to welcome and congratulate eight new members, who bring a wealth of volunteer leadership to the team. Mike Brown Jr. ’06 is a co-chair of the Young Leaders’ Council; Gene Davis ’75, ’76 SIPA, ’80L returns after a term on the Board of Visitors and sponsorship of Valenti’s “3-2-1 Challenge”; Steve Coleman ’83 has been an ARC chair in the Boston area; Stefanie Katz-Rothman ’88 was a leader of her 25th reunion and an advisor on our branding and marketing efforts; Arthur Kohn ’84, ’86L.

CCAA Executive Board 2014-16

President Doug Wolf ’88
VP Engagement Laura Lopez ’92
VP Development Michael Behringer ’89
VP State of the College Michelle Estilo Kaiser ’87
Secretary Stacy Rotner ’99
Chair Kyra Tirana Barry ’87
Chair Emeritus Geoffrey Colvin ’74, ’77L, ’78 Business

Members
Zila Acosta ’11, ’15L; Craig Brod ’77;
Gene Davis ’75, ’76 SIPA, ’80L; Leslie Gittess ’88;
Stefanie Katz-Rothman ’88; Arthur Kohn ’84, ’86L;
Scott Koonin ’02; Ira Malin ’75; Francis Phillip ’90;
Ted Schweitzer ’91, ’94L; Sheri Pancer Wolf ’90

Continued on page 87)
The Dream of a Democratic Culture: Mortimer J. Adler [*23] and the Great Books Idea by Tim Lacy. The author provides a historical account of “Great Book” collections and their proponents, like Adler, who sought to support an intellectually robust, consensus-oriented democratic culture (Palgrave Macmillan, $95).

An Unusual Arrangement: A Present-Day Romance and Its Special Ground Rules by Durham Caldwell ‘48. The novel follows a couple in a budding romance through their summer-time adventures around Cape Cod (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, $7.95).

Transforming a College: The Story of a Little-Known College’s Struggle to National Distinction by George Keller (CCT’s former editor) detailing Elon’s reinvention as a thriving liberal arts university includes a new foreword and afterword from the university’s president (Johns Hopkins Press, $24.95).

Le Livre Des Lecteurs (A Book of Readers) with photos by George S. Zimbel ’51, texts by Vicki Goldberg, Dany Laferriere and Elaine Sernovitz Zimbel. In this monograph, George S. Zimbel captures the evolution of everyday life since 1950 through his photography of people around the world reading (Les Editions du Pasage, $49.95).

Mostly Grave Thoughts: On Mortality and Other Matters by Eugene Goodheart ’53. Goodheart’s essays serve as a memoir, exploring the self through themes such as aging, mortality, illness, fatherhood and marriage (Transaction Publishers, $44.95).

New Water: Twelve Stories by Anthony Robinson ’53. This collection of short stories examines the moral and spiritual crossroads of life and the people of small-town America (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, $8.95).

An Improbable Life: My 60 Years at Columbia and Other Adventures by Michael I. Sofern ’53. In this memoir, Columbia’s 17th president discusses restoring the University’s stature after the 1968 protests as well as issues in academia such as coeducation, affordability and affirmative action (Columbia University Press, $30).


Bobby’s Song & Short Stories by Richard Ascher ’53. Ascher’s collection of short stories presents an amalgamation of tragic, witty and crude characters who believe in their good intentions as they commit horrendous crimes (Ascher, $12.95).


World Cinema Through Global Genres by William V. Costanzo ’67. In this textbook, the author organizes international films by region to sharpen students’ understanding of global genres, aesthetics, culture and film theory (Wiley-Blackwell, $39.95).


The Politics of Simple Living: Why Our Economy Is Making Life Worse and How We Can Make It Better by Charles Siegel ’67. Siegel proposes policies to address a hypergrowth economy’s damaging effects on quality of life and the environment (Preservation Institute, $14.95).

The Biblical Outlook: Topics in Jewish Philosophy by Rabbi Shlomo Polacheck ’68. The author surveys topics in Jewish philosophy through the Hebrew Bible (Urim Publications, $29.95).

The Murder of the Middle Class by Wayne Allyn Root ’83. Root offers a plan for fiscal conservatives and Libertarians to “retake” Congress, the presidency and the nation (Regnery Publishing, 27.99).

Cinderella Spindrella by Mark Binder ’84. Based on his spoken-word story for inner-city children...
Brad Stone ’93 Examines Amazon And the Man Behind It

BY JUSTIN DEFREITAS

San Francisco journalist Brad Stone ’93 has covered Silicon Valley for 15 years. During that time, books about the great technology companies and their CEOs have proliferated, as their products have had increasingly profound effects on our daily lives. But Stone noticed a significant gap in the library.

“I saw all the books about other tech giants — Apple, Facebook, Google — but no one had done a great Amazon book,” he says.

There were legitimate reasons. CEO Jeff Bezos had instilled a culture of secrecy at Amazon and many writers who wanted to tell the company’s story had been denied access to its central figures. In addition, the online giant’s Seattle location, away from the tech hub of the Bay Area, afforded it some relief from journalists. But Stone felt these obstacles only partially explained the lack of a serious study. “Everyone had dismissed Amazon as a boring old retailer,” he says. “But the company was doing incredibly well and showed a constitutional knack for expanding and getting into different businesses.”

Stone was well positioned to take on the challenge. He had interned for Newsweek after college and worked his way up to junior reporter, filling in for the magazine’s New York and Chicago correspondents. In the late ’90s he was assigned to the technology beat and moved to Silicon Valley — a shift that put him at ground zero for the industry’s boom, subsequent bust and resurgence. After Newsweek, Stone worked for The New York Times and, more recently, for Bloomberg Businessweek.

Stone had something else working in his favor: access. He had interviewed Bezos a dozen times through the years and his coverage of Amazon and the tech industry had earned him Bezos’ respect. After Stone pitched him the idea of a book modeled on business books they both admired, including Walter Isaacson’s biography of Steve Jobs, the CEO was skeptical but supportive — and for the first time gave the go-ahead for many of his loyal associates, past and present, to speak on the record about Amazon and Bezos himself.

The result is The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon (Little, Brown and Co., $28), in which Stone traces the Amazon story from its birth as a start-up selling books out of a garage to an international corporation that employs hundreds of thousands of people, racked up $74 billion in sales in 2013, and is on track to reach $100 billion faster than any other retailer. The book covers the company’s innovations, its influence on the business and tech world, its cultural impact and its internal operations — with Bezos as the relentless driving force pushing the company to expand, evolve and dominate. Stone makes the case that whether you love it or love to hate it, Amazon is one of the world’s most pervasive and influential companies as well as “one of the tent-pole companies of the century.”

And Bezos himself, Stone says, is not merely a retailer on par with Sam Walton, but one who “ranks up there with the greats of the technology industry. Like Steve Jobs, he has the ability to disrupt every industry he goes into.”

Stone contends that Bezos was among the first to recognize the potential of the Internet, and his vision enabled Amazon to create new business models, changing the way consumers read and shop. As an example, he cites the first Kindle: “By no means a work of design art, it was like a bastard child of a BlackBerry and a ’90s-era PC. But you could buy a book over a cellular network in 60 seconds, from anywhere in the world. Bezos made an unorthodox and risky bet on developing hardware and creating a digital distribution model.”

And Bezos made that bet in 2004, at a time when the idea of e-reading was all but dead. “Without the Kindle, books may have been lost in transition to digital media,” says Stone. “Sony’s e-reader was failing, NuvoMedia’s Rocketbook had failed, Google was embroiled in lawsuits over its effort to scan every book ever made and Steve Jobs said the whole concept of e-books was flawed because people don’t read.”

Bezos also pushed his company into new businesses and markets. Today, Amazon is not merely a seller of retail products but of the infrastructure upon which other entrepreneurs build their companies. In fact, half of Amazon’s business is as a platform for other businesses. With Amazon Web Services, Stone says, “Bezos single-handedly reinvented Silicon Valley with web services that made it easier to start a company. He made cheap storage and processing power available to cash-strapped start-ups.”

Along the way, Bezos, like Jobs, often pushed the ethical envelope. Stone recounts instances of the CEO’s brutalizing and destroying competitors, as well as engaging in profit-bleeding price wars to force promising start-ups to sell out to Amazon. Bezos’ leadership style also goes under Stone’s microscope. He demands long hours from his employees, insists they be as driven as he and has been known to eviscerate them as incompetent, ignorant or just plain stupid when they fail short of his expectations. The reason, Stone says, is that Bezos wants every ounce of energy directed toward his ultimate goal of creating “the everything store” — a one-stop online source for everything that a consumer could want, and at the lowest prices.

For some, the idea of an enormous corporation selling everything under the sun and putting small, independent shops out of business is a kind of dystopian nightmare. Bezos is unfazed by such criticism. “He answers that it’s the Internet that’s disrupting businesses and industries, not Amazon,” Stone says. In the Internet era, Bezos often says, the power rests with customers — they can compare prices, review products and make their voices heard. “The new regime favors the customer,” says Stone. “Bezos’ response is that Amazon is just good at thriving in that landscape.”

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

The Fate Motif by Douglas Nordfors ’86. The author’s latest collection of poetry reflects on time, the self, historical figures and meditation (Plain View Press, $14.95).

The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance — What Women Should Know by Claire Shipman ’86 and Katty Kay. Combining research in genetics, gender, behavior and cognition, the authors provide working women a guide for confidence and success in a corporate world dominated by men (HarperBusiness, $27.99).

Meatless All Day: Recipes for Inspired Vegetarian Meals by Dina Cheney ’99. The food columnist’s latest cookbook offers 85 vegetarian meals with filling, textured and “meaty” ingredients (Taunton Press, $29.95).

Visible City by Tova Mirvis ’95. This story of a young mother who spies on her neighbors, curious about their relationships and love lives, examines commitment, loneliness and the fears of both young and old when it comes to fulfillment (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $24.99).

Rethinking the Politics of Absurdity: Albert Camus, Postmodernity, and the Survival of Innocence by Matthew H. Beakker ’96. The author discusses the role of absurdity in literature as a means to soften and diminish tragedy, arguing that a healthy community must be able to face the pain of losses, terror and destruction (Routledge, $130).

Tangier: A Literary Guide for Travellers by Josh Shoemake ’96. This travel guide explores the literary history of Tangier, Morocco, and the spies, outlaws, outcasts and writers who made it their home (I. B. Tauris, $25).

Everybody Else: Adoption and the Politics of Domestic Diversity in Postwar America by Sarah Potter ’99. The author studies families who chose to adopt during the 1940s and 1950s as a way to fit in with the cultural expectations of the middle-class, affluent lifestyle (The University of Georgia Press, $29.95).

Breaking Out: An Indian Woman’s American Journey by Padma Desai, the Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Comparative Economic Systems. Desai recounts her academic life, her discovery of self and the difficulties of assimilating into American culture and society while retaining her Indian traditions (The MIT Press, $24.95).

Beyond Gibraltar by Mari Stella de Panizza Lorch, professor emerita of Italian and Medieval and Renaissance studies at Barnard College and Columbia University. This memoir covers Lord’s time growing up in war-torn Europe and traveling to the United States (Pegasus Press, $20.47).

The Story of the Jews: Finding the Right Words 1,000 B.C.–1492 A.D. by Simon Schama, University Professor. In part one of this two-volume work, Schama examines the history of the Jewish people across several millennia and continents (HarperCollins, $39.99).

Recovering Place: Reflections on Stone Hill by Mark C. Taylor, professor of religion and chair of the Department of Religion. Taylor steps outside the fast-paced and technology-addicted world to reflect on the importance of place, specifically the beauty of the Berkshire Mountains (Columbia University Press, $35).
Obituaries

1938
George W. Sferra, dentist, Gulfport, Fla., on November 6, 2013. Sferra was a captain in the Army in WWII. He practiced dentistry in New York City for more than 50 years and was a past president of the New York County Dental Society and the New York Academy of Dentistry. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Ethid, in 2012. Sferra is survived by his children, George W. Jr. and his wife, Barbara; Mary Sferra Facciolla and her husband, Tom; James and his wife, Cynthia Allen; and John and his wife, Ivana; six grandchildren; and sister, Elinor Bazarr. Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities.

1942
John A. Persson ’42
John A. Persson, retired engineer, Cranberry Township, Pa., on October 15, 2013. Born September 4, 1919, in Denmark, Persson immigrated to New York with his family. He entered Columbia with the Class of 1942 but graduated from Engineering with a B.S. in electrical engineering. At Columbia, Persson rowed crew. He was employed by Union Carbide and Carbonundum Co., Mining and Metals Division, as senior design and development engineer, Engineering and Construction Department, in Niagara Falls. In 1969, Persson worked for Lectromelt Corp. in Fort Myers, Fla., and was a product manager, where he specialized in manufacturing electric furnaces and ancillary equipment. He retired and in 1987 formed Trode Tech to exploit invention of iron-free self-baking electrodes for submerged arc furnace production of silicon metal. In the field of electrochemistry and metallurgy, he held 27 patents. He authored 20 publications. Persson was fluent in six languages and enjoyed traveling. He was predeceased by his wife, Aina Sophia Almen, whom he married in 1942 and who passed away in 1979. He is survived by a son, David J., and his wife, Marcia; two grandchildren; companion, Claudette Malfray; sister, Judith Harriet Foley; nephews, Frank and Jim Foley; and niece, Judy Lynn Foley.

1945
Joseph M. Stein, retired neurologist, Topeka, Kan., on July 4, 2013. Stein was born on January 27, 1924, in Weehawken, N.J. He commuted to Columbia while in the World War II Army Specialized Training Program, finishing his premedical degree in 1944. Stein earned an M.D. from NYU in 1947. After a yearlong internship at Morrisania Hospital in NYC, he completed a three-year residency at Bellevue Hospital. Stein served as a neurologist at Scott AFB for two years during the Korean conflict. He moved to Topeka in 1953 to join the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry for training, completed in 1955. He then moved to the Winter General (V.A.) Hospital until 1957, when he became part of the Menninger neurology-neurosurgeon staff and faculty of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. In 1991 he joined the Cotton-O’Neil Clinic and retired in 2009 at 85. Stein is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lucy “Nickie” Nichols; sister, Helen Alexander; and her husband, Robert; brother-in-law, Arthur Nichols, and his wife, Phyllis; children, Janet and her husband, Christopher Rausenberg, Mark and his wife, Jill Kleven, and Naomi; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Doorstep, the Sunflower Music Festival or the Doctor Joseph and Lucy Nichols Stein Fund for Music Student Travel or Nursing Scholarships.

1946
Bernard Goldman, retired engineer, Lakewood, Colo., on October 27, 2013. Born on July 20, 1926, in Manhattan, Goldman was initially a member of the Class of 1946 but graduated in 1947 from Engineering and in 1948 from the Journalism School. He was retired from the Navy and had been affiliated with Ford Instrument, Grumman Aircraft, Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. and insurance/financial service companies. Goldman founded Evergreen Beth Congregation, in Evergreen, Colo., and the JCRS Isaac Solomon Historic Synagogue Foundation for restoring the synagogue on the campus of the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society. An avid skier, he was awarded the Halstead Award by the USA Rock Mountain Division for outstanding volunteer services to the sport and was a member of the Loveland Racing Club, promoting skiing for kids. Goldman is survived by his wife, Susan Zinn Goldman (née Shuman); children, Janlori and her partner, Katherine Franke, Michael ’84 and his wife, Dee Dee Carlson, David ’85 and his wife, Karen Dodds, and Lisa Zinn and her husband, Steve Sikorski; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Bernie Goldman Memorial Scholarship Fund, Loveland Ski Club, PO Box 1032, Georgetown, CO 80444.

1950
Joseph A. Mehan ’50
Joseph A. Mehan, retired communications executive, Fort Myers, Fla., on December 18, 2013. An Army veteran, Mehan earned a degree in 1951 from the Journalism School and was a newspaper reporter, writer and field producer for NBC News. He covered the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights Movement, space missions and political conventions, and earned Peabody, Ohio State, Writers Guild and CINE awards. At the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), he wrote and produced documentaries featuring hosts such as Cyrus Vance, Harvard President Derek Bok, Hank Aaron, Arthur Ashe and Ray Charles, leading the Ad Council to name the UNCF a Major Campaign and appoint Young & Rubicam to develop a slogan to distinguish the UNCF.

While director of communications at UNCF, Mehan introduced and promoted "A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Waste." He represented UNESCO's controversial "New World Information and Communications Order" before the UN General Assembly and world press for 12 years and retired to become an adjunct professor of international communications at SIPA, where he taught 1990-2000. Mehan is survived by his wife, Margaret "Peggy" Mehan '63 SW; sons, Jeff and his wife, Kimberly Henderson '84 Business, David, Christopher and Michael; stepchildren, Katherine Stansmore-Hefeker '95 P&S and Thomas Stansmore; and 10 grandchildren.

1951
Allan W. Robbins, retired Navy officer and branch librarian, Alexandria, Va., on March 3, 2013. Robbins was born in Camden, Maine, on October 22, 1928. At Columbia, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi; completed the NROTC program and graduated with a bachelor’s in political science and a commission in the Navy. Robbins served in both Korea and Vietnam and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. Following his military retirement in 1971, Robbins attended the Catholic University of
America and earned a master’s in library science. From 1973 to 1993, he was the branch librarian for two public libraries in Alexandria, Va. He also was the curator for the Alexandria Library Lloyd House, which housed the city’s rare document collections. In his retirement, Robbins indulged his lifelong interests in literature, history, music, and travel. With his wife of 61 years, Lianne Lawrence Robbins, he enjoyed winters in Florida and frequent visits with his six children and 11 grandchildren.

1952

Thomas E. Federowicz, retired physician, Binghamton, N.Y., on November 27, 2013. After graduating from Plymouth H.S., where he was a three-season athlete, Federowicz earned a football scholarship to Columbia, where he played tackle on both defense and offense. He then earned an M.D. in 1956 from P&S. After completing a residency in general surgery, followed by a hand fellowship at Roosevelt Hospital, Federowicz was hospital chief of surgery at Myrtle Beach AFB. He moved his family to Vestal, N.Y., in December 1962 to begin his private practice in surgery. There, Federowicz and his wife, Jeanne, raised their nine children. Federowicz was an assistant clinical professor of surgery for Syracuse Medical School. From a young age, he believed in community service and was involved with many organizations. Federowicz was predeceased by a son, Gregory, and is survived by his wife; children; Tom and his wife, Jane, Daniel ’81 and his wife, Caroline; Stephen and his wife, Mary DeGuardis-Federowicz; John Ed Bon, Mary, Barbara Jean and her husband, Michael Houck, Janine, Ann Marie and Greg’s widow, Maria Kirchever-Federowicz; and 21 grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Lourdes Hospice, the Keepermil Society of Broome County; the Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic of Binghamton or Birthright of Binghamton.

Robert C. Schwager, certified life underwriter, North Tonawanda, N.Y., on June 25, 2012. Born on February 7, 1929, in North Tonawanda, Schwager was Navy ROTC, a Lion linebacker and center, and member of Sigma Chi while at the College. After graduation, he and his wife, Patricia McCoy, moved to San Diego, where Schwager graduated from the Naval Amphibious Training Unit. After serving as a naval officer during the Korean conflict, the couple returned to North Tonawanda and raised five children. Schwager was a certified life underwriter with Home Life Insurance Co. and coached varsity football at St. Joe’s and Nichols Schools in Western New York. Later, he worked in sales with Gray Line Tours in Niagara Falls. Schwager enjoyed reading, gardening, bird watching, the beach, watching sports and playing euchre. He is survived by his wife of 59 years; daughter, Joan Winter, and her husband, Ron; sons, Robert P., William and his wife, Dawn, Carl and his wife, Gina, and George and his wife, Cathy; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1958

Charles A. Swenson, retired software developer and editor, Alpharetta, Ga., on September 21, 2013. Swenson was born on September 23, 1936, in Bergen County,
Richard D. Friedlander ’60, ’63 Business, Alumni Leader

Richard D. Friedlander ’60, ’63 Business, a former president of the Columbia College Alumni Association and an involved student and alumnus, died on March 31, 2014, in New York City. He was 75.

Friedlander earned a B.A. in fine arts and three years later an M.B.A. As an undergraduate, he was a member of the Marching Band, the Senior Society of Nacoms and the Board of Managers, in its inaugural year. He served on the Undergraduate Dormitory/Housing Council, was rushing Band Alumni Association, the Society of Columbia Graduates and the Columbia University Club of New York. Friedlander continued to be involved with the Senior Society of Nacoms and formerly was a member of the Alumni Federation Alumni Council. In recognition of his deep involvement with Columbia, he was presented the Alumni Medal in 1980.

In his professional career, Friedlander was most recently an SVP in the investments division of Smith Barney in New York. He had worked in investment banking and financial services since the 1970s, first with Loeb, Rhoades & Hornblower, then with Shearson Lehman Brothers/American Express from 1983. Shearson Lehman became part of Smith Barney in 1993. After Salomon Smith Barney was formed in 1997, Citigroup acquired it in 2000, and it became part of Morgan Stanley in 2009. Friedlander stayed with the firm in its various incarnations.

Friedlander, who enjoyed gardening, is survived by his wife, Iris Friedlander ’63 Barnard.

Lisa Palladino

Geoffrey M. Horn ’65

Geoffrey M. Horn, editor and author, Red Bank, N.J., on November 25, 2013. Born in Manhattan in 1944, Horn was a first-generation college graduate who also studied at St John’s College, Cambridge, U.K. Shortly after returning to the States, in 1967, he married his high school friend and pen pal turned life partner, Marcia, who would be his wife of 46 years. Horn began work at Macmillan Publishers, leaving to start a freelance writing and editing business. He built a loyal network of employers and colleagues at Collier’s Year Book, Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia and The World Almanac. He penned several noted Judaica titles including Heritage: Civilization and the Jews (with Abba Eban) and the bestselling Bible Stories for Children. Later, he wrote more than 50 nonfiction children’s books, profiling contemporary figures and career paths. Horn bought an original Mac in 1984, first took to the stage in his 40s, learned to play Bartok in his 50s and went to indie and punk concerts into his 60s. Survivors include his wife, Marcia; sons, Dave and Michael; daughter-in-law, Jennifer; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Doctors Without Borders.

Leonard V. Don Diego Jr., retired teacher, EMT volunteer, Manalapan, N.J., on September 17, 2013. Born in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn, Don Diego had resided in Manalapan for 20 years. He taught at Xaverian H.S., Brooklyn, and then at Brick H.S. and Kean University. After retiring in 2007, Don Diego became a volunteer EMT for the Manalapan/English-town squad. He was a communicant of St. Thomas More Catholic

Elsberg was born in New York City on August 4, 1945. He was a history major at the College and received a Kellett Fellowship to attend St John’s College in Cambridge, U.K. He and his wife, Connie ’67 Barnard, moved to England where their son, Stephen, was born. There, Elsberg studied English history and taught for the University of Maryland overseas. On his return to the States, Elsberg settled at the Army’s Center of Military History, where he worked 1975–2005. He rose to be a center’s editor in chief. Elsberg wrote poetry from the time he was in high school, was the author of more than a dozen books and chapbooks, and appeared in a number of anthologies. He was fiction editor for Gargoyle magazine in the 1970s and recently was poetry editor for The Delmarva Review.

He hosted open poetry readings at The Writer’s Center in Bethesda, Md., for almost 25 years and led writing workshops. In recent years, Elsberg wrote primarily tanka and haiku and was working on a collaboration with a fellow poet in which they evolved their own style based on these forms.

William A. Pencak, professor and editor, Coburn, Pa., on December 9, 2013. A native New Yorker, Pencak earned an M.A. in 1973 followed by an M.Phil in 1975 and a Ph.D. in 1978, all in history and from GSAS. A professor emeritus of history at Penn State, Pencak was a specialist in American Jewish history and was twice editor of Pennsylvania History. His first books, War, Politics, and Revolution in Provincial Massachusetts (1981) and America’s Burke: The Mind of Thomas Hutchinson (1982), focused on New England, and his third, For God and Country: The American Legion, 1919–1941 (1988) was written for a friend who had set out to write it but passed away. His Jews and Gentiles in Early America, 1654–1800 (2005) took him into the reconstruction of an oft-overlooked segment of colonial society. He co-edited Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth and was working on a biography of Bishop William White, Pennsylvania’s first Episcopal bishop. Pencak taught classes in Jewish studies prior to his retirement from Penn State and following his retirement accepted a position as the Bert and Fanny Meisler Visiting Professor of History and Jewish Studies in the Department of History at the University of South Alabama. Pencak is survived by his mother, Harriet; and husband, Vincent Parker.

Karim M. Higa, art curator, Los Angeles, on October 29, 2013. Higa earned a master’s in art history from UCLA. At the time of her death she was enrolled in the doctoral art history program at USC. Higa was a specialist in Japanese art and was working on a biography of Bishop William White, Pennsylvania’s first Episcopal bishop. Pencak taught classes in Jewish studies prior to his retirement from Penn State and following his retirement accepted a position as the Bert and Fanny Meisler Visiting Professor of History and Jewish Studies in the Department of History at the University of South Alabama. Pencak is survived by his mother, Harriet; and husband, Vincent Parker.
The following came from Ed Alexander '42:

"In 1942 I entered the Army and was assigned to the Psychological Warfare Division, shipped to England, where I joined General Eisenhower's staff at SHAPE in London, and then transferred to Verdun, France, to General Bradley's headquarters."

"After the war I worked in public relations for Laurence Olivier on his Shakespeare films, Henry V and Hamlet, and in 1949 joined the Voice of America, writing and supervising broadcasts to the Soviet Union. After 10 years I joined the Foreign Service, serving in West Berlin, Budapest, Athens and East Berlin, and broadcasting to the Soviet Union."

"Hamlet, and in 1949 joined the Voice of America, writing and supervising broadcasts to the Soviet Union."

"I traveled throughout the United States and Canada, lecturing—and writing articles—on American foreign policy, especially vis-à-vis the Soviet Union. I have also written three books: The Serpent and the Bee, on the KGB's 15-year effort to recruit me; A Crime of Vengeance: An Armenian Struggle for Justice (soon to be made into a motion picture), about Turkey's genocide of the Armenian people; and a novel, Opus, about the search by the American and Soviet cultural attaches during the Cold War for a missing Beethoven manuscript, which culminates at KGB headquarters in Moscow. My last two lectures were delivered at the Library of Congress and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts. Somehow in between all of the above, I managed to squeeze in several hours of tennis, for which I have had a lifelong passion."

"Don't hesitate to keep us posted about your activities. You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or submit a note via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note."
and is a successful movie producer (Route One). He will also produce an adaptation of the book A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson, starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. Jay, who in high school was named All-New York City comerback, has one son, Eli, who will be a quarter- back in his last year of high school. Eli has been scouted by four Ivy League colleges including alma mater.”

Bernie Weisberger writes, “It’s hard to think that almost a year has passed since our pleasant Class of ’43 (and ’48) lunch last June. The summer and fall passed uneventfully for me, which, when you’re into your 90s, is always good news. My wife, Rita, and I still get around and even travel a bit, often to family events involving our respective children, who are now in their early thirties. The year was a two-week ‘vacation’ in sunny Cuernavaca, Mexico, where I did intensive language study. I achieved my personal goal, along with approximately 60 other overly ambitious students, in October 1943, when University President Nicholas Murray Butler [Class of 1882, Class of 1884 GSAS] awarded our diplomas in an unusually intimate ceremony, well in advance of the scheduled June 1944 Commencement.

In sad news, my friend Dr. Arthur Leo Peterson died on March 24, 2014. Arthur had a distinguished career in the Army Air Force Medical Corps, and in various fields, for example, medical officer and was a recipient of many other professional honors. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

For Bernie Weisberger ‘43, the most interesting event of the past year was a two-week ‘vacation’ in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where he did intensive language study.

Program, and considered increasing our point load, hoping to obtain our degree before a call-up to duty and before our scheduled Commencement.

I enrolled in some courses that I had never before contemplated, such as “Statistics 206: Modern Computing & Tabulating Methods,” which was a course in punch card operation, a mechanical data methodology that preceded the computer age. I reflect with regret that I didn’t follow up on my studies of the summer of the PC and Mac with further related coursework. We who knows, had I done so, might have become a rival of Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.

I fear, at the political and cultural deterioration of the United States. (Harumph!) But somehow the Republic will survive — er, that is well, I hope so. Best wishes to other members of our class and to Columbia alumni everywhere.”

My wife, Dr. Audrey Evans, and I are going to the Highlands of Scotland in June to attend the wed- ding of her godchild, who through the years has become more like a granddaughter. We’ll tack on a journey to Ireland, centering on our point load, hoping to obtain our degree before a call-up to duty and before our scheduled Commencement. I enrolled in some courses that I had never before contemplated, such as “Statistics 206: Modern Computing & Tabulating Methods,” which was a course in punch card operation, a mechanical data methodology that preceded the computer age. I reflect with regret that I didn’t follow up on my studies of the summer of the PC and Mac with further related coursework. We who knows, had I done so, might have become a rival of Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.

Reunion Weekend May 28-31, 2015

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I received the following from Henry Shinklefied:

“As a member of the 1944 Varsity Show cast, I was thrilled to see the expansive tribute to Varsity Show history in the Spring 2014 Columbia College Today. It stirred many memories, which resulted in visions of the past in remarkable clarity. Bob Felson ’48 and I were Barnard Loyelles in 1943. Bob and I were also members of the traditional Pony Ballet. The show and the music for On the Double were, in the main, written and directed by Alby Sherwinn ’42.”
pianist. The show was a sellout and a great thespian success. “The 1944 show was the 50th Varsity Show, and as I write, I plan in May to see the 120th.”

Things have been quiet lately but I know that our class’ stalwart members have news to report and remembrances to share. You may submit notes to either address at the top of the column, or through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bernard Sunshine 165 W. 66th St., Apt. 12G New York, NY 10023 bsuns1@gmail.com

Herbert Gold keeps rolling along, and his new book, His First Murder, will appear on bookstands shortly. Herb says the novel, his 24th, is a study of a 21st-century psychopath. The Columbia University Archives is housed in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library in Butler Library (South Hall). Wandering through the collection recently, I came across the 1944-45 College catalogue of courses. Names of faculty greats popped off the pages and it turned into a walk down memory lane. In addition to courses in Chinese, Japanese, classic and Romance languages, there were some in Arabic, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Sanskrit. Navy V-12 was a large part of the College’s student body and this course description caught my eye: “Navy English 1 and 2 — not open to civilian students. Modern usage, grammar, idiom, sentence structure, punctuation, spelling, effective paragraphs. The aim of this course is to teach the student to say and write what he means concisely and with a purpose.”

Were civilians kept out because military secrets were hidden in the course’s content? Virtually unmanageable forest fires in the West brought the following from John McJohnfoll in Post Falls, Idaho: “When you hear and read of 180-plus square miles of flaming forests and timber in just one location, look at a map of New York City and figure the square miles of Manhattan or any of the boroughs. Try to imagine what a fire covering that area would do. Yes, it’s the real West and quite common during dry, hot weather. Lightning strikes are a common cause, apparently, but carelessness by individuals can be just as catastrophic. Locally, ‘dry farmers’ of grains and so forth have ‘controlled burns,’ tank trucks and equipment at the ready in anticipation of fire.”

With regret I report the passing of Norman Cohen ‘48 Business. Norman was a CPA. He published a weekly newspaper and was also an adviser to businesses. He took particular pride and satisfaction from his work volunteering as a mentor to troubled and at-risk teens.

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

Ed McAvoy got in touch via email and phone. He shared a long note, which he titled “Columbia Alumni Club & Biosphere Memories”:

“I read with great interest the profile in the Fall 2013 issue of Wm. Theodore ‘Ted’ de Bary [‘41, ’53 GSAS], a charter member of the Hickory Hill Cooperative. It brought back memories of Hickory Hill and of my effort years later to help improve the Tucson-area image of Biosphere2, a Columbia University research program.

“I am a 1949 charter member of Hickory Hill, a housing complex in Tappan, N.Y., that was an offshoot of a Columbia project called Shanks Village. The severe housing shortage in metro New York after WWII encouraged CU to convince the government to convert the thousands of acres of what had been the largest East Coast port of embarkation for Army soldiers headed to Europe — Camp Shanks in Orangeburg (Rockland County), N.Y. — into a housing facility of about 1,500 affordable apartments for faculty, staff and students.

“This was accomplished by converting about 500 of the large barracks into one- and two-bedroom units — rent was $38.50 per month and included a kerosene space heater and a stall shower! Probably 10,000 families from across the United States lived in the project during the Shanks Village’s life.” Most of them were discharged service members who were returning to the academic world to earn their graduate degrees. I was a 23-year-old married College student seeking a B.A. Most residents were closer to 30.

“In 1948, 65 Shanks Village families, wanting to remain in Rockland County, formed the Northern Valley Homes Association. For two years this group studied 200 available tracts of land, financing, membership rules and architectural plans. Eventually 32 families invested $1,000 each into Hickory Hill Cooperative (H1H).

“Fifty percent of the members of H1H were CU families and construction was successfully completed in 1952. Columbia members included Ted de Bary, Henry Magid [‘38, ’41 GSAS], John Landgraf [‘51 GSAS] and Eliot Tozer [’49, ’59, ’41E]. Danforth Toan [’49 Arch], George Furey [‘37], Dr. Robert Weiss [’51 F&S] and Dr. Maus Darling [’47 Dental]. The students were myself, Arnold Frank [’47 Business, ’50 Business], Walter Willeke [’57 GSAS] and Elliott Tozer [’49, ’59, ’41E]. Also participating were CU machinist Lloyd Dutton and CU professor Frank Lear. In 1975 contiguous land was acquired and a Community House and 30 retirement townhouses were constructed (H1E). That expansion included an affiliation with H1H.

“In 1991 my wife, Norma, and I moved to Hong Kong for three years, where I was advertising director of the one-million circulation Asia Magazine and publisher of The International Weekly South China Morning Post, which I launched. We developed readers in 60 countries and it was a successful, world-class newspaper with 14,000 subscribers and total circulation of about 20,000. Then something called the Internet arrived and the beautiful, 24-page, full-color, two-section weekly went digital.

“I had a wonderful 55-year career in publishing with several of the world’s leading newspapers and magazine companies (including 20 years with The New York Times) and ended in 1993 as publisher of The International Weekly South China Morning Post based in Hong Kong.

“Norma and I returned to Hickory Hill in 1995 and in 1997 moved to Tucson. I am now active in a senior Humanities Seminar program sponsored by the University of Arizona (UofA) and I was nominated to the Board of Directors of the Advisory Committee of the university’s College of Humanities. In addition to the incestuous relationships of mine and Bob Weiss came to Tucson every winter for several months and joined the seminar program. Bob had retired from Columbia as dean of the School of Public Health and retained close ties with the University.

“CU was also managing the spectacular Biosphere2 campus in Oracle, Ariz. Bob and I visited the campus and met with the president, whom he knew. We discussed the poor reputation Biosphere2 had in the area because of fraud committed by the previous owners and CU’s efforts to reverse this negative image. Bob suggested that the presence of a Columbia alumni club would help achieve a better regional impression and he knew just the man to start and develop one — me!

“I asked for time to investigate the possibility of an alumni club being successful and contacted a friend in the Alumni Office. I was able, by ZIP code analysis, to discover that there was a potential universe of about 800 alumni to tap from the University’s many schools. I also had the cooperation of Alumni Office personnel and did several mailings to develop paid membership. Within a couple of months, Pam Farley ‘71 GSAS, ’73 LS and I signed up more than 125 paying members from 20 CU schools! We had a monthly luncheon meeting during the school year at the prestigious Arizona Inn and had exceptional speakers.

“These events started with UofA president Peter Likins. Peter had been a Columbia professor, provost and a protege of Ted’s in the ’60s. He was followed by the then-CU
executive vice provost, Michael Crow, who at that time handled the Biosphere2 program from New York. Michael later became president of ASU. An executive of Teachers College also spoke as did other senior professors and administrators, including noted UofA professor and Nobel Prize Award recipient Jonathan Overpeck.

"The response in Tucson was wonderful! We averaged more than 90 alumni and guests for each luncheon. Tucson press and PR efforts were most rewarding and I believe the Columbia University Club of Southern Arizona more than achieved its goal. Biosphere2 personnel were very cooperative and sponsored several superb functions for club members during the years I was president. The club still exists and Biosphere2 is now a division of UofA."

"Norma and I left Tucson in 2004 and returned to Hickory Hill. She passed away in 2016; we were married for 65 years.

"I've resettled in Turners Falls, Mass., with a new life partner, Lynn Hoffman. We built an apartment/suite in my daughter's home and enjoy local cuisine and life in the area. Lynn is an internationally known family therapist and has lectured worldwide."

"She and I both moved from Rockland County, N.Y., and crossed paths many times at 35,000 feet but never met until 2011."

Dr. Nicholas Giosa writes, "My thoughts for the day: During a lifetime of looking at the human parade, I have compiled some 140 poems and am looking for a publisher before my allotted time comes to an end. Any help out there? Meanwhile, embrace and celebrate each day."

"I felt well prepared by Columbia for my career as a physician and psychoanalyst (as Sam was) and feel my undergraduate training is so different from what my grandchildren are experiencing. I can walk through the Met Museum and view the European galleries and almost always know what and where I am viewing. I am not alone in this. Our current college kids are not really being educated; they are being trained."

"Today, in so many colleges, liberal arts courses are not highlighted. My first grandson was told to drop those courses and take courses that would help him get a job. (My second grandchild is applying to colleges.) We are educating future workers and the emphasis is on what courses will be best suited to help them do that. As much as I understand that, it seems to me that there is a huge educational loss in the arts and humanities and I gather it is generally so in many colleges. It is a loss and a sad one. Not all change is progress."

"Family is basically the same."

John Kuhn writes, "Recently sold my former home in Norwood, N.J., as my last connection with the north. Been in Gautier, Miss., since 1999. We had a cold winter, too. Nothing really new to report but still around at 88."

Arthur Kunin, who lives in Shelburne, Vt., also is 88. He writes, "In fall 1945, just discharged from an Army hospital and two days before classes started, I recall the faith and kindness of admission officer Bernard Ireland [31, 35 GSAS] admitting yet another first-generation Jewish boy from Brooklyn to Columbia College. Subsequently, my three brothers, two cousins and son were successively admitted. Initially destined to be a history major, I graduated Phi Beta Kappa and took the least resistant road to the University of Vermont College of Medicine. After years of clinical and research training at Harvard, I was appointed to the medical staff at Vermont and spent 40 years as an investigator in renal physiology, as a clinician and teacher, and as the spouse of the first female Democratic governor of Vermont [Madeleine Kunin '57].

"I told, all my most significant education took place in the undergraduate and Continuing Education courses at Columbia.

"What did Robert Frost say about 'the crossroads'?"

Nicholas Giosa '47 has compiled some 140 poems and is looking for a publisher. "Any help out there? Meanwhile, embrace and celebrate each day."

Seth Rubenstein, of Brooklyn, N.Y., writes, "I am plugging away 5½ days a week (on Saturdays I leave after I read the mail), trying to make a living practicing probate law. My vacation comes during the two weeks in August and September that the U.S. Open is in town.

"I recently happened to watch Seagon when I feel gratitude to Columbia daily, particularly when I read the work product of young lawyers who do not know not to split infinitives or that contrary to fact requires the subjunctive."

"Also in Brooklyn is Heywood Shelley '50L. "I was hit by a car four years ago and I lost my right leg at the knee so I am either in a wheelchair or walking on a prosthetic. I am dependent on my aide at the knee so I am either in a wheelchair or walking on a prosthetic."

"I spent five years at Columbia after my return from the Army as follows: one year finishing my thesis. I am dependent on my aide at the knee so I am either in a wheelchair or walking on a prosthetic. My daughter, Alex (96 Arts), and her daughter, Lily. As I write this, Lily was to sing with her school chorus at Lincoln Center on the weekend."
It is always deeply gratifying to learn of a classmate's significant contribution to matters of great import to our lives and our nation. Once again I've heard from Joe Russell of such an occasion, and I have the privilege of passing the news on to you. I quote below in an edited version of his lengthy note. If any of you are interested in the full text, which fleshes out the process, names of his collaborators and details of the cases, please email me and I will forward your request to him.

Joe writes, "Today's New York Times (March 9) editorially celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision adding strength to the First Amendment's promise of press freedom in the case New York Times Co. v. Sullivan. That has particular significance for me, as the court also ruled in favor of its companion case, Aberrathy v. Sullivan, at the same time, and I had done most of the paperwork necessary to bring that matter before the court and obtain the final result. "I volunteered to draft the Petition for Certiorari, a writ from the Supreme Court allowing our pro bono clients' case to be accepted, and did so during several weeks of a family vacation during summer 1962. My draft was reviewed with another partner, Benjamin Spiegel '38L, now deceased, who assisted with his extensive knowledge of First Amendment law, and Harry Wachtel '40L added a bit of fire and brimstone to the opening argument. The final petition was printed, filed and served in November 1962, and the writ was granted in early January 1963. "Our case was argued to the Supreme Court by former U.S. Attorney General William Rogers and former New York State Judge Samuel Pierce on the same morning that Columbia law professor Herbert Wechsler '31L and soon-to-be U.S. District Court Judge Marvin Frankel argued the Times' appeal. "After the court adjourned, we were joined by our clients and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at a nearby hotel to unwind, to hope for a favorable result and to accept thanks for what we had done through that day. The result was truly gratifying. We felt that justice had been done in a significant case. "Word of an early March event — Fear, Freedom: Dark Past, Brighter Future," a conversation with Richard Sachs — regrettably reached me too late to attend.

But according to the information developed for the evening I had read from his memoir of a closeted life in the tumultuous world of the 1940s and the decades following. He also talked about the fictitious safety of marriage, children and a family business, and how, after slowly emerging from the closet at 58, he now has a second, happy marriage to a man he loves. Richard was interviewed by prominent author-journalist Eric Marcus, and Dean Jeffrey Peck of the CUNY Weissman School of Arts and Sciences and the City College moderated the Q&A program.

Richard reports, "It was a successful event with a nice crowd of different ages, affiliations and so on. The response was gratifying. I'm finishing the memoir and have an agent looking for publishers. "Richard's courage, creativity and participation in the forward march of social and political progress continue to be a source of pride for our class.

On a lighter note — but no less significant, as we get to hold our heads high on the athletics front in the March Madness basketball team that made it into the postseason for the first time since 1968, reaching the quarterfinals of the CollegeInsider.com's postseason Tournament and finishing the season with a 21–13 record. We are grateful to Gene for keeping us posted on things that make us smile.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 28–31, 2015
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Rudy Weingartner has joined the ranks of the bloggers. To read his work, go to rweingartner.blogspot.com and sign in.

Sad to report the passing of two classmates. Joseph A. Mehan of Fort Myers, Fla., died in December 2013 (see Obituaries), and Harry W. Pauley of Newburg, Pa., died in February 2014.

The mailbag was far too light this time around. Your classmates want to hear from you. Consider sending an update to either of the addresses at the top of the column, or submit a note via CCT's webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

This column thanks the contributors for keeping us posted on things that matter. Keep the cards and letters coming and have a joyous summer.

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To pursue a research project, Pete Vayda '52 will split his time between his home in New York and Indonesia for the next few years.

"After living in Sanibel, Fla., for 18 years, we moved to the mainland and now reside in a Christian Continuing Care Retirement Community in Ft. Myers, Fla. We have three children, one each in corporate, medical and software endeavors, and five grandchildren. We are still able to travel and would enjoy having classmates visit."

I think of it as a wonderful way for the class to stay connected but CCT needs a class correspondent to write it. If you are interested, please contact Alexis Fonzi '11 Arts, managing editor: alt2129@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. In the meantime, we can send the rental mailing list now to no. 230. With sadness we note the deaths of Alwan W. Robbins, George E. Chase and Chester M. Edelmann Jr.

Keep in touch! News is always appreciated. And don’t forget to send in your contribution to CCT before the University’s fiscal year ends on Monday, June 30. You may give by credit card at columbus.edu/cct/giving or by calling 212-851-7852, or mail a check, payable to Columbia College Today, to "Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 6th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

Many of us will remember. For example, he writes, "On occasional Saturday nights we could, for five dollars a couple, attend dances with a live band and a headlining vocalist. I still remember a thrilling performance by Edith Pfaf. The fact that I was a clumsy dancer didn’t stop me from having a good time."

In those days, every College student needed to take two science courses. Mike selected calculus and psychology. He writes that the psychology course was taught by a modest congenial professor, Fred Keller, and involved spending four hours a week in a lab, learning about the human brain. Describing his experience, Mike writes of feeding rats in a glass Skinner box "which had a levered bar and a small opening to receive food pellets. The beginning exercise called for us to give the rat a pellet every time it pushed the bar... [a]s boredom took hold and my mind wandered, I conceived of a cartoon with two rats in a Skinner box, one saying to the other: 'Have I got this kid conditioned; every time I hit the bar, he gives me a pellet...'

Mike relates that he was especially proud of having helped to select Ruth Bader Ginsburg '59L as the first woman to become a member of the Law School faculty. He also was instrumental in promoting two women as the first two female Law School deans.

Of his time as an undergraduate, Mike describes events that have partied, celebrated and come together 59 years later. I joined the medical school graduates several years later. I remained the director of the program for 19 years, retiring in 1995 as an assistant professor of family medicine.

I've never forgotten his answer. "Just pass it along, Lew," he said. "Just pass it along."

Reading the text of Mike's book makes it clear that he is a classmate who has spent his adult life passing it along to many, many others. In sad news, Arthur Elkind reports that Dr. Harold Abrams of Trumbull, Conn., died in March 2013. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and three children.

Howard Falberg 13710 Paseo Bonita Poway, CA 92064 westmontgr@aol.com

By the time you read this, our class will have celebrated our 60th anniversary of graduation from alma mater. In the words of our class president, Bernd Brecher, we will have parted, celebrated and commemorated a cumulative 24,000 years of Core-directed lives on this planet. Stay tuned for the next issue of this letter. In the meantime, several classmates have let us know of some of their activities.

Jim King enjoys spending his time in both his Garden City (Long Island), N.Y., and Sanibel, Fla., homes. He has published a book, From Brooklyn to the World: A Fun Trip. As one newspaper described it, "The book recalls an odyssey of growing up in Brooklyn in the 1930s and 1940s, playing big-time college baseball."

I know that I will buy his book, as profits go to the charity of Jim’s longtime friend, famed Brooklyn Dodger pitcher Carl Erskine, and his Madison County branch of the Indiana Special Olympics.

George Goldstein and his wife have moved from New York to Boca Raton, Fla. While they remain fans of the Mets, Yankees, Jets and Giants, George says they are enjoying the better weather. He retired from a career in medicine and the pharmaceutical research industry for the attractions of being a "history buff, museum docent, bridge player, amateur movie critic and so on." George is also involved with a lifelong learning society at a local university. While he didn’t think he’d be able to make our 60th reunion, he hopes to make our 65th.

Phil Bonanno has been happily retired for 15 years; he and his wife live on Cape Cod but spend winters in Naples, Fla. Phil was a civil engineer in heavy construction and was fortunate enough to be involved in some interesting projects including Boston’s “Big Dig” and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York. He has been doing arbitration work on construction issues.
and dispute review boards.

Phil and his wife enjoy his retirement and now spend more time with their children and grandchildren. He adds, “Sure have much to thank Columbia for — the wonderful education and meeting so many wonderful friends. … My regards to all classmates.”

Ed Cowan and his wife, Ann Louise, recently drove to Florida for a week of spring training, where they watched the Washington Nationals drill and practice. They were joined by Don Cabill and his wife, Mary. They also watched their team play two games; the Nats won both.

All four were happy.

Bruce Glaser resides in Fairfield, Conn., and teaches art history at a local college part-time. As Bruce puts it, he spends much of his time “gardening, reading and as a serious foodie.” He also takes jaunts to NYC, walking old neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Manhattan, and says he is utterly astonished by their transformation into museums, art galleries and more.

I was happy to hear from Charles Ehren, who noted that “after many years of law teaching and deaning,” he retired with his wife, Joan, to East Hampton in 1997. Both have been active in local civic and political affairs.

When I was working, I often got together with Kamal Bahary in midtown Manhattan. He shares, “I retired recently and I plan to travel with [my wife,] Susan.”

We have had great reunions and I’m sure this one will have been great as well. Until next time!

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**MINI-SUMMER RESORT**

**MAY 7-9, 2015**

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A lot of things are going on, both within and outside the gates of College Walk, making the University one of the most exciting schools of learning in the world. Producer Dede Gardner '90 and actress Devyn Tyler '13 were part of the Academy Award-winning film 12 Years a Slave. University Trustee Ben Horowitz '82 was profiled in a New York Times article about his new book, The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers.

In early March, five alumni were each presented a coveted John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. One of the attendees was Allen Hyman, who cheered on Dr. Robert Lefkowitz ’62, ’66 PhD.

Also in March, mathematics and physics professor Brian Greene launched two online courses as part of his new online teaching initiative, World Science University.

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**FRED BROOKS ’56 and his wife, Jane, donated their Asian art collection, including Tang Dynasty treasures, to the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn.**

In the travel world, the Columbia Alumni Association is offering a special small-group trip, “Classic Greek Isles,” including stops at Crete and other Greek locales. It will take place in late August, crossing into early September, and promises to be a terrific venture for the enthusiasts.

The Sundance Film Festival, in which Columbia does very well, took place in Park City, Utah, in January; more than 60 Columbia filmmakers entered the competition.

The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science celebrated its 150th anniversary this year — “You’ve come a long way, baby.” Jack Freeman ’55E and Bob Pearlman ’55E were pleased with the festivities.

According to a December article in USA Today, Bill Campbell ’62, ’64 TC is “Silicon Valley’s Secret CEO Whisperer.” On a related note, Jonathan Schiller ’69, ’73L was selected to co-chair Columbia University’s Board of Trustees, serving alongside Bill. With the basketball team doing so well, we recall that Jon was a member of the nationally ranked team in 1969.

The school has entered into a contract with edX for online learning — the first course (online) will be on the Civil War, with the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History Eric Foner ’63, ’69 GSAS. We’re starting to hear more and more from our classmates as our 60th reunion approaches.

Sven Johnson is still involved with Toys for Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps. We continue to hear from our San Francisco brethren, including, among others, Stanley Lubman, whom we hope will come to the reunion, and Henry Cohen, who is a big fan of Professor Wm. Theodore de Bary ’41, ’53 GSAS; Henry has donated original prints titled “Mishima,” by Nathan Lerner, in honor of the professor. More information on the life and trials of Henry will appear in the next issue of CCT.

We also hope to see Bernie Kirtland (good buddy of Bill Epstein) next June as well as Bill Mink (and his high school classmate Bob Brown).

Bob Bernt, who lives in North Hill, N.Y., has retired but continues to teach Columbia medical students. Michael Goldberg ’55E requested an article from Spectator (as fierce as ever) on Columbia football.

Your scribe promises it will be given to Michael in person at the reunion, if not sooner. Jack Stuppin is still painting and living in Sebastopol, Calif. According to Jack, “Since I helped start Silicon Valley, it is very exciting to be in the first Silicon Valley Art Fair.” Bill Langston says he will definitely come east to see the campus.

Don Laufer and Alfred Gollomp have taken a “breather” from the monthly class dinners to visit Israel. We will all get together upon their return, along with Ron Spitz, Alan Hoffman, Elliot Gross, Roland Platell, Tony DeSanto, Bob Schiff, Chuck Solomon (doing alumni “stuff” for the Dental School), Anthony Viscusi and more. Others who will join the throng are Steve Rabin, Ralph Wagner and Bob Dillingham, plus some surprise guests. We are sad to report that Marty Gottfried (theater critic for The New York Post) passed away in January; more than 60 Columbia attendees. It was a very happy affair, rekindling friendships and with lots of good memories and new stories shared among the attendees.

We look forward to holding next year’s get-together at Ed Botwinick’s, which I hope, and God willing, I will attend.

At this writing we are planning our spring and summer class luncheons at, respectively, the Columbia University Club of New York, Faculty House (on campus) and Dan Link’s golf and country club in Larchmont, N.Y. Please contact me for details or to add your name to the list of class members who wish to be notified of the luncheons.

Frederick Lippman, chancellor of the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University, has “been appointed to the board of Florida TaxWatch.”

Guy Castle writes, “Enjoy reading Class Notes and looking forward to the next reunion. Survived lung cancer and am enjoying country life with my husband of 54 years (partner for 32, husband for two). I trust that 1956 can increase donations [to Columbia] for 2014. Past years have been far too low!”

FRED BROOKS, who lives in Greenwich, Conn., recently donated all of his and his wife Jane’s Asian art collection, including Tang Dynasty treasures, to their local Bruce Museum. This collection was assembled from their travels not only to China but also to Japan and European countries that host major Chinese art collections. Collecting, sharing and giving is another way
we can all use our liberal arts Co¬
be remembered as an active and
Les will mourn his passing and
seasons.
and family who celebrated his life
away in January after a brief but
overwhelming infection. A memo¬
to keep all class members up to
As for himself, John Taussig
writes that he was "CEO of the
consumer credit and direct market¬
ing businesses of TRW, which were
sold in 1996 and are now known as
Experian. Since retiring in 1989
I have been an angel investor in
start-up and early stage companies
and am a co-founder of Tech Coast
Angels, an organization consist¬
ting today of five chapters and 270
investors in Southern California. I
enjoy the Southern California lifestyle and spending time with
my three grandchildren. I am an
avid racquetball player and enjoy
playing in live (not online) poker
tournaments."
Salvatore Salibello shares the
following career recap: "Captain,
Pan American World Airways (re¬
tired), Attorney-at-law, approved
mediator and arbitration New
Jersey Superior Court."
Yours truly was on vacation in
Rome January 17–February 3. I
visited many places but limit my
commments to some highlights.
I explored the Eternal City
mainly on foot, taking the Metropoli¬
ana (Metro) from near my
hotel to the stop nearest to the
area that I wanted to explore and
then back. Going about on foot
gives me the flavor of a city and turns up
architectural gems. Every so often
I encountered a little fountain or
other decorative piece set in a niche
in a building wall. Near the foot of
the stairway leading down from
the church of San Pietro in Vincoli
(noted for the Michelangelo sculp¬
ture of Moses) to the Via Cavour, I
found the exquisite little church of
St. Mary of the Mountains (Santa
Maria ai Monti), with a dome simi¬
lar to that of the cathedral Duomo
in Florence but without supports
from the floor below.
My walks took me from the
Vatican to the cathedral of St. John
Lateran (San Giovanni Laterano)
and from the Borghese Gardens to
the Roman Forum and the adjoining
huge monument to King Victor
Emmanuel II (under whom Italy
united in 1870). The king and his
queen are buried in the Pantheon,
some distance away. My Italian,
albeit very limited, was invaluable for asking directions and some¬
times for ordering meals.

I was among several thousand who attended one of Pope Francis’ Wednesday morning audiences, held outdoors in St. Peter’s Square. The pope entered in his popemobile, reaching out to many in the crowd close to him. He and his small entourage then mounted the rostrum. Seated as I was with my back to the rostrum, I saw the event on a large screen, probably more clearly than I would have from a distance without the screen. A priest translated the pope’s address into English, French and German. Pope Francis addressed the crowd as “brothers and sisters,” and at the end he thanked his audience. He noted the presence of several non-Catholic organizations in Rome, including the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. This pope has a most magnetic and warm personality. The day before the audience I took a tour of the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter’s Basilica.

Following the audience, I visited the Castel Sant’Angelo, generally a parallel to the Tower of London. It has served as a papal palace, a sanctuary for popes fleeing the Vatican during attacks via an underground passage and a prison. It was especially interesting to me as the scene of the third and last act of the opera La Tosca. The castle also affords magnificent vistas of Rome, especially of the Vatican. In the vein of La Tosca I also visited the church of St. Andrew of the Valley (Sant'Andrea della Valle), where the first act takes place, and the Farnese Palace, the site of the second act. Presently the palace is the French Embassy, closed to the public. One of the side chapels in the church has a sign noting the opera but alas it has no painting of a fair-haired marchesa (noblewoman) as Mary Magdalen.

Along the Tiber is a gem of a synagogue (Sinagoga), comprising a Spanish and Portuguese sanctuary in dark wood, the Jewish Museum and the synagogue’s main sanctuary; the last is richly decorated in dark wood, the Jewish Museum and the synagogue’s main sanctuary; the last is richly decorated in dark wood, the Jewish Museum and the synagogue’s main sanctuary; the last is richly decorated in dark wood, the Jewish Museum and the synagogue’s main sanctuary; the last is richly decorated in

Piazza Barberini is the Fountain of Triton. About 100 feet away, at the foot of the Via Veneto, is the Fountain of the Bees. Bernini is buried in an obscure grave in the basilica Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major); the epitaph aptly proclaims that “He decorated the city.”

All in all, the trip was most rewarding. I would be pleased to discuss it with my readers.

58 Barry Dickman
25 Main St.
Court Plaza North, Ste 104
Hackensack, NJ 07601
bdickmanesq@gmail.com

We are sorry to report the death of George Wertheim '59 GSAS on December 8, 2013, in San Francisco. George is survived by his wife, Linda; daughter, Val Langmuir; and brother, Bill Wertheim '65.

After earning a master’s in psychology, George finished a Ph.D. in experimental psychology at Stanford. He taught at Stanford, among other schools, then returned to the Bay Area to work first for the San Francisco mental health department and then for the information technology department; there, he fulfilled his destiny as a troublemaker by helping form Local 2, the Union for Professional and Technical Engineers in city government. He also started a small computer company and had been a board member of Congregation B’nai Emunah in San Francisco. Piazza Barberini is the Fountain of Triton. About 100 feet away, at the foot of the Via Veneto, is the Fountain of the Bees. Bernini is buried in an obscure grave in the basilica Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major); the epitaph aptly proclaims that “He decorated the city.”

All in all, the trip was most rewarding. I would be pleased to discuss it with my readers.

The New Yorker gave a shout-out to former NBC news reporter Carl Stern ’58, ’59 in a January 20 Talk of the Town piece.

The perpetual motion machine has finally stopped — or at least slowed down. Steve Jonas announced his retirement as professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and the Program in Public Health at the School of Medicine of Stony Brook University. Not to worry, though; he will continue as professor emeritus. Many of his accomplishments have been reported already in this column, but here’s a brief recap:

Steve earned an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, an M.P.H. from the Yale School of Medicine and an M.S. in health management from the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. He also studied at the London School of Economics and the Touro College Law Center. He had been at Stony Brook since 1971 and also held adjunct professorships at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and Touro Law Center. He has written numerous books on both public and personal health and medical-related subjects as well as politics. Steve is a past president of the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine, a past associate editor of Preventive Medicine and current editor-in-chief of the American Medical Athletic Association Journal. He has also hosted a radio call-in show on politics and been a web columnist. In his spare time, he is a dedicated triathlete and, yes, he has written a book on that, too.

The New Yorker gave a shout-out to Carl Stern ’58, ’59 in the January 20 Talk of the Town piece titled “Opened Files.” It covered an event (the subject of a recent book) that was a precursor to the Edward Snowden exposure of NSA data collection: the 1971 break-in at an FBI field office that revealed the extent of J. Edgar Hoover’s spying on American citizens. The “bug” was discovered across a reference to a program called COINTELPRO.

The comment says, “It took two years and the determination of Carl Stern, an NBC news reporter who filed several Freedom of Information Act requests and a lawsuit against the Justice Department and the FBI, for Americans to discover what COINTELPRO was… a top-secret program which spied on civil rights leaders, suspected Communists, public critics of the FBI and student activists, among others, and sought to intimidate, smear and blackmail them, break up marriages, get people fired and demoralize them. … The files and the investigative journalism that followed up on them led the Church Committee hearings to reforms that helped rein in the agency’s worst excesses …”

As we have noted, Carl’s TV report was selected by the Journalism School as one of the “100 Great Stories” produced by its graduates during the past century.

Commenting on our report in the Winter CCT on Joe Dorinson’s role in the Catskills comedians, Morris Amitay adds, “I read with great interest the paragraph citing Bernie Nussbaum and Asher Robin working in the Catskills as waiters. ‘waited’ not only in the Catskills but also in the Poconos, New Jersey, Connecticut and the Adirondacks for a total of eight years — two while still in high school, four in college and two in law school. In those ‘good old days’ I earned enough for my tuition and other expenses and saw some of the comedians in Joe’s films.”

Speaking of Bernie Nussbaum, we have mentioned that his daughter, Emily, is the TV columnist for The New Yorker. Her husband, Clive Thompson, is also a writer and the author of the book Smarter Than You Think: How Technology is Changing Our Minds for the Better.

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@readinglass.com.

I hope this column reaches you after an enjoyable time at Alumni Reunion Weekend. Stay tuned for the Fall CCT for a full report.

At one of our Reunion Committee meetings, I was asked to solicit biographies from classmates. We had a similar compilation for, I think, our 35th or 40th reunion. The biographies were then combined into a book. This time we may not have a hardcopy book but the contributions will be collected and made available, probably online via a dedicated website. Please contribute your reminiscences. There is no special form for the submission just whatever it is that you want to communicate to your classmates (we’re still accepting them even though reunion is over). Thank you for your participation.

Ralph G. Risley writes, “My wife, Sara, and I moved to Tucson from the Bay Area in 2004 and are still in the process of redoing our second house. I seem to be driven by projects (versus going to the gym for exercise). The real challenge and reward in this activity comes from the preservation of the character and bones of a property, restoring it to what it was prior to years of neglect and deferred maintenance…”

“Our three sons live in Northern California. Our oldest has a mergers and acquisitions practice in Palo Alto. Specializing in the various aspects of digital and Internet media and the offshoots thereof. Our other sons, and a daughter-in-law, are all lieutenants with the Sacramento Police Department.”

“We spend four to five months...
By the creative energy of the city's happy.

Sad events are in the past. Suzanne, my wife, is in Boston. My son, Ben, is in the army. Our daughter, Abby, is in New York. My son, Stratton, is in Japan. Our daughter, Keren, is in Israel.

Fourth of July weekend coincided with the last major exhibition in Pucker Gallery. From Bemie Pucker, we hear: "As it turns out, Alumni Reunion Weekend coincided with the last major exhibition in Pucker Gallery's present space, where we've been for 46 years, at 17 Newbury St., in Boston. My wife, Suzanne, and I have sold our building and will move nearby. We are fortunate to live in an educated, supportive community. Along the way we have dedicated a major part of our lives to supporting nonprofit organizations, perhaps the most important being by the creative energy of the city's nonprofit sector. We have two or three events for these organizations in our gallery each month; lately this has included events for Lift, Peace First, Medicine Wheel Productions, and Workshops. Amazing, young, bright people saving the world.

"Our family's Columbia connection strengthens with [our granddaughter] Abby '14. We are so happy."

"Our usual approach is a day at a time. We start with "This is the Day, the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and greet it with Joy and Gladness" but with luck and better we may make it to our 60th!"

Bob Stone, who at this writing planned to be at reunion, reports, "I will attend the high school graduation of my two oldest granddaughters: Elana in Silver Spring, Md., and Juliet in Denver. (How did I get so old?) Elana will head to an honors program at Maryland and Juliet will attend Kenyon College. If I can hang on long enough, my two youngest grandkids will have the opportunity to be third-generation candidates at Columbia, as their mother is Phyllis B. Stone '91.

Bruce M. Stave and his wife of 53 years, Sondra Astor Stave, continue to work together through The Stave Group: Oral History Consultants (oralhistorybythestavegroup.com). They do projects and conduct workshops locally and abroad. At the invitation of the Smithsonian, they presented a weeklong oral history workshop in Ljubljana, Slovenia. They also are completing an oral history of Armenians in Connecticut, where they have resided for 49 years. The project is supported by an endowment for Armenian studies at the University of Connecticut, where Bruce taught for many years and is now a distinguished professor of history emeritus. As a consequence of that project, the Staves visited Armenia and met with faculties. Future Facebook posts requesting love stories at Columbia. Ours was accepted and posted on the CAA Facebook page [facebook.com/ColumbiaAlumniAssoc] in a collection called "Columbia LOVE Volume 1." It has our picture and story. "Now we've met; it's been 35 years.

Bruce also does his own version of Wayne's World, as he hosts a local access TV program in which he interviews residents of varying sorts in Coventry, Conn. The Staves' son is Charming '92. Aside from partnering in a successful marketing research analytic business, Disruptly, Channing brings his son, Stratton (10), and daughter, Sabrina (4), to Columbia football and basketball games. Often their son, Sera, a Connecticut College graduate, accompanies them. Stratton's favorite Columbia basketball player is Alex Rosenberg '15, and Sabrina is getting into the act as well.

David Horowitz writes, "My son Ben '88 was made a Columbia trustee in 2013, overcoming the burden of having a Columbia black sheep for a dad. I'm very proud. Ben is brilliant and will do Columbia a lot of good. His old man, nearing the end of his run, has begun publishing his collected works in 10 volumes under the title The Black Book of the American Left: The Collected Conservative Writings of David Horowitz. The first two volumes — My Life & Times and Progressives — are in print and three more will be out by the beginning of the year. Ben also published a book this spring — a terrific one, his first. It is called The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers. I have a hunch that it will outsell all of his father's books, including the bestseller co-authored with Peter Collier on the Kennedys.

"Age has its many trials, as everyone reading these notes is aware. For some who keep their eyes open brings a certain wisdom, which unfortunately is virtually impossible to pass on. Every generation has to learn the hard way — by experience. This in itself goes a long way toward explaining why our species is condemned to repeat the same mistakes in every generation, and why moral 'progress' is a chimera and the dedicated pursuit of it the source of so much human misery. But that was the subject of my remarks at our 50th reunion, which fell on many deaf ears. Sorry to miss this one. Maybe I'll still be around for the 60th. If not, I wish you all good luck."

Gene Appel, who was unsure at this writing whether he'd make it to the reunion, writes, "My wife, Lin-da, and I responded to a Columbia Alumni Association Facebook post requesting love stories at Columbia. Ours was accepted and posted on the CAA Facebook page [facebook.com/ColumbiaAlumniAssoc] in a collection called "Columbia LOVE Volume 1." It has our picture and story. "Now we've met; it's been 35 years."

Peter Rosenfeld accepted an invitation to become a member of the Scientific Program Committee of the 17th World Congress of Psychophysiology (IOP2014). IOP2014 will take place in Hiroshima Tuesday, September 23–Saturday, September 27. Peter says this is the first official congress held in Asia in the 32-year history of the International Organization of Psychophysiology. Also at this IOP congress he will co-chair a symposium (with an Israeli colleague) called "Advances In Memory Detection Research." His wife, Carmen, plans to attend.

Their daughter, Patricia, is earning a Ph.D in economics and finance this June and has accepted an assistant professorship at Rice.

Ken Scheffel recently returned from a trip to Guatemala. He says, "Now, I need a vacation to recover from my vacation. I will try to write more after I've recovered."

Norm Bernstein writes, "In 2010 and 2013 I won two cases back to back in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (the second against the U.S. Justice Department, which sought to overturn the first decision) and then filed a successful brief in the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the grant certificate that was denied in January 2014. That win made the front page of Bloomberg's Tax Law Reporter on January 30."

Richard Lacos reports, "My family went to Tanzania last summer on our yearly vacation. Upon our return we all went our separate ways. My son, Remi Oldham, who graduated from Boston University in 2013, is a graduate student in geophysics at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. My daughter, Zelda Lacos, after graduation from Smith in 2013, is in Beijing for a year studying Chinese. This gave me and my wife, Cynthia Oldham, an excuse to visit her recently; we all then traveled to Japan and Korea, and also went to the Ice Festival in Harbin, China, which was amazing. Cynthia and I are now back in Cambridge, Mass., with the cat and the dog."

Allan Franklin's 11th book on the history and philosophy of science, Shifting Standards: Experiments in Particle Physics in the Twentieth Century, was published in December. He writes, "I spent the fall semester as the senior visiting fellow at the Center for Philosophy of Science at Pittsburgh.

Norman Gelfand's daughter Keren Shoshan was married on March 23 to Adam Cohen in Ramat Gan, Israel. The couple will live in Israel, where Keren handles media relations for a startup called TipRanks. Feel free to look at its website.

In sad news, I am sorry to report the deaths of Evan Juro, George H. Semel and Richard Stepciek.
Columbia College family, having received a 2014 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. The ceremony took place during the John Jay Awards Dinner on March 5 at Cipriani 42nd Street. Jim is the founding partner of Balistreri Capital.

George Kalbous reports, “As of the end of 2012, I have completed more than 700 musical shows for seniors, telling the stories of how the great songs and standards were composed. I began doing these shows in 2001 after I retired from Ohio State as a professor of Russian literature. Conservatively, more than 20,000 people have seen these programs.”

Avrum Bluming and his wife, Martha, celebrated their 50th anniversary in the northern Nepal kingdom of Mustang. When they plan vacations, they generally search for a place where the indigenous culture hasn’t yet been destroyed by contact with the modern world.

In northern Mustang, the couple encountered a culture little changed across hundreds of years. Avrum says that at the height of summer, Mustang’s population consists largely of horsemen and pastoralists who follow their herds of sheep, goats and yak to wherever the harsh, steep environment yields temporary fodder. Once winter arrives, herds must be taken south to the warmer, greener hillsides of southern Nepal. Many of the men leave for India, taking up temporary careers as traders across the Himalayas. The remaining population, cut by half, does its best to keep warm around dung-fueled kitchen fires in simple houses of stone and mud, living much as Europeans did during the Middle Ages.

Avrum and Martha stayed throughout the trip in traditional accommodations as the locals—basically, stone- and mud-walled rooms with no plumbing. The only water source was from the glacial snow-melt that in the warm months runs through the streets of the towns. They brought their food with them, as well as propane tanks for cooking and a basic kitchen’s worth of cooking utensils and dishware. It was pretty uncomfortable, they said.

Morrow Wilson now calls himself an independent producer, writer, marketing/communications executive and performer. Find out more at davidsunshinethenovelnovel.com.

Bob Juceam ’61 received the Champion Attorney of the Year Award from CUNY’s Citizenship Now!

Program at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Jose remains a judge in full active service on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. His “home” chambers are in New Haven, Conn., where he has lived for 34 years. He goes to New York to hear cases every five to six weeks, on average. In August 2013 he was designated by Chief Justice John Roberts to also serve, for a seven-year term, on the three-judge United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review.

Jose’s wife, Kate, a former federal prosecutor in New York, is a tenured member of the faculty of Yale Law, where she is the Lafayette S. Foster Professor of Law and teaches constitutional law, criminal law and criminal procedure.

The couple has four children.

Their younger daughter, Amy, for the past eight years has been the director of development and (latterly) director of foundation relations of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. Their older daughter, Jennifer, went into the family business—she’s a graduate of Harvard Law—and lives in Concord, Mass., with her husband, Robbie, a partner in a Boston law firm, and their four children (ages 15, 13, 11 and 9). She is also a regular columnist on political and cultural affairs for the Boston Herald and appears frequently on New England Cable News as a political commentator.

As for their sons, because the family is the matriarchy that it is (in Jose’s words), both followed Kate’s footsteps to Dartmouth.

In 2006, Bob remains of counsel at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson in New York with a litigation practice, including matters of professional responsibility, defense of counsel charged with misconduct, insurance and reinsurance, and nonprofit organization and governance. His full plate also includes advancing lawyer pro bono activities through the American Bar Association, where he is a member of the House of Delegates, a directorship at the Pro Bono Institute and participation in the Immigration Justice Project.

In 2013 Jose Cabranes completed 12 years as a University trustee, a position in which, he was happy to report, he was regarded as having an unduly “parochial” interest in the welfare of the College within the University — a concern that afflicted College alumni well before we arrived on Morningside Heights in 1957 and which, he regrets to say, will persist well into this century.

Bob Juceam ’61 received the Champion Attorney of the Year Award from CUNY’s Citizenship Now!

He works two weeks a month and enjoys the people and the lack of dealing with the business portion of medicine. He works for an agency that he says treats him well. He has a wonderful fiancée and is healthy. Arnold travels a lot in between working and says, “Life is great.”

In February, at our class’ monthly luncheon in New York, Stuart Newman and his law partner, Liviu Vogel, spoke about their firm’s efforts to stop the C-7 billion war against the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of U.S. Marines killed or wounded in a truck bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in October 1983. Last summer, the U.S. District Court in New York ordered that $2 billion in a bank account beneficially owned by the Central Bank of Iran be turned over to the plaintiffs. Stuart’s firm is also pursuing a turnover of NYC commercial real estate controlled by the Iranian government, including, ironically, the office building where the Class of ’61 holds its monthly luncheon meeting.

My wife, JB, and I spent the winter in Colorado as volunteer ambassadors at Copper Mountain, where we provided ski tours and other mountain services to guests. Alex Liebowitz visited and skied with us more than a week, and Bob Rennick and his wife, Lisa, drove up from Colorado Springs for our annual mutual birthday celebration. Although much of the nation was staggered by continual snowstorms, we celebrated the more than 300 inches of snow we received this season.

Unfortunately, three classmates passed away in recent months.

Ken became a hero of the women’s movement, was named to prestigious posts in national health and human rights organizations, and went on to a successful medical and teaching career. He became known for his concern for indigent patients, and he spoke often of the need for legal and safe abortions.

Ken was chairman of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America 1989–92. His case was the subject of a 1978 book, The Baby in the Bottle, by Winston Milam, and a play, As to the Meaning of Words, by Mark Eichman, which was staged in New York in 1981. Ken authored many articles on the prevention of teenage pregnancy and the perils of substance abuse during adolescence. In 2007 he published a memoir, Broken Justice: A True Story of Race, Sex and Revenge in a Boston Courthouse.

In addition to his wife, Barbara, and four children, Ken is survived by eight grandchildren; brother, Milton; sister, Norma Edelin Johnson; and nephew, Jeph C. Johnson ’82L, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and son of Norma and her husband, Jeph V. Johnson ’53, ’88 Arch.

Sam Marateck passed away on January 14, 2014, after a short illness. Sam completed a Ph.D. in physics at Rutgers in 1967. His interests then shifted to computer science, which he taught in NYU’s computer science department from 1972 until he was taken ill in October 2013. He was the author of several well-known programming textbooks, which introduced many students to the subject.

According to his memorial service program, Sam, despite his career path, retained a side interest in physics and authored an article on Feynman diagrams in the Notices of the A.M.S. in 2006 and an article “Yang-Mills and Beyond,” published in the Notices of the A.M.S. in 2012.

He was awarded the 1986 Washington Square Prize and a University College Great Teacher Award, the 1989 College of Arts and Sciences Baker’s Dozen Teaching Award, the 1996 CAS Outstanding Teaching Award and the 2001 CAS Golden Dozen
Teaching Award. In recognition of Sam’s outstanding teaching contributions, the Courant Institute established the Samuel L. Marateck Award for Outstanding Teaching in Computer Science.

Sam was a cherished and active member of the Jewish community at NYU and at his regular synagogue, Young Israel of Long Beach, N.Y.

Victor Hao Li ’64L passed away on September 18, 2013, in Oakland, Calif.

Victor was born in Hong Kong and earned two post-graduate degrees from Harvard Law. He was the Lewis Talbot and Nadine Hearn Shelton Professor of International Legal Studies at Stanford before moving to Hawaii to become Shelton Professor of International Relations at NYU and at his regular playground programs in North Plainfield and Maplewood, N.J.

Dick’s family established a scholarship fund in his honor to help “not necessarily the best” high school students pay for college. Dick long wanted to help these students, because they are less likely to receive financial aid from the colleges they want to attend. You can support Dick’s fund by contributing to the NPHS Alumni Association, c/o Fred Sheelter, 587 Ayres Ave., North Plainfield, NJ 07063.

On December 24, USA Today ran a long story about Bill Campbell under the headline “Silicon Valley’s Secret CEO Whisperer.” Here are some excerpts: “Bill Campbell is the most important executive you’ve probably never heard of. His official title is a professor of management at Intuit, president of Gen Corp., founder and CEO of Claris Corp., former Apple executive and its longest-serving board member. But it’s what he does on the side that has made him an even bigger icon.”

“The former Columbia University football coach is an executive adviser to some of the biggest names in technology, from Steve Jobs and Jeff Bezos to Google’s Eric Schmidt and Larry Page. He’s also worked with Ben Horowitz ’88, now president of the East-West Center Foundation, a job he held from 1981–90. Victor then founded the Asia Pacific Consulting Group of the law firm Watanabe Ing with former Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi. Victor helped U.S. companies set up operations in China, where Ariyoshi did similar work for Japan. Because of a personal invitation from Victor, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang made Hawaii his first stop on his first official U.S. visit in 1983.

Ed Pressman reported that at Homecoming, October 19, he, Paul Alter, Stu Rosenbluth, Dave Tucker, Leo Swergold, Mike Stone and Stan Waldbaum spent a wonderful day at the game, about which Ed wrote, “I will say little” — and then had dinner together. Paul, who likes to kick off the lids, had a seat at the 1962 table under the Homecoming Big Tent with Yen Tan and Gary Roxland. “I hope,” Ed wrote, “that the women were able to put up with our remembrances. Whenever we get together, the time goes too quickly.” At the time he wrote, they were planning a basketball outing. To learn of such gatherings, contact Ed: edwardpressman@mac.com.

John Garman sent the sad news that Dick McKenna passed away while shoveling snow in the dark on February 3. He was 74 and did not have any health problems. Dick earned a master’s in education from Rutgers and pursued a more-than-40-year career as a teacher and coach. He taught science and biology at North Plainfield (N.J.) H.S. 1963–2003 and coached Little League, swimming, wrestling, cross country, and boys’ and girls’ track. For 50 summers, starting when he was in high school, Dick directed playground programs in North Plainfield and Maplewood, N.J.

Dick’s family established a scholarship fund in his honor to help “not necessarily the best” high school students pay for college. Dick long wanted to help these students, because they are less likely to receive financial aid from the colleges they want to attend. You can support Dick’s fund by contributing to the NPHS Alumni Association, c/o Fred Sheelter, 587 Ayres Ave., North Plainfield, NJ 07063.

On December 24, USA Today ran a long story about Bill Campbell under the headline “Silicon Valley’s Secret CEO Whisperer.” Here are some excerpts: “Bill Campbell is the most important executive you’ve probably never heard of. His official title is a professor of management at Intuit, president of Gen Corp., founder and CEO of Claris Corp., former Apple executive and its longest-serving board member. But it’s what he does on the side that has made him an even bigger icon.”

“The former Columbia University football coach is an executive adviser to some of the biggest names in technology, from Steve Jobs and Jeff Bezos to Google’s Eric Schmidt and Larry Page. He’s also worked with Ben Horowitz ’88, now president of the East-West Center Foundation, a job he held from 1981–90. Victor then founded the Asia Pacific Consulting Group of the law firm Watanabe Ing with former Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi. Victor helped U.S. companies set up operations in China, where Ariyoshi did similar work for Japan. Because of a personal invitation from Victor, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang made Hawaii his first stop on his first official U.S. visit in 1983.

Ed Pressman reported that at Homecoming, October 19, he, Paul Alter, Stu Rosenbluth, Dave Tucker, Leo Swergold, Mike Stone and Stan Waldbaum spent a wonderful day at the game, about which Ed wrote, “I will say little” — and then had dinner together. Paul, who likes to kick off the lids, had a seat at the 1962 table under the Homecoming Big Tent with Yen Tan and Gary Roxland. “I hope,” Ed wrote, “that the women were able to put up with our remembrances. Whenever we get together, the time goes too quickly.” At the time he wrote, they were planning a basketball outing. To learn of such gatherings, contact Ed: edwardpressman@mac.com.

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BY DOUG ANDERSON

I am writing to inform you of the sad news of the passing of Patrick Cary-Bamard. He was adored by all who knew him, and he will be missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a great addition to Columbia, and he will always be remembered for his kind and generous spirit. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Norman Olch

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Zev bar-Lev (ne Rob Levkovitz)

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Board of Visitors, and in recognition of my career-long involvement in public interest and public service pursuits. Among the endeavors cited by the faculty in voting me this honor are my work as deputy general counsel of the New York State Special Commission on Africa in the 1970s, my service as a board member and president of the Legal Aid Society (for which I now volunteer several days a week, representing abused and neglected children in Family Court) and my role in helping to create CUNY Law’s new Theodore Roosevelt Center for International Peace and Justice, in memory of my late Paul, Weiss partner, whom we all [may] remember as President Kennedy’s counsel and speechwriter when we were at the College.”

Congratulations, Steve.

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REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 28 – 31, 2015

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I am happy to say that I had a hand in creating the lead story in this column. The backstory is that Allen Brill and I are among the handful of classmates who settled on the Upper West Side, not far from Columbia. My wife, Adele, and I ran into Allen and his wife, Irene, at a neighborhood restaurant, and we decided to sit together. In the course of conversation, my mention of Brian Fix ’68, who lives in Dakar, Senegal. That night I wrote to both Brian and Gary Engelsberg, who has lived in Dakar since his Peace Corps service in 1965, to connect them and pave the way for a get-together in Dakar. I include below their separate reports on their encounter.

Gary writes, “Brian has been back and forth to Dakar since the 70s, but [until now] neither he nor I was aware of the other’s presence in that part of the world! We met for a Senegalese lunch at my place and exchanged war stories, drank Senegalese tea and listened to the call to prayer from the mosque across the street. Brian is advising the Senegalese government on infrastructure development through public-private partnerships. I am happily retired after turning over the management of my NGO, Africa Consultants International, and its Backeo Training and Resource Center, to a new team of competent Senegalese.”

Here’s Brian’s take: “Indeed, an enjoyable lunch with Gary. For CCF purposes, I should simply add that for my sins, having spent close to 20 years living and working in Europe—Paris for 12 years and London for six before that, first opening and then managing Central and East European offices for the Salans law firm and, as those offices matured, moving over to French corporate work—I decided that it was time to become American again. I returned to NYC in 2008 (but only after playing architecture student through the Architecture School’s program in Paris at Reid Hall).

“Given all my years working in emerging markets, particularly Africa, I have been working for the past four years on a pro-bono basis with the International Senior Lawyers Project, assisting African governments in negotiating international development contracts as well as teaching a seminar at Sciences Po in Paris on the same subject. The current work in Senegal is through the ISLFP and the African Development Bank but doesn’t hold a candle to the good work that Gary has been doing in Dakar for the past 47 years. Chapeau! ...

“On a personal note, though I maintain a residence on the Upper East Side, I decided that after all these years it was also time to relax on the weekends so I recently bought a historic house in Princeton once occupied by one Woodrow Wilson. Tigerland notwithstanding, I will remain loyal to Morningside Heights. But if anyone is in the Princeton area, do let me know.”

I can reach Gary at gengelberg@acibaobab.org and Brian at brian.fix@dentons.com.

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“I’ve been singing South African four-part harmony with a sprinkling of freedom songs in a local choir called Zabalaza (Zulu for struggle). Occasionally I sing with another local group, Peace Choir. I’m a long-time member of Subud, a spiritual organization begun in Indonesia in the late 1920s and which now has a membership of 20,000 people spread across about 80 countries. For a few years before Subud I was a Buddhist and sort of still am. There’s not much Columbia presence in my neighborhood but I do regularly see a work colleague, Marty Itzkowitz ’62.”

Bob Yunich (brynunich@gmail.com) shared this account: “This year has been marked with several anniversaries—the 10th anniversary of my 60th birthday, my wife Joanne’s and my 35th wedding anniversary and my 10th Harvard School reunion. In April, Tony Leitner and I were honored as 50-year members of The International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta. Tony also was recently initiated into the elite group of Distinguished Alums. This includes Roone Arledge ’52 and Jack Nicklaus, among others.

‘Joanne and I also have been fortunate to continue our adventure travel. In May we went on an awesome two-week trip to China with Abercrombie & Kent. Our tour started in Beijing. We saw the usual sights: Tiananmen Square; the Great Wall of China, where we climbed and walked on the best-preserved segments northeast of the city; and the Summer Palace. The next leg of the trip was our 3½-day, 400-mile Yangtze River cruise from Yichang to Chongqing, passing through the Three Gorges.

‘From Chongqing, we flew to and saw Guilin, then onto Xi’an. In Xi’an, we visited what is rightfully
Stefan Rudnicki '66 Gives Voice to Printed Word

BY MARY JEAN BABIC

In his celebrated career as an audiobook narrator, Stefan Rudnicki '66 has voiced New England sea captains and 6-year-old boys. He has read poetry in French and adopted Welsh, Texas and Polish accents. He has narrated science fiction books, history books, business books, parenting books, mysteries, thrillers, Chekhov and Nabokov. He’s lent his resonant baritone to more than 3,500 works and, mostly as co-owner of Los Angeles-based Skyboat Media, produced more than 3,500.

Last year Rudnicki was named a Golden Voice by AudioFile, the audiobook business’ trade magazine. Something of a lifetime achievement award, the Golden Voice is a capstone for the audiobook business’ trade magazine. Something of a lifetime achievement award, the Golden Voice is a capstone for the audiobook business’ trade magazine.

Not too shabby for what in fact is Rudnicki’s second career, one stumbled upon but that’s proven prolific.

"From week to week you’re doing something different," says Rudnicki. And when your job requires you to read aloud every word of, say, Will Durant’s multivolume The Story of Civilization, "your education never ceases."

Book narration, Rudnicki says, draws on all the tools he’s gained, from a multilingual childhood to his theater days at Columbia, his master’s program at the Yale School of Drama and the hundreds of productions he was involved with — performing, producing and directing — during two decades as a theater professor: "The core of the process is always to identify what is unique about a particular book or author and discover ways to underscore that uniqueness," he says. It’s not only about character voices but also pacing, tempo, intonation and the tones of different segments of a book.

And if a book calls for accents or long passages in a foreign language? Rudnicki revels in it — it’s kind of his thing. Born in Krakow at the end of WWII, he lived in Sweden and Montreal before his family settled in Queens when he was 7; there was a time when he spoke Polish, Swedish and German. He’s since lost them all, but that early exposure, Rudnicki says, gave him a facility with language that he calls on time and again.

During his time at Columbia there was no theater major, so Rudnicki opted for English. But he credits the Core with making it possible for him "to do everything that came afterward." He adds, "I pity anybody who hasn’t had it. I describe it to people and their jaws drop: ‘You did what? You studied what?’"

Rudnicki honed his performance chops in Varsity Shows and Barnard Gilbert and Sullivan Society musicals, and in 1969 he completed an M.F.A. at Yale. He then held faculty positions at the University of Rochester, Jersey City State College, and Long Island University’s C.W. Post campus. By 1987 he was LIU’s department chair in theater, film and dance. The only remaining career step was to dean, which did not interest him, so he left academia to focus fully on theater. In 1991, he drove his Honda to Los Angeles, where he’s lived ever since.

In his first years there, Rudnicki landed acting and directing jobs on low-budget horror and action films (his description). Then one day a playwright friend mentioned a gig she had abridging books prior to their being recorded.

"I’d never heard of an audiobook," Rudnicki says. "I figured it was something for the blind."

At that time, the mid-1990s, most audiobooks were confined to two 90-minute cassettes, so the book, be it War and Peace or A Tale of Two Cities, had to be cut to fit that format. In his teaching and acting days, Rudnicki had abridged plenty of texts. "I did A Midsummer’s Night Dream with eight actors in 45 minutes," he says. "I thought, if I could abridge Shakespeare, I could do this."

The friend hooked him up with a friend with Dove Audio, and in short order he became production coordinator and then VP. He got behind a mic around 1997.

Rudnicki’s audiobook career has coincided with tremendous growth in that industry, which has been transformed by digital downloads and the exploding young adult market (notably, the Harry Potter series). Books are now recorded at full length, and most new titles come out on audio. In 2011–12 alone, audiobooks sales increased by 13.5 percent, according to the Audio Publishers Association.

In 2000, Rudnicki and his professional and personal partner Gabrielle de Cuir, herself an audiobook narrator and director/producer, hung out a shingle as independent audio producers, under the name Skyboat Road Company Inc., now known as Skyboat Media.

Three of Skyboat’s studios are in their home in L.A.’s Valley Glen neighborhood; another is minutes away in Studio City. Through the years, Rudnicki and de Cuir have developed close working relationships with writers such as Harlan Ellison, Ursula K. LeGuin, Deepak Chopra and Lewis Shiner. Skyboat’s best-known production is the Ender’s Game.
series, written by Orson Scott Card. In recording those classic sci-fi novels, Rudnicki opted for multiple narrators, departing from the single-narrator norm. He voiced the main character, Ender Wiggin, who is, when the series begins, a 6-year-old boy.

“Clearly I don’t sound like one,” says Rudnicki. “The idea was to find that attitude and nail it down.”

Card was so impressed that he now requires hiring Skyboat Media as a condition of selling audiobook rights to a publisher. “Stefan was determined to treat audiornarration as a new and separate art form, at the boundary between the narrative and the dramatic,” says Card.

To stay competitive in an ever-more competitive business, Rudnicki is now positioning Skyboat to become a publisher as well as producer and is mining backlists to acquire rights to books that he wants to bring, in audio form, to a new audience. Many are science fiction, fantasy and horror books that he loved as a kid. One of Rudnicki’s first acquisitions, however, was Thirty Years of Treason: Excerpts from Hearings Before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1938-1968, written by one of his Columbia professors, Eric Bentley.

With the exception of The Delivery, a 2008 short film that he and de Cuir made — the plot centers on, yes, audiobooks — Rudnicki hasn’t been on a film set in more than a decade. He says he misses it but has no complaints about the path he’s taken. It turns out that being involved in every aspect of producing an audiobook is “a performance art that is also education.” He adds, “It’s really thrilling.”

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I had the pleasure of watching our men’s basketball team several times this year, including their final game in the quarterfinals of the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT). I attended with Harvey Kurzweil. We completed our finest season in 45 years with a 21-13 record. Congratulations to the team, and here’s to grand expectations for next season.

Although the terra cotta warriors have been billed as the eighth wonder of the world, I think Machu Picchu (which we visited in 2010) ties for this distinction.

From Xi’an we flew to Shanghai, which is by any measure the most westernized city in China, and our last destination before returning home. During WWII, due to the absence of visa restrictions and despite the occupation by the Japanese, Shanghai became the refuge for 30,000 European Jews fleeing Hitler. The language barrier aside, and notwithstanding the lack of food and poor living conditions, these refugees were warmly welcomed by the Chinese (this story would make a great Steven Spielberg film as2 well as a novel by Schindler’s List author. I visited the section of Shanghai that had been dubbed the Jewish Ghetto, which includes the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue, now used only occasionally for worship services and primarily as a museum. On our walking tour, we saw the former home of Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury in the Carter Administration, who lived in Shanghai.

“I cannot bring myself to retire fully but am certainly enjoying more leisure. We spend half our time at our upstate home, YSACRES, in Andes, N.Y., and the remainder in New York City. I have been taking gardening classes at The New York Botanical Garden and enjoy my regular workouts and yoga practices. Although always less been my passion; however, the conditions in the western Catskills were less than ideal last spring and early summer. My insurance and investment advisory practice still is going strong. Our Andes home is perfectly located for my fishing adventures and for taking care of my clients who reside in the Hudson Valley. New York remains my primary base.”

Geoffrey Horn on May 25, 2013. Geoffrey was an editor and writer who lived in Red Bank, N.J.
small news but I offer it to hold back the encroachment of the ’65 or ’67 Class Notes on ‘66 space. I continue to teach tax law at the University of Texas Law School in Austin. My major writing/research is on the Wulf Project, which is a collaboration to raise revenue in ways that will improve the fairness and efficiency of the tax system. Still fun. I try to run five miles or swim a mile every day. My fourth grandchild, Elliot Alexander, was born recently, which is pretty terrific news within our family.

Rich Beggs writes, “My wife, Geri, and I are happy to be in Florida during the winter. In January I had total right shoulder replacement surgery, which put my golf on hold until May. But rehab in 80 degrees is OK. I have adjusted to retirement and find lots of things to do. I keep up with the events and process at Columbia, including the athletics situation. Reality will be back come the first game in September (at least in football). But it’s going to be a long process, especially considering the long history and significant impediments. Keep the faith.”

Cliff Rosenthal is finishing a two-year stint at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C., focusing on low-income issues. This came on the heels of his closing out a successful 32-year career running the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions. By the time you read this, he will be back in Brooklyn for good.

Dan Gover suggests taking a survey of how many classmates are working versus being retired. He adds, “I am looking at six more years at least. Fortunately, I’m a college professor in New Jersey. Unfortunately, I need the governor to open my lanes to get over the George Washington Bridge and visit Columbia.”

Albert Zonana writes, “I retired in 2013. My last job was working at the Holiday Lantern Bookstore in Rosemary Beach, Fla. My wife, Prudence, teaches Transcendental Meditation and has given lectures this year in Iowa; Whistler, B.C. (Canada); New York City; and other places. She recently finished her second book, a memoir titled Dear Prudence. Her first was the publication of her Ph.D. thesis from UC Berkeley, based on her translations from Sanskrit of five texts on Nadi vigyan (ayurvedic pulse diagnosis). “Prudence and I are also working on a documentary film about our experiences at the 2013 Kumbha Mela in Allahabad, India, a multi-week festival that was attended on its biggest day by 35 million pilgrims (all told, more than 100 million people participate in the Mela, which takes place over a period of a few weeks every 12 years). Our editor suggested that the film would be more interesting if the Mela were presented through our eyes. We have both studied India for several decades; we both spent several years studying Sanskrit (that’s what my wife’s Ph.D. is in); and we have both practiced Transcendental Meditation since the mid-1960s and been teachers of TM for nearly that long. "The editor felt that through our lives the viewer could get a sense of the impact of the sixties on our generation and how we carried those experiences into our later life, and in turn see our impact on the next generations. I have interviewed several old Columbia friends for the film including Dick Melita, Mike Melita, Bill Wise and Mike Shannon. “Our oldest son is developing cryptocurrency programs. He lives with his two teenage children in Napa, Calif., and works in San Francisco. Our daughter is in her third year of medical school at FSU and doing specialty rotations at a hospital in south Florida. She has two children, a daughter learning gold-working (jewelry) in San Francisco and a son who is learning the same skill, living near us here in Florida. Our youngest son lives in Berkeley and works in Santa Clara in big data for a genome sequencing company. Still fun. I try to run five miles or swim a mile every day. My fourth grandchild, Elliot Alexander, was born recently, which is pretty terrific news within our family. It was a huge success. “Our class was particularly well represented, probably in part because Roger Lehecka was the Sachems faculty adviser for many years during and after his tenure as dean of students. Of our 15 members, I know that three have died: Paul Bernbach, Jeremy Epstein and Don Krim. Nine of the remaining 12 were in attendance: Bob Coffee, Paul Gewirtz, David Hillis, Roger Lehecka, Larry Miller, Mark Minton, Allen Spiegel, Tom Villan and David Zonana. “My career is coming to an end in the coming months. After graduating from P&S, I completed a residency and chief residency in medicine at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, after which I completed my fellowship training in cardiology at what was then called the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, now Brigham and Women’s Hospital. I then joined the faculty of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, one of five medical institutions in the University of Texas system. From 1978-2008, I was on the department of medicine faculty there, eventually becoming vice chair of the department. In 2008, I moved to one of the other University of Texas medical institutions, in San Antonio, to become chair of the Department of Medicine. I plan to step down from that position soon and then to retire this summer. “I am helping my wife as well as reading, walking, swimming, keeping up my Sanskrit, enjoying meditation and traveling. This year we went to India, British Columbia, New York (twice), places in the South, Iowa and — by the end of the year — California, twice.” One final brag: My son Rich, who will begin his final year of law school this fall at Richmond, has been offered a federal bankruptcy court clerkship in Norfolk, Va., so there’s another year or so of southern living for him. One hopes he won’t need to use his forthcoming expertise on my behalf. “The big 50 is coming up — as in our 50th Alumni Reunion Weekend. Please start planning your long-term calendars for Thursday, June 2—Saturday, June 6, 2015. This will be probably the most significant and hopefully well-attended reunion of our class, and it would be wonderful to see all of
David ’02, had the privilege of the pro bono awards program. 

Jeff Newman writes, “My son, David ’02, had the privilege of clerking for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg [’59] at the Supreme Court for the 2010–11 term, four years after his graduation from law school. He then served for two years as counsel to the assistant attorney general for national security. In September 2013, he accepted an offer from his former boss at the Department of Justice to join her at the White House; since then, David has been director for counterterrorism at the National Security Council. He is married to Kate Devine ’02. I am a beaming grandfather to their two precious, young daughters. 

“My daughter, Deborah ’04, earned her master’s in education in May 2013 from NYU. She spent a week in Kosovo last summer, volunteering with promising young art students. Deb is now proudly, and energetically, teaching art in a Manhattan public school. She is recently engaged to David Ethan ’03. Talk about keeping things in the Columbia family. “I feel most blessed. I extend warm greetings to all classmates, I do hope we can have an event this fall. Let me know if you are interested.

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Hi, classmates. I had a bump in the road that interfered with column writing but now I’m fine and getting ready for spring in New York. This magazine comes out in summer, though, so I hope you all are enjoying or enjoying warmer weather. As I write, I just on Saturday saw Columbia win its second basketball game of the post-season in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT); the Lions were superb. I was with Bob Costa ’67, his wife, Joan, and daughter, Carolyn ’12, who works at ESPN. Carolyn used to broadcast for WKCR sports! I also saw Ira Goldberg at the game; he was cheerful and spirited. I spoke with Greg Winn recently; he has a recently born granddaughter and seemed very happy indeed about that. Congratulations!

Phil Mandelker got in touch, as he was visiting the United States from Tel Aviv to spend time with his brother. From the mailbag, I received several good notes; I’d love to hear from all of you at some point. Remember, you can write to the addresses at the top of the column or submit news via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

Ed Weathers ’69 GSWS writes, “Always sad to see no news in our class’ CCT space, so here’s a brief update. I live in Blacksburg, Va., with my lovely partner, Gail. I have retired from full-time teaching in the English department at Virginia Tech (VT) but I keep my hand in the teaching game part-time. I am one of a group of U.S.-based teachers working via the Internet to improve the English reading skills of Tanzanian medical students who are studying at a medical school near the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. The program is overseen by Duke through a grant from the U.S. government. I have now been to Tanzania twice. The students are astonishingly bright; all their medical studies are in English, although that is commonly their third language (after their tribal language and Swahili). If they were in the United States, I like to think that most of these students would be going to Columbia. “At the request of my former English department colleagues at VT, I also write a blog about, well, writing. The blog includes the Greatest Hits from my many years of English college work. Occasionally, writing teachers from here and there make some of my posts part of their lesson plans — very rewarding. (The blog is at writeyourbest.blogspot.com.) I also maintain a blog at edweathers.blogspot.com that includes mini essays about everything from politics to crossword puzzles. (I am a failed cruciverbalist.) “I am a volunteer tennis coach for the Blacksburg H.S. tennis team, and Gail and I love visiting my son, Alex, his wife, Lori, and team, and Gail and I love visiting our two small granddaughters in California whenever we can. “This sounds like a busy life but I actually spend a good deal of time just playing golf (got my handicap index down to 1.4 last summer) and tennis (still doing OK in singles against former college players half my age). “The Columbia tennis team played the VT team and others in a multiple-team event in Blacksburg last winter. I said hello to the Columbia coach and to the players. They were all delightful and pretended to welcome the greetings and Baker Field memories of this old alum. I am a good friend of the VT tennis coach. He has nothing but the highest praise for the Columbia tennis team. “I spoke well of Columbia to one and all, and last year I was happy when one of the girls on the local high school tennis team — a superstar mathematician and good athlete — applied with my encouragement and was admitted. She says she is doing well. “My two best friends of Columbia origin are Bruce Marmor and Fred Stem ’71. If you Google Bruce, you will see that he has had a sterling career in astrophysics, including a long stint in charge of the Hubble telescope’s experiments; Bruce was the ‘face’ of the Hubble for several years, appearing on 60 Minutes when it did its first big story about the Hubble. Bruce is now a bigwig at UC Santa Clara. Fred is the son of the Columbia history professor Fritz Stem ’46, ’53 GSAS, who is now mostly retired. Fred is a psychologist with a practice in Manhattan. He is my favorite person in the world after Gail. Pretty much the only time we get to NYC is to visit Fred and his wife, Lois. “I live altogether a life of great good luck. My time at Columbia is no small part of what has allowed that to be.”

[Editor’s note: see Alumni Corner for an essay by Weathers.]

Columbia men’s tennis is great — nationally ranked, and winners of this year’s Ivy League title. Women’s tennis is exceptional, too. While we’re on the subject, Phil Milstein ’71 encouraged me to go to the Columbia-Harvard men’s tennis match on April 5. The Lions had just whipped Cornell the prior weekend 7-0, and, well, they whipped the Crimson 7-0, too. (And Harvard has a fine team.) While at the match I said hello to a number of Columbia basketball players who were there cheering on their fellow athletes. This team coming back next year is extraordinary; it has size and skill, a deep bench and a talented, energetic coach.

Chris Friedrichs writes, “When I first joined the world of CCT and saw that no classmates had contributed news, it occurred to me that perhaps it is high time for me to bring you up to date about my activities. “I teach European and world history at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and do research on the history of European cities and German social history. My most recent book, A Jewish Youth in Dresden: The Diary of Louis Lesser, 1833–1837, was published in 2011. [As I write] I am enjoying a sabbatical but I look forward to returning to the classroom for two or three more years before I retire. “Two years ago my wife, Rhoda, and I purchased an apartment in Brooklyn, a convenient pied-à-terre for trips to New York. We live there with three of our children (and our two grandchildren) in the city. Our daughter is a teacher in Brooklyn. Her kids are 7 and 4. Our older son is a partner in a family business in Westchester. Our younger son is a cook at a restaurant in Lower Manhattan. “In October I spent a month in New York, combining research with some extended family time. I enjoyed meetings with Charles Jarowski (an oncologist in Manhattan) and my wife, Joan. “Another highlight of my stay was the centennial celebration of the Columbia Senior Society of Sachems. At the banquet I sat with Michael McGuire and Jim Stockinger. I also enjoyed seeing some of my Spectator colleagues from adjacent years: Mark Minton ’67 (president of the Korea Society), Robert Friedman ’69 (a longtime journalist currently with Bloomberg News) and Nicholas Garaufis ’69 (a federal district judge). A few days later I visited Nick in his chambers in Brooklyn and got a tour of the courtroom over which he presides. “I was sorry to have missed our 45th reunion but I am quite determined to attend our reunion in 2018 when, I believe, it will be our turn to have dinner in Low Rotunda.”

Yes, Chris. Low will be ours again.

Jon Bauman got in touch through IM. He is doing well, and was far away from the Los Angeles earthquakes. I have moved to One Lincoln Plaza, where I was living in 1975 when I returned from Boston. It’s great here, with a pool at the top of the building and a gym. I am feeling ready for biking in Central Park and jogging slowly — unlike Buzz Zucker, who sent a text alerting me to the fact that he’s back up to six-mile runs. He remains my role model. Go, Buzz.

To all classmates, I do hope we can have an event this fall. Let me know if you are interested.

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At the same time that this column is being filed in March, planning for our 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend is in its advanced stage and — if all goes according to plan — our reunion will be over shortly before this issue appears. So this edition of Class Notes will not tell you what happened, although if you made the right choice and joined us, you’ll already know. For the rest, details will come in the Fall issue.

John Marwell received the New York State Bar Association’s Award for
Neal Handel ’69 and Kristen Fujieki were married at the Montecito Country Club in Santa Barbara, Calif., on March 15. Left to right: Larry Berger ’69, Isabel Berger, the groom, the bride, Bill Stadiem ’69 and Steve Valenstein ’69.

for Attorney Professionalism at the association’s annual meeting, held in January in New York City. In accepting the award, John said the best career advice he received was “learning how to disagree without being disagreeable.” (Apparently he was not asked about the best advice he ever received on any subject, so it’s understandable he saw no need to share an anecdote from his College days.) John worked for a few years at IBM and has since been a partner in Shamberg Marwell Hollis Ayrendyak & Laidlaw, a firm he co-founded in Armonk, N.Y. The firm is best known for its zoning, land use and environment cases, and John has worked on a number of landmark cases.

Once I learned of the award, I reached out to John for personal news; he responded: “All is wonderful with our family. My wife, Gloria, is a real estate broker in New Castle County and teaches Talmud daily and attends services at the Spanish Synagogue at the park. She is a graduate with honors in English at a small town in Spain. Traveling is difficult. Joel’s younger daughter, Amelia Altalena, teaches English at a small town in Spain. She is a graduate with honors in Spanish from UNC Asheville.

In advance of this column, I sent a few blast emails (one in connection with reunion) asking for news or reflections on the College years. Some classmates responded later I’d like to hear from more. And (as you may know) groveling becomes more difficult with age. So please show some kindness and send in your news.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 28–31, 2015
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Dov Zakheim recently visited New York in connection with the work he is doing on the congenially

Broadway, provided an occasional change of pace. The only trouble was building on the walk back, which had “The wages of sin is death” painted on an exterior wall. Also, halfway between, we walked past the Gayway bar, which never had many customers.

David Sokol writes: “In 2012 I retired from Family Health International (now FHI 360) after 25 years of research in family planning and HIV prevention. The same year I married a wonderful woman, Mary Lacoribe Ph.D., and now have a bonus grandson (11). We have been traveling, spoiling our grandson, taking courses at Duke and generally enjoying retired life. In 2013, two colleagues and I incorporated a nonprofit, The Foundation for Male Contraceptives, with a goal of start-up mode, getting organized and recruiting board members.”

Joel Solkoff is an architectural columnist for e-architect.co.uk. E-architect receives nearly one million hits a day from the architecture, engineering and construction community. Joel is currently focusing on Italian architect Renzo Piano’s work on the new Columbia campus at Manhattanville. Joel’s older daughter, Joanna Marie, received an honors bachelor’s in English from UNC Chapel Hill and then graduated from its nursing school. Joel is especially proud he was able to accompany her down the aisle in October; he is a paraplegic and traveling is difficult. Joel’s younger daughter, Amelia Altalena, teaches English at a small town in Spain. She is a graduate with honors in Spanish from UNC Asheville.

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Dov Zakheim recently visited New York in connection with the work he is doing on the congenially
mandated Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which is studying future pay for our active military in light of current budget constraints. Dow sits on this commission with two U.S. senators and two U.S. representatives, one from each party. He notes: "My son Roger '00 moved from Capitol Hill, where he was deputy staff director of the House Armed Services Committee, to be counsel at Covington & Burling. My son Scott '05 moved to Baltimore with his family. My son Keith expanded his PR business and now has five offices spanning both coasts. My stepson, Ben, is back from photographing the Sochi Olympics for Harper's Magazine. And I just try to keep up with our 10 grandchildren, with more on the way ..."

"The last thing, through a friend of my daughter-in-law, I reconnected with Mike Link. We hadn't been in touch for years."

Jonathan Beard reports, "In February I attended a book talk at the CUNY Graduate Center and spoke to a large audience. I had not been back since 1968. Nick Freudenberg '79 PH. He was the guest of honor because he had just published Letting it Legal: Corporations, Consumption and Protecting Public Health."

Joseph Spivack still works for the Democratic National Committee, although his office has moved to the Wall Street area. He says, "Longer commute, unfortunately, as I live in Bergen County, N.J. My wife, Lynn Appelbaum, was honored in March for her 20 years building the Media & Community Arts Department at City College."

"Our older daughter finished her B.A. in early childhood education at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass., moved back to New Jersey and got a job at a preschool in Hackensack, N.J. I had not had any contact and expects to be married in July 2015. Our younger daughter just finished her freshman year at Kenyon in Ohio. She will probably be an English major, as she's an aspiring writer. She's writing for the campus newspaper and is a student associate at The Kenyon Review literary magazine."

Frank Motley reports, "I recently spent a golfing weekend with Fred White, former dean at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. Fred and I will be in contact with the Black Alumni Council of Columbia University and the Barnard Class of 1970 to plan activities for Homecoming 2015."

James Periconi '70 and David Lehman '70 led members of the Grolier Club in an evening devoted to the poetry of Charles Baudelaire.

"This is the plan espoused by many people like George Shultz, who was President Nixon's treasury secretary (also President Reagan's Secretary of State), whom I had the honor of meeting three days before Thanksgiving. Shultz, along with Nobel economist and former Columbia professor Gary Becker, wrote an Op-Ed piece in The Wall Street Journal on April 7, 2013, 'Why We Support a Revenue-Neutral Carbon Tax.' This is precisely CCL's goal, which we work to achieve by using our democratic process. Last summer we conducted 435 meetings on Capitol Hill in three days, and last year we published 1,297 letters in newspapers calling on Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax. ... It's so satisfying to be an integral part of an exponentially growing organization with such a mission, and one that is as inspiring, empowering, friendly and fun as CCL."

"I'm having a great time, and my Columbia education is in full use — at the Frick Museum, for example. It is president of the Frick Collection, which has been awarded the Emily Clark Balch Prize for Poetry, which includes a payment of $1,000 for your translation of [Guillaume Apollinaire's] 'Zone.' This award cannot be applied for; it is a VQR staff decision regarding the work of poetry published in our print or online pages in 2013. Over the decades, it has been awarded to many of our country's finest writers. In addition to promoting your translation of Apollinaire's 'Zone' through social media, we will be featuring the poem on our accompanying commentary on our homepage."

Peter Joseph reports, "My first epidermal [pain management procedure] continues to work and I feel like a new person ever since. My wife Marcy's and my son's are all in good places and life here in California is delightful, although we worry big-time about drought and fire. (Somehow earthquakes are off the radar, until one happens.) We now have adorable twin granddaughters, whom we see frequently in San Francisco, and our youngest will soon be a senior at Tufts in computer science with a minor in mountain biking and ice climbing — but I try not to think about that too much."

"I'm 2½ years out of a 35-year career in emergency medicine and working as a full-time volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL). Those who attended our last reunion and heard my keynote dinner address know that I'm passionate about trying to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, which could bring down that great civilization we all learned about in CC and Literature Humanities. There seemed to be a high degree of agreement in the room back then, and I suspect there's even more today."

"Well, after getting myself arrested in front of the White House during the demonstration against the Keystone XL pipeline in August 2011, I realized that such actions just weren't enough to stop the insanity — or, rather, the energy market in which carbon emissions are ... free! It was then that I discovered CCL, the organization that gives me the motivation that we can, perhaps, pull ourselves out of the climate ditch we've dug ourselves into on our way to prosperity. It's now obvious to many, including Columbia luminaries such as climate scientist Jim Hansen and economist Jeffrey Sachs, that the most efficient way to rein in runaway carbon emissions is to raise their cost by taxing them, and the most acceptable way to do that is to make it revenue-neutral; in other words, the government wouldn't keep the money after it returns it to households. That way, those who break into hives at the word 'tax' can relax, families would not be overburdened and a fully refunded carbon tax would have the political stability that industry needs for investment certainty."

"I recently was appointed by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to a five-year term on the Massachusetts Clients' Security Board, which awards compensation to clients who have had money stolen by their attorneys. Massachusetts is unique (I believe) in having no cap on the size of the awards. The board is entirely privately funded through contributions by members of the State Bar Association. I teach legal ethics as an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School and am a member of the Boston Bar Association Ethics Committee."

"My wife, Nancy Scott, a professor of art history at Brandeis, is completing a short book on the life and work of Georgia O'Keefe; she recently won a prestigious Frick Museum residency fellowship, which will support her research for her next project, the history of the collected works of J.M.W. Turner in the United States, so I may spend more time in NYC this fall."

"Relating to Columbia, I am thrilled that our older daughter, Katherine, is pursuing a doctoral degree in special education at Teachers College, where I took a couple of courses as an undergraduate. I am blown away by the high level of innovative thinking and the resources at TC. On other fronts: Our son, Sam, is a journalist in Philadelphia, and our younger daughter, Rebecca, is a sculptor, studying at the well-regarded Massachusetts College of Art and Design, the only such art school that I am aware of within a publicly funded state university system."
lived across the hall from each other in John Jay, where I spent my freshman and sophomore years. We spent many hours together during that period, and even after I moved out of the dorms, graduated and settled on the Upper West Side, Tony continued to find me—at first every few months, later every few years—and drop in for a visit. The last time was 11 years ago, when he appeared at the door—unannounced as usual—and sat chatting in the living room for a couple of hours. He then disappeared.

"I never knew what his major was, or heard about any of his classes or professors. The same was true for politics: One of my most vivid memories of Tony comes from spring 1968, when the demonstrations, building occupations and constant activity at Columbia made the campus an exciting place for me. Tony stayed around the dorm for three or four days, figured out that classes were not going to resume, then packed up and went home to Eastchester. He retired from the Westchester County government telecommunications department in 2002.

"According to his daughter, Maya, he 'read voraciously in literature and history, usually while listening to classical music, and with incessant burning in the background.' He did not have Internet access at home and, after he retired, I was not able to stay in touch by email. He leaves Maya, two sisters and his father."

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If you are not receiving the ’71C eNews and would like to, please email me.

Our Spring 2014 Class Notes featured extensive reporting (written in December) from Latvia by Juris Kaza, who fittingly is a stringer for The Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones Newswires. In March he updated various aspects of his item for the April ’71C eNews and this edition of Class Notes. Of particular note, he writes:

"In Latvia, eyes are on developments in Ukraine, a country under a partial military occupation from Russia, [which is] reminiscent of Nazi Germany’s actions on behalf of Volksdeutsche (ethnic Germans) in Czechoslovakia in 1938 and the move to retake the Rhineland in 1936. Latvia and the other Baltic countries, with ethnic Russian minorities are deeply worried about the events in Crimea. The military occupation followed by a ‘referendum’ to join a new Russian empire looks cloned from the scenario in Latvia in 1940, when Soviet troops occupied the country and held sham elections leading to a puppet government that asked to join the Soviet Union. Before the overthrow of the government of Viktor Yanukovych, Ukraine was torn between an opening to the European Union and Russia, and enticements from an increasingly authoritarian and corrupt Russia, which offers a customs union but little aside from oil and gas to circulate inside the customs union. There are some superficial similarities with conditions in Latvia — or rather, what Latvia could have faced outside the EU and having taken a different political and economic path."

Juris also writes that at the end of February his 100-year-old mother "suffered a hip fracture from a fall in her home in Newton, Mass., which she and my late dad bought in 1959 and where she had been living independently. She was treated at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and recovered in a rehab facility before moving to an assisted living facility in Wayland, about a two-minute drive from where my brother and his family live.

"My youngest son, Matis Kaza, was accepted to NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts (Class of 2018), and will be studying film and video. My wife, Latvian filmmaker Una Cema, and I will accompany him to New York when he enrolls in late August.”

Alan Cooper writes, “Our son Jesse Cooper ‘08 is going to celebrate his wedding to Teresa Lee in July. It should not be taken as a sign of disloyalty that the wedding will take place at the Yale Club. (I do hold two Yale graduate degrees, after all.) I’m coming to the end of my seventh year as provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary, so I remain in close proximity to alma mater.”

Remember back 47 Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. We are still connected.

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Let’s begin with Bill Germano, who says, "I suppose I should report something now and again.”

"Well, yes, as should we all. He continues: "Readers with two minutes on their hands every other week may want to read my posts on The Chronicle of Higher Education’s Lingua Franca blog (chronicle.com/blogs/lingua franca/ author/wgermano). It’s precisely the length of an espresso. I’ve been one of the Lingua Franca loggers for a year or so now, taking on peculiarities about language and what we do with it. This past year I also published a couple of small books: the first is The Tales of Hoffmann, on Powell and Pressburger’s 1951 movie of the same name (part of the British Film Institute’s Film Classics series); the second is a revised edition of From Dissertation to Book (yes, it’s a bodice-ripper). I’m still deaning at Cooper Union in New York and teaching every term (not even Shakespeare). Traveled to the Arctic several times during the past few summers. I, my wife, Diane Gibbons ’71 Barnard, and our son, Christian, made it to 80 degrees north on the most recent trip to Svalbard."

Don’t have time to write a whole paragraph for these pages? Send a quick note, like Andrew Ackerman did. He writes, "I’ve been living in Europe since graduation and am a classical musician in Austria with a faculty position in a well-funded music conservatory.

"Sounds intriguing; I’m hoping we hear more."

George Karp ’76 P&S writes that he and his wife, Susan ’73 PH, celebrated the arrival of son Adam’s daughter — and their first grandchild — Johnna Juliet Karp, on January 6. He adds, "Our daughter, Rebecca Karp ’05, is a hematologist fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where she was born in 1983 when I was a hematologist fellow there.

"To share some news of my own, I am pleased to announce a new grandchild (No. 5, if you’re counting). Daphna Necaha Charnov was born on Valentine’s Day (she is a sweetheart) to my daughter, Avigail ’05 Barnard, and her husband, Aharon. And unlike the other grandchildren, she lives right here in New York, which is extra nice. Condolences go out to Steven Hirschfeld, who earlier this year lost his mother, Ilona Koonce. He says, ‘My mother from time to time would ask me about college friends and she dutifully read our Class Notes column to see what was going on. She led a full life in turbulent times, and gave much back to everyone around her.’"

Some other sad news: William A. Penca died in Coburn, Pa., on December 9, 2013. According to Centre Daily News, he was a professor of American history and Jewish studies at Penn State for many years and after retiring taught at Gettysburg and Ohio State. This past fall, William joined the University of South Alabama to develop a Jewish studies program there. He was a prolific author and longtime editor of Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies.

Remember to send in updates. Your classmate’s dates were to honor what’s new! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCT’s webpage: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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Not much happening in the Noteosphere lately. Must be the celestial apathy.

Erik Bergman writes from "Portlandia on the Left Coast." He’s worked for Waggener Edstrom Worldwide in high-tech public relations since 2000 for clients including Microsoft and Ford. Erik also has been active in Toastmasters International and has earned the Distinguished Toastmaster award for communication and leadership, the group’s highest award (as a TM myself, I know the commitment needed and it is substantial)! As well, Erik and his wife, Susan, enjoyed a second sabbatical trip to five European countries last summer.

Nicholas Lubar shares, "Still traveling regularly to Japan for work and have connected with a Columbia group there. Interviewed several bright high school students for the College and Engineering. You know the odds for acceptance.”

Meir Stampler is principal investigator of the Nurses’ Health Study and does research on prostate cancer in his spare time. All three of his progeny are Colombians: Sam ’07, Eliane ’09 and Orly ’11. Eliane was married last summer to Jason Wiese, and Meir’s father officiated (as he did at Meir’s wedding).

Amanda Hesington is looking forward to retirement from the VA this year; she has been a psychologist there for 22 years. He’ll continue in
private practice, though, because as he puts it, "One of my sons is start-
ing an M.F.A. at the Art Institute of Chicago — we all know it never ends."

Ain’t it da troof?

Circling back to where we began, let’s shake off this lethargy and share some news. You can write me at either of the addresses at the top of the column or submit a note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_class_note.

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer.

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I hope everyone enjoyed our 40th reunion — and I hope you were there! I am writing this column two months before the event, so I have no idea who attended. I’m sure, however, that we had a great gathering of classmates sharing tales of our time on campus and our journeys during the subsequent four decades. In the next column I will bring you up to date on what I saw and heard. In the meantime, here are some of the many notes that have come my way.

Rina Agnese is president and CEO of Ici North America in Fairfield, N.J. The company is the U.S. subsidiary of a 200-year-old European company that produces a full range of kitchen prep tools for the home cook. Rick passed on two bits of news. First, Ron Peterson has left NYC for a new life in Maryland. (I’ll give you details when I can track Ron down.) Second, Rick suggested Googling John Slough and his company, Helion Energy. When I did, I found out that John is a professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the University of Washington in Seattle who has been doing nuclear fusion research for 30 years. As the chief science officer at Helion, John has developed a fusion engine that he believes will enable profitable fusion energy by 2019. A University of Washington report says this invention may be able to bring man to Mars.

He may not have traveled to Mars (yet), but Ken Krug seems to go everywhere else. In his role as CFO of The Asia Foundation (located in San Francisco), Ken was recently at trustee meetings in Kathmandu, Nepal and Delhi, India.

Closer to home, but also embracing the Asian philosophy, is Dr. Christopher Puca. Chris is a doctor at Ars Nova Internal Medicine in Tucson. Rather than describing his practice as internal medicine, he refers to it as "zen-dada existential medicine," saying that he "tries to work with the entire person in an integrated way." Chris has four sons, aged 23-33.

Christian Hansen, senior consultant for Electromind in London, recently gave his 99th sermon at his church in England parish (by the way, he must have had his centennial sermon). He also had an outstanding year on the Alumni Representative Committee: "I am happy to say that, this year, for the first time in the many years I have been interviewing prospective students from the United Kingdom for Columbia College, all those I interviewed were admitted."

Two classmates have announced that they are returning to the metro area from their dalliances in America.

Barry Gruber writes, "After three years in Minneapolis I am returning to my roots, the Northeast. Although I love the 'mini-apple,' and I have really adored my job at Talmud Torah, the time has come to move on. I have accepted the position of director of congregational learning at Temple Shalom in Greenwich, Conn. I will be back within driving distance of the vast majority of friends and family."

Dr. David Melnick sends a note from Wilmington, Del.: "My wife, Karen, and I are moving back to NYC, having completed a 33-year circuit up and down I-95 — NYC to New Haven to Boston to Philadelphia to NYC. We are landing four blocks from where we lived when I was a resident at New York Hospital." David has been at AstraZeneca for a decade but no word yet on what he’ll be up to in NYC.

With the arrival of the "big 60" and the kids out of the house, Rob Adler and his wife, Anne-Marie Nolan, decided to shake things up. They sold their longtime home in suburban Montclair, N.J., and moved to the rugged coast of Maine. At this writing they do not have a permanent home nor have they decided whether to find new jobs or transition to retirement. Rob writes, "Lots of uncertainty but not anxiety. We are exploring and experimenting."

Sounds like he has returned to the ‘60s mindset!

Leon Wieseltier still manages to stir the "political pot." A picture of Leon and his flowing white locks was featured on the front page of The New York Times business section in March. Seems that he had sent an email to historian Ronald Radosh in which he criticized Radosh’s negative review of a recently published, "profoundly anti-Zionist book" (to quote Leon). Radosh circulated the note and it was picked up by the press. In cluded in the Times piece was much speculation whether Leon (60 years old and longtime literary editor of The New Republic) or Chris Hughes (the 30-year-old Facebook multimillionaire, who bought the magazine in 2012) has the dominant "voice." Nothing like a good rivalry!

Bob Stevens has been the president of One Stone Productions—Mind The Gap— for over three decades. During the last 10 years he has been the executive producer of 11 "Billboard Hot Dance/ Electronic Songs No. 1s" featuring Yoko Ono. He adds, "In case anyone wants to know, she didn’t break up the Beatles, the Beatles did!"

You heard it here first in a CCT exclusive!

Bob is also doing talk radio, having been on two of the three biggest talk stations in NYC. His current show is Robbie Student’s Restaurant, but he explains, "Student was my paternal grandparents’ name before the Ellis Island types got hold of it, and it provides some separation between my parallel careers."

Bob’s older son, Henry, is a sophomore at Haverford in Pennsylvania and has a young son, Charlie, who is a high school sophomore at York Prep in Manhattan.

Having had a long career in the entertainment industry — everything from producing The Spongebob SquarePants Movie to rebranding the Nashville Network as Spike TV — The First Network for Men —

Albie Hecht is now taking on a real challenge: repositioning CNN’s Headline News (HLN) into what he calls "the new TV home for the social media generation (the millennials and the millennial-minded)."

He was quoted in a press release: "Headlines will be ripped from the most plugged-in sites and blogs... HLN will make it its mission to share trending news, viral events and stories that have viewers obsessed, plus discover emerging social stars."

I guess you’ll have to go to Buzzfeed and The Hollywood Reporter to see what happens next! The last of our cultural trio is a great example of the synthesis of a
Columbia College education, which creates well-rounded individuals who can work in diverse arenas. The career of Dr. Burt Rocheleau is impressive by itself. After three decades as an obstetrician specializing in difficult pregnancies, Burt is now the chief of obstetrics at the North Shore University Hospital (in Manhasset, N.Y., on Long Island). Little known to most of us, he has also been a playwright and lyricist for many decades. This only came to light after news arrived of the opening of his play, The Rule of Disorder at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts (on Long Island). The press release said of the play, “There’s a rule in physics that all things tend to disorder. Life is like that, too.”

Burt wrote both the book and the lyrics for this soon-to-be-classic. There you have it. Classmates working to bring us to Mars, classmates moving around the country and classmates engaging their creative energies. It is no wonder that the world has great things for those who graduate from the Columbia College education.

In case you haven’t seen the latest statistics, the College once again was the third-hardest Ivy League college to get into — with admissions rates lower than all but Harvard and Yale! Take that, Princeton and the other four Ivies! Stay tuned for the next column to learn all the news that came out of our 40th reunion.

REUNION WEEKEND MAY 28–31, 2015 ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS Alumni Affairs Vanessa Scott vs2470@columbia.edu 212-851-9145 Development Esfirim Shamilova es3233@columbia.edu 212-851-7833

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Gulp and golly-gee! Our 40th reunion is coming. Has it been that long already? Mark your calendars and save the dates: May 28–31, 2015, on the Columbia campus in New York City. Bob Katz and I will co-chair the Reunion Committee, some classmates are already serving and others are invited to join. This isn’t an exclusive club; the more, the merrier. If you’re interested in becoming a member, let me know!

In addition to me (Maryland) and Bob (New York), current committee members are: Adam Castro, California; Gene Davis, New Jersey; Jim Dolan, Pennsylvania; David Gawarecki, Connecticut; Phelps Hawkins, Georgia; Stephen Jacobs, New York; Gerry Keating, Florida; Anna Kombrot, Pennsylvania; Steve Krassen, Rhode Island; Frank Lancellotti, New York; Charles Lindsay, Connecticut; C. John McCloskey III, Florida; John McCloskey, New York; Joe Pauer, New York; Walter Ricardt, New York; Kenneth Scherer, Tennessee; Bob Schneider, New York; Jason Turner, Wisconsin; Wayne Turner, New York; Joe Vassallo, Maryland; Cansom Wen, Hong Kong; and Randy Witten, New York.

Some of our plans are: to hold receptions, gatherings and other events before reunion; to include Engineering and Barnard in all our efforts; to reach out to classmates in a whole lot of ways; and ultimately to have an exciting, extended weekend with lots of classmates, family members and friends attending. Thirty-seven of us came out for our 35th in 2010 and we hope to see even more for our 40th.

One of my goals is to write about something different — at least — of classmates in Class Notes before the end of 2015. So with that as my commitment, here’s some news:

Howie Blatt writes, “I’m retired from a career in newspapers, including New York’s Daily News, and now I am employed, if laid off. I left the newspaper field to get involved in building a house. Later I became a cobbler, town crier and a blacksmith. I am proud to show off my Columbia diploma when I hang around schoolyards. I tell the kids to stay in school.”

David Gawarecki recently returned from four months wandering around Europe; his partner, Martha, was on sabbatical and he had nothing better to do. The trip included Kiev, Ukraine, while Lenin was still on his pedestals. Liviv, Ukraine, before he jumped out to go camping on the streets of Kiev; a month in Kiveri, Greece, an obscure village on the Aegean shore; four weeks in Florence; five days in Vienna to turn that “age” wowed in Central European obscurity; six weeks in Aix-en-Provence, France; and a short side trip to Palermo, Italy, which he reports as being weird, wild and Felliniesque. He adds that those of us with strong stomachs should look up the Capuchin catacombs. Returning to the United States after a number of years in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, Phelps Hawkins and his wife, Sandra Earley, have relocated to Savannah, Ga., to take university teaching gigs. They are especially lucky to be at Savannah State University, a century-old HBCU (historically black college or university). They will build on their wildly multi-cultural experience, having taught in Bulgaria for four years and now in a cross-cultural setting in the U.S. They say it has been a nice way for them to return to the U.S. and have more time with their grandchildren.

The entire family gathered recently to celebrate the christening of Phelps’ grandchildren, Preslee Ann Hawkins and Graham Phelps Stokes Hawkins, in St. Paul’s Chapel on the Morningside campus. The proud father — Phelps’ son, Robert Graham Bradshaw Hawkins — had himself been christened there 27 years earlier. Phelps notes that his great-aunts donated the cost of the chapel and his great-grandfather Newton Phelps Stokes designed and built St. Paul’s. Afterward, the family went to the former West End, now Havana Central at The West End, and enjoyed mucho Colorado beef and Cuban food. In addition to his teaching, Phelps is an Alumni Representative Committee volunteer, interviewing Columbia undergraduate candidates from his area.

Carol Keating and Dr. Joe Vassallo (Columbia roommates and Champlain H.S. classmates) met in Miami in October for the NFL’s Dolphins vs. Ravens game. They were hosted by Dr. Bob Herbert ’76, ’80 P’65, who played rugby with Gerry at Columbia. Joe is a cardiologist in Washington, D.C.; he rowed lightweight crew and played lightweight football for Columbia. Herbert “The Horse” is a retired anesthesiologist.

For those of you who are surprised to see a woman’s name on our committee list, Anna Kombrot ’74E holds the honor of being the first female Columbia College graduate. She was a student of the Engineering combined B.S./B.A. program, which entitled qualified Engineering students to obtain degrees from both Engineering and the College in five years. This was possible because the Engineering students completed the Core Curriculum as well as their engineering courses. Anna applied to the College, which originally wanted her to get her B.A. from Barnard. After some tense negotiations, Anna prevailed. She gets the double reunion prize for having celebrated her Engineering 40th this past spring and will celebrate her College 40th in 2015. Anna and her husband, Barry Kluyman ’74, live in Wynnwood, Pa., and Anna practices and teaches dentistry in Philadelphia.

Steve Krassen and his wife, Susan Oclansen, have become grandparents. Son Jeff and his wife, Jess, had a daughter, Juliana, in December. Steve and his wife, Carla Slots, had a son, Adam, an IT consultant. They all reside in Montgomery County, Md. Phil fondly remembers the smell of the stacks at Butler, where he spent many hours shelving books (so they still use books in College?).

Bob Schneider is familiar with my duties as class correspondent, as he fills that role for another of his alma maters, The Wharton School of Penn. In recognition of the outstanding and recognized contributions he makes to its alumni magazine, Bob was asked to provide an answer to the following question: “What is your favorite Wharton memory?” Now I ask him a similar question: “What is your favorite Columbia College memory?” Since I know Bob reads this column as soon as he receives the magazine, he’ll respond, so look for his answer next time.

Bob also sent the following note, “I’ve spent the last two-plus years in South Carolina helping USC replace its 40-year-old [grade processing] system, and at the start of my career, I worked at MIT to support them as they replaced their 30-year-old system. How do colleges and universities continue this way? But, it keeps them in business.”

For Jason Turner, the challenge of financing a college education for his three 17-year-old boys —
twins from his first marriage and one from his wife’s earlier marriage — longs large. Wife Iryna is Ukrainian, and her family mirrors the split within the country: her father and mother are old-line, pro-Russian communists, while her son dreams of coming to the land of opportunity and pursuing his computer career in America.

Jason runs the Secretary’s Innovation Group, an organization of Republican state cabinet secretaries. Between 1998 and 2002 he was Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s commissioner for health and welfare, and he wonders what will become of the robust welfare-to-work policies of Giuliani (followed by Bloomberg) under Bill de Blasio. These increased the proportion of welfare mothers in the labor force threefold and reduced welfare expenditures by half. Jason takes solace in the fact that his legislative initiative to require Food Stamp recipients to work or look for work as a condition of benefits was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President as part of the Farm Bill.

Classmates have gotten together at various Columbia events recently. Bob Katz, Ira Malin and Bob Schneider attended Burgers and Basketball in late February; this involved meeting other Class Agents at Horseshoe Central at the West End for food and fun and then watching the men’s basketball team beat Brown 70-68. Steve Jacobs and Ira also attended the John Jay Awards Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street in early March.

Classmates, by the time you read this, it will be early summer and we’ll be a year out from our 40th. Please think back, dig up some good stories and send them to me! Then think about today. Would you be where you are if not for Columbia? Are Columbia experiences? We’re going to have a great reunion. Plan to be there!

Idaho Democrat Nels Mitchell ’76 won his May primary election and is now running for the U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Jim Risch.

College] Peter Pounroy [69 GSAS], Roberta Spagnola [Campbell ’69 TC], my former Bloomsbury Circle professor Michael Rosenthal [67 GSAS]. There are photos of our 18-year-old selves, the last in the back room corners. The West End offers a coupon for a free beer. A single room at the East End Hotel on 78th Street is $11. At the Steak House on Broadway at 111th, where my roommates and I often ate, a sirloin with baked potato and salad is $17.29, a bargain even in 2014.

On page 48, very near my embarrassing photo, is a very handsome one of Nels Mitchell, who is running for the U.S. Senate as a Democrat from Idaho. He’s running against incumbent Jim Risch, the self-styled “most conservative member of the Senate.” Risch is in hot water for votes against the Violence Against Women Act and so many other bills that he has earned the nickname “Abominable No Man” from the economic impact studies for single-payer state plans in Colorado and Pennsylvania (and, again, presented them across these states); and took a sabbatical semester in Rome with his wife, where, not content with such things as side trips to Florence and looking at art, he drafted a book, tentatively titled Richard Eliy and the Trials of American Progressivism.

Altogether, that’s a lot of drafting. Jerry says, “Good news is that I have a full draft with 70,000 words; bad news is that I have a list of 52 things to learn before I can finish.” Sigh.

From Austin, Leland Beaty writes that he’s “targeting voters in political races across the country, including a recent win with Kameron Haensch in ’03. Recently, I was the plaintiff’s expert witness challenging the Mississippi voter I.D. law in federal court. My kids are grown, I have two grandchildren and I’m still here to enjoy it all. Jim Middleton and Artie Gold also live in Austin.”

In addition to being a member of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Johns Hopkins, Greg Ball is also a vice dean of science and current Dean at the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences there. He earned a doctorate at Rutgers and taught at Rockefeller and Boston College before arriving at Hopkins in 1991. Greg says, “I interact from time to time with many of the friends at Columbia.”

I was distressed to learn that, after a brief illness, professor emeritus [and former interim dean of the College] Robert Belknap [57 SIPA, 59 GSAS] died on March 17, 2014. The notice in The New York Times included these comments: “Figuratively and in reality, at 65”, he was a towering presence. At Columbia for over 50 years, he championed the teaching of Literature Humanities and co-authored a book on the subject, Tradition and Innovation: Generation and Continuity at Columbia University.” [Editor’s note: See “Around the Quads.”]

There will no doubt be more to say in the next issue. I hope classmates will send memories and reflections on our dean. You can write to either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ct/submit_classNote.

SUMMER 2014
The team lost a heartbreaker in the last minute after leading the whole contest, but the disappointment was forgotten after several large pizzettas at V&T with the WKCR crew, including Ken’s daughter (who is now older than me, when we were at Columbia). While I believe that New Haven has the best pizza in the country, the memories from that venerable Italian joint on Amsterdam Avenue are implanted too deeply in the psyche of our class to let mere quality win the day. Let’s hope that Ivy success in the area of hoops is now part of the new normal on the Heights.

A note from Chuck Geneslaw: “As I write I am most excited and proud to be looking forward to attending my first Columbia Commencement as a parent, as my daughter, Allis ’14 PHM, is expected to receive her M.P.H. from Mailman in May. She already has the actual document and, more importantly, a job as an administrative fellow in the Student Health Services Corporation.”

“Otherwise, I am happy to keep hearing from children as a partner at Coastal Healthcare in Toms River, N.J., and to be board chairman of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ocean County, N.J. Our most important statistic is that all of the children in our program have graduated from high school and entered college or post-secondary education. None have been in the juvenile justice system.

“Finally, I’m happy with ‘empty nest’ status. I’m delighted when any of [my wife Kim’s and my] three children come home to visit but also quite pleased when they go back. Been there, done that!”

Keep those cards and letters coming!

Jeff McFarland ’79 has moved to New Delhi to work for the World Health Organization; he focuses on vaccine-preventable diseases.

Robert C. Klapper ’83 P&S: “I have written Class Notes for the last 10 years for two reasons: first, because I got tired of our column not having any entries, and second, I hoped to jog memories of our four years at the College.

“Research by Nobel laureate and Columbia professor Dr. Eric Kandel, whom I had the privilege of having classes with while I was a medical student, has shown that our thoughts, including memories, are actually a protein. The question is, why do some memories burn so brightly in our brain, while what you had for breakfast yesterday remains a mystery?

“One of my top 10 memories from college dates to a crew race against Yale and Navy in New Haven, Conn., during the spring of freshman year. My parents, who had never attended any kind of sporting event in their lives, were watching at the finish line. The moment I remember most was when I sat, coiled like a snake, both hands clenched on the oar, waiting for the gun to fire to start the race and telling myself — in a sort of out-of-body experience — that this boat I was rowing was not only going to transport me down this river, but also be a magic carpet to rocket me past my parents and start me on the American dream.

“Let me know the memory that burns brightly in your cerebral cortex: Roar, lion, roar!”

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 28–31, 2015
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I hope you are having a great summer that the note finds you in good spirits. For starters, make a note: Our 35th reunion will be here before you know it — the dates for Alumni Reunion Weekend are Thursday, May 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015 — and the Reunion Committee needs volunteers. Please email me or either of the staff members in the box at the top of the column if you are interested. Imagine having a job where you get to watch movies for a living. According to his Sundance.org “About Us” page, ”David Courier is senior programmer for the Sundance Film Festival. He selects films across all the sections of the festival but with a focus on U.S. and World Cinema documentaries. He is also the writer and producer of the Sundance Awards Ceremony and oversees public programming for all of Sundance Institute throughout the year. David started his career at Sundance in 2000 as a screener and advanced from there. He is the former co-director of programming at Outfest, the Los Angeles gay and lesbian film festival. Prior to festival programming, David worked in film development for a number of production companies. He has served on the advisory board for the IDA Awards, the Cinema Eye Honors and the Gotham [Independent Film] Awards.”

Ray Commissio recently was named chief investment officer at Black Diamond Capital Appreciation Fund, where he focuses on fixed income markets.

Remember to send in your updates. There’s no need to wait until reunion to catch up with one another. You can write to either address at the top of the column or submit notes via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ckt/submit_class_note.

Greetings from the Great White North (aka Connecticut)! It was quite a winter, and one that I hope is never repeated. Fortunately, I did get updates from some of our classmates and hope to hear more in the coming months.

Howard Tucker, a CPA, is now a partner with Ernst & Young in New York and is busy pursuing the ever-elusive single-digit handicap. He’s also still trying to finish Joyce’s Finnegans Wake.

I wish Howard well with that, having abandoned any attempts several years ago.

Also in NYC, Jeff Pundyk is now VP of content solutions for The Economist, where he is happy to once again work for a media company. His wife, Anne, is doing well in the art community (annepundyk.com) and he enjoys spending time on his boat. He is never repeated. Fortunately, I did get updates from some of our classmates and hope to hear more in the coming months.

Jon Samuels presented a discussion at the Bruno Walter Auditorium at the NYPL at Lincoln Center in March. The subject was Vladimir Horowitz and the recordings in the CD set Vladimir Horowitz Live at Carnegie Hall.

Congratulations to Jon on his promotion of the arts!

Jesse H. Davis writes of athletic feats: “January 2012 was my first successful half marathon (Miami), which I ran with my brother-in-law, Alan. Then came another in March (NYC Hall), then May (Brooklyn Hall), September (Staten Island Hall) and then in... came Hurricane Sandy; Alan and I were ready to go but the race was canceled. Not to be denied, I woke up on marathon Sunday, strapped on my trusty Garmin watch and set out for a long run, starting in Northern Jersey, where I live, continuing to... and over the George
Washington Bridge, down the West Side, around the Battery and up the East Side—finally reaching 26.2 miles in 4:30, all by myself.

Jesse ran in the 2013 NYC Marathon with Alan, and Jesse’s daughter, Katie. He had a great race, finishing in 4:30, and is excited to do it again this year.

When he’s not busy training or racing, Jesse is president of Creative Mobile Technologies, where he helped to start a company that puts screens and credit card devices into the backs of taxis; he is now expanding that business internationally. On the parent front, he is proud to report that Katie earned an undergraduate degree from Brown in 2009 and a doctorate in neuropsychology in May from Yeshiva; his son, Harry, graduated from Cornell with a degree in computer science, also in May.

Congratulations, Jesse!

Eric Daum reports that his architectural firm, Merrimack Design Associates, continues to do well. In November he delivered the keynote address at “A Manifesto,” at the 2013 Bulfinch Awards of the New England Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art. He says, “This talk drew an analogy between the continued relevance of the writings of antiquity and of classical architecture. I was able to cite a few dim memories of Lit Hum and CC, and hoped the food and wine were sufficiently distracting that no one paid too close attention.”

He also provided the following musical update: “CollegeBand, the web-based band of Reed Seeman ’09 (collegeband.com/tag/columbia-university/), has added a page for our old band, The Art of Dating, of which I was a member along with Amy Lipman ’80 Barnard, John Leland and Dan Zedek ’83. Photos of a gig in the old cabaret in Ferris Booth, links to Spectator articles about the band and four songs salvaged from an ancient cassette were posted. Upon listening to my vocals, Dan commented, ‘The melody and Eric have only a passing acquaintance.’”

Eric’s current band, Electric Angels, released its second album last March, and its third should be out this summer. His son, Kari ’15, is a rising senior who is CCT’s editorial intern as well as an editor at Spectator, where he also illustrates a weekly comic, “Daumsgiving,” which offers a rueful look at college life. Eric adds, “Sadly, despite my advice, he is a history major, as I was.”

Don’t feel bad; it could have been worse—he could have been a political science major!

On the publishing front, Ed Klees has published a second edition of his Contacting With Companies: A Guide to Consulting Agreements for Biomedical Scientists, written by Ed and Nobel Prize-winning scientist Bob Horvitz of MIT.

Congratulations to Ed!

On a sad note, I report on the passing of Louise J. Blendis III. Louise was a consultant in Jamaica Plain, Mass.

I look forward to hearing from all of you; contact me at either address at the top of the column. In the meantime, best wishes for a great summer!

Andrew Weisman 81 S. Garfield St. Denver, CO 80209 weisman@comcast.net

Greetings, gentlemen! This quarter I feel oddly inspired by Carl Von Clausewitz: “War is the continuation of politics by other means.” I can’t help being preoccupied by the old-school sociopathic antics of Vladimir Putin. My fervent hope is that we live in less interesting times.

On a more positive note, I was happy to discover that our learned professor, Josh Golding, published The Conversations: A Novel, which is being received with substantial popular and critical acclaim. The reviews I came upon all warmly praised Josh’s work, while the posted ratings on the Amazon website averaged 4.9 out of 5—not bad!

For those who have not kept in touch with him, Josh is a professor of philosophy at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky. He also serves as rabbi of Congregation Anshei Sfard, a modern Orthodox synagogue also in Louisville. His previous publications include the book Rationality and Religious Theism as well as a number of articles published in such journals as Faith and Philosophy, The Modern Schoolman, Religious Studies, The Torah U-Madda Journal, and Tradition: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought. I was lucky enough to chat with Josh about the novel and thought that many of you would be interested in hearing a little of what I learned.

He explained that The Conversations is a semi-autobiographical work that takes place during a four-year span on an urban college campus with a nearby park and subway that the protagonist, David Goldstein, uses to head down to the Village. (Sound familiar?) This novel is, on one level, the story of David’s spiritual journey from being raised in a secular Jewish family through a culturally and philosophically diverse college world. Along the way our protagonist must deal with many of life’s typical challenges, such as romance, drugs and parental relationships.

On a personal note, however, operates on many levels. Josh says its conversational style, combined with its socially and culturally diverse characters, provides a framework for him to deal rather objectively with many of life’s deeper philosophical and religious questions. Among them are: Does God exist? Why is there evil? Is there a chosen people? Do the commandments have foundational reasons? Why are some of them odd by modern standards?

As a bonus, the book offers insight into the Jewish mystical tradition of Kabbalah, which I think many readers will find captivating.

Keep those emails coming! You can use either address at the top of the column or submit them via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_notes.

Members of the Class of 1981 enjoyed a weekend of golf and fishing in Jupiter, Fla. Left to right: Lou Casali, Clayton Jones, Todd Kemmerly, Marc Mazur, Sean D’Arcy and Scott Gresky.

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I also spent time with former Columbia basketball star Richie Gordon. Richie’s son, a basketball player himself, also attended the game.

I caught up with Andy Gershon at the annual game. Andy played basketball at Columbia and is still in great shape. Dennis Kleinberg ‘84 attended some games and sat with the Marching Band. It is hard to believe that 30 years have passed since he led the band and I was the featured juggler.

Significantly, all of the Columbia basketball players graduated this year. The Lions should compete next year for the Ivy League title. I encourage you to come to the games. My friend Ken Howitt ’76 had a block of tickets reserved for his classmates and friends. Anyone interested in sitting with graduates from the 1980s should contact me.

I recently found a New York Post article in my files from July 2012 that I thought would be of interest: “For rent: prez’s pad: Call it an Obama tax. The Morningside Heights apartment where President [Barack] Obama ’83 crashed as a student is back on the market with a $550 rent increase. The third-floor, two-bedroom walk-up on West 109th Street that Obama shared with a roommate in 1981 when he was a junior at Columbia University is available August 1 for $2400. Realtor Zak Kneider admits at least $200 of the increase is an overcharge. Still, we are definitely overpriced. But it isn’t that hard to believe that 30 years have passed since he lived there. But it is certainly hard to believe he was once a student.”

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Ken Ofori-Atta, a 2011 recipient of a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, writes, "Been back in Accra, Ghana, since 1990, having completed Yale’s School of Management and worked with Morgan Stanley and Salomon Brothers. Formed an investment bank in Ghana and retired last year. Created a family office and dabbling in politics. One son is a freshman at Williams. Have a daughter in grade 11 and a son in grade seven."

After his narrow loss for state representative against the Rhode Island Speaker of the House, Mark Binder has returned to his roots with Cinderella Spindlerella, the first illustrated e-book for families that allows readers to choose what Cinderella and the Prince look like. "This story began as a spoken-word piece for diverse audiences," Mark says. "When I started to create the book, I realized that readers could be empowered to pick their own version of the story." Cinderella Spindlerella is available for all e-book readers.

Once again, Yossi Rabin has good news — the arrival of his fourth grandson, Y’honatan Shalom Hatab, on February 15.


Divya Singh ‘87 (left) joined Jordan Kessler ‘96 and Alexandra Hernandez ‘05 on a whale-watching trip in Laguna San Ignacio in Baja California, Mexico, in March. The outing was sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council, where Kessler and Hernandez work.

PHOTO: JACOB SCHERR

Ross@orientnews.tv.”

As briefly noted in the last column, former FCC chair Julius Genachowski has joined the Washington, D.C., office of The Carlyle Group, the private-equity firm that made its name hiring high-level government officials. Julius, who pioneered President Barack Obama’s online fundraising strategy in the 2008 election, will become managing director of Carlyle’s U.S. Buyout Fund, the firm’s flagship investment pool. He will seek investments in global technology, media and telecommunications, according to Carlyle. The publicly held firm owns stakes in the audience measurement firm Nielsen, network provider ComScore, telecom services company Symiverse and S&SC Technologies, a supplier of specialized software to the financial services industry. "It’s a great time to be returning to the private sector and focusing on investing and building businesses; I’m bullish on mobile while recognizing wired infrastructure will be critical far into the future. Mobile is going to get bigger and bigger." Joe Tittlebaum co-founded Mezzobit, a big data start-up that enables digital publishers and marketers to control and monetize their audiences. In January, it was named one of the 10 hottest start-ups in New York by AlleyWatch. Joe lives in Bethesda, Md., with his wife, Julie Mack, and their kids, Ben, Aaron and Eve.

On the international front, Denis Searby reports from Sweden. He is a professor at Stockholm University, teaching ancient Greek, and the section head of classics ("We don’t have our own department," he says). Active on the Alumni Representative Committee, he adds, “I am happy that a couple of students from Sweden will be entering Columbia next year.” At this writing, Dennis also was looking forward to seeing his Columbia Greek professor, Richard Janko, who was scheduled to go to Stockholm for a workshop in April; Janko is now a professor at Michigan.

Seth Schachner writes, “All is well in Miami. I launched a business development enterprise, Strat Americas, providing strategic guidance and connecting digital partnerships in the Americas (stratamericas online.com). Latin America is a focus and I have a group of clients in New York and Europe, so I’m back in the city often. My wife, Allison, has a consulting and legal practice focused on education and special needs children. Our children, Miles (13) and Liv (10), love life here. I’d welcome the chance to catch up with classmates when they pass through Miami.”

Adam Tannen is a fellow at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard. His book, What Stays in Vegas: The World of Personal Data — Lifblood of Big Business — and the End of Privacy as We Know It, comes out in September. The publisher’s blurb says the book “exposes the greatest threat to privacy today. It’s not the NSA, but good-old American companies. Internet giants, leading retailers and other firms are gathering data behind the scenes with little oversight from anyone.”

The blurb explains that What Stays in Vegas puts the spotlight on Caesars Entertainment as a means to explore the benefits and dark side of information gathering: “The
secret to the company’s success lies in their one unrivaled asset; they are able to track the activities of the overwhelming majority of gamblers who walk in [the casino doors]. They know exactly what games we like to play; what foods we enjoy for breakfast, when we prefer to visit, who our favorite hostess might be and exactly how to keep us coming back for more. Caesars’ dogged data-gathering methods have been so successful that they grew to become the world’s largest casino operator, and they have inspired companies from across industries to ramp up their own data mining in the hopes of boosting their targeted marketing efforts. Some do this themselves. Some rely on data brokers. Others clearly enter a moral gray zone that would make American consumers deeply uncomfortable.”

Another Boston-area alum, Tom Scotti, writes: “My wife, Karen, and I have lived in Massachu-setts for more than 25 years and have spent the last 20 in the small town of Medfield, about 15 miles southwest of Boston. There we raised our daughter, Anne ’16, who is having a tremendous experience, [and is] busy with both sorority life and student government (she is a Class of 2016 representative).”

“For four years ago this spring and I became involved with saving the birthplace of Lowell Mason in Medfield from demolition by developers. Mason is recognized as the father of music education in America and was instrumental in adding music to the regular school curriculum in Boston in 1838, where he was the first music superintendent. For those outside the music education world he is probably best known as the composer of the tune for the nursery rhyme Mary Had a Little Lamb; he also popularized the holiday song Joy to the World.”

“Coincidently, I met Karen while singing with the Columbia Glee Club, so it seems fitting that fate would put us in position to work together on this project. We are restoring the house to turn it into a museum and music practice and performance space. The cost of restoring a historic home is extensive, so fundraising is important and donations are much appreciated. People can learn more about Mason and the efforts to restore the house at lowellmason.org.” Double kudos go to two classmates. First to Lane Palmer, who recently was named president and managing partner of Pediatric Urology Associates, based in Lake Success, N.Y. In addition, his new textbook, Pediatric and Adolescent Urologic Imaging, was published earlier this year. The book provides a comprehensive reference for health care providers of children and adults with diseases that affect kidney and bladder conditions. Each chapter was written collaboratively, with at least one author from each specialty, melding the expertise of each specialist and offering it to readers in a manner aimed at reinforcing the integration of clinical information to radiologic imaging.

Our second set of kudos goes to Tom Vinciguerra for a great intro to the Spring CCT’s Varsity Show section. Tom also has been named executive editor at Indian Country Today Media Network. I bumped into Tom at the 27th annual Spectator Awards Dinner, held in February at the swanky New York Athletic Club. Seeing Tom was the second most special part of the evening (tied with listening to Katie Couric, the most special was watching my son, Isaac ’14, receive the Quintana Roo Dunne Award for Visual Achievement to Sport). In February John Phelan, Bryan Barnett and I attended an on-campus forum on the many aspects of the Core Curriculum, with many current and former students offering suggestions for improvement. Ironically, many of the comments and criticisms (administrative hurdles, faculty accessibility, flaws in the curriculum content) could have been made 30 years ago.

Another on-campus highlight for me this past winter was when my youngest son, Josh, and I attended the Columbia-Yale game. It took place in late February and Reunion Committee. The office sets up all of the weekend’s marquees and events with the ability to customize a few of the class-specific events, which we certainly want to do. The most important job for our group, though, is to reach out to classmates to encourage them to be there. Please reach out to me or to Renee Hites, assistant director, class giving, for the Columbia College Fund (rh2663@columbia.edu or 212-851-7452) if you wish to be involved. While the meetings likely will be held in Manhattan, in today’s Skype/GoToMeeting/conference call world, most anyone is able to participate.

Margaret McCarthy ’87, who lives in Ithaca, N.Y., has joined the Ph.D. club, having defended her dissertation in human development in March.

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Twenty-eight years ago, a group of highly educated and motivated 22-year-olds left Morningside Heights to follow their passions and dreams. Merriam-Webster defines nostalgia as “pleasure and sadness that is caused by remembering something from the past and wishing that you could experience it again.” As we turn 50, are any of you nostalgic about our time at Columbia? If so, email me some of the thoughts. It’s a milestone year for many of us. You can write to either address at the top of the column or submit them via the CCT’s webform: college@columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. It will make up for the dearth of updates I get. Congratulations to Bill Fink, who is the associate executive director for development and external affairs at Supportive Children’s Advocacy Network. SCAN is a nonprofit that supports high-quality programs for the families of East Harlem and the South Bronx. It reaches more than 7,000 children and 200 families annually.

Lee Ilan, who joined me at Citi Field for Mets Opening Day, reported the following great news: “Although it’s wild that some of our classmates have kids in college, I’m happy to welcome another member to the parenthood club: Anthony Alvarez and his partner, Andrea, live in Brooklyn and had an adorable daughter, Nina Lee Alvarez, on December 9, 2013.”

Thanks, Lee! And congratulations to Anthony and Andrea.

Eli Kavon writes, “As I begin my third year as rabbi of Beth Ami Congregation in Boca Raton, Fla., I wanted to share a recent experience with fellow Columbians. I led two discussions at a movie theater in nearby Delray Beach after the showing of the Polish film Aftermath. While the story of two brothers who uncover the horrible truth of the fate of the Jews in their native Polish town is fictional, it was inspired by events that took place during WWII. The film is compelling and powerful, exploring historical memories repressed and revealed. The Polish filmmakers and actors truly project in their willingness to confront the past and the reality of Jewish-Polish relations both before and during the Shoah.”

This is definitely a film I now want to see.

The movie was a little light this time around. Please don’t be shy! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ctt/submit_class_note.

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Eric Fusfield
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As I am among the newest parents in our class, I am still learning the ropes of childhood education. (My kids are both in preschool; whatever was left of my spare time is now spent serving on the school’s board of directors.) This recently gave me the chance to catch up with Jessica Davidson Miller while emailing back and forth about schooling options. Jessica, like me, lives in the Washington, D.C., area and has school-age children. She is an attorney at the Washington office of Skadden, where she specializes in complex civil litigation.

Nikos Andreadis wrote from Port Washington, Long Island, where he and his wife, Yvonne, knapped Andreadis’ 90, have lived since 1997 with their daughters, Sophia (14) and son, Georgie (11). Nikos graduated from Boston University Law and took over the management of his family’s private mortgage lending business in Astoria, Queens, three years later.

Another Long Island resident, Eve Jordan Combemale, reports, “I live in Bridgehampton with my three children (15, 18 and 20) and sell real estate through Sotheby’s.” Eve expressed disappointment at having to miss last year’s 25th reunion. “It was my son’s graduation weekend but I’d love to connect with classmates,” she says. You can reach her at eve.combemale@sothebyshomes.com.

Patrick Crawford writes, “I practice tax law and run my firm, Crawford Tax Law Group, in Los Angeles. I very much enjoy the entrepreneurial challenges as well as the tax practice (particularly state and local tax issues). Growing this firm has been the most satisfying professional experience of my career. I left the legal academy and returned to the ‘real world’ of private practice. I still have the scholarship bug, however, and am publishing two law review articles this year. I have also started a blog focusing on progressive takes on U.S. economic regulation (lawvitz.com). I love very much indeed to the College and its faculty (particularly the unforgettable: Raymond Geuss ‘66, ‘71 GSAS), Edward Said, Gisela Striker and Andreas Huyssen, to name just a few.”

My time at Columbia led to an interesting life path.

Timothy Dalton is based in Nazaret, Ethiopia. He writes, “In the middle of last year I received a $3.7 million cooperative agreement award from the United States Agency for International Development to establish a research consortium linking scientists from the United States with those in Ethiopia, Senegal and Nigeria to work on the adaptation of sorghum and pearl millet to climate change in semi-arid areas. I’ve convinced both building the program and the research portfolio during the next five years with the aim of raising more funds to expand the program to other countries in East and West Africa.”

Ben Horowitz’s new book on developing startup companies, The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business Where There Are No Easy Answers, was the focus of an event hosted by President Lee C. Bollinger in Low Library in March. Also feted in Low this year was Jonathan S. Lavine, who received the Gershom Mendes Seixas Award at the annual Columbia/Barnard Hillel dinner. The honor is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to Jewish life at Columbia.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to your emails, which you can submit to me at the addresses at the top of the column or via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ctt/submit_class_note. I also encourage everyone to join the Columbia College Class of 1988 Facebook group; it’s a convenient way to stay in touch with classmates.

To kick things off, I hope every one had a great time at their Class Reunion! The deadline for Class Notes passed before the big weekend, so you’ll have to stay tuned for the Fall issue for the full report.

Last winter I was sitting at a sectional swim meet in Worcester, Mass., watching my daughter, Julia (13), compete. In between races, my eyes wandered to the swim records on the wall. One was set by Karen Ehrlich in 1985, and I immediately thought that it had to be my Theta sorority sister, now Karen Ehrlich Zotos. I reached Karen through Facebook and she sent in a big update.

Karen writes, “I am not sure if I am more in shock that it is our 25th reunion, or that my son is graduating from high school, all on the same weekend! Yikes! I remember bringing him to kindergarten and thinking: the days are fast and blurry. I think of my NYC days often. I have been back twice, once for a work thing, and then to show my kids the city. I’ve moved to Texas a year after graduation, [before which] I was living with Lori Koss on the East Side. But then I met Pete Zotos, who later became my husband, at a wedding in San Diego, and quit my job in NYC and moved to Dallas. Lori and my parents thought I was crazy!”

I began in the insurance/healthcare admin field for 15 years, then got my teaching certificate. I have been a middle school teacher in the Dallas public schools for seven years. Every day is a new and bizarre learning. Teaching takes a backseat to healthcare work! I work at my community middle school, and so all my kids have gone there. It is very diverse and interesting.

“Pete, who is a restaurateur, and I were married 20 years ago; we live in a beautiful area of the city known as Lakewood. He owns St. Pete’s Dancing Marlin, which has been open for 19 years. We have three teenagers: the oldest is Max (17), followed by Annalyse (16) and Alexa (14). Max will be a Texas A&M Aggie in the fall. Annalyse rows crew on the varsity team, and Alexa is a 1-1 volleyball player. “Prior to becoming a teacher, I was an active volunteer with the PTA and raised money for the schools through the Lakewood Home Festival. I also developed a pretty good game of tennis. I stopped swimming but started running and completed my one and only marathon in Chicago in 2006. I checked that off my list!”

Karen also wrote that her older brothers, Jim Ehrlich ’86E, passed away in December 2008 from melanoma. He had two young girls and a wife, whom Karen visited in Minneapolis this spring.

Kirk Ruddy writes, “All is well! I live in Darien, Conn., with my boys, Luke (12) and Ben (8). I also live three houses from my sister, Kari (who helps me out tremendously), so I also have my nephew and godson, Nick (14), and niece, Kira (7), around all the time. These kids are pretty much my life these days! I work for SC Lowy Financial Services out of Hong Kong, so I travel back and forth a few times a year.”

Jill Chamberlain left Manhattan a decade ago for Austin, where she founded a screenwriting school, The Script Workshop. According to Jill, “I’ve been leading group workshops and consulting privately on feature film screenplays, using techniques I developed during my years as a struggling screenwriter and filmmaker in Manhattan. Austin has quickly become the burgeoning film scene, and my program has been growing like crazy. Former students and clients have had their screenplays optioned, made into award-winning feature films, garner them Hollywood representation, land them professional screenwriting assignments and get recognized by top competitions including the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences’ Nicholl Fellowship.”

Recently Jill signed a contract to publish her book about “the nutshell technique,” the screenplay-structuring method she created. Look for it in bookstores in 2015.

Joel Alter is back in New York, lives in Washington Heights and is director of admissions for JTS’ Rabbinical and Cantorial Schools, up the block from Columbia.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 29–31, 2015
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After a short-lived career as a lawyer and a longer one as a stay-at-home mom, Aili Bresnahan

SUMMER 2014

CLASS NOTES

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Greetings, all!

Dr. Jennifer Garfein Ashton ’00 P&S writes, “In addition to my Englewood, N.J., gynecology practice, I am the ABC News senior medical contributor for Good Morning America and World News and am a co-host on the nationally syndicated daytime medical talk show The Doctors. Having these media platforms puts me on the cutting edge of medical news even as I remain firmly entrenched in my busy practice and the clinical care of my patients. I enjoy these roles, which allow me to communicate medical information to people of all ages. In my spare time, I am in the master’s program in clinical nutrition at Columbia’s Institute of Human Nutrition; my time, I am in the master’s program at the School of Public Health, where I have been promoted to full professor of human development. I specialize in motivation, adolescent development and extracurricular participation. My first book, Eight Myths of Adolescence, was recently published by Oxford University Press. My new book, Deep Learning, came out in March. Jennifer lives in the Constitution grade at Bronx Science and eighth academic challenge and extracurricular participation. Her doctoral degree in comparative religions at Boston College: “I put my religion major and the political science major together and called it justice activism.”

Ethan O’Rafferty (he was “O”) less in college is VP for alliances and channels at EnterpriseDB, and he has spent 17 years volunteering to “create a parent involvement movement called Minds in Motion, providing after-school academic challenge and extracurricular participation.”

Evie Graham has lived in Portugal since 1993 with her Portuguese husband. In 2008, they started Terracotta Journeys, a tourism company that offers cycling and hiking tours of Iberia. “We are currently in a partnership with REI Adventures and are planning its ‘Portugal Coastal Hiking’ tour and a cycling tour, ‘Portugal & Spain Cycling: The Alentejo to Andalucia,’” writes Eva. “We’d love to have some alums join us!”

Jennifer Fredricks is molding young minds at Connecticut College, where she has been promoted to full professor of human development. She specializes in motivation, adolescent development and extracurricular participation. Her first book, Eight Myths of Adolescence, was recently published by Oxford University Press. My new book, Deep Learning, came out in March. Jennifer lives in the Constitution grade at Bronx Science and eighth academic challenge and extracurricular participation. Her doctoral degree in comparative religions at Boston College: “I put my religion major and the political science major together and called it justice activism.”
Michael Bitz ’94, ’98 TC Uses Comics as Vehicle for Creativity

By Justin DeFreitas

Time was, comic books were considered the adolescent’s gateway to ruin. In the 1950s, Senate hearings on juvenile delinquency focused largely on the medium and its purveyors as the roots of a nationwide epidemic. Whether scapegoated for society’s ills or merely dismissed as childish entertainment, this form of storytelling — words and pictures arranged sequentially — has rarely garnered much respect.

Michael Bitz ’94, ’98 TC, an assistant professor of teacher education at Ramapo College of New Jersey, views comics quite differently and has spent 12 years developing and growing an educational curriculum centered on the medium. The Comic Book Project (comicbookproject.org) builds literacy skills by helping children write, draw and publish their own comic books.

“The Comic Book Project was born from a desire to do something different,” Bitz says. “At Teachers College I was exposed to different kinds of educational theory and program ideas, including learning through the arts — how the arts and creativity in general is utilized or not utilized in teaching programs.”

Bitz launched a pilot project at a New York City middle school in 2001. Then, after partnering with The After-School Corp., a nonprofit that supports programs in hundreds of New York City public schools, he implemented it in 40 more middle schools. Since then, the project has expanded to all 50 states and nine other countries, and has reached more than 150,000 students.

The Comic Book Project also gives students a chance to reflect on their experiences, ideas and communities. Many schools have applied themes to the work: Students in Hawaii produced comics about the effects of pollution, while Native American students in Washington State did theirs on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Customizing the subject matter is a crucial element in engaging students, Bitz says.

Bitz didn’t read comics much when he was growing up in Wyckoff, N.J. He was an aspiring musician and frequently made the trek from his quiet suburban home across the George Washington Bridge in pursuit of the diverse and stimulating culture of New York City. He further embraced big-city life — and delved into music full-time — at the College, where he studied western classical, jazz and popular music. After earning a degree in music, however, he set out on a different course. “Exposure to many different people from different backgrounds influenced my decision to go into education,” he says.

Bitz put in time as a student teacher en route to a Ph.D. in education, but the experience convinced him that he wasn’t cut out for full-time teaching so he instead focused on curriculum development.

The concept of using comics as an educational tool is hardly new. “People have been advocating for this since the 1800s, when schools became like factories,” Bitz says. But transforming the idea into a replicable curriculum that is easy to implement was key.

The process is simple by design: Students are introduced to the language of comic books, including lines, panels, sequencing, word balloons and character development. Once they’ve completed a draft, they get feedback from their teachers, then turn the draft into a finished product, penciling the artwork, writing dialogue and captions, and inking and coloring. The books are published online and sometimes in print — “Getting your name in print is an incredible motivator,” Bitz says — and exhibitions are mounted so that students can celebrate their work with friends, family, guardians and teachers.

The project quickly found success in New York City. “Teachers saw kids doing things they [the teachers] didn’t realize they could do — reading and writing without worksheets,” says Bitz.

He had been financing the endeavor himself but, with the program up and running, returned to Teachers College to ask if it would act as an incubator. With the Columbia name behind him, Bitz busied himself writing grant applications. A few were successful, enabling him to expand the program.

“Kids are drawn to comics, so engagement was easy,” says Marge Pellegrino, program manager for Owl & Panther in Tucson, which provides expressive arts programming to refugee families affected by torture and trauma. Owl & Panther began implementing the Comic Book Project curriculum in 2006. "I started with the premise that the kids had knowledge that others didn’t,” Pellegrino says: “They were experts — they knew what it was like to have a parent incarcerated, or they knew what it was like to be a refugee. What should others know about it?

How could we show those things through story?”

Pellegrino’s students took to the exercise immediately. “They were elevated in their own eyes by the process,” she says. “The kids with less English language fluency found they had a way to shine.”

For the most part, Bitz has been able to launch the programs remotely, using Skype and social media to train and communicate with teachers around the world. But not all countries have such ready access to technology. Bitz recently returned from Nigeria, where he launched an international program in person for the first time. The program faced different obstacles in Nigeria, however, because comics are not popular there. “We first had to teach teachers what a comic book is,” Bitz says.

“But it’s not really about the comics,” he adds. “The Comic Book Project represents a broader mission of creativity in the classroom, advocating for creative projects as learning projects. It’s not about comics; it’s about comics as vehicles for creativity.”

Justin DeFreitas is a Bay Area writer, editor and cartoonist.
by a “Columbia Talkback.” The musical, opened on Broadway. To celebrate, the Columbia Alumni Association hosted a special event including a reception at the Edison Hotel, followed by a performance by a “Columbia Talkback.” The news was light this issue; let’s aim to do better at next time. Think about sending an update with all the ways you plan to enjoy the summer. You can write me at either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ cct/submit_class_note. Until next time.

Oberweger and his wife, Caroline '06 TC, reported the great news of the arrival of Samuel Gideon Oberweger on January 24. Samuel’s middle name honors his late grandfather, Gideon '65. Alex is Columbia’s associate athletics director for strategic communications.

My first few issues as your new correspondent have been encouraging, but I want to hear from more of you. Don’t be shy. You can write me at either address at the top of the column or through CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ cct/submit_class_note.

Roar, Lions!

Betsy Gomperz
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Greetings, classmates! Summer is nearly here and I’m sure those who live on the East Coast or in the Midwest are thrilled the long winter is over.

We start with some good news: In March, Ruben Fonse was named president of Blue Earth’s solar division, Blue Earth Solar. Blue Earth is an alternative/renewable energy and energy efficiency services company based in Nevada. Prior, Reuben was with Chevron and before that, Sweeney Builders, where his career focused on renewable energy.

Congratulations, Reuben! Also in March, If/Then, the new musical, opened on Broadway. To celebrate, the Columbia Alumni Association hosted a special event including a reception at the Edison Hotel, followed by a performance by a “Columbia Talkback.” The last part entailed a Q&A for more than 200 alumni with Brian and Tom. Rachel Mintz — who was seeing the show for a second time, having seen it first with Mia Ricci — said the evening was “excellent” and that she spent time with Rita Pietropaoli-Kitt (who of course was there) as well as Yumi Koh, Joe Laszlo, Stephen Morestis, Adrian Bordoni, Jaishree Kapoor, Sonya Kim, and Eric Roston. Rachel also saw Karen Sendler ‘94, Joan Campion ‘92, Dane Holmes ‘92 and so many others from the classes of the 90s that “there wasn’t nearly enough time to catch up with everyone. What a great event!”

In addition, Rachel provided two updates: Mike Crowley and his wife, Alexis Hart, celebrated their 10th anniversary last summer around the same time they moved to Monticello, Pa., where they teach in the English department at Allegheny College. They have two daughters, Amelia (6) and Agatha (4). Mark Ruchin lives in Westfield, NJ, with his wife, Me- sinu, and daughter, Milana. Mark stopped practicing medicine in 2004 and has been developing anti-cancer drugs in the pharmaceutical industry ever since.

Many thanks to Rachel for providing news. Please keep sending updates! You can use either address at the top of the column or submit them via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/ cct/submit_class_note.

Greetings, fellow CC ‘96ers!

After earning a Ph.D. in film studies from UCLA and spending a year in Paris and London doing research, Rebecca Prime returned to the East Coast. She has lived in Washington, D.C., for the last five years with her husband, David, and their sons, Dominick (6) and Paul (18 months). Rebecca writes that teaching and parenthood have kept her busy, so she is delighted to have finished her doctoral book, Hollywood Exiles in Europe: the Blacklist and Cold War Film Culture, which was published in January. It chronicles the experiences of the blacklisted American filmmakers who sought refuge in Europe in the 1950s and 1960s. It remains looking for another book project that will provide an excuse to return to Paris. In D.C. she regularly sees Nicole Miller, who recently relocated there from Boston, and Susannah Cope (née Vance), who was recently elected the area director at Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell, a law firm where she practices in the area of health care.

Natasha Kohne lives in Abu Dhabi with her husband and children, Siena (5) and Arthur (1). Natasha runs (and in fact opened) the Abu Dhabi office of the global law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld. She has been living in Abu Dhabi for six years and primarily advises government entities in the Gulf Corporation Council region on their investments and activities worldwide as well as multinational companies doing business in the GCC.

Sayan Bhattacharya ‘04L was recently named a partner in the Financial Restructuring Group of the New York office at Gordon & Lavan. Sayan focuses on corporate and financial restructuring and regularly represents ad hoc
committees of bondholders and bank lenders, official committees of unsecured creditors, debtors, individual creditors, investors, DIP lenders, equity holders, indenture trustees and bank agents in bankruptcy proceedings, out-of-court restructurings and default scenarios. He represents hedge funds, private equity funds, banks and large financial investors in in-court and out-of-court restructurings. He also advises these clients on the development and implementation of distressed investment strategies.

Alas, that is all I have for you. Come out of hibernation, everyone. The weather has warmed up and I want to hear from you! I urge you to send in more notes; I know you all have a lot to say! You can write to either address at the top of the column or submit via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”
—Winston Churchill

Michelle Caswell’s new book, *Architecting the Unpredictable: Silence, Memory, and the Photographic Record* in Cambodia, was published on April 1. It details the reign of the Khmer Rouge through analysis of photographic history.

Nicholas Kulish and Souad Mekhennet’s new book, *The Eternal Nazi: From Mauthausen to Cairo, the Relentless Pursuit of SS Doctor Aribert Heim*, came out March 25. It details the story of Dr. Aribert Heim, who worked in the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp for a few months in 1941. Known to inmates as “Dr. Death,” in the chaos of the postwar period Heim was able to slip away from his dark past and establish himself as a reputable doctor and family man in Baden-Baden, Germany. As late as 2009, the mystery of Heim’s disappearance remained unsolved. The book reveals for the first time how Heim evaded capture — living in a working-class neighborhood of Cairo, praying in Arabic, beloved by an adopted Muslim family — while inspiring and spurring on that outlawed field (beyond 1992) by many years.

Matt Wang’s game company, To Be Continued, was acquired in 2012 by one of its operating partners, 5th Planet Games, for which Matt now is senior adviser. Matt is also the driving force behind the independent investment bank he started up with another girl from Kansas land — a manhunt that outlived him (he died in 1992) by many years.

Danielle Paige has a new young-adult novel coming out, her first book, released April 1, is *Dorothy Must Die*: it reimagines the fantasy landscape we’re all familiar with, with another girl from Kansas landing in Oz, joining a revolutionary order of formerly wicked witches and having to kill an evil Dorothy. It’s also been optioned by The CW and producer/screenwriter Tim Kring (Heroes) for a possible television adaptation.

Kate Kelly lives in Brooklyn and is a television reporter for CNBC. She is married and a proud mom of three: stepdaughter, Laney (15); son, Zachary (4); and daughter, Josephine (2½). Kate is excited about the publication of her second book, *The Secret Club That Runs the World: Inside the Fraternity of Commodity Traders*. She writes, “It’s a look inside the opaque world of commodity trading — the buying and selling of contracts tied to future prices of oil, gas, grains, metals and other raw materials we all use. The book was a year and a half of investigation and lots of travel, and I’m excited to finally get it onto bookshelves (or e-readers!).”

“Mitch is a full-time freelancer doing video production and is launching a video production company (AXOXX) that will involve collaborating with many talented local people.”

Congratulations, Meena, Mitch, Mizan and baby Mohan!

Congratulations are also in order for Abby Lublin. According to pal Adrika Brooks (née Berrios), Abby had a son last summer. Her family lives in Troy, N.Y. That’s it for this edition. If you’re on Facebook, please join us. That’s it for this edition.

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Greetings, Class of ’99. I hope this update finds you well. This submission is a bit tricky, as I’m writing a few months before our reunion yet you will be reading it after. That said, there’s not a lot of news. The full report on the weekend will appear in the next issue, though it appears by all accounts we’ll have had a solid turnout.

Life has been busy lately for reasons I can tell you more about in the Fall issue. That being said, it’s been a COO of Evergreen a bit of a relief. What can I say...”

Reunion Weekend
May 28-31, 2015
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Emily Martin Kurzweil has been busy with her twins, Edie and Sammy (who turned 1 last April), and their older sister, Eva. Emily moved to Portland, Ore., several years ago with her husband, Grady Jurrens, to be closer to his family.

Nathaniel Farrell wrote in with some great news: His first book of poetry, *Be Continued*, was just published this summer! You can check out an excerpt in The Brooklyn Rail: brooklynrall.org/2014/04/poetry/eight-from-newcomer.

Nathaniel lives in St. Louis with his wife, Elizabeth, who teaches at Washington University and volunteers at a local radio station, 88.1 KDFX.

Meanwhile, Matthew Matlock has lived in Tulsa since 2002. He works in the technology industry and has been with Brocade for the past seven years. His datacenter technology is being used for the infrastructure for the nation’s first community supercomputer, Tandy Supercomputing Center, which provides access to academic, corporate and government entities needing high-performance computational capabilities.

Congratulations to Eric Goldberg, who recently joined the law firm of Littleton Joyce Ughetta Park & Kelly as a partner in its NYC office. The firm is a litigation boutique with five offices around the country focusing on complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on products liability defense. Eric lives in Edison, N.J., with his wife, Karen ‘01, and their daughters, Katie, Emma and Gracie.

Kimberly Warren (née Fisher) emailed an update on the last five years. She got married in 2010 with 12 Columbia ’00 classmates in attendance, gave birth to a son last summer and, she says, was crazy enough to take an eight-day maternity leave. She is the executive director of sales at an analytics firm and loves it. Kim is a board member of the Women in Technology Foundation, lives in Manhattan and runs every day.

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I hope everyone’s summer is off to a great start!

In January I got to spend an afternoon of fun in the sun with an amazing group of alumni and their families, as we had our very own mini-reunion in the desert city of Rancho Mirage, Calif. (near Palm Springs). Thanks to Nancy Michaelis (née Perla) for hosting us, and to Susan Wilsey (née Pereira), Annie Marquit (née Lainer), Dina Epstein, Joyce Chou and Jamie Rubin ’01 Bartard for joining. It was so much fun to catch up and meet the next generation of alumni.

Cambia Matlow recently launched a successful Kickstarter campaign for her film project The Woodsiders. It’s “a meditative portrait of Mount Hood’s nature and culture, as seen through the eyes of two female skateboarders.”

I personally followed the campaign with great interest on Facebook and enjoyed seeing all the support...
Ronen Landa ‘01 composed the “oddly affecting and always unsettling” score for the horror film Home, which premiered at SXSX this past spring.

From the ’01 community, Claire Weingarten will be an associate producer.

Best of luck with the film, Cambria!

Eliel Flores left the United States for Zurich at the end of January to begin a six-month assignment practicing international law.

Marc Dunkelman shared two exciting updates: He and his wife, Kathryn, welcomed their second daughter, Helen Levine Dunkelman, on February 9 at Women & Infants’ Hospital of Rhode Island, in Providence. Helen weighed in at 7 lbs., 1 oz. She joins sis Emilia. Congratulations, Marc and Kathryn!

Marc also shares: “I’ve spent many nights and weekends in the last decade toiling over a book about how community has changed in America and why that transformation explains so many of our challenges today. It’s a joy and a relief to announce that the final product, The Vanishing Neighbor: The Transformation of American Community, is slated to hit stores on July 28.”

Congratulations, Marc! Ariel Neuman reported, “My wife, Eszter, and I welcomed our son, Zev, into the world in August. He’s doing great. Also, after almost seven years at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, I joined Bird Marella, a criminal defense and complex civil litigation.”

Avery Kastin and Vanessa Isen composed the “oddly affecting and always unsettling” score for the horror film Home, which premiered at SXSX this past spring.

Jacqueline Karp and David Karp ’99 are excited to announce the arrival of their son, Joel Franklin, who was born on November 26.

Ethan Farbman and Natalie Fung ’02 Barnard welcomed their daughter, Isabelle Tatsum Farbman, into the world on December 19 at 10:30 a.m. Hong Kong time. Mother and daughter are doing great.

Richard Mammana and Mary Christian Winthrop Mammana ’04 (née Browning) welcomed their second daughter, Elisabeth Hannah Howell, on January 4 in New Haven,

Emily Bruskin Yarborough and Chad Yarborough welcomed their daughter, Zoe Anna Yarborough, on April 9, 2013, in New York City.

Lenny Braman and his wife, Anne Green (director of academic counseling and judicial programming at the Law School), joyfully announce the birth of their first child, Gwendolyn Ray, on October 27, 2013. Lenny is senior counsel in the affirmative litigation division of the New York City Law Department.

Tze-Ngo Chun and his wife, Cara McKinney, welcomed their second child, Theodore Seabright, on December 19. Chun’s new film, Cold Comes the Night, which he wrote and directed, stars Bryan Cranston and Alice Eve and was released theatrically in January. It is now available on DVD.

Ian R. Rapoport writes, "Last year (2013) was a wild and awesome year for my wife, Leah, and me. Most importantly, we welcomed Max Basinger into the world on July 19, all 5 lbs., 4 oz. of him. An exciting bundle of cuteness. It was really happy that Adam Schwartz, Mike Kim and Matt Waldman got to meet him during Thanksgiving break. As for work, I was moved into the role of ‘National Insider’ on the NFL Network, acting as our main news reporter on NFL GameDay Morning, Thursday Night Football and our other shows.”

Michael Novielli World City Apartments Attention Michael J. Novielli, A608 Block 10, No. 6 Jinhua Road, Chaoyang District Beijing, 100020 People’s Republic of China mjm29@columbia.edu The summer has brought some much-needed warmth to much of the country and I hope this issue’s Class Notes will warm your hearts, as there is a ton of exciting news and announcements. Two classmates have joined the faculties of American universities, one published his first book, three welcomed children, three are in senior positions at start-ups and one recently moved to a senior leadership position with a national publication.

Evan Mayo-Wilson writes, “I moved to Baltimore in February to join the faculty at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I’d love to reconnect with Columbia folks in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., area.”

Yvette Siegert teaches comparative literature and translation at CUNY Baruch, but still puts in long hours at Butler Library, where she is translating the collected works of poet Alejandra Pizarnik for publisher New Directions and writing a book about bootlegging in New York.

David Burr Gerrard’s first novel, Stunt Century, was published in March. The book launch, at The Oracle Club in Long Island City, was attended by many alumni, including Bec Bloom, Ben Casselman, Julia Fuma, Alexa Winnik, Yvette Siegert, Jessica Feldman ’01 and William Burr Gerrard ’05.

Anne Melzer writes, “Next year I’ll complete my master’s of epidemiology at the University of Washington as part of my pulmonary and critical care fellowship. My husband and I recently welcomed our first child, a son.”

Beil Tari Becker and her partner, Darren Becker, “had our first baby on January 18. Jonathan was born six weeks early and weighed 5 lbs. He is growing quickly and showing us smiles.”

Justin Selman has accepted a full-time position with a luxury leather company, Churka, as its global director of sales and merchandising.

Samuel Polk writes, “My wife, Kristin, and I welcomed our first child on April 2. Eveline Thompson Polk was 5 lbs., 14 oz., and couldn’t be more beautiful.”

Darrell Silver writes, “The education company I cofounded last year, Thinkful, has been growing: We’ve taught more than 1,000 adults in engineering with our network of more than 100 mentors around the country. Our team in NYC is now 14 strong, and we’re pretty excited about what’s going to happen in the rest of 2014!”

Andrew Horowitz left his job as editor of the magazine National Journal to join The Washington Post, where he is hiring a staff and launching a new digital magazine.

Angela Georgopoulos 200 Water St., Apt. 1711 New York, NY 10038 aeg90@columbia.edu Hello CC ’04! I hope all is great with you. This will be a truncated column as the larger report on our reunion will be featured in the next issue. It was great to see those of you who made it back to campus! Classmates who didn’t make it, you were definitely missed.

Congratulations to Margarita O’Donnell, as her husband, Gareth Eckmann ’02, ’04E, who welcomed their daughter, Alejandra Mary-Jeanne, on March 21.
Alessa was born in Washington, D.C., where Maggie and Caret have lived since moving from New York two years ago.

During a recent high school alumni event, I spent time with Joel Lorden ’90, who regaled me with fascinating stories of his time at Columbia. In addition to learning about the $300/semester tuition, the maid service that cleaned the dorm rooms and the ability to use the tunnels on snowy days (all things I wish we could have experienced), we debated the pros and cons of JJ’s Place versus the Lions Den. The Lions Den had the advantage because it was a pub, but JJ’s put up a strong showing with its late-night chicken fingers and mozzarella sticks. Also, it turns out the CC curriculum hasn’t changed all that much since the late 1940s.

Keep sending those updates! Feel free to email me at aeg90@columbia.edu or get in touch via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

## REUNION WEEKEND
**MAY 28–31, 2015**

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### 05

**Claire McDonnell**
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Happy summer, Class of 2005! As one of our classmates points out later in the column, in one year’s time we’ll be at our 10th reunion. Whoa! Until then, here’s the best: **Eun Young Choi** writes, “In May I graduated with a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Harvard. I’m a post-doctoral fellow at Rochester, having defended last July.”

**John Zaro** announces, “My wife, Natalie Zaro [née Leggio] ’04 Barnard and I welcomed our first child into the world on April 10. Adrian Paul was born at 9:38 p.m. at NYU Langone on First Avenue. We reside in downtown NYC.”

**Joanna Dee Das** ’11 GSAS says, “I completed my Ph.D. in history at Columbia [three years ago] and will start a post-doctoral fellowship in dance studies this fall at Stanford.”

**Bridget Gebel Stefanski** writes, “I’m finishing my sixth year of teaching at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton, Calif., which my husband, Benjamin (4), recently finished his first year of preschool. This summer we are taking a six-week trip to Poland to visit friends and family on my husband’s side, and we’re really looking forward to a trip to Krakow. I’m also looking forward to our 10-year reunion next summer — can’t believe we’re almost there!”

**Caryn [Watson] Gehrke** announces, “My husband, Martin Gehrke ’06E, and I welcomed our daughter, Charlotte Emma, on May 5. Her older brothers, Martin and Levi, also adored her.”

**Jason Frazer** writes, “I’m a TV reporter at Channel 3 Eyewitness News in Hartford, Conn. It’s the CBS affiliate.”

**Steve Esses** writes, “I am a resident physician in the Department of Radiology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. I am married to Daniella Lichtman-Esses ’05 Barnard, ’09L, who is an attorney at Cravath, Swaine & Moore. We have three children: Joey, Teddy, and Sheryl.”

**Darren Bolton** reports, “Last year was huge for me. I got back into the golf industry and am working toward earning my Class A from the PGA of America. In April I moved to Princeton, where I accepted a job as an assistant golf professional at the Springdale Golf Club. I am writing this note from Cape Creek, Ariz., where I spent winter as assistant pro at the Mirabel Golf Club, with plans to return to Springdale in May. I also began a relationship this past summer with an awesome girl named Jessi. She is so hot. And intelligent! You guys would be jealous.”

“In September I applied for a one-day license from the state of Massachusetts to marry my father and Wei Tao. She’s Chinese, and she makes these awesome dumplings. She’s like a mom to me. I still have my real mom, too — hal! Anyway I was granted the license and performed the ceremony like a pro; my boss at Springdale calls me ‘Reverend’ now. Could be my missed calling?”

“So as you may have guessed, my parents got divorced. Happened about five years ago. They told me it was all my fault. Anyway, it has been worked out in therapy, and life is good. I am the happiest I have been in a long time.”

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**Daniella Ross** says, “I graduated from MSU College of Veterinary Medicine in May and am going on to a small-animal rotating internship at Louisiana State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital.”

**Brendon Jeremi Jobs** writes from Philadelphia: “Work has been busy. Summer break will be a needed time for reflection. I teach music at the Girard Academic Music Program after making the difficult decision to leave Philadelphia High School for Girls. My kids have been amazing and inspiring but my work as an advocate for public education in the midst of Philly’s crisis has also heated up. With a coalition of teacher leaders, I’m organizing a ‘Citywide Teacher Convening’ focused on empowering teachers to leverage teacher leadership in the fight for public education. I also have been busy with invitations to present and speak on panels. Recently, I spoke at a Bread & Roses Teach-In and at the social justice meeting of April’s American Educational Research Association Conference, and I presented ‘Preparing “Thinkers” for the Unseen & Uncertain Future’ at ReTHINK Philly. Ed Tech as a part of Philadelphia Public School also looks to be facilitating a citywide teacher meet-up group called Black Music as Rebellion. In May, a team of participants will present at Teacher Action Group’s fifth annual Education for Liberation Conference at the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School in Philadelphia.”

Jennifer Handorf has released her third feature film as producer; it’s called The Borderlands. Also, she recently joined the United Kingdom’s Metrodome Distribution as its head of production.

In November, **Kathryn Struthers** married **Faraaz Ahmed ’05E** in New York City. Alumni in attendance were Megan Bailey ’05 Barnard, Nancy Fairchild ’05E (née Lin) and her husband, Jeff Fairchild ’05E.

**Faraaz Ahme ’05E and Kathryn Struthers ’05 were married in November in New York City. Left to right: Josh Feldman ’05, Brandon Woolf ’05, Lee Greenwood ’05, Nick Renart ’05, the groom, the bride, Megan Bailey ’05 Barnard, Lizzy Murakami ’05, and Nancy Fairchild ’05E (née Lin) and her husband, Jeff Fairchild ’05E.**

**PHOTO: HECHLER PHOTOGRAPHERS**
Aoife Keane launched the Irish Whiskey Association, a trade body of 18 founding companies involved in distilling and selling Irish whiskey. In her role heading up the association in Dublin, Aoife is tasked with international promotion and protection of the Irish whiskey category, which has grown by 220 percent in the last 10 years and is the fastest growing premium spirit. She encourages all Colombians to taste the Irish tipples and see how it compares to its American and Scottish counterparts!

In his role at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Seton Hawkins produced a two-week educational tour in the United States featuring Ukhadi: All-Stars of Johannesburg Jazz. The ensemble comprised six of South Africa’s top jazz musicians, who held a weekend residency at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola in NYC and conducted workshops and family performances throughout the Northeast in celebration of 20 years of democracy in South Africa.

Stephen Distinti has been teaching Latin and ancient Greek in the NYC area for seven years; he currently teaches at Fordham Prep in the Bronx. His first book is being published this summer; it’s a two-volume series of notebooks designed to help students taking AP Latin organize their work and improve their vocabulary and translation skills.

Eileen Lee, COO of Venture for America, is excited to welcome VFA’s third fellowship class this summer. You can meet the newest fellows at ventureforamerica.org/2014fellows. VFA is a nonprofit that recruits and trains top college graduates to work at startups and early-stage growth companies in California, Texas, Florida, Massachusetts, the New York metropolitan area, New England, and the Pacific Northwest. In their first two years, fellows have helped scale their companies and raised money and strategic capital to sustain their growth.

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I hope this column finds you well and hope you have plans to take some much-deserved time off during these summer months. Our very own Justin Filfil was presented this year’s Gerald Sherwin ’55 Young Alumni Service Award at the Young Alumni Fund Spring Benefit on April 25. Justin says, “I am very proud of our College and how the connections to Columbia have grown stronger over the years for many more alumni than ever before.” (Editor’s note: See “Around the Quads.”)

He continues, “In March, I had the pleasure of hosting the birthday party of Marques Torbert and Armond Adams. The annual ‘Q&A’ bashes have been great fun over the years and have become small reunions for our class. I also hosted Uzo Onwu as he threw his first birthday party as an adult. Good times all around. Only two more years until reunion — can’t wait!”

Nick Cain writes, “John Jay 14 neighbors Brendan Shanahan, Taylor Marcus, Virginia Zimpel and Nick Cain have reunited in Berkeley, Calif., where all four are students at the Haas School of Business. Like life on John Jay, business school in Berkeley involves nice views and a heightened radar for free food. Sadly, it does not involve hall sports.”

Marisa Harary and Adam Zucker celebrated the first birthday of their daughter, Sage Rafaela Zucker, on February 28 in Brooklyn. Many friends were on hand including Jacob Appel, Zachary Kleinhænder, Adam Razencowig, Antonio Cabrera 06E, Ezra Surovicz ’07, Kristin Soong, Kelsey Osgood, Monica Sethi, Sam Shapiro, Phillip Rapport ’05, Michael Goldberg ’05, Larry Manis ’05, Amalia Goldvars ’03, Michael Blick ’04 and Frieda Laucht ’08E. Among the family in attendance were Arielle Siboni ’09 Barnard, Jeremy Banon ’13 and Alvin Zucker 4IE.

Varun Munjal does stock research and lives in Framingham, Mass. As reported by The New York Times, Michael C. Brown Jr., founder and general partner of Bowery Capital, an early-stage venture capital firm, recently married Elizabeth B. Wilson, CEO of Viyet, an online consignment service for furniture. Congratulations, Michael! Remember, your classmates want to hear from you! You can write me at either address at the top of the column or via CCT’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

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I hope this edition of Class Notes finds everyone well! Here are some exciting updates.

Kylie Davis started a new job at Broadhaven Capital Partners working on growth private equity and advisory in the financial-technology space. Max Bauer also started a new job as a labor lawyer in Boston. Congratulations!

Olivia Roszkowski is a chef instructor at the Natural Gourmet Institute and a private chef in New York City. Check out her blog, oli.viachechef.com, for recipes, classes and events.

Leni Babb writes, “I passed the Utah State Bar Exam and started a
Nikkie Zanevsky '07 Finds Outlet for Creativity in Parkour

By Elena Hecht '09 Barnard

The sun had already set on a chilly December evening when Nikkie Zanevsky '07, in a long-sleeved shirt and leggings, sprinted toward a jungle gym in Manhattan's Tompkins Square Park. She confidently walked up the rungs of the jungle gym — no hands needed — and then across the top of the monkey bars, silent and agile as a cat, before flipping over the edge and landing quietly on the ground.

To watch Zanevsky is to watch what seems almost supernatural, her movements like stunts out of The Matrix. But for Zanevsky this is old hat. This way of moving through the world as though it is an obstacle course to be mastered is her passion, otherwise known as parkour, a practice Zanevsky describes as “getting from point A to point B as creatively as possible using only your environment and your body.”

Zanevsky, who majored in comparative literature, discovered parkour through a video sent to her by a friend during her senior year. “It captivated me,” she says. “And I thought, ‘This — I am meant to be doing this.’” Soon after, Zanevsky began commuting to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, once a week for a parkour class. She subsequently connected with the parkour community through online forums and began joining other devotees for informal training sessions. By the summer after graduation, Zanevsky was training three times a week.

Though her love for parkour was steadfast, she put it to the side in fall 2007 as she began a grueling schedule as a business analyst at McKinsey & Company — a turn that lasted only six months. “I knew I wanted to be more involved in the parkour community, so working all day [and] all night I couldn’t really dedicate myself to that,” she says.

While Zanevsky is now a senior product marketing manager for Northwest Evaluation Association — what she calls her “regular job in the real world” — her dream has become a reality through The Movement Creative, an organization she began with friends, fellow traceurs (parkour practitioners) and training partners Jesse Danger and Caitlin Pontrella. The organization is a collective of instructors whose mission is to have a positive impact on the lives of children and adults by sharing parkour.

Officially founded in January 2013, The Movement Creative grew out of an informal free workshop that Zanevsky and Danger began hosting several years ago. “Eventually it grew, kind of snowballed, and then he [Danger] and I would take turns teaching these sessions,” says Zanevsky.

Today The Movement Creative has brought parkour to six schools throughout New York City and is in discussion with nine more for the coming academic year. It has also run a one-week Parkour and Game Design Summer Camp through a partnership with Quest to Learn, a Chelsea school founded on the ideals of game-like learning, and the Institute of Play.

The impetus for starting The Movement Creative stemmed from an approach to parkour that is, as Zanevsky says, “about being open to all, so, egalitarian, accessible and learning through play.” In keeping with this outlook, the organization uses modified children’s games like tag and “The Floor is Lava” to teach and practice parkour techniques. The instructors have also shared parkour and their training expertise for free at festivals such as the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation’s Summer Streets and Winter Jam.

While parkour’s flashy moves might be the most visible elements of the practice, Zanevsky describes parkour as “like doodling kinesthetically,” and is most drawn to its creative elements. “I think that parkour is all about saying, ‘Never build what’s in the picture on the [Lego] box,’” says Zanevsky.

“Everybody makes their own thing with the same building blocks.” General awareness of parkour has grown thanks to increased visibility in media such as movies and music videos — and, of course, thanks to practitioners themselves. “On so many occasions I’ve watched curious children, hesitant adults and hurried passersby all stop what they are doing to learn a new movement from her [Zanevsky],” says Danger.

In December, The Movement Creative took part in TEDx-Brooklyn, held at the Brooklyn Bowl, demonstrating parkour’s potential as an accessible form of exercise by showcasing moves in both their basic and more advanced forms — a presentation that ties to the organization’s concept that parkour is for everyone.

Zanevsky emphasizes that parkour is also for everywhere, though the environment endemic to an urban landscape makes it easy to see why parkour is well suited to a city like New York. She references her Columbia graduation, and how free she felt when she used parkour to jump over a physical barrier that was preventing her classmates from moving. “We want to give that to other people,” says Zanevsky. “That sense of freedom and that feeling that living in an urban environment, it doesn’t have to feel depressing or like you’re fenced in, but you can treat these constraints as an outlet for your creativity.”

To watch a video of Zanevsky doing parkour, go to Web Extras at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Elena Hecht '09 Barnard, a former editorial assistant for Columbia College Today, is a writer and dancer based in New York City. Her work has also appeared in Dance Magazine.
one-year clerkship with the Hon. Justice Ronald Nehring of the Utah Supreme Court. I also had a blast celebrating Suzanne Hopcroft’s upcoming marriage to Jonny Roszak ’08 with Kori Estrada (née Catta) at Suzanne’s bachelorette party in Austin.

Andy Wolf launched the company ROIKOL. As TechCrunch describes it, “At its core, it is a leaderboard that anonymously rates people you know based on one single criterion: ‘Would I hire this person if I had a job and work with them?’” Learn more at roikol.com.

Jinho Young (Janet) Rho writes, “It’s my fourth year working at a bank in South Korea. If there is anybody from the Class of 2007 in Korea now, please email me. Can’t wait to share memories from Columbia!” Her address is janet.rho@hotmail.com.

It’s so nice to see our classmates up to such exciting things. Thanks as always for all of the updates. Remember, you can reach me at either address at the top of the column or through CCF’s webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Morgan Hoke ’08, who is in graduate school at Northwestern, travels to Peru this summer to begin her dissertation research in biocultural anthropology.

of Antarctica. Right afterward, he headed to Pakistan to choreograph a wedding. By the time you read this, Calvin will have graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. The May ceremony took place at Carnegie Hall, and as class president he delivered the welcoming address. Calvin’s travel plans include taking fellow monsooners to places such as Cuba, Bolivia, Turkmenistan, Somalia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq. If you’re interested in getting to know, let him know at cds2107@eaa.columbia.edu!

As always, I encourage you to share your news. You can reach me at either address at the top of the column or through CCF’s webform of college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

SUMMER 2014

CLASS NOTES

Rachel Levenson was accepted to either address at the top of the column or by sending a note through the column or to Blue. Mabo Imoisili, ’08, a graduate from Hawaii Pacific University in Seattle, is now in an interesting and exciting new coaching practice. I am applying to enter naturopathic med school as well to pursue a career in naturopathic medicine.

Neda Navab
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Dalinez Martinez-Lanzo has a fantastic update: “On December 14, right between my birthday (December 6) and Christmas, I got the best present ever. I gave birth to a little girl, Lea Ines Lanzo. She’s adorable and I’m already prepping her to be a Lion.”

Jon Giocki is wrapping up his time at Harvard Law, where he misses Columbia every day for the foreseeable future he’ll be in Philadelphia, his hometown, where he is excited to start work in September as an assistant public defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. He says, “Come visit anytime! And also, move to Philly! It’s a wonderful town, and a hell of a lot more affordable than NYC.”

This summer, Morgan Hoke, who is in graduate school at Northwestern, will travel to Peru to begin her year-long dissertation research in biocultural anthropology. Her research is supported by a Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship.

Rachel Levenson was accepted to the pre-doctoral internship program in medical psychology and psychiatric consultation liaison services at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for the 2014–15 training year.

Farah Mohammed is president of the Sydney chapter of the Columbia Association of Australia. A lawyer, she was admitted in February to the Australian bar.

Chenni Xu has moved from her job as senior consultant at Emerging Asia in Shanghai to work at Hill & Knowlton Strategies’ Beijing office in a government and public affairs role. She welcomes visitors in Beijing to contact her at chenni.xu@gmail.com.

Calvin Sun has taken his travel service, The Monsoon Diaries, to the next level: Last December he led an expedition of 19 monsooners from 11 countries on a budget trip to the great white continent.

In Chicago, they attended the wedding of Christopher Schell, their first friend to get married. Adulthood! Also, by the time this column publishes, Jenny will have returned from her annual trip to Hong Kong, where she’s invited to attend Art Basel as a VIP and where she stocks up on cheap plastic watches.

Eliaf Bitan graduated from UVA’s Darden School of Business this spring. In June, he will start work in Minneapolis as an associate marketing manager in Land O’Lakes’ agricultural products division, WinField Solutions. He loved his internship there, which included a thorough pricing analysis and an epic trip to Dave & Busters’.

Any classmates in Minneapolis are more than welcome to get in touch, he says.

And now a reminder to ... write me! And actually, it’s not just me you’re writing to — Class Notes are a great way to keep in touch with all classmates in one fell swoop. You can write to either address at the top of the column or send a note through CCF’s webform of college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 28–31, 2015
ALUMNI OFFICE CONTACTS
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From Morocco to Brooklyn to San Francisco, our class certainly knows how to stay busy. Let’s dive right in.

Alexandra Stein writes, “I live in Morocco, where I help Moroccan corporations develop social and environmental responsibility projects and strategies. Some of the projects include building wells in villages without clean running water and literacy training for hundreds of women through private financing. When I am no longer surprised to see camels on the way to work, I know it is time for a visit to New York.”

Millie Li is getting married on the Brooklyn Bridge pedestrian walkway this June to her longtime partner, David Dillon, director of channel sales at Eden Technologies. She is the administrative director and marketing manager for MacArthur fellow Elizabeth Streb and the STREB Extreme Action Co., recently popularized by the documentary Born to Fly, which premiered at the SXSW festival in March. Four of her eight bridesmaids are alumni: Elizabeth Bruce, Heather O’99, Rachel Lindsay ‘09 and Ashley James ‘09.

Cliff Massey has some big news: “Part of the documentary Born to Fly...”

Laura Z. Weldon writes, “I finished my post-bac, pre-med program at Louisville in May and will spend the next year teaching Pilates and expanding my health coaching practice. I am applying to enter naturopathic med school (Bastyr University in Seattle) in fall 2015. I miss New York and my many dispersed Columbia friends but am excited for everything to come.”

Julia Feldberg received her J.D. from UVA’s Darden School of Business in May and will start working at Land O’Lakes’ agricultural products division, WinField Solutions. She loved his internship there, which included a thorough pricing analysis and an epic trip to Dave & Busters’.

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LinkedIn

SUMMER 2014

COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY

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[the restaurant] Sirio to join my new partners in opening a restaurant, Huertas, at 107 1st Ave., between 6th and 7th Streets, in the East Village. Huertas is a Basque-inspired Spanish restaurant and we offer a lively casual bar area with passed pintxos and a small dining room with a regularly changing four-course menú del día.

"We opened at the beginning of April. Officially, I will act as partner and co-general manager but my daily responsibilities will focus on being the consummate host and ensuring that all of our guests have a fun and memorable time (not so bad for what’s considered ‘work’).

"I’m thrilled about this opportunity because of its potential for success and am eager for all of you to visit and share in the fun. Check us out at huertasny.com. Looking forward to seeing you all!"

Last but not least, here is our regular installment from Chris Yim: "In February, I was walking to dinner in a dicey part of San Francisco when I was bitten by what I thought was a snake. However, it was not a snake. A stranger had taken a syringe to my shoulder. Essentially, I was stabbed. The needle penetrated my military jacket and went into my flesh. I flipped out, slapped the needle out and ran away. I was a nervous wreck for a number of days before I could finally see a doctor. The last time I had seen a doctor was on Thanksgiving Day, when I dislocated my shoulder wrestling my little brother (true story!). I went to the ER, and they charged me nearly a grand."

I forward to seeing you all!"

Exciting news: I’m going to the World Cup in Brazil this summer. I needed a place to stay for an evening in Rio de Janeiro and searched ‘friends of friends who live in Rio’ on a well-known social network. Through this query, I was able to reach a CC ’11 alum who offered her floor to me and Varun Gulati ’10E for a night. How about that for our Columbia network pulling through in the clutch?

"I’ve changed my stance: Tiger Woods will never win another major."

Thanks for all of your submissions. Keep them coming for next time!

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
c/o CCT
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
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This spring proved to be a prolific season for 2011 graduates. Congratulations to all who earned degrees, took on new jobs, abandoned dehumanizing ones, got married, got lucky and went on tour!

Since graduation, Warren McGee has pursued an M.D./Ph.D. at Northwestern. Now in his third year, Warren is studying the normal function of a protein involved in neurodegeneration and cancer. He was part of a team that launched the Good Neighbors Street Outreach Program in Chicago in spring 2013. The program goes out weekly with basic need items for those on the street but primarily focuses on building trusting relationships with “clients” so those individuals can comfortably reach out to its community partner, the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center, if they need help with bigger issues.

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Sam Reider recently went to the United States with his band, the Amigos, who were on a five-week tour of Southeast Asia and China, representing the U.S. Department of State. The Amigos’ tour took them to Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Vietnam and China. Sam’s band gave public performances, participated in community education workshops and collaborated with local musicians. Make sure to learn more about them at theamigosband.com and amvoices.org/ama.

After getting teaching experience in San Francisco, Rosalyn Shih moved to Beijing, where she began work as a college counselor for Due West, an educational company founded by Michael J. Novelli ’03 and Andrew Sohn ’04. She enjoys being in what feels like a foreign country to her — Rosalyn is from Hong Kong — and helping students understand their college options in the United States. Anyone who swings by Beijing is encouraged to drop Rosalyn a line: rosalynshih@gmail.com!

Also enjoying the glow of a new job is Alexander Ivey, who recently started working for House Majority PAC in Washington, D.C. He manages research for 23 races for the House of Representatives. During the 2012 election cycle, Alexander was a research analyst at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Shane Ferro is another who scored a new gig: She is now a writer at Counterparties and Reuters.com. Shane covers a variety of subjects, including economics, finance and gender equality. Another move is on the horizon, as she will be joining Duke Law as a member of the Class of 2017.}

Who is Ali?
Krimmer, who graduated from Fordham Law on May 19!

Since the timing of our appointment as class correspondents came not too long before this issue’s Class Notes deadline, we really appreciated how quickly you all were to send news. It was so nice to hear from you, too! Continue to send in your updates as they happen; we’re looking forward to many, many more renditions of 2011 Class Notes.

Until then, much love from Nuriel (nurielm@gmail.com) and Sean (sean.udell@gmail.com).

Happy summer, Class of 2012! I hope you’ll all find time to take a break; whatever you may be up to.

Viraq Gupta finished his first year at the School of Law and is looking forward to spending the summer as a judicial intern for the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. He couldn’t be more excited and hopes that all his classmates are doing well.

After a long winter lull, Paul Hsiao welcomes summer adventures: He is excited to celebrate Eric Tang ‘12E’s birthday and to spend time with Emily Ahn, who works in Madison, Wis., but plans to visit. Paul also wishes his instant messaging and visits with Angela Wang continue, and he plans to go to Bali this summer for a wedding (not his own).

Richard Lenz returned to New York from London by way of Baltimore in May of last year. Since then, he’s been dabbling in a number of endeavors: “I’ve been living in uptown Manhattan with Alex Calhoun ’11; his wife, Nora ’10 ’13; Nursing; and their daughter, Frances (Class of 2033). Otherwise, my energies have been not-so-equally divided between photographing and working in the Columbia darkroom, and making a living, both with mixed results.

“Odd jobs of the past year have included search engine evaluator, house cleaner, test subject, public relations assistant for a classical guitarist, babysitter and record dealer. I hope to publish a book of my photographs sometime in the next couple of decades.”

Aditya Mukerjee has Columbia-related news that he’s excited to share: BoardRounds, the company he co-founded with Benjamin Jack ’07E as part of the Blueprint Health 12-week accelerator program, has been working with the emergency room at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center to ensure that at-risk patients get timely follow-up care with primary care physicians. The program ended in April, and Aditya and Ben are excited for whatever the next stage of their venture will bring.

A graduate of Trinity Forum Academy, Sarah Ngu now is a researcher with LRN, an advisory firm that helps align an organization’s culture and governance with its values. She writes, “I’ve found a use for the liberal arts in (somewhat) corporate America. I’m using the interdisciplinary modes of thinking that the Core and my American studies degree fostered to create speeches and articles for my CEO, Dave Solomon, on global trends, values-based leadership and organizational culture. I do miss the intellectual freedom of the academy, but I am grateful for the wider audience (e.g., the next speech is for all NFL coaches and owners).”

Gillian Rhodes sent an update from Cambodia: “It’s been a little more than 1/2 years since I moved here and although every day is still an adventure, I definitely have a community around me now. [As I write] I was recently accepted to dance/choreograph two pieces in the Sibu International Dance Festival in Malaysia in June. I’m still working for Cambodian Television Network; this year I was asked (with 24 hours notice!) to guest judge for its popular program Like It or Not as well as to close out the season as a judge on a Korean pop dance contest. Never a dull moment!”

In March, Remy Zaken participated in the workshop at Bright Star, a new musical by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. The New York City workshop was attended by Sir Ian McKellen, Paul Simon, Mike Nichols and Diane Sawyer. For those like me who lack knowledge in performing arts lingo, Remy explains, “A workshop is basically a staged reading of a new musical so the creative team can see what the show looks like at that point. There are minimal sets and props, and an invited audience of friends and family to enjoy a very collaborative experience.”

Thanks for sharing all your exciting updates, CC ’12. I enjoy reading each and every one, and I know many of our classmates do as well.

Yoshiaki Ko ’13 is working toward a master’s of music in piano performance at The Juilliard School; he often performs in New York City.

and exciting endeavors. Your classmates have been up to some pretty interesting things around the world.

Congratulations to Chunyu Shi, who recently got married; she and her husband met while she was studying abroad during her junior year in Beijing. They recently moved into a studio in Manhattan and have been looking for jobs and exploring New York City. On Valentine’s Day, they renewed their vows in Times Square.

Since August 2013, Rose Winer has been working in Los Angeles on The Walt Disney Co.’s environment and conservation team. She’s been managing two big projects, the first of which was a company-wide Earth Month (April) campaign. This involved developing various elements including a website, four webinars, a photo/video contest, two local events, promotional items, a social media campaign and marketing materials. As a Disney is a global company with a variety of businesses, developing the Earth Month project meant coordinating with partners around the world; among them are Marvel, ESPN, Pixar, Walt Disney Studios, Disney Consumer Products, Disney Interactive, and Disney Parks and Resorts.

Rose also managed the launch of a program that provides Disney business leaders and employees with the tools to reduce their environmental impact at work. This project will be based on an internal website that provides business guidance, communications collateral and other resources with the goal of integrating an environmentally conscious mindset into the Disney workplace.

Rose enjoys her work at Disney, she says, because the company offers executive-level support for sustainability and has a global reach. Thus, her work successfully reaches thousands of people around the world, spreading the message of positive environmental change.

After enjoying a post-grad summer spending bar at Morningside Heights’ beloved Pisticci, Zoe Shaeffer started interning with Saveur magazine last fall. She was recently hired as an assistant digital editor and loves the world of food and travel publishing.

Ryan Cho will pursue a Ph.D. in sociology this fall at UCLA. After taking a year off from school, he says he’s ready to get back to studying, this time in warmer weather! He is interested in researching social stratification caused by inaccessibility to elite institutions of higher education as well as the implications and social outcomes of military service.

In April, Ryan also took command of Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company (Airborne), based in Mead, Neb. He leads 80 parachute riggers who help provide logistical support by way of aerial delivery.

Good luck, Ryan!

Similarly pursuing his academic passions is Yoshiaki Ko, who is working toward a master’s of music in piano performance at The Juilliard School. As a student in the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange, which involves his having weekly lessons at Juilliard while at Columbia, Yoshiaki is not new to the music academy. However, being a full-time student there definitely is! One of the big challenges, he says, comes from being surrounded by tremendously talented peers. It is inspiring, and creates a lot of pressure, he says. He explains that the students are so single-minded in honing their skills that a sense of competition is inevitable. That said, for the most part he enjoys the experience so much because he does not intend to have a career in piano performance but would rather attempt to combine his interests in neuroscience (his major at Columbia) and music. At this writing, Yoshiaki plans to be in Milwaukee this summer as artist-in-residence for an organization called PianoArts. He won first prize at its competition in 2010 and has been doing educational outreach and youth programs for it since.

Yoshiaki often performs at Juilliard and in Lincoln Center; schedules can be accessed online.

Giancarlo Roma has also been working in the arts. During his junior year, his father, Thomas Roma (a photographer and photo professor at Columbia), approached him about collaborating on a book. It was to contain 142 of his father’s photographs spanning his career, condensed into 100 pages, with a piece of
short fiction running through the pictures. Giancarlo was more than excited to work on the piece, which would come to be called The Waters of Our Time. He explains the project “was conceived as an homage to the now obscure but once bestselling 1955 book The Sweet Flypaper of Life by Langston Hughes and photographer Roy DeCarava, for which Hughes wrote a fictional first-person narrative that weaves through DeCarava’s photographs.” Throughout The Waters, the story, photographs and lyrics interact as the elderly female narrator reflects on her life, spent in her hometown of Brooklyn, as it comes to a close.

In the process of writing, Giancarlo was given only a dummy that contained his father’s photographs, already sequenced, and the white stones we tripped over while walking across campus — we did it. As your class correspondent, I feel free to email me any time at the address at the top of the column, and I will also be in touch via email in the coming months. You also can submit an update via CCT’s form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. However, as I close out my term as CCAA president, I can’t help but smile knowing what wonderful things are in store for our alumni.

Thank you for your passion for Columbia College and its students, your continued expectation of excellence, your exceptional support of the College and for staying in touch. You make Columbia great.
This is for all of us who have never been mentioned in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* or *The Washington Post*. It is for all of us who have never written a book, composed a symphony, made a movie or seen our play produced.

It is for all of us who managed to get through four years at Columbia College only thanks to a modicum of intelligence and a whole lot of hard work — for those of us who, say, in our junior year read Joyce’s *Ulysses* during a single 24-hour period, and then, bleary-eyed, (appropriately) flunked Lionel Trilling’s quiz the next morning.

This is for all of us who scrambled every week for four years just to keep up with the assignments, practically living in Butler Library, so we never had time to Learn the City. (Where the heck is SoHo, anyway?)

It is for all of us who have never been summa or magna anything.

This is for all of us who can’t beat the computer at chess when it’s set to “beginner,” who strain to follow the logic of the daily bridge column and who can’t remember the ending of *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* despite having read it three times. No wonder we gave up our dreams of astrophysics after freshman-year calculus (and flunked *Ulysses*).

It is for all of us who were not All-American athletes, scholars or poets to begin with, and who will never enter a hall of fame or be nominated for The Big Prize.

It is for those of us who (mostly) didn’t come from the New England prep schools or the academic hothouses of Brooklyn and Manhattan. We came, instead, from the public schools of nowhere, where we had excelled because all the tests were multiple choice and our grammar was better than average.

This, then, is for all of us who were too young, too naïve and too ignorant to appreciate fully the great lectures of the great professors in the great halls of learning when we were just 18 or, let’s be honest, even 21. For some of us, it was Trilling, Edward Said and Richard Hofstadter in Hamilton Hall. For others, it was ... who knows? We don’t keep up with the Great Scholars of other eras.

Finally, then, this is for all of us who, once upon a time, came to Columbia College unformed and uncertain, and left, thank you, with just a bit of confidence. Alma mater didn’t make us Rulers of the World but when we meet someone, we nevertheless try heroically to wedge Her into the conversation. “And where did you go to school?” we ask, knowing we will be asked the same in return. It is as if, time after time, we still cannot believe the good fortune of our answer.

Ed Weathers ’68, ’69 GSAS is (mostly) retired after a decade teaching writing courses at Virginia Tech. Before that, he was, for four decades, a magazine writer and editor (*Memphis* magazine, *Golf Digest, Tennis* magazine). He lives with his life partner, Gail Billingsley, in Blacksburg, Va., where he is, unapologetically, a single-digit golfer and three-times-a-week tennis player. A few hours a week, via the Internet, he helps Tanzanian medical students improve their English writing skills.
May 17 marked the 75th anniversary of the first televised sporting event in history — the second game of a baseball doubleheader between Princeton and Columbia at Baker Field, won by the Tigers 2–1 in 10 innings. Fewer than 400 television sets were capable of receiving the signal broadcast by NBC, which used the game as a tryout before attempting a Major League Baseball game five months later. For a full account of the event, written by Hall of Fame sports writer Leonard Koppett '44 for CCT in 1999, go to college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/spr99/34a_fr.html.