



**L.A. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ERIC GARCETTI '92, '93 SIPA
BRIDGES CITY'S DIVIDES**
PAGE 20

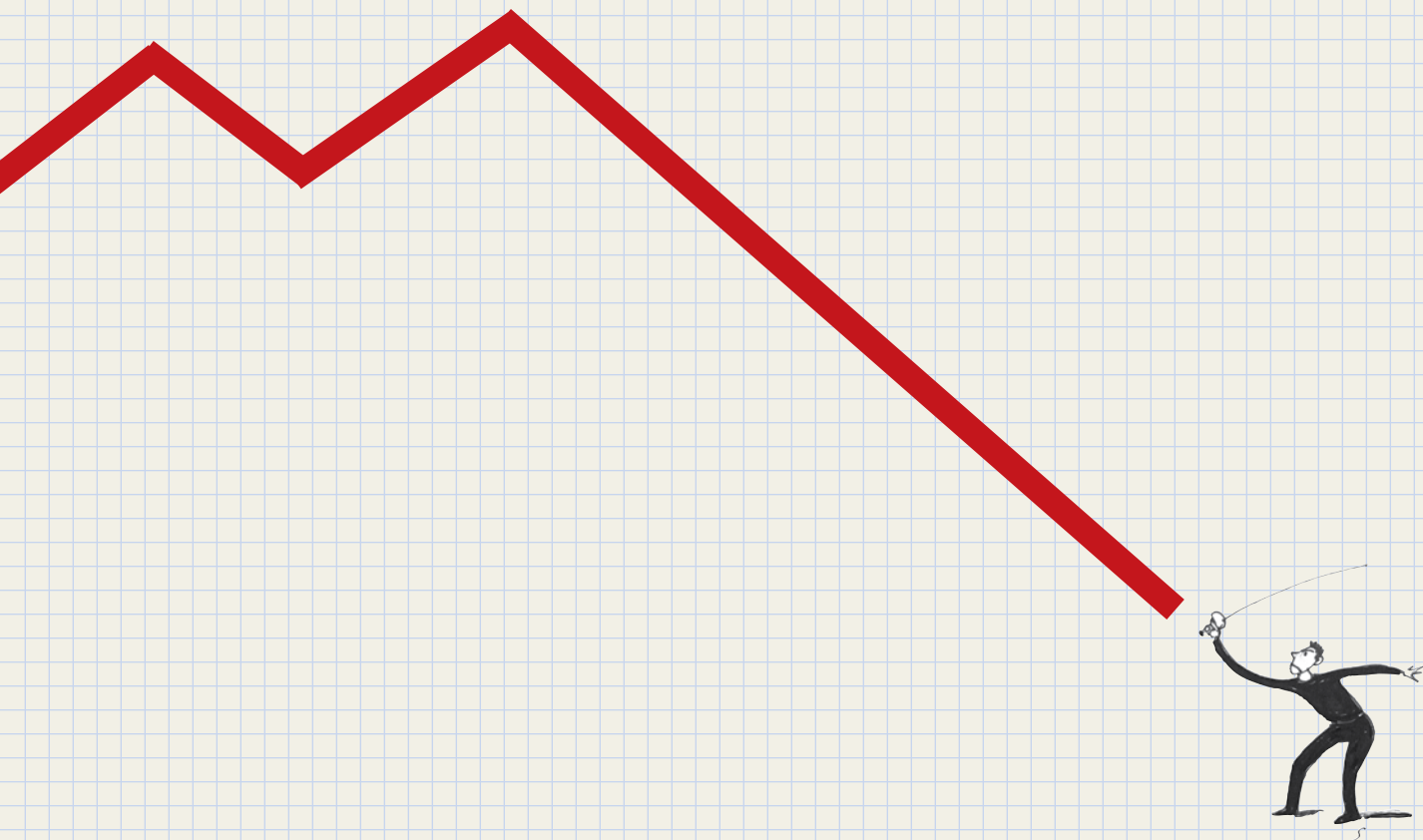


**RECONSTRUCTING HAITI:
YOUNG ALUMNI, STUDENT
VIEW RAVAGED NATION**
PAGE 4

Columbia College

TODAY

March/April 2010



How To Survive Your Own Financial Crisis

Jonathan Dahl '80, '81J, editor of *SmartMoney* magazine
and author of *1,001 Things They Won't Tell You*,
helps readers by making business writing personal

PLUS

Columbia Forum:
1959: The Year Everything Changed,
by Fred Kaplan



ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Columbia College

Come Celebrate Alumni Reunion Weekend 2010 — the reunion that everyone is looking forward to!



1945

1950

1955

1960

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985

1990

1995

2000

2005

In addition to class-specific events throughout the weekend, you can join all Columbians celebrating their reunions on Friday at the “Back on Campus” sessions, including Core Curriculum mini-courses, engineering lectures, tours of the Morningside campus and its libraries and more. There even will be unique opportunities to engage deeply with the city’s arts community with theater, ballet, music and gallery options.

Columbians will be dispersed throughout the Heights and greater Gotham all weekend long, but Saturday is everyone’s day on campus. This year’s Saturday programming will invite all alumni back to celebrate and learn together from some of Columbia’s best-known faculty in a series of public lectures, at the Decades BBQs and affinity receptions. The night wraps up with the reunion classes’ tri-college wine tasting on Low Plaza, followed by our biggest line-up of class dinners ever and a final tri-college gathering for champagne, dancing and good times on Low Plaza.

Dates and Registration Information

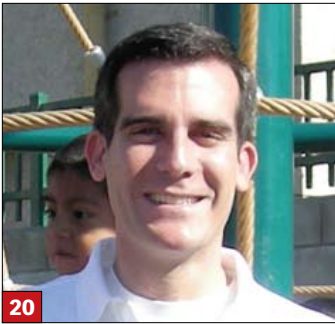
✦ **Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6, 2010**

✦ REGISTER TODAY! For more information or to register online, please visit <http://reunion.college.columbia.edu>.

✦ If you register before Monday, May 3, you’ll receive a 10% discount on all events, excluding *South Pacific*, *West Side Story*, *Next to Normal*, American Ballet Theatre and New York Philharmonic tickets.

Columbia College
ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

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CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Watch juggling twins Jake and Marty LaSalle '07 perform magnificent feats.

MEET ERIC GARCETTI '92

View a video biography of Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti '92, '93 SIPA.

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Letters to the Editor

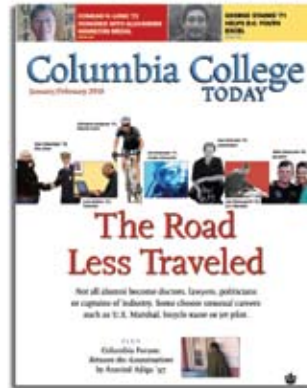
The Road Less Traveled

I liked the January/February 2010 cover story, "The Road Less Traveled," and enjoyed reading about Columbia grads who followed unusual career paths. As an Armenian-American jazz pianist and composer (see 1972 Class Notes, same issue), my career path also has been unusual as well as enlightening, and perhaps the best post-graduate education I could have hoped for.

Armen Donelian '72
HUDSON, N.Y.

Thank you for the focus on the "road less traveled." It was a choice a lot of us made many years ago. It's interesting how the same alma mater could have such divergent offspring. I think that's the sign of good parenting.

Tim Krupa '63
CANNON BEACH, ORE.



Molly Ivins '67J

The mention of *Molly Ivins: A Rebel Life* by Bill Minutaglio '76 and W. Michael Smith in the January/February "Bookshelf" failed to mention that Molly, a former *Texas Observer* editor and nationally syndicated columnist, also was a Columbia graduate. Molly, who is remembered by her beloved *Texas Observer* with "The MOLLY National Journalism Prize" awarded each June, was in the Graduate School of Journalism Class of 1967. We miss her.

Carlton Carl '67, '68J
AUSTIN, TEXAS

[The writer is CEO/publisher of The Texas Observer.]

Going Green?

Pleased for your euphoria in using recycled paper. Totally distressed, however, as are tens of thousands of technically trained people, that there is no open review of the "managed perception" that carbon dioxide causes global warming. We consider this the scam of the millennium! In a nutshell:

1. Alternate warm and cool periods have occurred every 1,500 years for a millennium.
2. Previous Roman and Medieval warm periods were warmer than the present

warm period: A thousand years ago, it was about three degrees warmer than now; Greenland grew crops; wine grapes were raised in Scotland; and London was not under water!

3. The earth's average temperature does not correlate with CO₂, but is correlated with solar activity. When Pennsylvania's coal fields were being formed, the temperature was similar to now, and the CO₂

was 14 times the current concentration. If you liked Gore's erroneous film [*An Inconvenient Truth*], watch McAleer/McElhinney's *Not Evil, Just Wrong*. Since 2007, the Arctic ice has grown by 20 percent.

4. CO₂ is beneficial to plant life and therefore beneficial to animals and humans.

5. Subsidizing uneconomical forms of energy to minimize warming from

CO₂ is fruitless. The physics show limitations on "greenhouse" energy storage as CO₂ concentrations rise, anyhow.

This writer is unsubsidized by oil, coal or utility companies!

Fred DeVries '49, '50E '51E
CHADDS FORD, PA.

The Rule of Law

In his letter to the editor (January/February), James E. O'Brien '66 asserts that CCT's article on Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, '76L "is rather biased in that it suggests repeatedly that some terrorists were too harshly treated during the Bush years." Mr. O'Brien then attempts to make a case for what he calls "enhanced interrogation" — i.e., waterboarding and other forms of torture. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that torture doesn't yield anything in the way of useful intelligence, but what might be called the "pragmatic" case against torture pales by comparison with the legal and moral arguments against it. Torture is a crime against humanity. When the United States tortures, it violates international treaties and established American law. Torture won't make us safer, but it will most assuredly corrupt its advocates and practitioners.

Alan Wallach '63, '65 GSAS, '73 GSAS
WASHINGTON, D.C.



WITHIN THE FAMILY

How To Survive a College Shopping Trip

It's Presidents Week as I write this, and since many high schools are on vacation, this affords an opportunity for students and their parents to go college shopping. A year ago, my wife, daughter and I mapped out a five-day trip that had us visiting eight schools from western Massachusetts to Boston and then down through Connecticut before we headed home. Snow forced us to drop one visit, but we still managed to hit seven of our targets. Hectic as that sounds, a year later we look back on the week as a fun vacation, so we must have done something right.

We didn't have college shopping trips when I was growing up. I went to a conference of high school newspaper editors at Columbia when I was a junior, fell in love with the campus and the idea of going to college in the city, and that was that. But times have changed, so here are a few words of advice for parents who may be contemplating college visits in the near future:

Stay in an Embassy Suites-type hotel. Your teenager needs his/her space, and being able to shut the bedroom door is nice. So is the free breakfast. Look for a hotel that is centrally located, within a reasonable drive from several schools so you don't have to move every night, and one that offers free parking. And if you find one with an indoor pool and hot tub, so much the better.

Pack light. You are going to be on the move, and you don't want to be constantly nagging your teenager over packing. If you can teach him/her to live out of a suitcase for a week, you'll be teaching a valuable lesson.

Wear comfortable shoes. Every school offers a campus tour led by a cheerful undergrad, and that walking can add up. As you might suspect, the student tour leader can go a long way in shaping your impression of the



After touring the University of Vermont, Deborah Sachare and her dad visited the Ben & Jerry's flagship store in Burlington.

PHOTO: LORI SACHARE

school. If he/she sincerely likes the place, has taken advantage of the opportunities it affords and would make the same decision if he/she had it to do over again, you'll feel a lot better about the school than if you get a tour leader who is just going through the motions.

Bring a notebook, and use it. Make that two notebooks, one for the teenager and one for Mom/Dad. If you don't, you'll be amazed how easily colleges can blend into one another — was it BU or Northeastern that had the great internship plan, and which school was it that had the nice dorms?

Take information sessions with a grain of salt. Every school offers one, usually led by an admissions officer, often accompanied by a campus video. For all the time, effort and money schools spend on these, they tend to be remarkably similar. A friend of ours went so far as to eliminate information sessions from his family's visits. On the other hand, some sessions incorporate current students or faculty into the presentation, and these can stand out.

Go while classes are in session. A campus devoid of students does not

give you an accurate representation of the school.

Linger on campus. Grab lunch or a snack in the student center and sit for awhile, observing the students and what they're up to. You'll get a feel for the place you won't get on the formal, programmed part of your visit.

Remember that this shopping trip is only one component of the process, and an early one at that. Think of it as a first round of interviews. After your teenager narrows his/her choice — region; city, suburban or rural; large, medium or small; private or state; rah-rah or laid-back — you will have a second, more manageable list. All schools have special follow-up visiting days for prospects, when students can sit in on

classes and special sessions are run for parents, and these will give you a much better feel for the school than the initial whirlwind visit.

A wise woman at Smith College said on one such VIP day, "The college selection process is not about the sticker in the rear window of your car." In other words, don't limit yourself to the "name" schools. Be open to schools you may not have heard much about, but may be better for your teenager than the prestigious schools.

That same woman also said, "Keep in mind that this is your child's college, not yours." In other words, it ultimately must be his/her decision.

Most importantly, don't stress out on these trips. Have fun. Remember that there are hundreds of fine schools out there, and any number of them would be a great fit for your teenager. Our daughter was fortunate enough to be accepted at her first choice on early decision, but on our trips we discovered several other schools at which I know she would have been happy, too.

Alex Sachare

AROUND THE QUADS

Reconstructing Haiti

Young alumni visit island nation ravaged by earthquake and look for signs of hope

PHOTOS: DANIELLA ZALCMAN '09

Joshua Robinson '08 is a freelance writer and Daniella Zalcmán '09 is a freelance photographer. They live in Manhattan, and their work has appeared in Columbia College Today as students and as young alumni. After reading many touching stories and seeing countless heart-wrenching images following the earthquake that struck Haiti, they traveled to Port-au-Prince to document not the destruction but the first steps of reconstruction.



Children play in the ruins of an abandoned structure in Cité Soleil.

DZ: We arrived in Haiti on January 24, 12 days after a 7.0 earthquake flattened three of the country's densest cities. Footage from Port-au-Prince (the capital), Léogâne and Jacmel had saturated news outlets for more than a week. As journalists, we were clearly late to the scene. But for every story that had been unearthed by CNN or the Associated Press or the BBC, we knew there were dozens more waiting to be told by the 1.2 million Haitians who had lost their homes and were living in makeshift tents. And so we decided to make our way to Port-au-Prince and report on Haitians taking stock and facing the future, finding hope where there seemed to be none.

JR: Because the airport there had been commandeered by American troops and aid organizations, getting to Port-au-Prince became a 30-hour ordeal. It meant flying into Santiago in the Dominican Republic, taking a taxi to Santo Domingo and then embarking on what turned into an eight-hour bus ride to Port-au-Prince.

We arrived at our destination as night was falling. Everything we had read about and seen on television hit us imme-

diately: the collapsed buildings where the second floor seemed to have consumed the ground floor, the people lining the streets where they would spend the night, and the pungent smell of garbage and death.

DZ: I'd heard, from colleagues and peers who had already returned from Haiti, that the stench of death was everywhere. But I had no idea what that meant. I'd barely encountered a corpse, except for



People sift through the rubble in downtown Port-au-Prince, seeking to salvage usable building materials and personal objects.

under a white sheet and behind plenty of police tape. So when we stepped off the bus and the sticky, acrid smell filled my nostrils, it took me far too long to realize what it meant. That odor followed us for the entire week — in collapsed churches, near the destroyed National Palace, in the fringes of tent cities. It was a terrible reminder of just how much we hadn't seen.

JR: When the time came for us to actually start reporting, we thought, "Where do we even start?"

So many iconic images and momentous stories had already gushed out of Haiti, how were we, with so little local knowledge, going to find something new and meaningful? But with the help of a guide and a broken-down Toyota with cracks in the windshield and a "Merci Jésus" sticker across the back, we began by exploring as much of Port-au-Prince as possible. We spoke to everyone we could find — tent city residents, doctors, aid workers, Marines, Haitian officials. The idea was to expose ourselves to everything.

DZ: It didn't take long for us to realize that the stories were there. A woman named Marie, who was on the plane with us from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was rushing to Port-au-Prince to find her brother, the youngest of her six siblings. The other five had died on January 12, along with their spouses and children. Darlande, a medical student we spoke to, had arrived at the American Embassy at 5 a.m. every day for five days hoping to obtain the necessary paperwork to emigrate to America — knowing full well that

without a U.S. passport she wouldn't be permitted to even speak with an embassy official. Robert had lost his parents, his two younger sisters and his girlfriend to the earthquake and was living in a two-person tent with 11 friends from his high school soccer team, taking care of one classmate's infant brother. The struggles, and stories, were everywhere we looked.

JR: Of all the tent cities, all the piles of rubble and all the devastated neighborhoods we saw, the slum of Cité Soleil will stay seared in my memory. In the area surrounding Haiti's former state prison, a vile hole that witnessed more than 30 years of untold horrors under the Duvalier dictatorship, some of Haiti's poorest live amid rotting fruit, broken glass and feces. Pigs run free through the mounds of garbage. Women make food out of dried mud.

Realizing that the area had hardly been affected by the earthquake only made the scene more upsetting. This was the same abject poverty the people of Cité Soleil had always known, and little was going to change that, especially now. No aid organizations had



A bridal magazine on a pew in Sacré Coeur church in Turgeau.

come through, and in all likelihood, they weren't planning on it.

DZ: The most powerful images for me were the relics of life before the earthquake. Toward the end of the week, I'd begun to worry that I had been desensitized to much of the devastation. Seeing so much ruin on such a large scale had made it almost impossible for me to comprehend the earthquake's effects on a human scale.

And then, one morning, I visited the remnants of the Sacré Coeur church in Turgeau. Most of the walls had collapsed,

and the space was filled with rubble, but the pews had survived. I walked into one of the last rows to take a shot of the altar, and lying in the middle of a pew was an abandoned bridal magazine. Had a young woman, soon to be married, been looking over white dresses in this spot on January 12? The thought absolutely shook me.

JR: Whenever people heard that we had come from New York, they immediately told us about their relatives in the United States — in places like Miami, Boston and Queens. And now, in their family's time of need, many of those relatives were frantically trying to circumvent the aid process and send money to them directly. So when the wire remittance offices like Western Union began reopening some two weeks after the quake, the lines were endless.

On the steps of a Unitransfer office in downtown Port-au-Prince one Saturday, Laurette Maitre crouched in a sliver of shade. Her parents and two siblings in the Bronx had promised to send her \$150 to help with food. For days, she had been surviving on insufficient aid handouts.



A woman makes food from dried clay in Cité Soleil, one of Haiti's poorest slums.



Even before the earthquake wreaked its devastation, Haiti was the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

She hoped to restart her small business selling drinks. "It's enough to eat a little, and maybe even begin working again," she said of the expected funds.

A few yards behind her, Pierrette Longuefosse had come from a nearby tent city with her sister and husband. She had three children to feed, so she waited for five hours to collect \$100 from her younger sister in New York, even though

she knew that it would not get them far. Price-gouging had spiraled out of control. Gas, for instance, was going for \$8 a gallon. In places, a loaf of bread reached \$10.

"It's still better than nothing," Longuefosse said, exasperated. "But it will only last two days, maybe three."

DZ: I think a widespread misconception was that there were no resources to be

found in all of Port-au-Prince. We certainly thought so. We brought enough protein bars from New York and almost enough water from the Dominican Republic to sustain ourselves for those nine days, expecting not to be able to find supplies anywhere in the city. But on our second day in Haiti, our guide stopped at a bustling supermarket and asked us if we needed anything. I was shocked — the shelves were well-stocked and the aisles were bustling with customers. But few of them were Haitian. The food was available, but the prices were far from affordable for most of Port-au-Prince's residents.

JR: And yet, it was impossible for us to share our resources with the people who truly needed them. Several United Nations workers strongly warned us against handing out anything because it could be enough to spark a riot — the aid organizations had all experienced it themselves. It meant that we were rarely welcome when we visited tent cities. "We weren't waiting for journalists," one man told me. "We were waiting for help."

DZ: Many people didn't want to discuss what had become the worst two weeks of their lives, and they certainly didn't want to be photographed. Josh had an advantage in that he speaks French fluently; all I could do was point at my camera and hope it was understood that I wasn't trying to capture their shame but rather document a crisis and the beginnings of rebuilding.

JR: When I first drove by the tent cities and saw people living under four posts and a bed-sheet, I'd wrongly assumed that many of them had been poor before the earthquake. Cheap, poorly built housing, I thought, was hit hardest, and those with the means to leave had done so.

It wasn't until I began wandering through the tents that I understood two things. First, the disaster didn't



The eyes of a hungry child tell of the earthquake's consequences.



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COLUMBIA *alumni*
ASSOCIATION



discriminate. There were middle-class professionals, teachers and businessmen assembling shelter from cardboard boxes alongside people who had evacuated slums. And second, not everyone wanted to leave — Port-au-Prince was still their home, even without a house.

DZ: It wasn't long before shadows of those homes started springing up in tent cities all over Port-au-Prince. The evolution of those communities during the course of the week that we spent in Haiti was stunning. One in particular, the St. Louis community, changed tremendously in just a few days. The first time I explored the 10-acre tract, there was nothing more than sheets and plastic tarps fashioned into makeshift tents.

But by our last day in Port-au-Prince, St. Louis had progressed to a growing shantytown with street signs (named after American states) and an address system, grocery stores selling canned and dried produce, and salons offering a trim and a shave. Children clustered around a generator-powered television, watching cartoons. Women gave each other manicures. Men wove branches and straw into panels to create walls and thatching for more permanent housing. Reconstruction was underway.



Haitians living in one of the Red Cross' tent cities in downtown Port-au-Prince find ways to set up their own businesses that they run in exchange for food and water.

JR: Nowhere was this clearer than in Léogâne, a town about 18 miles up the coast from Port-au-Prince where the earthquake had torn down 85 percent of the structures, according to official figures. Its main street had none of the desperation of sprawling Port-au-Prince. In this smaller, closer community, every pile of rubble was as busy as an anthill, with dozens of people

clearing debris. They dug out whole bricks and steel cables, things that would become construction materials in a new Léogâne. Even small businesses seemed to have been revived. Of course, people knew it would be years before they recognized their hometown. But more quickly than anywhere else we visited, they had sprung into action.

Financial Aid Fills in the Picture



SCHOLARSHIPS 101

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- College Annual Fund



GIVING.COLUMBIA.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS101

Reactions from a Medical Mission to Haiti

BY SALLIE WILSON '11

Late last summer, my dad and I planned a weeklong medical volunteer trip to Haiti for the first week of January. Little did we know that we would narrowly be avoiding death, or at least tragedy, by leaving just two days before the earthquake of January 12.

Why did we choose Haiti? We had found a group in Gastonia, N.C., not too far from my hometown of Charlotte, with a strikingly pure medical mission statement and established ties in Haiti. When we first visited Lumière Medical Missions, I was struck by their genuine altruism. They were not working for media attention and certainly not for money, which was refreshing.

My dad, a cardiologist, had always wanted to do medical mission work, and Haiti appealed to us because it is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. I had studied Haiti in passing during the course of my French studies, and its culture had intrigued me. I was excited to see the practice of medicine in a less formal setting — a general clinic — where I could be more participatory in patient diagnosis under a doctor's instruction.

We stayed with Haitian-born doctors Hubert Morquette and Junie Hyacinthe in their newly built mission hospital, King's Hospital, in Port-au-Prince. Their complex includes a six-story hospital, an orphanage of 64 children and a school of 108 children.

The most eye-opening part of the trip was not the sight of the shantytowns or the size of the stomach of a malnourished child, but the repetition of these sights. We drove to the beach on the Friday of our weeklong trip. Again and again we passed young children with stomachs that ballooned out due to malnourishment. Even at the orphanage, where the children are well-fed, the two youngest had enormous bloated bellies from being malnourished as infants.

The top of King's Hospital had a commanding view of Delmas, a suburb of Port-au-Prince, and the valley leading to the coast. Few buildings were more than one-story high with a few rooms; the hospital was the tallest building within the 360-degree view. Everything seemed to be

falling apart except the mountains.

This is not to say Haiti is not beautiful. The white-sand beaches of Jacmel could be mistaken for beaches in the Caribbean on which world-class resorts build their reputations. The mountains were lush, green and terraced.

When I found out that the earthquake had hit, I was shell-shocked, stunned, speechless, what have you. I learned that



Sallie Wilson '11 with two Haitian orphans at the King's Hospital complex in Port-au-Prince before the earthquake.

PHOTO: HADLEY WILSON

the Presidential Palace had been damaged and no longer looked like the image I had in the packet of developed photos I had just brought home from the drugstore. I felt that all of the memories and stimulation that had painted my experience — the sights, the people, the sounds, the smells — had ruptured along with Haiti. This kind of heartbreak was new to me.

A day after the earthquake I heard from Lumière Medical Missions; I found out that Hubert had called at 5:30 p.m. after the earthquake to say no one had died and the hospital was one of the few in Port-au-Prince still intact. Up until the earthquake, King's Hospital was not open to patients due to lack of funds, supplies and staff. Afterward, it was filled beyond capacity, with Hubert and Junie performing surgeries. I was told they were in des-

perate need of both doctors and supplies.

My main concerns for Haiti are first, the thousands of homeless Haitians who now will have an even harder time finding the food, water and shelter we take for granted. Second, the escape of inmates from the prison in downtown Port-au-Prince means some of those responsible for the 2003–08 violence now are free. Third, the country itself had so far to go with its medicine before the earthquake. King's Hospital was in need of fundraising to establish a fund to support the many Haitian patients who could not pay full price for their necessary medical attention. Now the attention of the world is on earthquake relief (as it should be). Thankfully, Haitian causes have become the focus of charities nationwide, but to what end will Haiti be restored?

My hope is that aid and disaster relief efforts will establish a greater infrastructure rather than merely restore the recent but tenuous stability Haiti had, which was due to an increase in police force and the recent capture by President René Prével's forces of the leader of the gang responsible for the revolts.

Haiti is not just a disaster-torn, third-world country to be pitied or patronized. Participate in the restoration process for the sake of its people and potential. A great place to start is by donating to the Helping Hands

for Haiti campaign organized by the Haitian and Caribbean Students' Associations. At the very least, resist becoming desensitized to the issue as the images of disaster become redundant and the passage of time and stress of daily life make it easy to tune out this crisis. What the earthquake has not changed is Haiti's potential to be a thriving island nation with an intriguing identity. Now, more than ever, it needs help to get there.

Editor's note: A version of this story first appeared in The Columbia Daily Spectator on January 25.

Sallie Wilson '11 is from Charlotte, N.C. She is majoring in French with a premedical concentration and plans to continue volunteering in Haiti as she pursues a career in medicine.

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Professor Stuart Firestein teaches biology and the popular “Ignorance,” a course that invites professors to speak to students about what they don’t know and what they question in their field. He earned his bachelor’s in biology from San Francisco State University and his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. A theater director before entering academia, Firestein did post-doctoral research at the Yale School of Medicine before coming to Columbia.

Where did you grow up?
Philadelphia.

What did you want to be growing up?

I started out with the usual childhood things — cowboy, fireman. My first interests were in science. I wanted to be an astronomer. That lasted until the middle of high school when I got involved in the drama club. Then I became interested in the theater. I think it was in part because I went to an all-boys school. There was an all-girls school down the street and the only interaction between them was in the theater because we needed girls to play the female roles.

How did you become a biologist?

I worked in the theater for almost 20 years. I did not go into science until rather late in life. I didn’t go to college [straight from high school]. Instead, I was an apprentice and worked my way up, eventually directing, which I did for a number of years, both on the East Coast at rep companies and on the West Coast in San Francisco, and a little bit in Los Angeles. When I was 30, I decided to go back to school. In those days, one could go to San Francisco State and be a full-time

student for \$106 a semester. I took a class in animal communication from a professor named Hal Markowitz, who was a wonderful mentor and remains a good friend. It may have been the most important thing that happened to me in life. I finished a graduate degree by my 40th birthday, which was my goal. I was hoping there’d be some time between tenure and emeritus.

Five Minutes with ... **Stuart Firestein**

How did you end up at Columbia?

I came down and gave a talk to the department, and they liked me, and I liked them. I could have stayed at a medical school, but I always really wanted to return to a university situation. I like undergraduates, and I like teaching. This sounds terribly corny, but I feel a sense of responsibility to return what I was given, and I believe there’s a better chance to do that at an undergraduate campus. Plus I liked hanging out with philosophers and classicists and language people.

“Frontiers of Science” is up for its five-year review.

Where do you see it going?
This is not a trivial issue. There

are parts of it that work and parts that don’t. The part that seems to work is the big lectures. You get Columbia’s world-renowned faculty to put together two, three or four lectures in their field, but making their field accessible. I think that alone, aside from what it does for the students, which is the primary thing, is important because you actually enlist faculty who usually

spend all their time buried in the lab, and you get them to pause and think about how to put their work out there for a mostly lay audience, a group of kids who are smart but not trained. It’s good for the students to see the depth of research and the way it happens here.

A little less successful, as I understand it, are the individual classes that meet once a week for two hours. These are labor-intensive, difficult to organize and use up a lot of faculty. It’s the part of the course that uses the most resources and therefore has to give back the most, which it isn’t doing at the moment. We’ll figure out how to fix that eventually.

What are you working on?

My laboratory works on the sense of smell. We’re a neuroscience lab, so our interest is the brain and how it works, which is the big question. With no hope of answering that, we chopped off a small piece, and the piece that I came away with was the nose. We use the nose as what we

call a model system. The brain is too hard to understand all by itself. One looks for simpler systems along the idea that fundamental mechanisms in the brain are going to be found on simpler levels, possibly in simpler organisms, like worms or flies, or subsystems of complicated organisms. The sense of smell is a good subsystem of the brain to learn a lot about important issues in the brain.

What are you teaching this semester?

I teach a course I slapped together myself called “Ignorance.” It comes out of this notion that the one mistake that we make unavoidably in teaching science is that we teach them a bunch of facts. That’s important, but it’s not what science is about. When I meet up with scientists, we never talk about what we know; we talk about what we don’t know. It’s the only thing that’s of interest to a scientist. I was worried that we weren’t giving our students any sense of that at all. They thought science was just a big fact book.

Are you married? Do you have children?

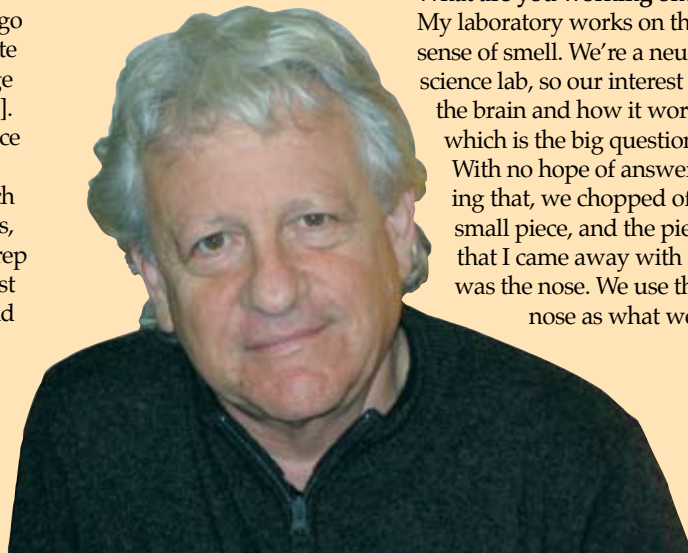
My wife is a professor of animal behavior at Hunter. My daughter entered the College in the fall.

How do you recharge?

I like to hang out in coffee shops and bars, and I have friends who are not in the sciences or academia. I know some actors and singers, and I think spending time with them is useful. I recharge by being social.

To watch Firestein talk more about his work and life, go to www.college.columbia.edu/cct.

*Interview and photo:
Ethan Rouen '04J*



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

■ Millions of Americans are now waking up to **George Stephanopoulos '82**. In December, the former ABC News Washington Bureau Chief and host of *This Week* took over the reins co-anchoring *Good Morning America* with Robin Roberts, replacing Diane Sawyer. Stephanopoulos also became ABC's chief political correspondent. One of the powerhouses of political television journalism, he has conducted extensive interviews with President Barack Obama '83, Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and many other high-ranking members of the administration.

■ The U.S. Senate voted 84-0 on February 9 to confirm **Joseph A. Greenaway Jr. '78** to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which hears cases from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. President Barack Obama '83 had nominated Greenaway in June, and he won the Senate Judiciary Committee's approval in October. Greenaway, who is an adjunct professor of English and comparative literature, received the University Medal of Excellence in 1997, the Black Heritage Award from the Alumni of Color Outreach Program in 1997 and the College's John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2003.

■ It isn't often that a public offering can make the business world's collective jaw drop, but **Lisa Landau Carnoy '89** raised \$19.29 billion for Bank of America in December, shattering records and allowing the bank to pay back its TARP loan. The deal may "be seen as a turning point in the fate of one of the most important



Lisa Landau Carnoy '89

financial institutions still standing," according to *The New York Observer*, which went on to say, "Those billions will define the career of Ms. Carnoy, quietly one of the most powerful women on Wall Street."

■ **Ezra Koenig '06, Chris Tomson '06, Rostam Batmanglij '06 and Chris Baio '07**, who make up the indie rock band Vampire Weekend, reached the top of the Billboard charts in January with their second album, *Contra*. The album sold 124,000 copies in its first week, easily beating out the shifty Susan Boyle, whose album sold 77,000 copies, for the top spot. Vampire Weekend, which was formed while the members were at Columbia, also was the subject of a lengthy profile in *The New Yorker* in December.

■ The publishing industry may be suffering, but that hasn't stopped **Jodi Kantor '96** from scoring a huge advance for a book about President Barack Obama '83 and his family. Kantor, a Washington, D.C., correspondent for *The New York Times*, has written extensively about Obama and his closest allies, including pieces on his time at Harvard, his basketball games and a *New York Times Magazine* cover story on his marriage. The book was purchased by Little, Brown following a heated auction, according to *The New York Observer*.

■ **Shawn Landres '94** was named by *Forward* as one of the 50 most influential leaders in American Jewish life. He is the co-founder

and CEO of Jumpstart, a nonprofit organization that works with organizations to create "an inclusive, diverse and dynamic Jewish future." Calling Landres a "primary evangelist of innovation," *Forward* wrote that he "emerged this year as an essential thinker in explaining the new Jewish spirituality and culture to the Jewish establishment."



Donald Krim '67 (left) and Richard Lorber '67

■ **Donald Krim '67 and Richard Lorber '67**, stars in the independent and foreign film release world, have combined their resources to form one company that will be "the biggest of the little guys" in the film world, according to *The New York Times*. Krim's Kino International, which has introduced numerous foreign filmmakers to American audiences, merged with Lorber HT Digital, of which Lorber is CEO, to form Kino-Lorber, Inc. Although both divisions will continue to handle their own releases, the combined company will manage a list of about 600 titles. Lorber and Krim met during their freshman year at the College.

Ethan Rouen '04

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Victor Suarez '11 Explores the Art of Filmmaking

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

In his short but forward-moving career, filmmaker **Victor Suarez '11** already has experimented with several genres and modes of storytelling.

In January, he directed a music video in Brooklyn for independent rock musician and Yale student Laura Zax.

"It includes a giant cardboard machine that turns bottles into humans. It's about a dual Zax — one in the normal world at Coney Island and one in this colorful absurd world — who eventually switch places," says Suarez, who approached Zax about making a video after hearing her song "Doctor, Doctor."

Laura LaPerche '10 and Charlotte Kauffman '10 produced the video through King Cub Productions, a Columbia undergraduate production company, and helped raise funds for the project. Suarez also received a grant from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation through the Columbia Arts Initiative.

Suarez's interest in film has evolved gradually since he was a child, when he would entertain himself by playing with his parents' video camera. His childhood pastime eventually became a passion fueled by his involvement in theater during high school.

"I now had a bunch of friends who were also actors and were always game for making a movie. Writing and directing became so fun and were so rewarding that I wanted to do more and more," says Suarez, the only child of a Spanish father and a Japanese mother.

Accompanied by five fellow Columbians, Suarez headed to Spain in July 2008 to carry out his most ambitious cinematic endeavor to date: the filming of a short movie, *Nel Reinu*, aka *The Kingdom*, that he wrote and directed.

The 13-minute film, shot against the scenic backdrop of the province of Asturias, is a

story about familial estrangement and reconciliation. Its logline (one-sentence summary or pitch) reads: "Following the death of his father, a man returns to his family in Spain, bringing his young American daughter who discovers an enduring connection to his past and family that transcends the politics that tore them apart decades ago."

Spanish producer Carlos Navarro and was rewarded for his initiative, as Navarro agreed to co-produce the film. He received funding from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation as well. In total, *Nel Reinu* boasted a \$15,000 budget, which Suarez points out is a huge sum for an undergraduate film.

Nel Reinu is set in Oviedo, the capital of Asturias, and was

with. He knows what he wants from a shot," says Norich, who was nominated for Best Actress at the 2009 SoCal International Film Festival for her performance in *Nel Reinu*. "He also relied a lot on the actors' interpretation of text. He trusted my choices and I his opinion, so it was a nice collaboration."

Nel Reinu has been screened at film festivals throughout the United States and abroad. It was named "Best of Festival" at the 2009 Open APPerture Film Festival, which is run by students at the Appalachian State University in North Carolina. It also won a Silver Palm Award in the Student Film category at the 2009 Mexico International Film Festival.

Suarez has co-written another movie script, a dark comedy about a teenage couple about to fulfill a suicide pact, titled *Date* and produced in 2008 by Amalgamated Dynamics, the production company of Academy Award-winning visual effects artist Alec Gillis.

Born in California, Suarez lived in Connecticut before moving to Chicago as a third-grader. Fond recollections of day trips to the Big Apple eventually drew him back to the tri-state area and to the College.

"I really wanted to live in New York," says Suarez. "All my childhood memories are from New York."

Suarez has chosen not to study film as an undergraduate and is instead majoring in economics and philosophy with a concentration in history.

"I plan on going into film after I graduate," he explains. "I'm going to be doing that for the rest of my life, hopefully, so I don't really want to study just film. I want to learn other things."

Nathalie Alonso '08 is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer of *LasMayores.com*, *Major League Baseball's Spanish language Web site*.



Victor Suarez '11 (center), shown in 2008 during the shooting of *Nel Reinu*, obtained \$15,000 in funding for the film.

PHOTO: CHARLOTTE KAUFMAN '10

Nel Reinu's storyline stems from Suarez's curiosity about his father's past; the John Jay scholar explains that his father, who is from Asturias, left home for a long time as a young man for reasons unknown to Suarez.

"That's what *Nel Reinu* is about — trying to read who your parents are by trying to piece together their past to see who they were when they were your age," says Suarez.

After working on the script for about two months, Suarez successfully pitched it to Project Bluelight, an undergraduate film production group created by Michael Molina '10 and Jeff Schwartz '10 in early 2008. Suarez also reached out to

filmed in Grao, a rural village just outside the city. The dialogue is in English and Bable, the local language in Asturias. Suarez, who speaks Spanish but not Bable, wrote the script in English and worked with one of the local actors hired by Navarro's production company to have certain lines spoken in the provincial language.

Molina and Schwartz traveled to Spain with Suarez for the filming, as did LaPerche and Kaufman, who were production managers. Nessa Norich '08 Barnard played Julia, the American daughter. All had their expenses paid for but did not receive additional compensation.

"Victor was a joy to work

TRANSITIONS

■ **Mariela Maldonado** joined the Alumni Office on January 4 as associate director, administration. She spent the last 4½ years at the Earth Institute, most recently as the assistant director of human resources. Maldonado will work with Merideth Kerby, director of planning and administration, on financial issues and human resources and will manage the day-to-day administration operations.

■ **Star Sawyer** joined the University's Office of Alumni Development on February 8 as the new director of the Welcome Center, which is located on the first floor of the Columbia Alumni Center. Sawyer, who is from Bellaire, Texas, comes to Columbia from the University of Florida Alumni Association in Gainesville, where she led programs and activities for Florida's 300,000-plus alumni base.

CAMPUS NEWS

■ **RELAY FOR LIFE:** The seventh annual Relay For Life, a walk-a-thon style fundraiser held by Columbia's Colleges Against Cancer chapter to benefit the American Cancer Society, will take place on April 17 from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. in the Blue Gym in the Dodge Physical Fitness Center. Members of the Columbia and Morningside communities as well as cancer survivors will once again come together to celebrate those who are surviving, remember those who have been lost, and

fight back against the disease that affects one in every three people worldwide.

After six years of being held on the Low Library steps, this year's relay will take place indoors. As a result, this year's traditional luminaria ceremony will feature colored glowsticks instead of candles.

For more information about this event or how you can contribute to the fight against cancer, please visit www.relayforlife.org/columbiauniversity.

■ **LIBRARIES:** Columbia University Libraries has joined HathiTrust (www.hathitrust.org), a shared repository for the digitized content from academic and research libraries. Columbia plans to contribute public domain volumes digitized through its partnerships with Google, Microsoft and the Internet Archive. HathiTrust's repository currently includes the member libraries of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, the University of California system and the University of Virginia.

IN LUMINE TUO

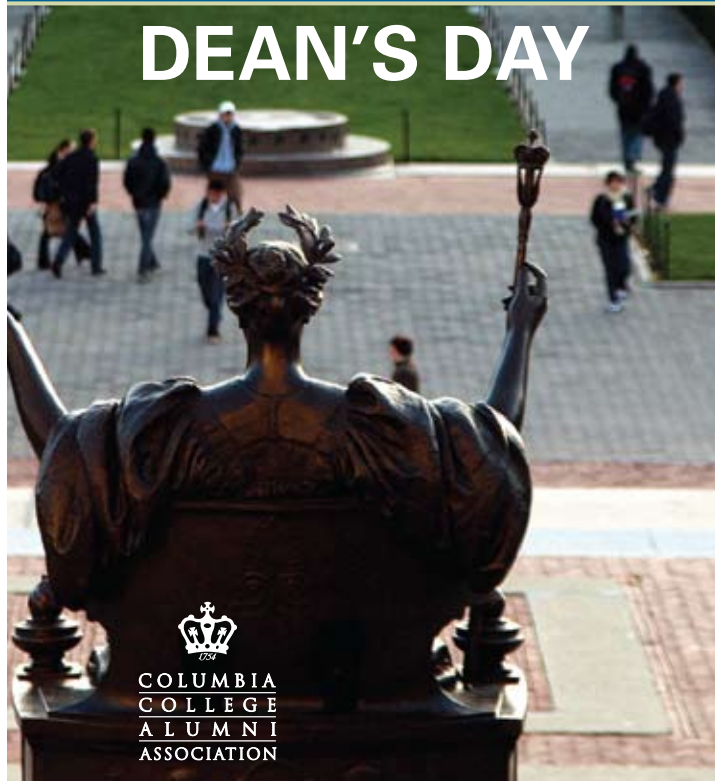
■ **FELLOWS:** Don J. Melnick, Thomas Hunt Morgan Professor of Conservation Biology in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology and professor of anthropology and biological sciences; Robert Y. Shapiro, professor of political science; and Liang Tong, professor of biological sciences, are among seven Columbia professors who have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a prestigious scientific society established in 1848. Also selected were Jeffrey A. Lieberman, the Lieber Professor of Psychiatry; W. Ian Lipkin, the John Snow Professor of Epidemiology and professor of neurology and pathology; Stephen S. Morse, professor of clinical epidemiology; and Lorraine S. Symington, professor of microbiology and immunology. The seven new

fellows are among 531 inductees from across the nation.

■ **GERRARD:** Michael Gerrard '72, director of the Law School's Center for Climate Change Law, has been selected as the first Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice. This new endowed professorship is the first at any law school in the world devoted exclusively to the study of climate change law.

SAVE THE DATE

DEAN'S DAY



Columbia College and the Columbia College Alumni Association are proud to sponsor Dean's Day 2010. Scheduled for Saturday, June 5, the program provides the opportunity for alumni and parents to participate in thought-provoking lectures and discussions with some of Columbia's finest faculty.

Dean's Day 2010 is particularly noteworthy, as it is Dean Michele Moody-Adams' first Dean's Day as Dean of the College. Additionally, Dean's Day 2010 coincides with Alumni Reunion Weekend. With even more alumni on campus, this year's event should be the most exciting and well-attended yet.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens — <i>Alfred Lerner Hall</i>
8:30–10:15 a.m.	Dean's Continental Breakfast with Opening Address by <i>Michele Moody-Adams, Dean of Columbia College</i>
9:30 a.m.	Camp Columbia for Kids
10:30–11:45 a.m.	Public Intellectual Lectures
Noon–1:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00–3:30 p.m.	Core Curriculum Lectures
3:30–5:00 p.m.	WKCR, <i>Columbia Daily Spectator</i> and Columbia University Marching Band Affinity Receptions and a special performance by the Glee Club and other singing groups

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010 • NEW YORK CITY

IN MEMORIAM

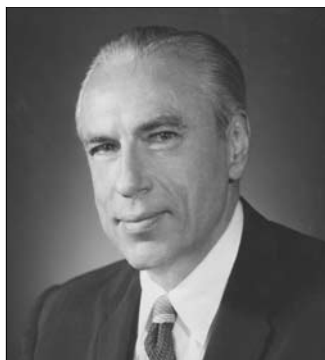


PHOTO: FABIAN BACHRACH

■ **C. Lowell Harriss '40 GSAS**, professor emeritus of economics, died on December 14, 2009, at his home in Bronxville, N.Y. He was 97.

Born in Fairbury, Neb., on August 2, 1912, Harriss graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1934. Upon graduation, he received a Sheldon Fellowship, which enabled him to travel for 13 months throughout Europe, including Berlin and the Balkans, as well as Turkey and Northern Africa. This trip was the beginning of a lifetime of travel that would take him around the world nine times.

Harriss served as an officer in the Army Air Corps from 1943–46, working on aircraft and manpower procurement, on the economic problems of the shift of fighting to the Pacific, and finally on the problems of economic demobilization and the postwar aircraft industry. He began teaching at Columbia in 1938 while pursuing a Ph.D. in economics at GSAS and remained at Columbia until retiring from teaching in 1981.

University Trustee Mark E. Kingdon endowed, in 1998, the C. Lowell Harriss Professorship of Economics in honor of “my teacher, mentor and friend.”

“I took Professor Harriss’ public finance course in the late 1960s,

when it was not cool to be a conservative, especially at Columbia,” said Kingdon. “I remember Professor Harriss warning us about the extraordinary power of the government: ‘Nothing can be as cruel as the government.’”

“During the 1970 student strike, I learned later, a classmate was picketing a building that the professor wanted to enter. ‘You can’t go in,’ my friend declared. ‘Why not?’ Professor Harriss asked. ‘Because then you would be a scab.’ In response, Professor Harriss brushed by and entered the building while declaring, ‘A scab is part of the natural healing process.’”

“Teachers in the department on both the left and right loved the man. He was soft-spoken, tolerant, smart, non-dogmatic but firm in his beliefs. His classroom style was brusque, informative and clear. He committed many random acts of kindness, such as writing a complimentary note about me to my father, and helped students with letters of recommendation to his many friends that led to jobs or entry into grad school.

“I watched him age gracefully almost to the very end, vigorous in mind, body and spirit, an inspiration to us all. I miss him very much.”

Harriss also taught at Stanford, UC Berkeley, Yale, Princeton, The Wharton School, the New School for Social Research and Pace. He earned Fulbright professorships from the Netherlands School of Economics (now Erasmus University), Cambridge and the University of Strasbourg, France.

One of the last living economists to have experienced the Depression, Harriss authored 16 books on economics and hundreds of articles. He was known for his seminal work on taxation of land, property tax, finance reform, land values and planning land use.

Harriss also had advised state, federal and foreign governments on tax policy including the Department of Treasury; the City of New York; New York State; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the Federal District of Venezuela; the Ministry of Finance, Republic of China; the United Nations; and the Agency of International Development of the U.S. Department of State.

Harriss met and married Agnes Bennett Murphy in 1936. She predeceased him in 1992. Harriss is survived by his children, L. Gordon '68, Patricia, Martha and Brian; five grandchildren; and sister, Marion Engelhart.

■ **Karl Kroeber '56 GSAS**, the Mellon Professor Emeritus in the Human-

Class of 2012 Student Passes Away

John David “JD” Fernandez '12, known by classmates and peers for his optimism and political convictions, died from pneumonia on January 16.

Fernandez was vice president of the Columbia University Libertarians and contributed to the Web site of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, which works on “advancing the scholarship of liberty” in the tradition of the Austrian school of economic thought. Fernandez was planning to major in economics and philosophy. On his personal blog, *The Liberty Review*, he described himself as “a stormtrooper of the Yankee Universe and a classic liberal of the Misesian strand.”

Fernandez attended a week-long program at Mises University

last summer. Eric Staib, a senior at the University of Oklahoma, attended the program with Fernandez and noted in *Spectator* that money is being raised to create an award in his name.

The *Spectator* article included a number of tributes, including: “He was a whirlwind of energy confined to a wheelchair. Every time I’m on the grounds of Columbia, I’ll think of JD,” wrote CJ Maloney — a blogger for Mises who spoke at Columbia last fall at Fernandez’s invitation — in an e-mail. Also, “He served as a huge inspiration to me. I never heard him complain,” noted Stephan Vincenzo '12, who had been friends with Fernandez for two years.

Jesse Thiessen '11 Arts

ties, died on November 8, 2009, at his home in Brooklyn. He was 82.

Kroeber earned a bachelor’s from UC Berkeley in 1947 and a Ph.D. from Columbia in 1956. After teaching at the University of Wisconsin for 14 years, he returned to Columbia in 1970 and taught in the English and Comparative Literature Department until his retirement in June 2009.

A prolific scholar who published a wide variety of books, Kroeber was well-recognized for his work on Romantic poetry but also wrote on narrative theory, Native American literature and ecology, among other subjects.

Kroeber was known for being a demanding but compassionate professor who relentlessly challenged his students. “He’s somebody [who] was always there to provoke and to counsel,” said James Shapiro '77, the Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature and a longtime colleague of Kroeber’s, in an interview with *Spectator*. “He was never comfortable with easy answers.”

Kroeber is survived by his wife Jean, sons, Paul and Arthur; daughter, Katharine K. Wiley; four grandchildren; brothers, Clifton and Theodore; and sister, Ursula K. LeGuin. There will be a memorial service at Columbia on Thursday, April 8.

■ **Yosef H. Yerushalmi '66 GSAS**, the Salo Wittmayer Baron Profes-

sor Emeritus of Jewish History, Culture and Society, died on December 8, 2009 in Manhattan. He was 77.

Born in the Bronx to Yiddish-speaking immigrants, Yerushalmi earned a bachelor’s from Yeshiva University in 1943 and Ph.D. in history from Columbia. He taught at Rutgers and Harvard before returning to Columbia in 1980, where he directed the Center for Israel and Jewish Studies until his retirement in 2008.

Yerushalmi authored multiple books, most famously *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory*, which focused on the tension between the collective stories of Judaism and the verifiable facts of history, a subject to which Yerushalmi devoted much of his academic life. He also wrote on the history of Spanish, Portuguese and German Jewry as well as historiography and psychoanalysis. He was in the process of completing a translation and study of Solomon Ibn Verga’s Hebrew chronicle, *Shevet Yehudah*.

“Yerushalmi did not suffer fools gladly,” wrote Beth Kissileff '90 in a tribute. “He expected a certain level of knowledge from students, yet had no patience with anyone showing a particular kind of religious bias or parochialism.”

He is survived by his wife, Ophra; son, Ariel '92; and a grandson.

Lisa Palladino and
Jesse Thiessen '11 Arts

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Save the Date!

SPRING SEMESTER 2010

Monday MARCH 8

Café Science

Monday MARCH 15

Café Humanities

**Monday-Friday
MARCH 15-MARCH 19**

Spring Break

Monday MARCH 22

Café Social Science

Tuesday MARCH 23

Columbia in the Capital
(Washington, D.C.)

Monday APRIL 12

Café Science

Monday APRIL 19

Café Humanities

Monday APRIL 26

Café Social Science

Monday MAY 3

Last Day of Classes

Friday MAY 14

Spring Term Ends

Sunday MAY 16

Baccalaureate Service

Monday MAY 17

Class Day and Alumni
Parade of Classes

Tuesday MAY 18

Commencement

**Thursday-Sunday
JUNE 3-JUNE 6**

Dean's Day and Alumni
Reunion Weekend

For more information, please call the Columbia College Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, 866-CC-ALUMNI, or visit the College's alumni events Web site: www.college.columbia.edu/alumni/events and the University alumni events Web site: <http://alumni.columbia.edu/attend/eventscalendar.aspx>.

Update from Kabul

BY LAURA BUTCHY '04 ARTS

Much has changed at Tarsian & Blinkley since 2005, when *CCT* first reported on the women's clothing business founded by Sarah Takesh '95 in Kabul, Afghanistan (www.college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/nov05).

Started in 2003, Takesh's company employed Afghan women to embroider women's apparel in a central Kabul workshop. Today, her enterprise has transformed into a locally owned business that operates in a three-floor facility on the outskirts of Kabul. Employing 500 people, including 350 women, the expanded Tarsian & Blinkley has shifted focus to include goods for the local market, such as sweaters, t-shirts, socks and uniforms. In addition, the company operates a smaller facility near the Pakistan border, and a second building three times the size of the Kabul facility should open next to it by the summer.

Takesh (far right on cover) began

shifting control of the company to her business partner, an Afghan tailor, in 2006, when the challenges of operating a local business as a foreigner became increasingly difficult to manage. Now Takesh resides in Dubai with her husband, Saad Mohseni, an Afghan national who owns a regional media



organization with television stations in Afghanistan and Iran. She continues to fly to Afghanistan to assist with the business but has turned over control to the local owner as she prepares to have her first child. She also is thinking about her next venture, which may include designing furniture.

"It's a strange feeling I never expected to have in middle age," Takesh says, "but I am convinced that the big thing I was supposed to do in life hasn't happened yet!"

Laura Butchy '04 Arts is a freelance writer, teaching artist and dramaturg in New York City.

“Why?
So tomorrow’s
students can
walk through
the same doors
that we did.”

STEVE CASE '64CC, '68LAW

UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE
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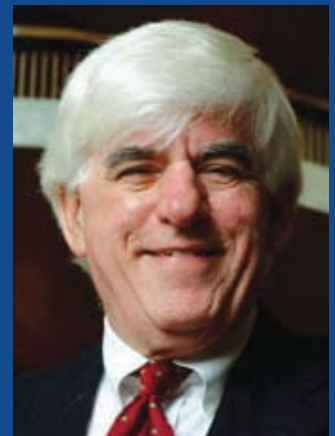


THE 1754 SOCIETY

“My life opened up when I came to Columbia,” Case says.

“I want others to have the same experience and that’s why I put Columbia in my estate plan.”

Join Steve Case and others in the 1754 Society, alumni and friends who have made bequests and other planned gifts to the University.



To learn more about Steve Case’s Columbia experience—and about planned giving—visit giving.columbia.edu/plannedgifts or call 800-338-3294.

Claire Shipman '86 Discusses *Womenomics*

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

Nearly 100 women (and three men) gathered on campus at The Italian Academy on January 26 to hear ABC news correspondent Claire Shipman '86, '94 SIPA talk about the research in her new book, *Womenomics: Write Your Own Rules for Success*, cowritten with BBC World News America correspondent Katty Kay.

Womenomics argues that giving women greater flexibility in the workforce—to make schedules and even choose locations that work well with their lifestyles—both furthers their careers and is more profitable for businesses.

Shipman recounted her experiences “working non-

stop” in Moscow and covering the White House, and said after she had her son several years ago, she started to feel differently. “I became a ‘difficult person’ for ABC, someone who was ‘complicated,’ and would say ‘no,’” she said.

She has negotiated more flexible work assignments and a four-day work week, but says women should not have to work out individual arrangements and that companies should be eager to accommodate them more formally, to prevent the “brain drain” of women



Claire Shipman '86, '94 SIPA advocates greater flexibility for women in the workplace.



Among those attending Shipman's talk were (left to right) Dean Michele Moody-Adams, Student Council President Sue Yang '10 and Isabel Broer '10.

PHOTOS: CHAR SMULLYAN

leaving the workforce for family reasons.

Shipman now has two children and Kay has four children. “At cocktail parties, instead of figuring out how to be on TV tomorrow, we were trying to figure out how *not* to be on TV,” Shipman said.

While the women were negotiating their own more flexible work arrangements with their employers, they discovered research about how businesses profit from women's involvement at all levels.

“The argument of the book is: giving people flexibility and letting them work how they want to work is not a favor or a p.c. thing to do. It's a very good business strategy,” Shipman said. “The more senior women you have in a company, the more money it makes.”

After her talk, Shipman answered questions from the audience and signed copies of the book.



Shira Boss-Bicak '93, '97J, '98 SIPA, an author and contributing writer to CCT, writes about her three whippets at *Saving for Sesame* (<http://savingforsesame.com>).



Shipman signs her book *Womenomics: Write Your Own Rules for Success*.

More Affinity-Based Gatherings Slated for Alumni Reunion Weekend

Building on the popularity of last year's gatherings of former WKCR and *Spectator* staffers during Alumni Reunion Weekend, the program is being expanded this year to include the Glee Club, other singing groups and the Marching Band. Alumni Reunion Weekend is scheduled for Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6.

“We enjoyed such success last year with our launch of affinity-based receptions, the College and our partners at SEAS and Barnard thought it made sense to expand the program,” said Ken Catandella, executive director of Alumni Affairs. “More important than the increase in the number of receptions is the interactive nature of this year's program. Whether it is oral histories at WKCR, rehearsal for the Glee Club and singing groups, a tour of the *Spectator* offices or the Marching Band stomping through the Reunion and Dean's Day barbecue on Saturday, the entire program feels more robust.”

WKCR and *Spectator* held successful alumni gatherings last year, giving alumni a chance to reconnect and also visit with some of today's staffers, as well as tour the current offices. Similar events are planned for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2010.

Columbia will celebrate its vocal past with the first Glee Club reunion, a chance for alumni to see old friends and “lift voices” once again. Plans, which are still being finalized, call for a little rehearsing, some post-rehearsal socializing and a performance in Lerner Hall, followed by a reception for singers and audience. The reunion will even include news of today's Glee Club and a discussion on how Glee Club alumni might stay in touch.

Band alumni, meanwhile, are expected to gather on Hamilton lawn on Saturday morning to rehearse before making their grand entrance to the lunchtime barbecue tents on South Field, where they will play Columbia classics and other tunes for reunion attendees.

Alumni interested in attending any of these affinity-based reunions should log on to these special Web sites for more information:

- Marching band: <http://reunion.college.columbia.edu/band>
- Singing groups: <http://reunion.college.columbia.edu/singing>
- *Spectator*: <http://reunion.college.columbia.edu/spectator>
- WKCR: <http://reunion.college.columbia.edu/wkcr>

Jonathan Dahl '80, '81J Makes Business Writing Personal

*Editor of SmartMoney magazine and author of
1,001 Things They Won't Tell You
helps readers survive the financial crisis*

BY YELENA SHUSTER '09

Since he was a child, Jonathan Dahl '80, '81J has known that he would spend his professional life fighting for a cause. He has been protecting people with ink and paper ever since.

Dahl's father, Theodore Dahl '49, '50J, instilled in him the concept of journalism serving as the fourth estate — a term for the press that dates to the 19th century and implies a duty to effect change. Whether reporting on homelessness for *The Houston Chronicle* or on asbestos danger for *The Wall Street Journal*, Jonathan Dahl has followed this belief in a successful career that has spanned more than 20 years.

"I am the cliché," Dahl says. "I wrote for my elementary school paper. Journalism is all I've ever done."

Since 2006, Dahl has been advising 800,000 print readers and two million Web readers on all matters of personal finance as editor-in-chief

of *SmartMoney* magazine. Last May, he established his expertise to the general public as author of *1,001 Things They Won't Tell You: An Insider's Guide to Spending, Saving, and Living Wisely*, which now has 25,000 copies in print. The book was an extension of *SmartMoney's* popular "Ten Things They Won't Tell You" column, which has been enlightening consumers since 1992 on everything from tax preparation scandals to purposely misleading movie ads.

At *SmartMoney*, Dahl continues in the tradition of serving his readers.

"Whether Jonathan was covering travel as a reporter or running the *Journal's* Weekend Section, what's always driven him as a journalist is to be the proxy for the reader. It's a real challenge for a journalist to ask the question for the average reader and get to the bottom line: 'How is this really going to affect people?'" says Tom Weber, who has worked with Dahl since the '90s

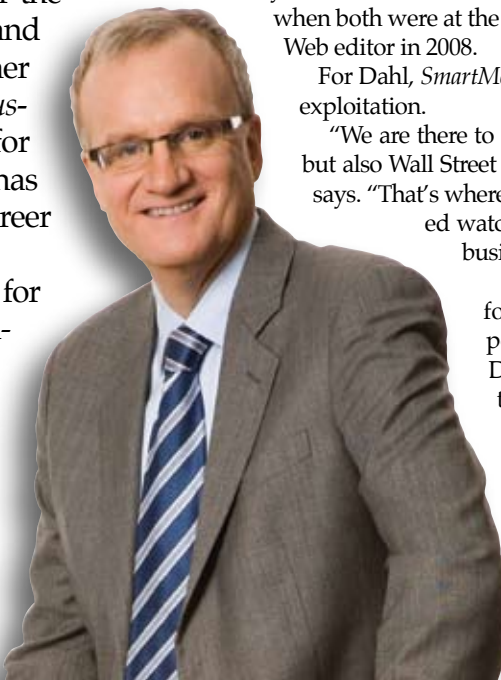
when both were at the *Journal*. Weber became *SmartMoney's* Web editor in 2008.

For Dahl, *SmartMoney* is a safeguard against consumer exploitation.

"We are there to question not only government policy but also Wall Street mutual fund industry policies," Dahl says. "That's where we stand out. We're the self-appointed

watchdog over the investment side of the business.

"To me, testing a million-dollar portfolio or gas tank should be equally important to covering the White House," Dahl continues. "This is your money, this is your life. It's remarkable how little attention has been paid to that. Personal finance reporting was not where newspapers put their resources."



The crash of 2008, however, quickly shifted everyone's attention. And Dahl found *SmartMoney* in the center of the spotlight. As the financial crisis was unfolding, Dahl saw an opportunity to increase the magazine's relevance and online presence (www.smartmoney.com). He had a two-pronged approach: On the production side, redesign the magazine for a broader interest beyond wealthy hedge fund analysts; on the editorial side, refocus the content so that stories have a personal appeal past the statistics.

With clarity in mind, Dahl led a major redesign in October 2008 to appeal to non-investors by staying away from a "stodgier, heavy-print" look. This redesign included larger art, funnier photo illustrations, shorter stories, more sidebars and a layman-friendly "Term of the Month" section that explained obscure financial terminology.

The first cover story after the crash, "Rebuild Your Wealth," which ran in the December 2008 issue, showed Dahl's editorial approach: what to do now to earn back money that was lost. Rebuilding your wealth has remained the editorial focus of the magazine.

Another approach included more personal interest stories to complement the magazine's coverage of statistic-based stock picking. Dahl's eye for stories such as "Parents in Crisis," about a reporter's mother's financial ruin, and "When Trouble Trickles Down," about families coping with the older generation's financial woes, helped bring in new readers.

On the Web side, Dahl created a financial help line that invited readers to send their questions via e-mail and an 800 number. Reporters and editors then answered the questions online or with a Webcast. In spring 2009, Dahl also provided a free, 40-page downloadable tax guide, researched and written by *SmartMoney's* tax expert, Bill Bischoff, meant to clarify how the new administration's policy affects the consumer's tax report. With 30,000 downloads in a week, the guide was a hit. The Web site also received some industry buzz after Weber launched @relivethecrash on Twitter, which featured daily news recaps of how the financial crisis unfolded from one year ago. Both strategies worked: Web site traffic has been up 20 percent since the crash, now averaging two million unique visitors a month and generating 19 million monthly page views.

Dahl has gained a bit of celebrity since the crash. "I didn't get the attention at cocktail parties that I do now," he deadpans. But his path to success was not easy. Like the Class of 2009, Dahl also graduated in the middle of a recession. He did not have any luck finding a job with traditional methods, so he got creative. On the day of the Pulitzer Prize deliberations, held on the Columbia campus, Dahl prepared a resume, clips and spiel with which he accosted every editor he could find.

Dahl decided to wait for Pulitzer jurors in the hallway during

their deliberations and grabbed Don Pickles, then-managing editor of *The Houston Chronicle*, on his way out. Dahl told Pickles, "I need two minutes of your time to tell you about my life and why I think journalism is an important calling. You probably get a lot of candidates, but you probably don't have any who have been doing it so religiously for so many years." Then Dahl showed him a lede page, a sheet that contained the first paragraph of six or seven stories Dahl had written, ranging from an expose about Vietnam veterans not getting any medical coverage to a personal essay about being beaten by the top junior girl tennis player. The boldness paid off. By the time they had left the building, Pickles offered Dahl a position covering the night police beat Wednesday through Saturday from midnight to noon. Despite the night hours, Dahl couldn't wait and drove to Texas the Monday after graduation.

At the *Chronicle*, Dahl worked in the "cop shop," a tiny room at the Houston police department where reporters covering the beat hung out, listening to scanners and phoning in scoops in an old telephone booth in the middle of the room. At the same time, Dahl began serving as a freelance correspondent (known as a "stringer" in the newspaper business, because in the old days they were paid based on the length of the string of clippings they would compile) for *The New York Times*. He would leave his shift at noon and go straight to the *Times* bureau office. For the *Times* and the *Chronicle*, Dahl covered everything from nursing home scandals to Hurricane Alicia. After three years, he got a job in the Dallas bureau of *The Wall Street Journal*, where he delved into business reporting

and began covering topics such as asbestos and bankruptcy.

In 1986, Dahl transferred to the Chicago bureau of *WSJ* and began developing the travel beat. Two years later, he moved to the New York bureau of *WSJ* and started a travel column, which focused on the headaches consumers faced in the first years of airline deregulation. From there, Dahl was promoted to travel editor and later became one of the founding editors of *WSJ's* Weekend section.

Dahl's rise through the ranks is no surprise to his coworkers, many of whom view him as a valuable teacher. Staff Writer Neil Parmar, who has worked for Dahl since 2005, acknowledges that Dahl can be "very intense, no matter if you're working with him for the first time or millionth time." Parmar began as an intern at *SmartMoney* before transitioning to staff writer. He considers Dahl a mentor.

"He's involved in everyone's stories, whether you're the intern, staff writer or a columnist. As an intern, I found that very surprising. I just assumed there was a huge chain of command and I would never see him," Parmar says. "Instead, he often walked by and asked me, 'How's it going? What ideas do you have? What are you working on?' He's known all of the interns on a similar basis. You never get coffee, never check personal e-mail. He gives the interns a lot of reporting."

WSJ reporter Nancy Keates worked for Dahl at the *Weekend Journal* for a decade, and also considers him a mentor. Keates



Dahl at his graduation with his parents, Theodore '49, '50J and Sheila; brother Dwayne '72; and sister-in-law, Beth.

PHOTO: COURTESY JONATHAN DAHL '80, '81J

began pitching to Dahl while working for the Dow Jones news-wires, and under his editing helm contributed stories ranging from hotel room service to water quality on airplanes (back when they had water fountains). "He put time into teaching me how to transition from a wire service reporter to a newspaper feature reporter," Keates says. "I think his greatest strength as an editor is that he teaches reporters not to stop. He pushes you to keep looking and keep finding. He really made an effort to help reporters learn how to write a better story."

Many coworkers agree: Dahl's pursuit of the perfect story is one of the things that drives his success.

"With a monthly magazine, you have the problem of a relatively long lead time. What we write today has to hold up and not be out of date a few weeks down the road when people buy it at the newsstand," says Executive Editor Bob Rose, who has worked intermittently with Dahl since the '80s when both were reporters in *WSJ's* Chicago bureau. "Jonathan is very smart with story ideas. Give him a fully edited story and he can find a problem with it quicker than anyone I've seen."

Parmar cites a similar strength. "Whenever I figure out a story, he always spins it around and asks the questions I haven't found the answers to yet: 'How can you make this anecdote funnier? How can you get a more recent statistic? How can you get the story shorter while making the same impact?'" Parmar says. "Until it's shipped, he's always on it to make sure it's as fresh and up-to-date as possible. He's not content letting a story sit around for a week or even half a week if he knows it can be tweaked."

Dahl credits *SmartMoney's* staying power to "staying one step ahead of the curve — what's next, what's beyond Twitter and Facebook," he says. "I think print media will have a smaller place out there. We're not going to have large magazines down the road, you may have a Kindle-type of experience. It's a matter of trying to anticipate what readers will want.

"If you're a good journalist, you're always looking for trends," Dahl continues. "From day one, whether writing for the high school paper or the *Journal*, I was trying to put together patterns. To take it to Columbia, what helps you be a good student when you're asked to do a whole reading of books is to find trends in the books you're reading."

Columbia has been a part of Dahl's life since he was a child. His father and his mother, Sheila Larkin, met at a Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity party. Dahl's house was filled with CU paraphernalia from large beer mugs to jerseys. The family had been going to Columbia football games since Jonathan was 8. "I'll nev-

er forget my dad weeping when Columbia beat Princeton in the '70s at what was then called Baker Field," Dahl says. When it was time for Jonathan to apply to college, his father told him he had a choice of two schools: Columbia or Columbia.

He credits the College for inspiring the work ethic that enabled him to succeed. "At Columbia, you were really rewarded if you worked hard. I got used to that habit that the College had really instilled," says Dahl, a summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate. "You have to be street smart from day one. I couldn't

have been a journalist otherwise. I wouldn't have learned to think on my feet."

At Columbia, Dahl wrote for *Spectator* for three years and was a sports associate for a semester, learning how to write on deadline and other aspects of journalism. "I learned by doing at *Spectator*," he says. "One time a sports editor told me, 'You're not using verbs. That's the most important tool.' He was right, and I never forgot it."

Asked about favorite courses at Columbia, Dahl cites American history with Henry Graff '49 GSAS, which gave him a sense of perspective that is a "great tool for a journalist to have,"

and English with Carl F. Hovde '50, which helped him with long-form journalism. And he still appreciates the texts of the Core. "When I give speeches today, I might pull out a quote from *Ovid*," the American history major says.

Dwayne Dahl '72, an art history major who now is manager of operations for a computer company, is not surprised his brother became the editor-in-chief of *SmartMoney*. The two would share anecdotes when the younger Dahl had his travel column at *WSJ* and Dwayne was traveling 100,000 miles a year while working for General Electric.

All three Dahls — Jonathan, Dwayne and their father — were members of the Fiji fraternity, and both sons lived in Carman. "He was a skinny little kid, but grew up and made it big," Dwayne says of his brother. "And that was a big dream that our father had for him." Theodore kept every clip that Jonathan wrote in a book, which Jonathan found after his father's death in 1988.

Most of Dahl's friends from college became doctors or lawyers, but Dahl says he would never trade in his experience for more money or stability. "I think I've had a lot more fun in my career than a lot of my classmates. Many of the lawyers I know complain about their field," Dahl says. "I wake up every day bursting out of bed. It never gets boring."



Yelena Shuster '09 is a freelance writer living in New York. She has written for Time Out New York, New York magazine and The Huffington Post.



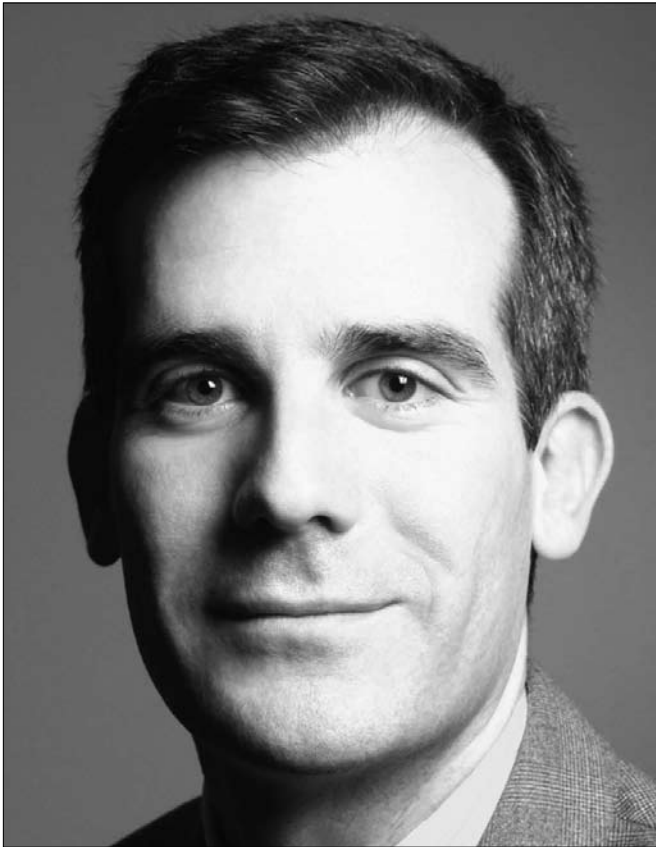
Dahl is a hands-on editor whose colleagues say he is driven in his pursuit of the perfect story.

PHOTOS: YELENA SHUSTER '09

Making Tinseltown Green

Los Angeles City Council president Eric Garcetti '92, '93 SIPA gets things done with cool conviction and a soft-spoken style

BY JUSTIN CLARK '04J



Always an activist, Eric Garcetti '92, '93 SIPA is more than a "pothole politician" who focuses only on short-term problems; his goal is nothing less than to reform urban culture in Los Angeles, starting with the area he represents, District 13.

PHOTO: MICHAEL POWERS

Eric Garcetti '92, '93 SIPA remembers the time he stayed up late with a broken heart in his dorm room at Furnald Hall. The future president of the Los Angeles City Council wasn't recovering from a break-up or a bad grade. The problem was more serious than that.

"I was watching my city burn," he recalls.

It was April 29, 1992, and like many other Americans, Garcetti sat in front of the television through much of the night and the following days, watching the skies above Los Angeles turn a hellish shade of ochre. Having flown back to New York the day before, Garcetti had physically avoided the riots that rocked Los Angeles in the wake of the infamous Rodney King verdict. Mentally and emotionally, however, he was back in Los Angeles. His father, Gil Garcetti, was successfully campaigning to replace his boss at the district attorney's office, Ira Reiner, whose failed prosecution of the King case had sparked the riots. Seeing the mess his father was going to inherit was sobering for the urban planning and political science major.

"I felt at that moment I had to do something," he says with cool conviction.

At the time, Garcetti had no idea that doing something would mean running for office. He had already cut his activist teeth at Columbia, however, helping to build housing in Harlem through the Harlem Restoration Project and Habitat for Humanity; running Columbia Area Resource Exchange, a program that allowed New Yorkers to buy food vouchers for the homeless; and serving as president of the National Student Coalition Against Harassment. Garcetti had co-founded the Columbia Urban Experience, a program that took incoming Columbia students on tours of the neighborhoods near campus.

"All those years at Columbia, I had been trying to effect change in New York City," Garcetti remembers. "I suddenly realized it was needed in Los Angeles as well."

After studying in the United Kingdom and returning to Los Angeles to teach public policy at Occidental College, Garcetti ran for city council in 2001 and was elected president in 2005. Since then, he has represented the quarter-million residents of District



Clockwise from top: Garcetti surrounded by children at the 2007 opening of Seily Rodriguez Park, the 20th park created in his district since he took office. Garcetti, outside his office, has represented one of Los Angeles' most densely populated districts since 2001 and says, "The constituents are starved for green space." Garcetti's popular UNTAG program has greatly reduced the amount of graffiti in the area by having the city and community work together to immediately paint over fresh graffiti.

PHOTOS: COURTESY ERIC GARCETTI '92, '93 SIPA

"I chose to be at Columbia, to be in the midst of things

13, an ethnically and economically mixed area of Los Angeles that stretches from the posh apartments of Hollywood to downtown's immigrant and working-class flank. In 2008, he co-chaired the California election campaign for President Barack Obama '83.

To many observers, Garcetti is more than just a member of the city council. He is a younger and less flashy breed of politician, more culturally literate than most of his colleagues. A fluent Spanish speaker with a mixture of heritages — Mexican, Italian, Jewish — Garcetti's background bridges some of the city's trickiest racial divides.

As associate director of Loyola Marymount University's Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Jennifer Magnabosco '95 SW, '01 SW has tracked Garcetti's career for years. "I don't know if his ethnic background is an explicit advantage," she says, "but it raises people's comfort levels, because L.A. is the most multicultural city in the United States."

According to Magnabosco, it isn't Garcetti's background that has made him popular, but his focus and affability. Tall and lanky, Garcetti could physically intimidate his colleagues, yet somehow doesn't. His soft-spoken style is neither ornate nor folksy. His avoidance of scandal has left the local press dejected. Despite his boundless energy — six hours is a good night's sleep for him — Garcetti lacks the showman's touch, preferring to talk about his policies rather than himself. One might think him bland until he starts talking about his ideas for making Los Angeles greener and more livable. That's where Garcetti's tenure has become most apparent.

Take Echo Park, a neighborhood still associated with gang violence in many Angelenos' minds. For years, the shopkeepers and homeowners in this famously graffiti-covered neighborhood rarely bothered to report vandalism to the city clean-up crews, imagining it would only reappear the next day. Then, in 2004, Garcetti started Uniting Neighborhoods to Abolish Graffiti (UNTAG), a neighborhood tag-spotting program premised on the proposition that taggers could lose their enthusiasm if their handiwork was painted over quickly enough. Block captains are asked to contact the city's graffiti abatement teams as soon as they see a tag, and the city responds immediately. With an 85 percent reduction in graffiti in the district over the past five years, UNTAG is an obvious success.

Compared to the other environmental problems Garcetti has singled out for repair, graffiti is a piece of cake. A more difficult ambition is to turn Angelenos into pedestrians in a city where no one walks.

"Those of us who have lived in New York know how wonderful it would be to have dinner, see a show, go to work and shop, all in the same neighborhood, walking or using public transport," says Garcetti, who grew up in the car-dependent San Fernando Valley.

Indeed, Garcetti already practices what he preaches, taking early morning walks in his neighborhood with his constituents. He points out that the problem isn't necessarily that citizens are lazy, but that they have not been involved in the decades of urban planning that have made driving a necessity and confirmed Los Angeles' claim to the second-worst air quality in the nation, after Pittsburgh. Garcetti's primary target is the conventional car; he

passionately spoke out for its electric brethren in the 2006 documentary *Who Killed the Electric Car?*

But is it possible to survive without a car in Los Angeles? In certain areas, Garcetti says, it is. "In a year or two, Hollywood will be that," he offers.

To accomplish that goal, Garcetti organized the Great Hollywood Walkabout. Armed with tape measures and surveying equipment, he and 126 volunteers took to the streets of Hollywood in 2006, measuring sidewalks, timing intersections and observing on a minute level how the neighborhood functioned. The resulting observations helped develop the Hollywood Community Plan, a pedestrian-friendly vision of the neighborhood's future that is light on parking lots and heavy on shopping and retail centers in walking distance of existing residences.

Garcetti is frequently called a "pothole politician" — one who focuses on more immediate problems, sometimes at the expense of larger, longer-term issues. But his ambitions go deeper than simply eliminating graffiti and reducing congestion. He wants to do nothing less than reform urban culture in Los Angeles. As the car is an article of faith to most Angelenos, so is the backyard; the love affair with private green space has deprived public green space of political and economic support. Even so, Garcetti has managed to double the number of parks in his district.

"My district is one of the most densely populated in the city," he says, explaining why he pursued the traditionally neglected issue so aggressively. "The constituents are starved for green space."

The toughest of Garcetti's environmental ambitions is restoring Los Angeles' polluted waterways. Garcetti helped author Proposition O, a 2004 bill that set aside \$500 million to clean up L.A.'s storm-drain system and reduce the 10,000 tons of trash that wash up on the city's beaches each year. Well-known environmentalist Laurie David, a National Resource Defense Council Member who produced the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*, has called Prop O "one of the greatest environmental opportunities in L.A.'s history; a once in a generation opportunity." With Prop O funds, the city has already installed tens of thousands of storm drain screens, expected to reduce the volume of trash dumped into the L.A. River by twenty percent. One of the most ambitious projects, a \$76 million rehabilitation of the Machado Lake Ecosystem, is now a quarter done.

Garcetti's willingness to take on global environmental issues from his current office is either quixotic or visionary, depending on whom you ask. "When I think about women's rights or global warming, when the national government won't take action, our ability to [take] action at the local level is imperative," he says. When he talks about the Bush administration's refusal to support the Kyoto Protocol, for instance, Garcetti speaks with obvious passion but maintains his well-known composure.

In fact, says District 13 legislative deputy Cecilia Cabello '96, Garcetti's secret weapon is that he always keeps his cool.

"He handles really difficult situations with the most grace and patience and understanding," says Cabello, an art history major and former political adviser to the Israeli Consul General who attributes to Garcetti a trait all but extinct in today's politicians. "He never raises his voice," she says.

Friend Brian Yorkey '93, a musical lyricist whose work includes a Broadway adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel *High Fidelity* and the current Broadway show *Next to Normal*, has a similar opinion

as opposed to being sequestered from the world."

of Garcetti. "He's incredibly smart and aware and knowledgeable and yet it never makes him forbidding or hard to know," says Yorkey. "That combination is rare."

That sense of approachability has helped Garcetti in politics. At the beginning of her boss' tenure, Cabello recalls, three constituents who were angry about an issue attempted to disrupt City Council meetings with racial slurs and inflammatory language. As with his graffiti-abatement program, Garcetti proved that patience can be a powerful weapon. Simply by keeping his calm, Garcetti managed to convince his visitors to adopt a more civil discourse, without resorting to threats himself.

Garcetti's remedy for L.A.'s urban tension, his profound calm, is stereotypically Californian, yet he is quick to credit much of his political vision to his time at Columbia.

"L.A. doesn't admit it's a city, but in Manhattan the city hits you squarely in the face from the first moment you're there," says Garcetti. "It was one of the reasons I chose to be at Columbia, to be in the midst of things as opposed to being sequestered from the world."

There was another reason Garcetti chose Columbia over Harvard, however: the theater. An aspiring jazz pianist, he'd originally come to Columbia to pursue a stage career and quickly became involved as the composer for the *Varsity Show*.

"It's funny, because I hate musicals," he says with a laugh, "but I really enjoyed writing them."

Yorkey got to know Garcetti when Yorkey answered an ad in *Spectator* seeking a new artistic director for the *Varsity Show*. Yorkey's friends were impressed to hear that he was collaborating with one of the best-known figures on campus. Yorkey was impressed with Garcetti's restless energy and musical ability.

One of their first songs together, "Always A Protest," chronicled the romance of an anti-war liberal feminist woman with a Republican football player. Yorkey says the tune was inspired by the political culture on campus during the run-up to the Gulf War. Later, Garcetti worked on another topical project: a musical called *Random Access*.

"It chronicled four people after college involved in different industries, starting with the riots and ending with the (1994 Northridge) earthquake," says Garcetti. "It was the story of Los Angeles in those years that the Presidential elections were happening."

It was yet another sign that Garcetti's theater wasn't going to be on Broadway but rather at L.A.'s City Hall. "Eric could have been Richard Rodgers [23] if he'd wanted to, but he's destined

for something much more important," says Yorkey.

Fortunately for District 13 (and perhaps unfortunately for music lovers everywhere), Garcetti had to set aside *Random Access* unfinished — he was off to England. He'd been rejected for a Rhodes Scholarship during his senior year, but his urban politics professor, Carlton Long '84, himself a Rhodes Scholar, told Garcetti not to quit.

"Carlton told me he was in the same class as George Stephanopoulos '82, who didn't win until he applied a second time," says Garcetti. "So I was encouraged to submit again."

This time, Garcetti was accepted.

"I'm convinced to this day the reason I got the scholarship was because, unlike the other candidates flying in from around the country to New York for the interview, I knew the city and was comfortable there," he says. "I guess I was lucky to have been at Columbia for that reason, too."

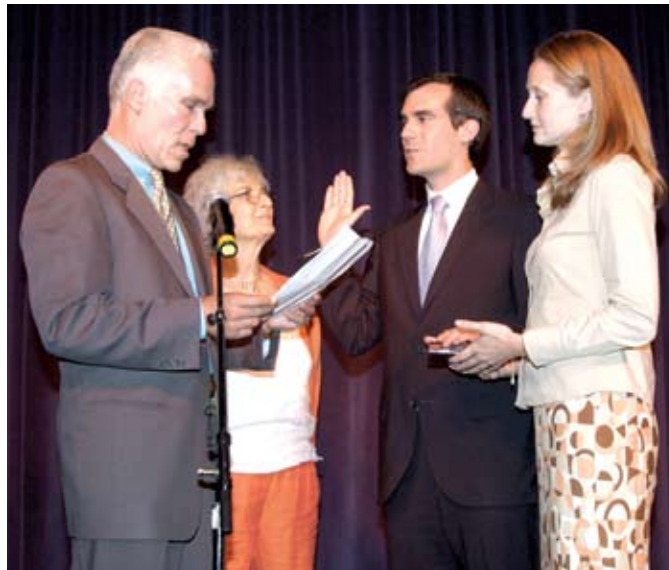
Garcetti spent 4½ years across the Atlantic, first at Oxford and then at the London School of Economics, where he began work on a Ph.D. in ethnicity and nationalism. It was while abroad that he met his future wife and fellow Rhodes Scholar, Amy Elaine Wakeland. Wakeland, who is from Indiana, was the California political adviser for Howard Dean's 2004 Presidential campaign. Wakeland's time is now taken up with a more important client: her husband — they were married in January 2009.

That job is likely to prove only more challenging as time passes. Garcetti prefers to speak in present terms, but ru-

mors are already circulating about a future in mayoral and possibly national politics. His background in international affairs makes him, in the eyes of many observers, an ideal candidate for Congress. In 2007, Garcetti received Harvard's prestigious John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award, offered to one elected official under 40 who best represents Kennedy's legacy of public service. But Garcetti is nothing if not methodical in his approach to politics, and for now he is content to build his appeal by filling potholes.

"[Eric's] biggest challenge is to keep that reputation at a high level, especially in light of what's going in L.A. with a number of our other leaders," says Magnabosco, referring in part to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's admission of adultery in July 2007. "But if you have a reputation like Eric does, people aren't going to be taking that for granted."

Justin Clark '04 is a Los Angeles-based freelance writer who has written for the San Francisco Chronicle, LA Weekly, nerve and other publications. He is working on a Ph.D. in U.S. history at USC.



Garcetti was sworn in for his second term as councilman in 2005 by his father, former Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti. Joining them are his mother, Sukey, and Amy Elaine Wakeland; Garcetti and Wakeland were married in January 2009.

PHOTO: COURTESY ERIC GARCETTI '92, '93 SIPA

Beat legends Jack Kerouac '44 (left) and Allen Ginsberg '48 read a book together in 1959, the year in which author Fred Kaplan contends "everything changed."

PHOTO: JOHN COHEN/GETTY IMAGES



[COLUMBIA FORUM]

1959

THE YEAR EVERYTHING CHANGED

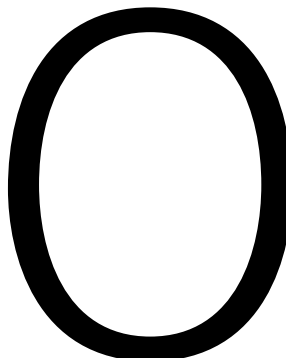
BY FRED KAPLAN

Is 1959 the year when our own age was born? In Fred Kaplan's book 1959: The Year Everything Changed, the dawn of the Space Age seems to usher in breakthroughs and liftoffs of all kinds. The Soviets' space capsule Lunik 1 blasts off on January 2, and as it leaves the atmosphere, all sorts of barriers seem to rattle and crumble. Texas Instruments announces the invention of the microchip. The birth control pill is submitted to the FDA for approval. The Motown sound is born. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission makes its first report, which leads to an overhaul of segregation laws. As Kaplan once wrote in an essay for Slate (where he is a columnist), 1959 really is "a pivotal year — not only in culture but also in politics, society, science, sex: everything."

*In the cultural events of this critical year, Columbia plays a pivotal part. Years earlier, in the mid-'40s, a small group of Columbia students and their like-minded friends — Jack Kerouac '44, Allen Ginsberg '48, William S. Burroughs and others — had coalesced around the Morning-side Heights campus. The soon-to-be Beats took in the rhythms of Harlem jazz; they traded ideas and influences. A new literary movement took shape. By the end of the '50s, major works such as Kerouac's *On the Road*, Ginsberg's *Howl and Other Poems* and Burroughs' *The Naked Lunch* had established the friends as groundbreaking new voices. In this excerpt, Kaplan tells the story of the Columbians whose Beat writings, in 1959, were changing the face of the culture.*

Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard

Generations Howling



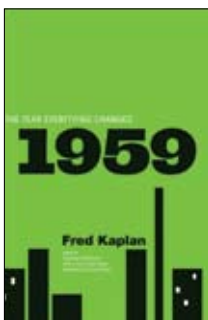
On the night of February 5, 1959, Allen Ginsberg ['48] gave a poetry reading in the McMillin Theater [now the Miller Theatre] at Columbia University before fourteen hundred spectators, nearly all of them students, with hundreds more turned away for lack of space. It was a triumphant night for Ginsberg, his first return to the college that had suspended him a decade earlier under sordid circumstances, and he was returning as a literary celebrity, almost a pop star.

A few years earlier, Ginsberg had been living in the Bay Area of California. Kenneth Rexroth, a local poet-impresario, sponsored weekly poetry readings at art galleries and coffee shops in San Francisco's North Beach district, a scruffy neighborhood that was attracting a growing number of young bohemians. On October 7, 1955, Ginsberg appeared at one of these readings, at the Six Gallery on Fillmore Street, and recited the first part of a poem, which he'd started writing two weeks earlier, called *Howl*. It was a brash, profane, apocalyptic meditation, with long, syncopated lines and turbulent imagery ("I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked / . . . angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night."), and Ginsberg read it with what even he later described as "a strange ecstatic intensity." The event caused an instant sensation. It was widely written up, hailed (though in some quarters mocked) as a new kind of poem and, more, as the cry of a new generation alienated by crass materialism and conformity.

Ginsberg publicly credited Jack Kerouac ['44] with coining the poem's title and inspiring its style of phrasing — "a spontaneous bop prosody," as Ginsberg put it, referring to the cadences of Charlie Parker's bebop jazz. As a result, *Howl* made Kerouac famous, too, and Viking Publishers, which had laid aside a proposal that he'd submitted months earlier, gave him a contract for *On the Road*, the most ambitious of eleven novels that he'd written in the previous six years, only one of which, *The Town and the City*, had ever been published (and it was largely forgotten).



PHOTO: WILL O'LEARY



To the extent Kerouac was known at all until then, it was for a remark that he'd made back in the early fifties to a friend and fellow writer named John Clellon Holmes. They were talking about contemporary parallels with the "Lost Generation" after World War I and the philosophy of existentialism that followed. Kerouac said, "You know, this is a really *beat* generation." Holmes leapt up and said, "That's it, that's right!" Inspired by the line, Holmes wrote an article in 1952 for the *New York Times Magazine*, called "This Is the Beat Generation," in which he credited "John Kerouac" for the phrase.

Soon after the reading at the Six Gallery — at which Kerouac passed around jugs of wine — the "Beat" label was applied to a whole group of North Beach poets, including Rexroth, Michael McClure, Gary Snyder, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who also owned the City Lights Bookstore and had just started an imprint to publish many of these poets' works, including *Howl*.

When *On the Road* appeared in bookstores in September 1957, a review in *The New York Times* declared it an "authentic work of art," a "major novel," even a "historic occasion," proclaiming, "Just as Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* came to be regarded as the testament of the Lost Generation, so it seems certain that *On the Road* will come to be known as that of the 'Beat Generation.'"

The review was a fluke. The *Times'* regular book critic, a thorough square named Orville Prescott, was on vacation when Kerouac's novel came in. An editor assigned it to a staff writer named Gilbert Millstein because he seemed to know something about the subject. Five years earlier, Millstein was the editor who'd commissioned Clellon Holmes to write the *Times Magazine* article about the "Beat Generation." Millstein had favorably reviewed Holmes's novel, called *Go*, whose main characters were based in large part on Kerouac and Ginsberg, whom Holmes had known when they all lived in New York. And so the links came full circle.

When Prescott returned from vacation, he panned Kerouac's novel in the *Sunday Book Review* section, as expected. But Millstein's rave in the daily paper had made its impact. *On the Road* was the book of the moment; it climbed the best-seller charts, and attracted a vast following among restless young men for decades to come.

Ferlinghetti had published Ginsberg's *Howl and Other Poems* a year earlier, but Customs officials declared it "obscene" and seized copies. (One official was quoted in the press as saying, "You wouldn't want your children to come across it.") The U.S. Attorney's office in San Francisco declined to pursue the case. So the feds tried again, this time sending undercover agents into the City Lights Bookstore to buy a copy and then to arrest Ferlinghetti for publishing, and his poor cash-register clerk for selling, obscene materials.

At the ensuing trial, which was heavily publicized, provocative passages from the poem were read aloud, and a stream of eminent critics testified that it was a masterpiece. The federal judge, Clayton Horn, ruled that the book was not obscene. Before the trial, only a thousand or so copies of *Howl* had been in print. After the ruling, Ferlinghetti couldn't print copies quickly enough to sate the mass hunger for this once-forbidden fruit.

Judge Horn's ruling came down on October 3, 1957, just a few weeks after Millstein's rave review of Kerouac's novel. To most of the book-buying public, then, *Howl* and *On the Road* appeared at the same time. And so, the two works, along with Kerouac and Ginsberg themselves, were forever linked as the essential artifacts and heroic figures of the Beat movement.

Then came another wrinkle. On October 4, the day after Ginsberg's legal victory, the Soviets launched Sputnik, the first satellite, into orbit. Herb Caen, a prominent columnist for the *San Francisco*

Chronicle, wrote that the bohemians hanging out on the North Beach were as "far out" as Sputnik—and so dubbed them "beatniks." The term stuck.

By 1959, newspapers and magazines were filled with stories about beatniks, who tended to be portrayed as either morally dangerous or eccentrically dimwitted. Hollywood B-movies, like *High School Confidential*, *The Wild Party*, *The Subterraneans* and *The Beatniks*, hit screens across the country. *The Dobie Gillis Show* premiered on television that year, with Bob Denver playing Dobie's bongos-slapping beatnik friend, Maynard G. Krebs. *Life* magazine published a story called "Squaresville U.S.A. vs. Beatsville," about three teenage girls in the small town of Hutchinson, Kansas, who wrote a letter to Lawrence Lipton, self-described leader of the beatniks in Venice, California, inviting him and his friends to come visit. "This town is Squaresville itself," the letter read, "so we as its future citizens want to be cooled in." The plan was squelched when Hutchinson's police chief put out the word that any beatniks would be arrested on sight. A "beatnik doesn't like work," the officer said. "Any man that doesn't like work is a vagrant, and a vagrant goes to jail around here."

The beatnik craze annoyed Kerouac, who had always been shy and now retreated to isolation. The term angered Ginsberg, too, who publicly called it "a foul word." But Ginsberg was also a flamboyant showman — he declaimed his poems with high drama, sometimes gleefully disrobing in his passion, as if to bare his body along with his soul — and he played on the PR possibilities. He scribbled, in a letter to Kerouac, "The general public image of beatniks built up from movies, *Time*, TV, *Daily News*, *Post*, etc., is among the hep a fake and among the mass Evil and among the liberal intellectuals a mess — but that is weirdly good, I dig that we are still so purely obscure to philistines that it's inevitable that it be misunderstood.... Mockery is inevitable compliment."

But the Beats were getting at something disturbingly stagnant about American society, and mockery was the easiest way to dismiss the messengers out of hand.

Kerouac and Ginsberg met in 1944, when they were studying literature at Columbia. Kerouac had started college as a football player but injured his leg during the first semester and, with some relief, rekindled his longtime love of books. Ginsberg started out wanting to be a labor lawyer, but turned to poetry after taking Columbia's mandatory freshman Humanities course. The university's English department valued high modern poetry with irony, tight stanzas, and clear meters, usually iambic pentameter. Ginsberg was very good at this form. He won several college prizes for his poems and often discussed his work with his professor, the famous critic and novelist Lionel Trilling [25].

That same year, through a mutual friend, Ginsberg and Kerouac met William Burroughs, who was doing postgraduate work in psychology. Burroughs was a decade older and had an aristocratic bearing. He came from a wealthy St. Louis family — his grandfather had invented the adding machine — and he was living on a trust fund, which allowed him to get by well enough without working. Burroughs also had a broad grasp of literature and a penchant for authors that no one was teaching at Columbia — romantic poets, like William Blake, Arthur Rimbaud and Hart Crane, who glorified individual expressiveness above obedience to formal rules. The two students spent many hours in Burroughs' living room, discussing ideas and books.

Burroughs had a very dark streak and a cynical detachment. He once told Kerouac, "I'm apparently some kind of agent from another planet, but I haven't got my orders decoded yet."

When Burroughs was an adolescent, one concerned neighbor called him "a walking corpse." Burroughs agreed, wondering only whose corpse it was. A classic problem child, extremely bookish but anti-social, he was fascinated by con men. His parents sent him to the Los Alamos Ranch School in New Mexico, where the government later built the atom bomb — a connection (Burroughs didn't believe in coincidences) that haunted him the rest of his life. In the thirties, an uncle named Ivy Lee had worked as Hitler's publicist in America — another blood tie to death and sin.

By the time Ginsberg and Kerouac met him, Burroughs was experimenting with drugs and hanging out with thieves and hustlers from Times Square. The fascination rubbed off on the impressionable students. In August 1944, a fellow student named Lucien Carr, who was also a member of this circle, got into horrible trouble. A friend of Burroughs named Dave Kammerer was infatuated with Carr (everyone in this group had at least leanings toward homosexuality), stalked him incessantly and one day followed him into Riverside Park, demanding sex. Carr stabbed him repeatedly with a pocketknife. Carr confessed to Burroughs, who advised him to go to the police. Instead he went to Kerouac, who helped him dispose of the weapon. The next day, both were arrested, Kerouac as a material witness to homicide. They were also expelled from Columbia. The crime made the front pages of local papers. Kerouac was bailed out of jail by his girlfriend, and the two fled to Michigan.*

Several months later, Kerouac returned to New York and stayed in Ginsberg's dorm room, spending all his time reading. Ginsberg then caused a campus scandal. As a prankish protest, he traced the words "Fuck the Jews" on his dusty windowpane. A maid reported the deed to the dean of students, along with the tidbit that, when she entered Ginsberg's room, he was in bed with Kerouac. Some took Ginsberg's scrawling as self-hatred (he was Jewish), others as homoerotic double-entendre. In any case, he was suspended.

At that point, Ginsberg worked at a few menial jobs, to get a taste for ordinary life, then took a seven-month voyage as a merchant marine on a freighter ship. Meanwhile, Burroughs and his wife moved to Texas. Kerouac went home to Lowell, Massachusetts, where his father, a French-Canadian immigrant who owned a small printing press, was dying. He was rescued the following summer by a call from a friend named Neal Cassady, who asked him to come along for a car ride across the country, the first of several such journeys that would provide the material for *On the Road*. (Cassady was the real-life model for the character Dean Moriarty.)

Ginsberg came back to Columbia in the spring of 1947 and resumed writing the stiff poetry that his professors encouraged. One day in the spring of 1948, he was sitting on his bed, reading "Ah! Sun - flower" by William Blake, one of the romantic poets that he'd learned about from Burroughs, and suddenly he had a

mystical vision, an out-of-body experience, a touch of Nirvana. He later interpreted the sensation as a psychological revelation, a message from his inner self that this was the kind of poetry — intensely personal, nakedly emotional, magically prophetic — that he should be writing.

Around this time, Ginsberg found himself attracted to the outlaw derring-do of a hustler, and another friend of Burroughs, named Herbert Huncke. One night, Huncke enticed Ginsberg to join him and his pals for a cruise through the city in a stolen car. The pal who was driving took a wrong turn on a one-way street, sped away from an approaching police car, and crashed into a telephone pole. They were all arrested. Ginsberg was saved by the intervention of Lionel Trilling, who brought in a professor from Columbia Law School, who in turn convinced prosecutors to commit the young poet to the Columbia Presbyterian Psychiatric Institute, free of charge, instead of sentencing him to prison.

After eight months in the hospital, Ginsberg went home to his father, a high-school teacher and poet, in Paterson, New Jersey.

(His mother, who had gone insane when he was in high school, lived in an asylum up in the Bronx.) Allen wrote some articles for a local labor newspaper and asked for an assignment to interview the poet William Carlos Williams.

Williams, who was in his sixties, lived in Paterson, toiling in relative obscurity. Certainly nobody at Columbia, or most other colleges, was teaching his work. Williams took a liking to Ginsberg, and met with him several times after their first talk. Williams came out of the Black Mountain school of poets, former teachers or students at Black Mountain College, an avant-

garde school set up in the thirties in Asheville, North Carolina, where artists and writers were encouraged to take their inspiration from materials and objects found in their surroundings.

Once, when Ginsberg and Williams went for a walk through the woods, they sat and wrote poems about things lying on the ground — a sliver of tin, a chunk of concrete, a hairpin.

Williams also felt strongly that a poet shouldn't be confined by arbitrary rules about the length of a line or regularity of a meter. He should write in his natural voice, constructing phrases that matched the rhythms of his own breath. This wasn't easy. In fact, done well, it was harder than conventional poetry. You couldn't just fill in the blank spaces of the metronome's ticktocks. You had to *listen* to your voice, very carefully, and devise ways to capture that rhythm, a rhythm that might not ever have been written down before.

Kerouac was thinking along the same lines; he and Ginsberg remained in frequent contact, either in person or through correspondence. But they both needed a voice before they could figure out how to transcribe it, and the voice they aimed for, the voice that most appealed to their desire for speed and risk and transcendence, a sound at once hot and cool, was modern jazz — "a spontaneous pop prosody," as Ginsberg described Kerouac's phrasing.

While they were studying at Columbia, the two often went to the jazz clubs in nearby Harlem and got to know some of the musicians, including the trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, who along with Charlie Parker invented the style of bebop. At one set, which a fellow Columbia student was recording, Gillespie improvised a



(Left to right) Hal Chase, Kerouac, Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs enjoy each other's company in Morningside Heights.

PHOTO: © ALLEN GINSBERG/CORBIS

* Carr served two years in prison, then cleaned up his act, eventually becoming a reporter, then a top editor, for United Press International. The military historian and novelist Caleb Carr is his son.

melody, based on the popular song “Exactly Like You,” and titled it “Kerouac.” (He thought about calling it “Ginsberg,” but that wasn’t as jazzy a name.)

Kerouac set down the idea of his poetic phrasing in a short essay called “The Essentials of Spontaneous Prose,” in which he likened the act of writing to playing jazz. Sentences should be punctuated not by periods but only by “the vigorous space dash separating rhetorical breathing (as jazz musicians drawing breath between out-blown phrases).” This was how he wrote the original draft of *On the Road*, all of it in one unindented paragraph, typed on sixteen-foot rolls of Japanese drawing paper, which he taped together as a massive scroll. That was the ideal way to capture the vista of the landscape, the whoosh of motion, the immediacy of experience.

To Kerouac, it was cheating even to revise a first impulse (though he did rewrite *On the Road*, adding punctuation, to make the book publishable). Ginsberg wasn’t such a purist. He sought to convey the *impression* of spontaneity, but he relied on craft and artistry to get there.

A year before he wrote *Howl*, Ginsberg wrote to a friend, “I have been looking at early blues forms and think will apply this form of elliptical semisurrealist imagery to rhymed blues type lyrics. . . . Blues forms also provide a real varied syncopated meter, with many internal variants and changes of form in midstream like conversational thought.” He later told a critic that *Howl*’s cadences were inspired in part by a recording of Dizzy Gillespie’s trumpet solo on “I Can’t Get Started.”

Ginsberg and Kerouac were inspired, then, by several diverse influences: Burroughs’ reading list of romantic visionaries like Whitman, Blake, and Rimbaud; William Carlos Williams’ veneration of natural objects over lofty ideals and human breath over preset meter; and the frantic, jagged cadences of blues and bebop.

Jazz inspired Ginsberg to extend his lines much longer than any poet — even Whitman — had ever attempted. He explained later to one critic that his earlier attempts at free verse were “not expressionistic enough, not swinging enough,” adding, “I have to let off steam by building a longer climactic line . . . a jazzy ride . . . to ride out on the break-rhythm without any artificial built-in guides or poles or diving boards . . . no forcing the thoughts into a straitjacket—sort of a search for the rhythm of the thoughts and their natural occurrence. . . . It’s a jump up forward into life, unknown future.”

The poem’s long, jangling lines were what gave *Howl* its drive and power. But they were also what led many writers and critics of the day to dismiss it as unserious, not a real poem.

Not least among those who dismissed it was Lionel Trilling. Ginsberg had stayed in touch with his former mentor and savior from Columbia days. When *Howl* was published, he sent Trilling a copy, along with a cover note. “I think what is coming is a romantic period . . . a reassertion of naked personal subjective truth,” he wrote. “Perhaps Whitman will be seen to have set the example,” after having “been bypassed for half a century.”

Though the letter was cordial, Trilling no doubt read it as a personal jab, and correctly so. (He wrote back, saying that he didn’t like the poems at all.) Trilling had never regarded Whitman or any of Ginsberg’s other idols as great writers. He distrusted literature that celebrated passion, transcendence, or the liberation of the self from society. Like most members of his intellectual circle, who lived in New York and wrote for the *Partisan Review*, Trilling was an ex-Marxist (some were still Marxists but anti-Stalinists) who cherished the tradition of high modernism — with its canon of works, formalist theory, and critical method — as a civilizing tool, grounded in a sense of history, to ward off the pressures of ideology and totalitarianism.

Strict form was important because it represented the elevation of rationality, which Trilling saw as “a principle of control.” Back when Ginsberg first met Burroughs, and especially after his mystical experience while reading Blake, he urged his teacher to reconsider Rimbaud in particular. Trilling gave him a read, but he was repelled. Rimbaud’s “rejection of the ordinary social values,” he told Ginsberg, amounted to “an absolutism which is foreign to my nature and which I combat.”

Later, Trilling wrote an essay, perhaps with Ginsberg in mind, noting that he understood why some of his students “have become excited over their discovery of the old animosity which Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams bear to the iamb, and have come to feel that could they but break the iambic shackles, the whole of modern culture could find a true expression.” But, Trilling went on, he found this notion illusory—and, more than that, dangerous, because unshackling formal structure could unravel the underlying social thread. In a sense, Trilling was right. Ginsberg, too, saw the connection between freedom from structures in poetry and freedom from structures in all of life. The difference

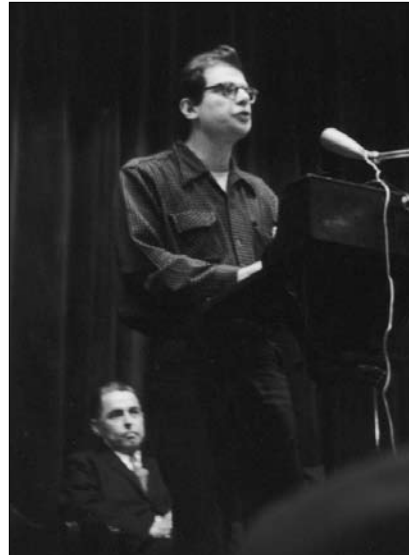
was that Ginsberg yearned for both freedoms.

Back when Ginsberg was a student, Burroughs advised him to veer away from Trilling, warning, “He’s got no orgones, no mana, no charge to him.”

The irony was that, deep inside, Trilling might have agreed, if not in those terms. In 1985, a decade after Trilling’s death, *Partisan Review* published excerpts from his private journals, which revealed a very unhappy man who loathed his own sense of seriousness and responsibility, and who envied those capable of cutting loose and expressing themselves openly.

He appeared to feel this inadequacy as far back as 1933, when his friend Clifton Fadiman [25] showed Trilling a letter that he’d received from Ernest Hemingway. It was “a crazy letter,” Trilling recounted, “written when he was drunk — self-revealing, arrogant, scared, trivial, absurd: yet I felt from reading it how right such a man is compared to the ‘good minds’ of my university life — how he will produce and mean something to the world . . . how his life which he could expose without dignity and which is anarchic and ‘childish’ is a better life than anyone I know could live. . . . And how far-far-far I am going from being a writer — how less and less I have the material and the mind and the will.”

Similarly, in 1948, around the time Ginsberg urged him to read Rimbaud, Trilling wrote in his journal of coming back from a din-



Ginsberg attracted a capacity crowd when he returned to campus for his poetry reading in McMillin Theater (now Miller Theatre) on February 5, 1959.

PHOTO: FRED W. McDARRAH/GETTY IMAGES

ner party where someone had praised him for leading a life of “equilibrium,” a comment that gave him “a twinge of pain” and “the sense of some awful doom” that, at age forty-two, he had “no more time, no more time” to do something creative. Not long after, he wrote, “I have only a gift of dealing rather sensibly with literature,” which he regarded as “a great hoax.”

In 1949, while still convalescing at the psychiatric institute, Ginsberg came to see Trilling and told him that Harcourt, Brace was about to publish Kerouac’s first novel, *The Town and the City*. “I predicted that it would not be good & insisted,” Trilling wrote afterward in his journal. “But later I saw with what bitterness I had made the prediction — not wanting K’s book to be good because if the book of an accessory to a murder is good, how can one of mine be?”

Trilling despised the notion, popular in some avant-garde circles, that an artist had to be pathological. But he also wanted to believe in the opposite idea — that a real artist *couldn’t* have a streak of “wickedness” — and he feared that he might be wrong.

The tensions between institutional order and instinctual gratification racked many among the generation that came to maturity after the war, but Trilling’s sense of decorum and dignity — his ideas about the moral grounding of literature — kept his inner bohemian under wraps.

Diana Trilling, his wife and fellow critic, would later wonder, in her memoir of their marriage, whether any of Lionel’s friends knew “how deeply he scorned the very qualities of character — his quiet, his moderation, his gentle reasonableness — for which he was most admired in his lifetime and which have been most celebrated since his death.”

When Ginsberg returned to Columbia for his poetry reading on a cold Thursday night in February 1959, it was at the invitation not of the English Department but of a student group, the John Dewey Society. Almost no professors showed up for the event; they didn’t want to grant him the legitimacy that their attendance might convey.

Lionel Trilling stayed home, too. Some of his colleagues were coming over to discuss an intellectuals’ book club that they were trying to get off the ground.

But Diana Trilling — who, later that year, would chide Norman Mailer for abandoning his earlier style of literary realism — did go, along with two other faculty wives, who all nervously mapped out ahead of time where and when to meet, as if they were conspiring to commit a crime.

She wrote an essay about the event afterward for the *Partisan Review* (whose editor, Philip Rahv, accepted it after expressing misgivings about giving the Beats the implicit credibility). In her essay, she recounted her husband’s turbulent past with Ginsberg and how she had chided Lionel at the time for giving his brilliant but clearly disturbed student too much attention and leniency.

Like everyone else, she had read the recent magazine stories about the now-celebrated poet, his beatnik friends, and their antics. (The issue of *Time* that was then on the newsstands described a cocktail party in Chicago, where Ginsberg introduced himself by saying, “I’m crazy like a daisy,” to which his lover and fellow poet, Peter Orlovsky, replied that he was “crazy as a wild flower.”)

As Mrs. Trilling walked into the already-packed auditorium, she noticed that the audience was “crazily young.” She sighed at the girls with their “blackest black stockings” and the boys in their checked shirts and blue jeans (“standard uniforms in the best nursery schools,” she would cluck). But she was also surprised. She’d expected the kids to smell bad, but they didn’t. “These people may think they’re dirty inside and dress up to it,” she wrote in her essay, but they were “clean” — as, it turned out when they came onstage, were Ginsberg and his friends.

Ginsberg read a long poem, called “Kaddish,” about his mother, who had died three years ago; he choked and cried as he read it, yet, Trilling wrote, no one “tittered or showed embarrassment at this public display of emotion.” Then he read “Lion in the Room,” after announcing that it was “dedicated to Lionel Trilling.” She misinterpreted the poem. It was about Ginsberg’s vision while reading Blake back in 1948. His dedication was ironic, as he’d criticized his old teacher for failing to see the lion himself, for resisting sensory experience.

Perhaps because of her misunderstanding, Trilling found herself liking the poem. “I was much moved by it, in some part unaccountably,” she wrote. “It was also a decent poem, and I am willing to admit this surprised me.” She was also struck that all of Ginsberg’s poems dealt with “serious subjects” and that he read them in a poetic meter. It seemed he *was* a poet after all. During the question-and-answer period, he even led a discussion of the meaning of prosody and the influence of William Carlos Williams. Suddenly, she saw that Ginsberg and his friends had “earned . . . their right to be heard in the university” — not because of “their whackiness and beat-upness,” but by “their energy of poetic impulse . . . their studious devotion to their art.”

When Diana Trilling arrived back home, her husband’s meeting was still going on. It was a meeting, she wrote, “of the pleasant professional sort,” like “the comfortable living room” in which such meetings usually take place “at a certain point in a successful modern literary career,” confirming the writer’s “sense of disciplined achievement and well-earned reward.” This comfort was “not ever to be spoken of except with elaborate irony,” she continued, “lest it propose a life without risk and therefore without virtue.”

W. H. Auden, the legendary poet, and the only one of the men at the meeting who was not dressed in a suit (he wore an old brown leather jacket), asked her what she thought of the reading.

She replied that she’d been moved by it.

“I’m ashamed of you,” Auden said.

“It’s different,” she responded, “when it’s human beings and not just a sociological phenomenon.”

She left the men with their drinks and their discussion. She concluded her *Partisan Review* essay by noting an “unfathomable gap that was all so quickly and meaningfully opening up between the evening that had been and the evening that was now so surely reclaiming me.”

For an inkling, she sensed that Ginsberg’s poetry reading at Columbia and the intellectual establishment’s hostile indifference to it, both on campus and now in her living room, marked the first crack in a sociocultural breakup that would grip the coming decade — the opening fissure of the Generation Gap.



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Bookshelf

Music in the Head: Living at the Brain-Mind Border by Dr. *Leo Rangell* '33; foreword by *Oliver Sacks*, professor of neurology, psychiatry and the arts. Rangell, a psychoanalyst, explains the neurological and psychological mechanisms that produce the human experience of music (Karnac Books, \$24.95).

Chronicles of My Life: An American in the Heart of Japan by *Donald Keene* '42, the Shincho Professor Emeritus of Japanese Literature and University Professor Emeritus. Keene's autobiography places emphasis on his years in Japan (Columbia University Press, \$19.95).

Franz Kafka: The Office Writings edited by *Jack Greenberg* '45 et al. The editors present a series of essays Kafka wrote during his years as an insurance lawyer and offer commentary about the relationship between his legal career and his literary work (Princeton University Press, \$45).

Why Are Jews Liberals? by *Norman Podhoretz* '50. Podhoretz analyzes the historical appeal of political liberalism for American Jews (Doubleday, \$27).

Explaining Human Actions and Environmental Changes by *Andrew P. Vayda* '52. In a selection of his essays from the last two decades, Vayda stresses the value of explanation-oriented research in the social and environmental sciences (AltaMira Press, \$75).

What Darwin Got Wrong by *Jerry Fodor* '56 and *Massimo Piattelli-*

Palmarini. The authors point out the limitations of Darwin's belief in natural selection as the underlying mechanism of evolution (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$25).

The Secret Life of Emily Dickinson: A Novel by *Jerome Charyn* '59. Charyn writes from Dickinson's perspective in this fictionalized account of the poet's life (W.W. Norton & Co., \$24.95).

Louis D. Brandeis: A Life by *Melvin I. Urofsky* '61. A biography of Jewish activist and Supreme Court justice Brandeis (Pantheon, \$40).

The Forgiveness Solution: The Whole-Body Rx for Finding True Happiness, Abundant Love, and Inner Peace by *Philip H. Friedman* '63. Friedman emphasizes the psychological importance of releasing negative emotions and offers readers techniques for practicing forgiveness (Conari Press, \$16.95).

Liber A: 1628–1700 of the Collegiate Churches of New York edited and translated by *Francis J. Sypher* '63. This work contains the founding documents of the Reformed Dutch Church of the City of New York, translated from a 17th-century text (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., \$49).

Invisible by *Paul Auster* '69. Auster's latest novel centers on a student and aspiring poet who attends the College in 1967 and gradually descends into madness (Henry Holt and Co., \$25).

Logicmix: An Epic Search for Truth by *Apostolos Doxiadis* '72 and *Christos H. Papadimitriou*. This graphic novel illustrates the life and work of philosopher and logician Bertrand Russell (Bloomsbury USA, \$22.95).

Flannery: A Life of Flannery O'Connor by *Brad Gooch* '73. Gooch draws on interviews and O'Connor's correspondences to piece together the famously reclusive author's life (Little, Brown and Co., \$30).

Fork on the Left, Knife in the Back by *Michael Musto* '76. The author, a celebrity gossip writer for *The Village Voice*, has compiled a selection of his favorite essays and columns (Alyson Books, \$14.95).

A Force for Change: African American Art and the Julius Rosenwald Fund edited by *Daniel Schulman* '82. Schulman celebrates the work made possible by grants from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, an organization established in 1928 to benefit African-American writers, artists and scholars (Northwestern University Press, \$39.95).

Remembrance: Roots, Rituals, and Reverence in Vodou by *Jerry M. Gilles* '85 et al. The authors describe the history of vodou and examine its relationship with other religious traditions (Bookmanlit, \$37.74).

The Seven Rays by *Jessica Bendinger* '88. Bendinger's protagonist, Beth Michaels, is a high school student whose life is disrupted when

she begins having clairvoyant visions (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, \$16.99).

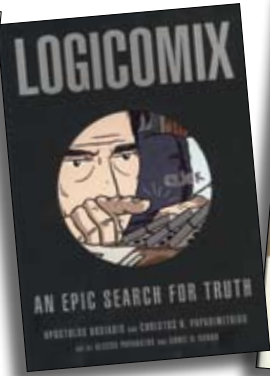
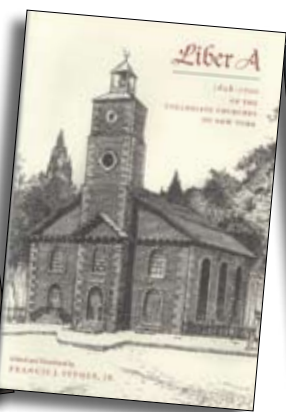
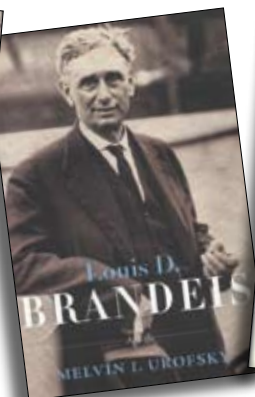
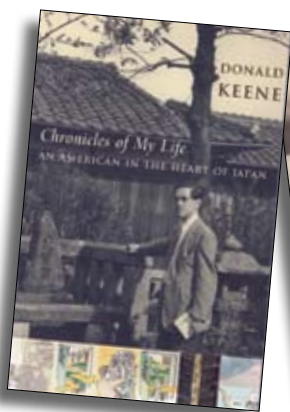
The Whole Island: Six Decades of Cuban Poetry edited by *Mark Weiss* '88. An anthology of modern Cuban poetry presented in the original Spanish with accompanying English translations (University of California Press, \$70).

Modernism after Wagner by *Juliet Koss* '90. Koss examines the effects of Wagner's career on German aesthetic ideals and political philosophy (University of Minnesota Press, \$29.50).

Guadalupe in New York: Devotion and the Struggle for Citizenship Rights among Mexican Immigrants by *Alyshia Galvez* '95. The author states that religious observance has political significance for Mexican immigrants living in New York City (New York University Press, \$23).

Between the Assassinations by *Aravind Adiga* '97. Adiga's latest collection of short stories explores issues of caste, religion and economic stratification in Kittur, a village on the southwestern border of India's Karnataka state [see January/February "Columbia Forum"] (Free Press, \$24).

Andy Warhol by *Arthur C. Danto*, the Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy. Danto discusses the philosophical implications of Warhol's work (Yale University Press, \$24).



A Witch and Her Descendent

Katherine Howe '99's novel uses her ancestors' stories

If you stroll through the seaside town of Marblehead, Mass., you'll see house after plain New England house, their old faces prim and bleak as Puritan portraits. In the 1800s, Marblehead's neighbor, Salem (of witchcraft fame), grew rich from Far Eastern trade. But Marblehead stayed poor — and so it has one of the country's largest collections of 18th century architecture, says **Katherine Howe '99**. It's an easy place to think about history, she says, to mentally erase today's power lines and cars and imagine one's self in an earlier century.

In summer 2005, as Howe strolled with her dog around Salem and Marblehead, she began to muse about the towns' colonial past. Summer turned into autumn, but the walks continued; Howe, a graduate student in American and New England studies at Boston University, was tense about her upcoming orals. Her musings assumed the shape of what she calls a "thought experiment." What if Salem's witches really had been practicing magic? What would it look like? How would it happen? As the "thought experiment" turned into a plan for a novel, Howe imagined a heroine — like herself, a modern-day grad student who had moved to Marblehead — whose research would uncover a book of working spells from old Salem, a potent "shadow book." Ultimately, she would name the novel she wrote after that original book of magic: *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane* (Voice, \$25.99).

Quite apart from showing a historian's natural interest, Howe had good reason to feel connected to the territory. On her father's side, the family's roots in Essex County stretch back 300 years. She is related to not one but two of the women accused as witches in the Salem witch trials. One, Elizabeth Howe, was executed by hanging. The other, Elizabeth Proctor, survived because of a pregnancy. Her tale was later woven into the austere fabric of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*.

The book Howe eventually wrote is a suspenseful supernatural bestseller. Flashing back and forth between the late 1600s and 1991, the story follows the persecution of an accused Salem witch, Deliverance Dane, and the increasingly dangerous researches of the witch's modern-day descendant. Scouring archives, libraries and even a venerable auction house, Harvard student Connie Goodwin tries to trace Dane's powerful "receipt booke," which could be a history-changing find. Howe has both a scholar's in-depth knowledge of period (and academic politics) and a novelist's gift for atmosphere. The result is a riveting read: "Harry Potter meets *The Da Vinci Code*," enthused *Northern Virginia Magazine*.

No less exciting was Howe's route to bestsellerdom. She belonged to a poker group — "graduate students, nerdy types" —



Katherine Howe '99
PHOTO: BRIAN PELLINEN



whose members included Matthew Pearl, author of the popular novel *The Dante Club*. At one of their gatherings, Howe had mentioned her idea for a book. ("She was trying to throw us off the game," Pearl jokes.) Pearl spoke about it to his agent, Suzanne Gluck at William Morris, who was interested. In January 2008, Gluck sold the novel to Voice, an imprint at Hyperion. The following June, it debuted on *The New York Times* bestseller list at No. 2, and stayed on the list for 12 weeks. Foreign rights have been sold in at least 15 countries. Optioned for TV in August 2009, the book is being developed as a CBS series.

Howe says her years at Columbia helped equip her for her sudden career as a novelist. Growing up in Houston, she says, "I was really smart, curious — and completely scattered." The Core and its rigors were "a structure that I craved." (A true College advocate, she's served for years on the Alumni Representative Committee, interviewing prospective students.) Howe credits the College with teaching

her how to think and write and revise, all skills she needs now as she readies another two books for publication. "There actually is such a thing as a Columbia education," she says firmly — something she feels isn't true at every school.

Then there's the personal side: Howe met her husband, Louis Hyman '99, at the College. In the Columbia version of "meet cute," they shared a senior-year class on Nietzsche, Marx and Freud. He was a "hard-line Marxist in vegan jackboots," she remembers; he recalls her "stunning feminist critique of Freud." ("I'm a nerd, so I'm a sucker for that kind of thing," he remarked in their *New York Times* wedding writeup.) Hyman, having finished an American history Ph.D. at Harvard, is starting work at McKinsey in early 2010.

Post-bestsellerdom, Howe is keeping busy. There's the forthcoming paperback of *Deliverance Dane* (April 2010). There are the virtual "visits" she makes to her readers' book clubs (to arrange a Skype or conference call, contact her at www.katherinehowe.com/bookclubs). She's also editing a book of primary sources on witchcraft for Penguin Classics. Then there's the new novel she's writing, *The Scrying Glass*, set in Boston in 1915, in the twilight of the Spiritualist movement. Howe is cryptic about it, a little mysterious, though she admits that her story, once again, has an occult element. It's another chance for her to erase the present and immerse herself in the dense, captivating atmosphere of the past.

Rose Kernochan '82 Barnard

Dangerous Citizens: The Greek Left and the Terror of the State by *Neni Panourgia*, associate professor of anthropology. Panourgia chronicles the historical roots and aftermath of

the Greek Civil War (1946–49) (Fordham University Press, \$80).

Field Notes from Elsewhere: Reflections on Dying and Living by *Mark*

C. Taylor, professor and department chair of religion. Taylor looks back on his life, focusing on the ways in which a recent near-death experience has led him to think differently

about past events [see January/February "Bookshelf" feature] (Columbia University Press, \$26).

Grace Laidlaw '11



Obituaries

1 9 3 6

Robert C. Plumb, retired, Southbury, Conn., formerly of Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., on June 16, 2009. Plumb attended business school and retired in 1979 after 25 years with American Cyanamid. An avid skier and golfer, he was active in both sports well into his 90s. Plumb is survived by his wife, Eleanor Powers; son, Robert; daughters, Sally Haun, Catherine Croft and Margaret Karell; and seven grandchildren. Plumb was predeceased by his first wife, Carol Durham Plumb, in 1996.

Donald R. Thompson, retired math teacher and track coach, Sea Cliff, N.Y., on June 25, 2009. Thompson grew up in Valhalla, N.Y. He attended Furman University and the College, where he majored in education. Thompson served in the Army Air Corps during WWII; he was a sergeant working in enlistment and classification of recruits. In 1947, he got a job teaching mathematics at Sea Cliff School. He and his wife, Virginia, bought a home in Sea Cliff in 1952, where they lived the rest of their lives. When the local high schools were consolidated into North Shore H.S., Thompson taught and coached track until his 1975 retirement. After retiring, the couple traveled extensively around the United States, visiting the 48 contiguous states. Thompson was an avid bird watcher, eventually identifying more than 500 birds in

Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Please include the deceased's full name, date of death with year, class year, profession, and city and state of residence at time of death. Biographical information, survivors' names, address(es) for charitable donations and high-quality photos (print, or 300 dpi jpg) also may be included. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at editors' discretion.

Send materials to cct@columbia.edu or to Obituaries Editor, Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, New York, NY 10025.

his travels. For many years after his retirement, he and his wife volunteered at Muttontown Preserve, where they shared their knowledge of nature with groups of school children. He also enjoyed camping, sailing on Long Island Sound, collecting stamps, gardening, painting watercolors, and playing bridge and Rummikub. Thompson was predeceased by his wife in 2002 and is survived by his children, Jeanne and Norman.

1 9 3 7

Philip D. Wiedel, surgeon, Redding, Conn., on July 26, 2009. Wiedel earned a degree in 1941 from P&S and later worked and taught there as an associate professor of surgery. He was a naval officer in the Pacific during WWII. Wiedel is survived by his wife, Monique; daughters, Suzanne and Janine; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Danbury Land Trust, PO Box 32, Danbury, CT 06813 or the Philip D. Wiedel M.D. Fund for Humanism and the Surgeon, CUMC Development, 100 Haven Ave., Ste 29D, New York, NY 10032.

1 9 3 9

Kermit "Kim" Easton, retired CPA and firm partner, Redding, Conn., on June 29, 2009. Formerly of Westport, Conn., Easton was born, raised and educated in New York City. He earned a B.A. from the College, an M.B.A. from the Business School (1940) and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. Easton served in the Navy in WWII and was assigned to the Japanese Language School as a naval intelligence officer. He became a senior partner of SD Leidesdorf & Co. when that firm merged with and became part of what is now Ernst & Young, from which he retired as a senior partner in 1980. Easton is survived by his wife of 64 years, Freda; son, Richard and his wife, Denise; daughter, Judith Shaw; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities, 21 Imperial Ave., Westport, CT 06880; the Prayer Book Fund of Temple Israel, 14 Coleytown Rd., Westport, CT 06880 or the Memorial Beautification Fund, Meadow Ridge, 100 Redding Rd., Redding, CT 06896.

W. Graham Knox Jr., surgeon, Greenwich, Conn., on June 26, 2009. Knox was born on March 18, 1918, in New York City. After earning a

degree in 1942 from P&S, he joined St. Luke's Hospital, with which he was affiliated for more than 45 years. Knox served in the Navy Medical Corps from 1944-46 and participated in the third wave of the invasion of Okinawa. He spent his entire medical career at St. Luke's and St. Vincent's Hospitals, where he held several leadership positions in their departments of vascular surgery. He also was a professor of clinical surgery at P&S and chief of vascular surgery emeritus at St. Vincent's. Knox had been president of the New York County Medical Society, the New York Surgical Society and the New York Cardiovascular Society. After retiring, Knox continued to be a diagnostician. He also enjoyed participating in sports. Knox is survived by his wife of 58 years, Amie; children, Graham, Robert and his wife, Dorothee, Amie and her husband, Jim Kelley, and John and his wife, Page; and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Joseph Collins Foundation, 787 Seventh Ave., Rm 3950, New York, NY 10019.

1 9 4 0

Oswald Braadland, former bank president, Delray Beach, Fla., on May 30, 2009. Braadland was born in Charleston, N.D. He was an Army veteran of WWII and was awarded the Bronze Star. The former president of the Mass Bank and Trust of Brockton, where he spent more than 30 years, Braadland moved to Florida several years before his death. He was predeceased by his wife, I. Helen (Trafford) Braadland, in 2007, and is survived by his children, Peter, Suzanna Duquette and her husband, George; and three grandchildren.

1 9 4 1

Charles E. "Chuck" Newlon, retired engineer, Knoxville, Tenn., on October 20, 2009. Newlon entered with the Class of 1941 but earned a B.S. and a Ph.D., both in chemical engineering, in 1942 from the Engineering School. Newlon was born on July 14, 1919, and was raised in Point Marian, Pa. He became known at the College as "Tuba Charlie" and was consistently a finalist in state band competitions. Newlon was class valedictorian and, as manager of the marching band, received the Gold King's Crown. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta. Newlon joined DuPont in Charleston, W.Va., and after enlisting in the Army was

assigned to the Manhattan District Project in Oak Ridge, Tenn. After being discharged, he joined Union Carbide's nuclear division. Later in life, Newlon competed in USTA tournaments, and he and his wife entertained nursing home residents with a music and poetry show. They established the Charles E. and Dorothy Newlon Scholarship at the College and established a chair for Oriental studies at Hiwassee Junior College. Newlon is survived by his sons, Charles and his wife, Donna Stephens, and Lisle and his wife Janet; daughters, Jeanne L. Haynes and her husband, Stephen, and Louise N. Irwin and her husband, Ray; five grandchildren; a step-grandson; a step-great-grandson; and brother John and his wife, Jane. Newlon's wife of 65 years, Dorothy Jean Craumer, passed away five weeks after he did. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Hospice, 7447 Andersonville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37938.



Harold Rogers '41

Harold Rogers, teacher, Tokyo, on July 12, 2009. Born in New York City, Rogers attended the Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado with a number of other Columbia alumni, including Donald Keene '42, James Di Crocco '43, Paul Hauck '42, Gene Sosin '41, Bill Voelker '42 and Owen Zurhellen II '43. Rogers earned a degree from Teachers College in 1942. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he went to California to teach French and Spanish to Japanese-American internees at Manzanar H.S. During the military occupation of Japan, Rogers became a teacher there and stayed from 1946-2009. Upon arrival, he went to Sendai to teach illiterate American soldiers to read and write English; he also worked in Fukuoka and Tokyo, where he taught French, Spanish and occasionally Latin at various De-

Connie S. Maniatty '43, Trustee Emeritus and Generous Benefactor

Connie S. Maniatty '43, a Wall Street executive, University trustee emeritus and generous donor, particularly to Columbia athletics, died on January 8, 2010, at his home in Westport, Conn. He was 90.

Born in Greenfield, Mass., Maniatty attended Deerfield Academy before matriculating at the College. After graduation, he joined the Wall Street firm of Salomon Brothers (now a subsidiary of Citigroup), where he became a partner in 1960 and stayed until 1979, holding the titles of partner and managing director. "Connie was my first boss at Salomon Brothers in 1966, and I was lucky to land under him," said New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, in a *Westport News* obituary. "He was a great mentor and a true gentleman."

A former football player, three-year letter winner in baseball and avid tennis player later in life, Maniatty's support for Columbia and its athletics programs was legendary, particularly his work raising millions of dollars for the construction of Lawrence A. Wien ['25] Stadium. The Maniatty-Remmer Alumni Lounge, which he also helped fund, bears his name as well as that of his late friend Eugene Remmer '43, '43E.

Maniatty was a University Trustee from 1973-85. He also served on the College Board of Advisors from 1975-83, was Permanent President of his class and was the 1943 CCT class correspondent from 2006-09.

In addition, Maniatty served for 35 years on both the Football Advisory Alumni Committee and the President's Advisory Committee on Athletics. In 2006, he was inducted to the Columbia University Athletics



Connie S. Maniatty '43

Hall of Fame as a member of its inaugural class in the Special Category for Individual Achievement. The category was created to honor those "who have brought honor and distinction to Columbia athletics through significant involvement and support of the intercollegiate athletics program."

"The Columbia Athletics family has lost one of its true pioneers," said Athletics Director M. Dianne Murphy. "Connie's contributions to Columbia athletics are immeasurable, and thousands of student-athletes benefited from his leadership."

Maniatty's support was not limited to football, however. Through the decades he had raised money for every male and female athletics team.

"He believed strongly in women's athletics, and when we began them in the early 1980s, he contributed to them," said Al Paul, athletics director from 1974-91, in an article on the Athletics Web site. "The NCAA limits recruiting budgets to funds contributed by alumni, and we would never have been able to recruit for women's teams, which of course had no alumnae, if he hadn't been supportive."

Maniatty was honored in 1974 with the Varsity 'C' Club Alumni Athletic Award. In 1994, the Con-

nie S. Maniatty Award was established to recognize the leading male and female athletes among the senior student-athlete class. Presented at the annual Varsity 'C' Awards Celebration, it is among Columbia Athletics' most prized awards.

The University honored Maniatty with an Alumni Medal in 1975, and the College honored him with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1982.

Outside of Columbia, Maniatty's philanthropy was similarly unfettered, most extensively reflected in his work for Norwalk Hospital in Norwalk, Conn. He served on the hospital's Board of Trustees from 1979-95 and founded the Norwalk Hospital Foundation in 1989, serving as chairman from its inception to 2006. During his tenure, Maniatty raised more than \$55 million for the hospital. He also co-founded the New York City Police and Firefighters Widows and Children's Benevolent Foundation.

"We have lost our true lion, a great man, a great friend, a great trustee," said Bill Campbell '62, '64 TC, current Board of Trustees chairman and Columbia's head football coach from 1974-79.

"I can honestly say that I have never known anyone whom I respected more."

Maniatty is survived by his wife, Betty; daughters, Margaret Maniatty Fullington and Anne Maniatty Walker; son, Philip; five grandchildren; and five brothers.

Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia Athletics in memory of Connie S. Maniatty. Gifts may be sent to Columbia Athletics, Attn.: Katie Day, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10025.

Lisa Palladino and Jesse Thiessen '11 Arts

nese at the end of the war. He was an architect in New York City until 1975, then in Cambridge, Mass., until his retirement. At the end of his career, Bissell was working for Benjamin Thompson & Associates in Cambridge, Mass. His career as an architect was heavily influenced by the "Modern" school. Bissell is survived by his wife since 1942, Elvira; daughters, Annette Woodcock Abel and her husband, Jonathan, and Beatrice; sister, Ophelia Louise Bissell Molla; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Putney General Store Building Fund or Brattleboro Area Hospice.

Martin J. Klein, professor emeritus, Chapel Hill, N.C., on March 28, 2009. Klein was born in New York City on June 25, 1924. He earned an M.A. in physics in 1944 from GSAS and a Ph.D. in physics from MIT in 1948. Klein joined the physics department at Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University) in 1949. In 1967, he joined Yale, where he chaired the Department of History of Science and Medicine from 1971-74. Klein won the first Abraham Pais Prize, the first major award for the history of physics, in 2005. He was elected to the Academie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences (1971), the National Academy of Sciences (1977) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1979). At the time of his death, Klein was the Eugene Higgins Professor Emeritus of History of Physics and Professor Emeritus of Physics at Yale. He also was the former senior editor of *The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein*. Klein was predeceased by his wife, Joan Blewett, and is survived by his daughters, Rona, Sarah Zaino and her husband, Joseph, Nancy Klein and her husband, Paul Dailey, and Abby; and former wives, Miriam Klein and Linda Booz Klein.

1948

Benjamin J. Immerman, ob/gyn, Great Barrington, Mass., on May 27, 2009. Immerman was born in 1924 and was a 26-year resident of Great Barrington. He was a decorated WWII Air Force veteran who flew dozens of missions over Germany as a bombardier in the legendary B-17 *Flying Fortress*. Immerman graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical Center and became an eminent ob/gyn who practiced for nearly 40 years in Forest Hills, N.Y. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Agnes; son, Bruce '79; stepdaughter, Jennifer; brother, David; and eight nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Tidewell Hospice, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238.

partment of Defense Dependents' Schools. In 1991, Rogers attended his daughter Paula '91's graduation, where he presented her with her class pin while attending his 50th class reunion. Rogers' friends and relatives remember his storytelling, poetry recitals, sarcasm and jokes. He is survived by his wife,

Sophie Fumie; brother George; daughter Paula Radetzky '91; and son-in-law William.

1943

George H. Bissell, retired architect, Putney, Vt., on June 18, 2009. Bissell entered with the Class of 1943 but earned a degree from the

Architecture School in 1951. He was born on June 12, 1922, in New York City and served with the Marines during WWII from 1942-46, participating in the landing on Okinawa on Easter Sunday 1945. Bissell was with American forces in Sing Tao, China, when America accepted the surrender of the Japa-

1955

Donald M. Schappert, retired executive, Stuart, Fla., on November 30, 2009. Schappert was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on March 25, 1933, grew up in New Jersey and lived in East Greenwich, R.I., and Stuart, Fla., for the past 22 years. He earned multiple recognitions for his athletic accomplishments in baseball, basketball and football at Westwood H.S. and recently was inducted into the Westwood H.S. Sports Hall of Fame. At Columbia, Schappert was the first recipient of the Lou Gehrig [23] Scholarship. Upon graduation, he entered the military as a 1st lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He had a 30-year career in sales and management with IBM, from which he retired in 1987. Schappert was an avid boater, sailor and fisherman, and enjoyed playing cribbage and reading. He is survived by his wife of 54 years Joan (Moseley) Schappert, children, Mike and his wife, Helen, Jim and his wife, Kathy, Rob and his wife, Cathy, and Ann Asadorian and her husband, Guy; brothers, Richard and his wife Sue, and H. Robert and his wife, Nancy; and 10 grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 3800 Fettler Park Dr., Ste 104, Dumfries, VA 22025.

1956

Garrett W. "Digger" DeGroff, Amsterdam, N.Y., on June 30, 2009. Born on April 6, 1934, DeGroff was a graduate of the former Wilbur H. Lynch H.S. After the College, he served in the Army in San Antonio, Texas, where he resided for eight years. DeGroff returned to Amsterdam in 1965 and was employed at General Electric in Schenectady, and its successors, until March 2009. DeGroff was a member of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, coached Cinderella softball and church league basketball, and was an avid gardener, stamp collector, New York Yankees and Amsterdam H.S. Rams football fan. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially their summer vacations on Cape Cod. DeGroff is survived by his wife of almost 53 years, Anne; daughters, Elizabeth A. "Betsy" Capel and her husband, Joseph, Karen L. Ressel and her husband, Scott, and Allison D. Bussen; son, Tomas and his wife, Amy; sister-in-law, Nancy Bebb and her husband, Warren; and nine grandchildren.

1973

John R. Eckel Jr., chairman and CEO, Houston, on November 13, 2009. Eckel was born on October 22, 1951, in Houston. Following his College graduation, he joined the securities investment department of The Mutual Life Insurance Com-

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information and space considerations.

- 1929 Richard "Dick" Silberstein**, radio engineer, Boulder, Colo., on November 30, 2009. Silberstein earned two degrees in 1930 from the Engineering School.
- 1931 Charles M. Metzner**, judge, former University trustee, Sarasota, Fla., on November 5, 2009. Metzner earned a degree in 1933 from the Law School.
- 1934 Arnold Beichman**, teacher, writer and Sovietologist, Stanford, Calif., on February 17, 2010. Beichman earned degrees in 1967 and 1973 from GSAS.
- 1937 Robert M. Paul**, retired teacher, Portland, Ore., on January 3, 2010.
- 1938 Edward S. Liska**, retired adult and child psychiatrist, San Francisco, on January 10, 2010. **James W. Stitt**, sales and advertising manager, Easton, Pa., on January 12, 2010. Stitt entered with the Class of 1938 but instead earned a degree in 1938 from the Business School.
- 1941 John M. Mullins**, college exams board executive, Holyoke, Mass., on July 11, 2009. **Stanley H. Gotliffe**, physician, Pawleys Island, S.C., on January 30, 2010. Gotliffe earned a degree in 1944 from P&S.
- 1943 Bernard Amster**, physician, West Hollywood, Calif., on December 4, 2009. **Clifton C. Field Jr.**, retired editor and speechwriter, Brunswick, N.J., on November 30, 2009.
- 1944 David V. Becker**, physician, teacher, scientist and artist, New York City, on January 25, 2010. Becker earned an M.A. in 1945 from GSAS.
- 1947 Peter F. Brescia**, retired diplomat, Alexandria, Va., on January 17, 2010. Brescia earned a degree in 1950 from SIPA.
- 1948 Carter H. Hills**, retired diplomat, Arabist, Washington, D.C., on December 8, 2009. **Vincent G. Quinn**, retired professor, Seattle, on December 21, 2009. Quinn earned a Ph.D. in 1959 from GSAS.
- 1949 Lexes H. Coates**, Kent City, Mich., on October 13, 2009. **Louis H. Schmid**, microminiature electronics expert, Oceanside, Calif., on November 29, 2009.
- 1950 Frank P. McDermott**, retired insurance executive, Agawam, Mass., on December 11, 2009. **Harvey M. Radey Jr.**, retired Army lieutenant colonel and hospital administrator, Clarkesville, Ga., on December 24, 2009.
- 1952 Gene A. Baraff**, Berkeley Heights, N.J., on January 3, 2010. **Karl R. Lunde**, retired professor and gallery director, New York City, on December 27, 2009. Lunde earned an M.A. and a Ph.D., both in art history and archeology, in 1953 and 1970, respectively, from GSAS.
- Frank K. Walwer**, Bradenton, Fla., on January 1, 2010. Walwer earned a degree in 1955 from the Law School.
- Raymond J. Zablocki**, Menlo Park, Calif., on May 13, 2008.
- 1953 Warren R. Sanchez**, computer analyst, systems designer, banker and entrepreneur, Beaufort, N.C., on December 2, 2009. Sanchez earned a degree from the Business School in 1957.
- 1955 Alfred L. Ginepra Jr.**, business executive and professor, Santa Monica, Calif., on February 2, 2010. Ginepra earned a degree from the Business School in 1963. **John L. Rigatti**, physician, Sturbridge, Mass., on January 11, 2010.
- 1956 Stephen D. Schenkel**, TV writer, producer and executive, New York City, on January 11, 2010.
- 1965 Donald E. Welsh**, magazine publishing executive, Millerton, N.Y., on February 6, 2010.
- 1966 Harold Hotelling Jr.**, Rochester Hills, Mich., on December 29, 2009.
- 1970 Robert W. Butterfield**, sexton, Bethlehem, Pa., on January 5, 2010. **Stephen G. Plummer**, chairman and CEO, Crumpler, N.C., on October 20, 2009.
- 1972 Glenn R. Switkes**, environmentalist, São Paulo, Brazil, on December 21, 2009.
- 1977 George M. Mackor**, dentist, Tiverton, R.I., on December 6, 2009. Mackor earned a degree in 1982 from the Dental School.
- 1981 James A. Eddinger**, Camarillo, Calif., on December 24, 2009.

pany of New York as an investment analyst and subsequently was an assistant director of investments (energy and minerals). In 1977, Eckel joined Lehman Brothers as an associate in corporate finance and in 1978 was elected assistant v.p. in energy finance. Eckel then became involved in the energy industry, founding drilling, service, and exploration and production companies before founding Copano Energy in 1992, where he was president and CEO until April 2003, when he became chairman of the board of directors and CEO. Eckel was a member of the Director's Counsel at the Whit-

ney Museum of American Art and a member of the Director's Circle and on the American Painting and Sculpture subcommittee for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He is survived by his father, John Sr.; brother David and his wife, Sandra; sister Anne Lowery and her husband, Greg; and a niece. Memorial contributions may be made to the Whitney Museum of American Art, Attn: Michele Snyder, 945 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10021, or to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (American Painting and Sculpture), Attn.: Tammy Largent, PO Box 6826, Houston, TX, 77265.

1988

Daniel J. Selmonosky, financial executive, Bedford, N.Y., on May 16, 2009. Selmonosky was a partner at BC Partners of New York City. He is survived by his wife, Lisa; daughters, Olivia and Isabella; parents, Carlos and Sonia Selmonosky; sisters, Deborah, Monica, and Arlene Miller; in-laws, Kathy and Richard Smith; brothers-in-law, Josh and Jeffrey Smith; and sister-in-law, Allison Fisher.

Lisa Palladino



Class Notes

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Columbia College Today
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Richard Silberstein '29, '30E passed away in September, shortly after his 103rd birthday. After earning a degree in electrical engineering, Richard did graduate work at Penn. He held various jobs in the radio industry until WWII, when he joined the radio section of the National Bureau of Standards. After the war, Richard administered high-frequency propagation experiments for the bureau in Washington, D.C., and Boulder, Colo., where he lived with his wife and among many friends until his death. [Editor's note: An obituary is scheduled for a subsequent issue.]

Malcolm S. Mason '30, '34L, has posted a paper, "Directed Discretion and Regulation's Penumbra," about an often-misunderstood approach to legal propositions. Those interested can download the paper without charge from SSRN: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1494761.

Howard N. Meyer '34, '36L writes, "I rejoice in the filing at age 95 of my final brief and service as counsel of record for the Hon. Charles Gittings Jr., amicus curiae in the case of *Kiyemba et al v. Obama*. The story of a group of Moslem Chinese, dragged to Guantanamo to spend a dozen years in a militarist's dungeon, is one of incredibly un-American cruelty well beyond the usual repression of civil liberties."

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Victor Streit wrote in again with another fascinating tale about his time during WWII: "On Christmas Eve, 1943, elements of the First Marine

Division, designated Combat Team C, were deployed to Cape Gloucester, New Britain. The mission: to capture the enemy-held airfield so that we could establish a base from which to bomb the air and naval stronghold of Rabaul at the eastern end of the island.

"For this three-month campaign, I served as operations officer for the Seventh Marine Regiment. One morning, as I was busy with tactical planning for the following day, the phone rang. I recognized the voice; it was a good friend of mine at division HQ.

"Hey Vic, we have a Japanese prisoner."

"Congratulations," I replied, "but why are you calling me?"

"My friend said, 'He says he knows you.'"

"'C'mon Joe,' I said. 'I'm really very busy, and ...'"

"Wait a minute, Vic. This prisoner, a major, says he knows you as a classmate at Columbia University."

"I said, 'I do remember the name, but never met the man. I have a lot of work to do, but if you think I might do better at interrogating him, I'll come to HQ right away.'"

"Joe said, 'It won't be necessary; he's been very cooperative.'"

"Before I hung up, I said, 'Good, and thanks for the call.'"

"I never saw the man and do not know what became of him. The moral of the story is that even war can produce strange bedfellows."

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Leonard Shayne is busy completing his personal humanities program. He writes: "In my 85th year, I set out to read, in detail, the following, which I had read in my college years: the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Koran, the Book of Mormon, *Das Kapital*, *Mein Kampf* and a commentary about Buddhism, after which I would permit myself the easy luxury of reading the popular literature of our day.

"Unfortunately, in my 89th year, I have been hung up about one third of the way through *Das Kapital*, not because I have any strong feelings about it one way or the other, but simply because I want to understand it well and that is proving to be slow going for me. The fact is, honestly, when I was in college, I used to read economic textbooks

like other people read novels. But not this time, not this one.

"Something I have found in Marx that I thought very interesting, and which I was not aware of, was that he thought Benjamin Franklin was a great economist. This from a man who seemed to have read the works of every other economist from the beginning of time and who criticized every one of them!"

"If I live to finish Karl, then I can go on to try to understand Adolph."

Alice and **Jack Mullins** were among the regular Arden House reunion attendees. Alice wrote that Jack passed away in July. He and I had been classmates for eight years at Horace Mann and Columbia. He will be missed by many of us.

Dr. **Sherwin Kaufman**, immigrant, musician and physician, sent a short and interesting biography about his successful careers as a fertility specialist and songwriter. One of his songs, "Sing America," was played at the Ellis Island Medals of Honor Gala in 2001.

42

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On November 6, I received a warm letter from Judge **Leonard Garth** reporting that he and his wife, Sarah, had left their home in New Jersey and were now settled into an adult resident community in North Branford, Conn. Len had been struggling with the effects of multiple spinal surgeries and was no longer able to navigate around his original home. On the brighter side, he reported that he was functioning well with a motorized scooter and cane, and moreover, the federal government had refused to let him retire as a senior judge on the Third Circuit (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia), and had provided him with an office and chambers from which he continues to work and sit on the Court. Len reminded me (and himself) that in January, he had served on the Federal Court for 40 years, an extraordinary record of distinguished service and a tribute to Len's longevity and the great respect he has earned from colleagues in the legal profession. Len's leadership and accomplishments on the Third Circuit are exceeded only by his notable modesty (never a boast has emerged from the Garth lips). Among the young lawyers who served under Len as law clerks and

in other capacities, one now sits on the Supreme Court of the United States: Judge Samuel Alito. Len tells me that his North Branford domicile, which is close to New Haven, is full of Yale people. I reminded Len that this gave him an opportunity to remind them of the advantages of attending a really excellent college like Columbia, which has recently produced a few talented alumni such as President Barack Obama '83; Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, '76L; and FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski '85; as well as Len himself in another era. *Res ipsa loquitur*.

In the September/October CCT, I reported that Professor **John Smith**, an ordained Presbyterian minister, held a faculty appointment at the Yale Divinity School. John, who retired after a long and distinguished career at Yale, graciously reminded me in an e-mail message on November 17 that, although he did have some Yale Divinity students in his classes, his faculty appointment at Yale was not in the Divinity School but in Yale College and The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Mea culpa, John, and thanks for keeping in touch. (See toward the end of the column for more on John.)

Morris Grossman, whose work and career I discussed in the November/December CCT (he was a professor of philosophy at Fairfield University) reported on November 19 that he recently visited NYC to attend several opera performances and to see some of the exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Despite his walking difficulties, Morris remains mobile and pursues his interests in art and music, as well as working on his promised book.

On November 21, your correspondent, who lives in Providence, R.I., listened to the entire Columbia-Brown football game on our local sports station. A year prior, I sat in Brown Stadium on a freezing late November day and watched Brown defeat us 40-10 on a thoroughly miserable afternoon. This time, I was astounded and elated as I followed the account of Columbia's victory, 28-14, in Wien Stadium. Dr. **Gerald Klingon**, a loyal financial supporter and astute analyst of our football program, was at the game with our old friend Ray Robinson '41. Gerry told me that our freshman quarterback, Sean Brackett '13, who had a spectacular performance with his running and passing,

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.

already was the best quarterback in the Ivy League. If true, Columbia should win a lot more games in the next three years, and might even win the League Championship. Our hopes are up! Roar Lions!

In early December, our Alumni Office notified me of the death of **Theodore Furman** on October 29 at his home in Saratoga, Calif. After three years of military service in the Army in WWII, Ted returned to the campus and graduated from the Law School in 1947. He then moved to California and spent 40 years in the aerospace industry, working at Lockheed, Ford Aerospace and Loral before retiring at 82. When not working, Ted coached Little League teams and continued his lifelong devotion to the New York Yankees, which began when he was 10 and he saw Babe Ruth play in Yankee Stadium. At Columbia, Ted was a good friend of fellow Californian **Don Mankiewicz**, who as I write this, is alive and well in Monrovia, Calif. Ted was an accomplished and respected umpire of intramural softball games on South Field, during which his distinctive basso voice and decisive gestures gave much pleasure to players and spectators. In 2006, as editor of our great Class of 1942 newsletter, I asked Ted to write an article about his WWII service. He responded with a long, fascinating reminiscence of his experience as a master gunner who sent early warning signals to our troops in the ETO. He also included some funny, cynical, critical and occasionally complimentary remarks about the tactics and strategies of Generals Montgomery, Patton and Eisenhower. We published this essay in the fall 2006 issue of our newsletter, so classmates who are interested will find it there. Ted's Army career took him from master gunner's school at Camp Davis, N.C., to Scotland, France (Utah Beach on D+42), Nancy, Metz, Luxembourg City, on into Germany at Trier and Munich, and finally back home for discharge at Fort Dix, N.J., and the Law School. Ted is survived by his wife, Gerry, and daughters, Teri Howes and Sue. I send my personal condolences to them, as well as condolences from our classmates.

I was delighted to receive a holiday card and nice note on December 18 from **Stewart McIlvennan** in Lakewood, Colo. Stew also included a family report from his charming wife, Marie '47 Barnard, with comments on their sons, John, Phil and Len, who are all doing well. Stew and Marie recently celebrated their 61st anniversary, and Stew has had cataract surgery and treatment for macular degeneration in one eye. Marie recently renewed her teaching license for another five

years, after which Stew commented that she is now the breadwinner and he the housekeeper. I am certain that both are highly competent in these roles. At Columbia, Stew was a tough halfback on the football team and also played varsity basketball while pursuing his pre-law studies. After military service, Stew returned to the campus and graduated from the Law School in 1948. He served in the FBI until 1952 and then embarked on his long and successful career in the interstate trucking industry, first with Transcontinental Lines and later with Illinois-California Express, from which he retired. Among his friends at Columbia, Stew was known as "Snuffy," the origin of which now escapes me, but it was pronounced with great affection and respect for his modesty, gentle humor and quiet warmth. Stew is one of the finest members of our Great Class of 1942. Classmates can reach him at 11690 W. 22nd Pl., Lakewood, CO 80215-1109, telephone 303-233-6997.

With sadness and regret, I must report the death of friend and professor **John Smith** on December 7 in Arlington, Va. *The New York Times* honored John with a prominent obituary notice, including a nice photograph of a smiling and somewhat quizzical John, and a lengthy, laudatory description of his life and work. John was the Clark Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Yale, where he had taught since 1952, with a special emphasis on the philosophy of religion, until his retirement in 1991. (See my previous note on John in the September/October issue, in which John commented on the controversy at Notre Dame University over President Obama's commencement address there. John held an honorary degree from Notre Dame.) At Columbia, John earned a bachelor's in philosophy and a subsequent Ph.D., between which he received a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister and wrote several important books, among them, *Reason and God: Encounters of Philosophy with Religion*. His last book was *Quasi-Religions: Humanism, Marxism and Nationalism*. He was also the editor of *The Works of Jonathan Edwards: Volume 2, Religious Affections*.

At Columbia, I met John when we ran together on the freshman cross-country team. He was a strong runner, and with the approval of coach Carl Merner, he became captain of the varsity cross-country team. He was also a member of the Undergraduate Committee on Athletics, the University Christian Association, the Pre-Theological Club and the Varsity 'C' Club Executive Committee. John was predeceased

by his wife, Marilyn, in 2006. He is survived by his daughters, Diana, and Robin Smith Swanberg, and a grandchild. John was a modest man with a wry sense of humor, a great scholar and philosopher, and one of the finest members of our Great Class of 1942. We send condolences to his daughters and grandchild. (Look for John's obituary notice in a subsequent issue of CCT.)

As I write these notes, 2010 is upon us, and I send good wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity to all classmates. I welcome your e-mail messages, written notes and telephone calls (401-831-5464). Hail Columbia!

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G.J. D'Angio

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Henry Corey was shocked to learn of **Gordon Billipp's** death [September/October CCT]. They had been close friends. They both graduated from Mamaroneck H.S. and commuted together via train and shank's mare to Morningside Heights. Henry has retired as a founding trustee of a mutual savings bank and now enjoys the best of two worlds: Martha's Vineyard and Falmouth, Mass.

Herman Weck brings us up to date. He worked for Amoco Oil for 36 years, retiring in 1981. He and his wife traveled extensively in the United States and Europe, and he has continued his voyages after her death in 1996 to places afar on cruise ships. Herman lives in an independent living facility in Geneva, Ill., where he is president of the board of directors. His many offspring are scattered across the U.S.

Andre L. Fraysse was a commuter from West New York, N.J., during his Columbia days and enlisted in the Army in 1942. He returned to Columbia after the war, obtained a B.A. and rejoined the Army. After a military career that took him to Europe, Rwanda and Burundi, Col. Fraysse retired and worked in Germany for 16 years. There, he was a *gastarbeiter* (guest worker; working as an inventory control officer) for an electronics company.

Ben Senitzky returned to Columbia to complete his studies for a B.S. in electrical engineering after time in the service. He then worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics before again returning to Columbia to obtain a Ph.D. in physics. After some time in industry, he taught at the Brook-

lyn Institute of Technology before becoming the director of its Long Island campus in Farmingdale. Ben lives in Tucson and enjoys his retirement years by hiking and playing the violin with amateur chamber music groups.

Richard Held sent CCT a copy of a brief autobiography. It had been requested by the editors of the work *The History of Neuroscience in Autobiography*. The fact it had been solicited is a mark of Richard's distinguished career as a scientist in this challenging field. His contributions have earned him many honors through the years as well as appointments at major universities and institutes, including a chair at Brandeis. Although officially retired, he intends to continue his research activities.

Giulio D'Angio had a busy fall and early winter. Two trips to the United Kingdom, one as a panelist in Edinburgh, were sandwiched between lectures at meetings in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Montreal.

Ensign Leininger recalls that President Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) shook the hand of every graduating member of our Class in '43. Ensign passes on information about Jean Cook '45, a doctor, who now lives in Nice, France. Also, Richard D. Hunter '44 became an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ after retirement from the Navy. Ensign is himself a retired minister in the Presbyterian Church. One daughter of his seven children has followed him into the Presbyterian ministry. Living in Chicago, he notes that the societal problems of hunger and homelessness are due to inadequate incomes, high costs of housing and health care, and low skill levels.

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Henry Rolf Hecht

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With regret, we must report the passing of Dr. **Thomas Tamlyn** last April.

Before leaving Cambridge, Mass., for a Christmas stay on Maine's Mt. Desert Island, Dr. **Bruce Mazlish** reported that early 2009 saw the publication by Palgrave MacMillan of his book, *The Idea of Humanity in a Global Era*. His basic theme is that "humanity has come down from the clouds" as an abstract idea and "taken on actuality as a judicial entity" (e.g., Nuremberg, Yugoslavia, Rwanda). "The communication revolution has helped collapse time and space ... Humanity itself can now be appealed to as a sovereign power."

While Bruce's "health is not great" and he's slowly "losing mobility," he can happily count on "four children and three grand-

children [to] pick up where I am losing strength." Meantime, wife "Neva Goodwin keeps flourishing as an economist." Bruce adds: "Her real pleasure in life is a new grandchild, her first." Geneva, born last summer, is beginning to crawl around Montana. "Other than that," Bruce tells us, "I just keep putting one foot in front of another," which is about what all the rest of us octogenarians are aiming for.

Joe Leff and his wife of 42 years, Juanita, were, as usual, happily ensconced in Boca Raton, Fla., for the cold months, though their chief residence remains Purchase, N.Y. Joe "still [has] a few business responsibilities" in NYC and also remains "actively engaged with the 92nd Street Y." A bad shoulder has forced Joe to give up golf, but "otherwise, Juanita and I are in surprisingly good health." One drawback cited by Joe: He may miss the one-year window of no estate tax if he doesn't exit in 2010. But he's happy for added time to enjoy two daughters, three granddaughters and a grandson.

Henry A. Imshaug and family recently discovered that in 1974, the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names put his name on "a broad, snow-covered cove at the south side of Lehrke Inlet." The Imshaug Peninsula recognizes Henry, who taught botany at the University of Idaho and Michigan State, for his service as a biologist in a long-range biosystematic study of sub-Antarctic flora, which he carried on in various locations between 1965 and 1971.

REUNION JUNE 3-JUNE 6

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Our 65th reunion is right around the corner, Thursday, June 3-Sunday, June 6. The weekend will be filled with events around Columbia and New York City, including opportunities to engage in cultural happenings as well as a Saturday class dinner with the Class of 1950 followed by a champagne toast and dancing under the stars on Low Plaza. Please consider coming to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Albert J. Rothman, who entered with the class but graduated with the Engineering Class of 1944, wrote to tell about his book, *A Brooklyn Odyssey: Travails and Joys of a Boy's Early Life*, and life in general: "At the end of the book, I proudly told of my Pulitzer Scholarship, without which I would not have been able to pay for tuition to our beloved Columbia in 1941. Thanks for Humanities with [Moses] Hadas and many friendships formed at CC, most or all of them now gone.

"Now, I'm writing and publishing poetry, essays and so forth, a big change from my employment and degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering from Columbia and Berkeley (Ph.D.)."

"I'm working on a few more books: my years following the first

book, reminiscences at Columbia *et seq.* Another about my 'weekend hippie days' while employed conservatively weekdays in the '60s and '70s. It should be a lot of fun reminiscing about lots of freedom and free love in California from an old Brooklyn boy. A third about my 10-week trip hiking in all the western national parks from a former city dweller (definitely 'former').

"I would love to hear from any guys, also gals from Barnard who knew me, if they are willing to 'fess up."

The Class of '45 is still looking for a class correspondent to write a bi-monthly column for *Columbia College Today*. If you want an open platform and a chance to reconnect with classmates, please contact Associate Editor Ethan Rouen at ecr2102@columbia.edu or 212-851-7485. Until then, please send notes about your life, thoughts, travel, family and experiences at Columbia to the address at the top of the column.

46

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Burton Sapin reacted to this column's recent note about **Malvin Ruderman** and wrote: "Delighted to hear about Mal's academic success. You did not have 'Emeritus' in his title. Is he still an active teacher and scholar? That would surely be impressive."

Burt, the answer is in the affirmative on both counts. Mal is the Centennial Professor of Physics at Columbia, teaches graduate students and continues to do research there and in other parts of the world.

Burt continued. "While on the topic of outstanding Columbia students of physics, I used to run into **Harold Brown** in Washington. Even tried to get a book of his translated into Japanese."

Herbert Hendin has devoted his distinguished career in medicine to suicide research, prevention and survivor counseling. Herb is CEO and director of special projects at Suicide Prevention International, and he told me SPI will hold five benefit walks this spring. Two will be in the New York area: Sunday, May 2, in Westchester County's Glen Island Park (New Rochelle) and Saturday, May 8, in Riverside Park (Manhattan). The others will be held in Macon, Ga., Minneapolis and Seattle. For information, e-mail mgray@SPI.org. As spring awakens, spend a few worthwhile hours in beautiful surroundings at these community-centered events with schoolmates, friends and new acquaintances.

Fritz Stern wrote to the *New York*

Times editor (November 9, 2009) that rightwing extremists are gaining strength and prominence in almost all European countries from Britain to Latvia and beyond. The specific grievances may differ in different countries, but the underlying mood of anger, of implicit violence — in short, of plain, ominous bloody-mindedness couched in nationalistic rhetoric — is everywhere the same, he contends, and is very bad for the West.

Gentlemen, mark your calendars. On Thursday, May 6, the class is meeting for lunch at Moran's Chelsea, 146 10th Ave. (at West 19th Street) in Manhattan. It is convenient to public transportation, and drivers will find parking lots on 10th Avenue near the restaurant. Moran's is an "American trip back in time" and also features an amazingly large collection of Waterford glass. It is situated alongside New York's most recent attraction, the High Line, a linear park with seasonal plantings built on top of a derelict elevated railway that transported dangerous freight. The High Line parallels the Hudson River between 10th and 11th Avenues, from West 20th Street at the north end to Gansevoort Street. A walk through the park with a ranger will follow lunch. Notice of the luncheon will be mailed.

In the last issue's column, I suggested that class luncheons be held in centers outside New York, for example, Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; Miami; and Hilton Head. Combining '46 with '45 and '47 seems logical and will increase turnout.

Contact information for the men in these classes who live in your area can be made available. I encourage you to pick up the baton and get in touch with me.

47

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George Cooper kept this Class of '47 notes column alive for decades. Unfortunately, his death robbed us of a chance to say to him, "Thank you, George. Well done."

The Class of '47, scattered as it is by WWII, presents a special challenge to someone trying to evoke a common identification. Yet every month, George sent out his message to us to write. And despite the paucity of replies, he persisted optimistically month after month, year after year.

The sad fact is that we were, in the main, not responsive. But in no way, shape or form should that be taken as criticism of George. On the contrary, nothing could be further from the mark. George

Columbia School Designations

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

Arch.	School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Arts	School of the Arts
Barnard	Barnard College
Business	Graduate School of Business
CE	School of Continuing Education
Dental	College of Dental Medicine
E	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
GS	School of General Studies
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
J	Graduate School of Journalism
L	School of Law
Nursing	School of Nursing
P&S	College of Physicians and Surgeons
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College

deserves nothing but praise for refusing to become discouraged.

George was a man of quiet strength and gentle charm, and we are all in his debt for his keeping his faith in us.

I called **Robert Weber** in November and in response, he wrote the following: "I enjoyed our talk. It kindled many fond memories. Indeed, I met my wife of 62 years on campus when she was working at Low Library while pursuing her classical singing career in Manhattan.

"Like many of us during those years, WWII clouded our class affiliations, and the timing of my College degree in 1947 was little more than a coincidence. Starting with the Class of 1944, I had been enrolled in the Professional Option Program. When I returned to the campus in June 1946, I resumed classes in the Engineering School, picking up enough points for my B.A. in October 1947. I received an Engineering B.S. in June 1948, and a few years later I returned on a part-time basis and received an M.S. in industrial and management engineering in June 1955.

"My management career included years with several Bell System companies and 25 years working on the AT&T corporate staff in Manhattan. I retired as industry relations manager at the end of 1985. A year or so later, we moved from our home in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., to Sun City West, Ariz. We enjoy active lives and savor visits from our three sons, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"I cherish my years at Columbia and have kept in touch with my friends from the Engineering School and those in my fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta. Unfortunately, there are too few of us left."

After talking and reading Robert's notes, I regretted not having any memory of the brief time we were on the campus together. However, he joins the correspondents I have met on this job whose lives are testimony to the Columbian contributions to our country and the world.

This column was written in December. A couple of months ago, I saw a letter to the editor in *The New York Times*, and feeling the issue addressed was crucial to us all, I wrote to the author, our almost-classmate, Fritz Stern '46, University Professor Emeritus and a distinguished historian. I asked Fritz to add a little to the *Times* letter. This is his answer:

"My recent letter to the *Times* sought to place American radicalism in a wider context. We need to be aware that illiberal movements are gaining strength in most of the countries we once confidently called the West; they differ in many

specifics, but at bottom are waging culture wars, demeaning tolerance and reasoned argument. The vicious and mendacious campaign against health reform in our own country is a particularly ominous form of protest, usually confined to fringe groups, but at times when confidence in so much that holds society together, can herald the wish for a new authoritarianism.

"The civic passivity of the many and the fanatical activity of ideologues, bolstered by vast money, bespeaks danger to open and liberal societies."

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Retired physician **Richard Calame**, who has the distinction of having his listing in the 1948 *Columbian* just ahead of mine, has joined me as a Massachusetts resident. Says Richard, "After spending my entire life on Long Island, we sold our last property there in November and bought a house in Hingham, Mass." A chief attraction: "Two of our three children have homes there." Despite his affection for the North, Richard still winters in Florida.

Richard also informs us, "I've recently spoken with **Walt Henry** and **Harry Ekblom**, and all things considered, we're all doing quite well. Harry has now settled permanently on Cape Cod (Osterville, Mass.) while Walt still is in Port Jefferson on Long Island." Walt also is a retired physician, Harry a retired banker.

The generally peripatetic **Charlie Cole** has been settled down for two years now at Bristol Village in Waverly, Ohio. Among his recent activities: credited with saving a neighbor's life with quick and effective CPR, learning a new indoor tennis game called Pickleball and tending a 65-by-30-ft. vegetable garden (if it grows, it's there). And one to make his old Humanities instructors look down from above with a smile: During December, Charlie gave a lecture on the English poets Donne, Pope, Thomas, Keats, Byron and Shelley. Charlie admits to one disappointment: lack of duplicate bridge players.

Arthur Bradley has told us more about the Naval service that interrupted his undergraduate years at Columbia: "I spent half of my two-year service in boot camp and radio school. When I finally got assigned to a ship, the conflict was over. My vessel (*LCS 95*) docked near Tokyo, and I got to see the wreckage of one of their major airports. The Japanese people could hardly have been

more accommodating. They were glad it was over and were more interested in acquiring cigarettes, soap and other sundries from us in return for badly inflated paper money. I bought a slide rule for 30 yen, and about three packs of Camels, which we could buy at 5 cents a pack. By the end of 1945, MacArthur had stabilized the currency. The new dollar-based yen looked the same but had a sticker on it."

The January/February Obituaries section carried word of the deaths of two more class members. **Clinton Latimer**, who had migrated from the Bronx to Honeoye Falls in the Finger Lakes Region, died April 16. At Columbia, he'd been v.p. of the Lutheran Club, active in the Pre-Med Society and a member of the varsity lightweight crew. **Kenneth J. Sabella**, whose relocation was from Brooklyn, N.Y., to Bloomfield, Conn., died September 24. As an undergrad, he'd been a cheerleader, a Newman Club member and a member of the track team.

49 **John Weaver**
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Here I sit with the luxury of a much later than usual deadline and no word from either the usual suspects or a formerly forgotten classmate who has found the time to emerge from the shadows long enough to write to me!

A short-lived opportunity to share some Christmas cheer with classmates was scuttled by a December blizzard. No chance to shovel my driveway in Sheephead Bay and drive in to **Bill Lubic's** Manhattan soiree. I'm certain braver souls with less of a traveling handicap made it.

Lacking a word from any of you, I can tell a short story of my own. In the unexpected way that opens unanticipated doors, I found myself in the presence of fellow Columbian Paul Auster '69. I have written before of my work with the nonprofit organization PortSide New York. Our home is aboard the retired coastal tanker *Mary Whalen*, berthed in the Red Hook container port in Brooklyn. A documentary film director in Berlin knew of the ship and called from Berlin. She was making a documentary on the life and career of Charlotte Rampling. Paul, who lives in Brooklyn, is a friend of Ms. Rampling, and they wanted to find a location where they could film a conversation between Paul and Charlotte. It had to be somewhere in New York, and they thought the ship's galley would make an interesting and unique setting.

And so it came to pass that one

Friday in early December, I met Paul Auster. At the end of the shooting day, we chatted awhile, and he reminisced about his undergraduate times, including the infamous student occupation of Hamilton Hall.

I have to confess, despite the CCT cover story featuring Paul (www.college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/mar_apr06), I had never read any of his work. My son, CC '05, has read everything and admires Paul's work immensely. At this writing, I am halfway through *The Brooklyn Follies*. I can only say that if any of you have not discovered the pleasure of reading Paul's work, this is a very good place to start, and you should waste no time getting started.

Perhaps, if this anecdote does serve to introduce some of you to this author, you will share your thoughts with us via this column. Let me hear from you.

REUNION JUNE 3-JUNE 6
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Before I get to some updates, I want to remind you that our 60th Reunion will be held on campus from Thursday, June 3-Sunday, June 6. The weekend will be filled with cultural events, cocktail parties and enough goings on to keep us busy deep into the night. It will be a chance to catch up with classmates and meet fellow alumni from other classes as well. The weekend culminates on Saturday night with a champagne toast and dancing under the stars on the steps of Low Library. I urge you to attend what will certainly be a wonderful event.

Ray Annino has posted a new showing of his watercolors on his Web site (<http://rayannino.com/jan2010show>). There you can view about a dozen of Ray's latest works, which include arctic seascapes, winter landscapes and summer landscapes. You also can view previous showings by following the prompts.

John Rosenberg, who retired from the Columbia English Department in early 2009, has completed a book on Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, a subject he had taught for nearly half a century in the Humanities course. The title of the book is *The View From Rocinante: Reflections on DON QUIXOTE*. The themes in John's book are appearance and reality in

the novel, and the remarkable closeness among the four principals: the Don and Sancho and Rocinante and Dapple. Publication is expected to be later this year.

Piero Weiss is the oldest faculty member who is teaching full time at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. Piero is co-author, with Richard Taruskin '65, of *Music in the Western World*, a textbook now in its second edition.

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Please make a note that my e-mail address has changed to desiah@verizon.net. No change to my telephone number, which remains 914-592-9023; or to my mailing address, which remains the same as above. My USPS letter carrier is in great physical shape so there is no danger that you will overburden his mail pouch. Are you all catching the drift?

The recent bad news from Florida, as reported by **Stanley Schachter**, is about strawberries. Cold weather killed the crop, so your Wheaties are going to be lonesome. The good news is that Floridian classmates have been thinking about the 60th reunion of the Class of 1951, which will be less than 15 months away by the time you read this column. A steering committee is currently in the embryo stage. If you have ideas and suggestions for what will make a great celebration, please organize your thoughts and pass them along promptly. Mark your calendars now for Thursday, June 2–Sunday, June 5, 2011.

Here is some news about classmates. **Richard L. Barovick** lives in Bethesda, Md. In his post-College days, Richard acquired two master's degrees from NYU, one in English literature and the other in political science. Journalism proved to be his life's vocation. Following a brief stint as a teacher at what was then Staten Island Community College, he wrote for the International News Service, did some insurance investigatory work in lower Manhattan and was subsequently affiliated with the *Journal*. Most of Richard's writing in the *Journal's* foreign trade department covered international trade and ocean shipping. An opportunity with Peabody Associates led Richard to journalistic experiences in public relations and an opportunity with the British Car Association before he returned to a second affiliation with the *Journal*. This led to his association with the United Nations, working in public relations and development as well

as producing newsletters concerning foreign aid. Richard then moved to Washington, D.C., and founded the International Business Affairs Corp., which produced newsletters and provided trade and export consulting. Some of his significant journalism concerned the Soviet Union's worldwide trade and the ultimate threat of communism to the free world.

Richard and his wife, Janet, have a daughter, Nadia, and his retirement has allowed him time to teach English as a Second Language to students in Montgomery County. He has long admired Professor William C. Casey and his sociology classes at the College, noting the influence on his life.

The Korean War touched many members of the Class of 1951. **Peter E. DeBlasio** had an active duty year with the Navy before assignment to the Naval Reserve program. In 1954, he earned a degree from the Law School and began his career in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Peter spent four years in the New York City office, where he met aspiring attorney **Elliot Wales**. In 1958, Peter joined the law firm of Reilly and Reilly, judging John Reilly to be one of the best defense attorneys he ever came across. After honing his skills as a trial lawyer, Peter established his own law firm in 1961 and did not retire until 2006. Married and the father of two children, he lives on Staten Island. Incidentally, Peter played five sports at Columbia: football, baseball, basketball, handball and golf (not all on the varsity level). As a sophomore, he sat on the bench during Columbia's great victory over Army. Coach Lou Little never played sophs! Resulting from his relationship with the New York Athletic Club, Peter has won several handball championships.

Levon (Leo) Z. Boyajian admitted that only his grandmother called him Levon. After his college days, he earned an M.S. from the University of Illinois and an M.D. from Yale. When questioned about why he went to Yale, Leo replied (with tongue in cheek), "Because that was the only place that would take me!" The Navy was not reluctant to take him. In 1960, Leo was assigned to Camp Lejeune, a major training base for the Marine Corps. His career in psychiatry began there, and in 1962 he was released from active duty with the rank of lieutenant commander. Since then, Leo has had a lifetime in community psychiatry and administration in the South Bronx and northern New Jersey. He dedicated himself to those in need, many of whom would have gone without help save for his psychiatric care in the many hospitals where he was accredited.

Leo and his wife, Gloria, have

been married since 1956, and they live in Englewood, N.J. They have two children: Liza is a banking executive in Charlotte, N.C., and Zachary is an environmental specialist for the State of New Hampshire.

Please don't forget the last paragraph of my column in the previous issue *CCT*. Your contribution to support this magazine during these difficult economic times will ensure future publications.

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Hello, gentlemen. We are in the busy month of March. This is a month of change and new beginnings and a month of remembrance and celebrations. Daylight savings time begins and gives us more daylight to shine on the things and activities that surround us. There will be the first day of spring to usher in and welcome awakening of trees, flowers and warmth. Of course, we will have the days of remembrance as we observe and celebrate St. Patrick's Day, Palm Sunday and Passover.

I have had the opportunity, during my quest for updates from classmates, to speak to two high-ranking military officers. I personally, privately, thanked these men for the service they provided to our country. I want to publicly thank them again. I, like many of you, served in the military for a relatively short time. These men devoted a large portion of their lives and made a career of defending and protecting our country and its people. They deserve, at the very least, our thanks and gratitude for a job well done.

Colonel **Winston S. Fliess Jr.** writes: "I received an outstanding education from an academically superior college, for which I am extremely grateful, and I should still look back at Columbia with pride and admiration. However, starting with the takeover of Columbia by a bunch of rabble-rousing dissidents (the nicest description I could think of) with the acquiescence of the University authorities through a series of well publicized anti-American actions and statements by faculty members, and culminating in Columbia's esteemed president inviting Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, an avowed enemy of the United States, to speak at Columbia, while barring from campus the ROTC, dedicated to the defense and protection of the United States, I must say that I am embarrassed to admit that I am a Columbia graduate. And based on a few conversations I have had with classmates, I am apparently not alone in this view. I promised Sid

that this would be short and to the point, and it is. My best wishes to my classmates."

Bill Hallisey writes: "Married to the 'light of my life,' Jane, for 54 years. Four children, each completed advanced degrees, 10 super grandchildren. As a Marine, 34 years, I was very involved in four wars. I retired as chief of staff at the Marine Corps Air Ground Training Center in California as a colonel. I then served 13 years as deputy CAO of Riverside City, Calif., with jurisdiction over police and hospitals. The challenges were tremendous. Columbia taught me how to think, plan and leave nothing to chance. Now I'm enjoying the achievements of my family. I've had a full life. I love it."

Thomas Houghton writes: "Joy, '52 Sigma Chi Sweetheart runner-up, and I have been happily married for 56 years. I was active in sports reporting at CC through WKCR and *Spectator*. I had a weekly show with interviews and game broadcasting. Member of Sigma Chi. Retired for 20 years, active volunteer in hospitals, enjoy travel, large family of 25 including 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild born St. Patrick's Day '09 and named Otis Houghton after James Otis. Two granddaughters in college, one at Princeton but seriously dating a Columbia sophomore. Had Whipple surgery last August, but just about fully recovered and planning four winter months at our condo in Deerfield Beach, Fla., where it is warmer."

James Hurley writes: "When Sid asked me for a personal blurb, I wondered if I could find any distinguishing feature of my 'checked career' that might separate me from the really distinguished careers of classmates like [Max] Frankel, [Larry] Grossman and [Roone] Arledge. I immediately thought of one: that I'd never really made any money and might qualify as the least materially successful member of the class. But then I had an awful lot of fun doing a variety of things so I might qualify for another somewhat more dubious career category of 'adventurer.' Starting off as a junior civil servant in Washington, I moved on to be a vice-consul at the Consulate General in Lahore, where I traveled frequently to Afghanistan and the Northwest frontier, and participated in a British expedition to K-12 in the Karakoram-Himalayas, then spent a couple of unsuccessful years trying to be a scholar at SOAS in London, returning across the pond rather battered to learn about New York City as a guide with Gray Line, *Cue Magazine* and the Museum of the City of New York, subsequently moving on to found the Weeksville Project in Bed-Stuy (now known as the Weeksville Heritage Center), then serving as director of the Long

Island Historical Society in Brooklyn before becoming reference archivist for the NYC Municipal Archives and finishing up my local government time as the first archivist and records manager for the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission.

"I retired early in 1991 to upstate New York to become an antiquarian book dealer specializing in South and Central Asian books based on the 7,000 titles I collected, an activity I still pursue with great pleasure at 81. Does it sound like the qualifications of genuine adventurer? I suspect so. How many other nearly full-time adventurers do we have in this or any other class? If you don't care about making much money or want to take a big chance on making much while doing your own thing, I heartily recommend it."

Jim Hoebel writes: "I reluctantly retired in 1999 from the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission. I had a great job, managing the development of National Consumer Product Safety Standards in the fire safety field. My work contributed directly to the benefit of the public in an agency that took the responsibility of balancing benefits and costs seriously. I am very proud of the resulting standards, including [those for] children's sleepwear, mattresses, upholstered furniture, child-resistant cigarette lighters and others. Since that time, I have served on the Science Advisory Committee of the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the ASTM committee developing new fire safety voluntary standards for candles. My wife, Arlene, and I have enjoyed our retirement by traveling and interacting with our five children and nine grandchildren. Arlene was a high school English teacher. She has been a continuing inspiration and strength to me and our family both in the home and in our careers. The recent availability of a cruise port in Baltimore has made it much more convenient to cruise. Our family joined us in 2005 on a cruise to Bermuda to celebrate our 50th anniversary. And last August, we presided over our first Hoebel family reunion. My retirement project was to convert my extensive vinyl jazz record collection — accumulated by my father and myself — into CDs. I now have the entire collection housed in two coupled CD players, with a capacity of 800 CDs. I have more than 12,000 individual jazz selections that are catalogued and can be dialed up quickly. The problem is what to do with the old 78s and LPs. I doubt that there is much of a market for old, used jazz records, nor any institution interested in a donation. Any ideas? They are now gathering dust in our basement.

"When we retired, we decided to stay put in Fairfax County, Va.

While it was the right choice, we are now considering the possibility (need?) to move to some sort of retirement community. We haven't come to an agreement yet, and the prospect is very daunting. Wish us luck."

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of **Gene Baraff** and **Frank Walwer**, the results of different automobile accidents. The Class of '52 sends its condolences to both families.

53

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My apologies to **Mort Freilicher** and his many friends for an inadvertent error that appeared in the January/February issue. The CCT story "The Road Less Traveled," about seven alumni who chose unusual careers, included a section that described the software I had invented to enable adults who are no longer able to speak to use a computer to communicate using only one click per word. CCT reported, "Robins has been perfecting the system with Paul Sawyer, the law partner of Mort Freilicher '53. Freilicher, who represented the astronauts during the moon landing, lost his ability to speak and was severely paralyzed after suffering a stroke, but he still has control of his left hand."

By mistake, the article reversed Mort and Paul's roles. Mort did not have a stroke. He was never severely paralyzed, nor did he ever lose his ability to speak. He did not represent the astronauts during the moon landing. I'm extremely grateful to Mort for having introduced me to his courageous law partner, Paul, who had been unable to speak for 17 years after suffering a severe stroke. During the course of my first afternoon teaching Paul to use the new technology, he pointed to an American flag mounted in a picture frame that hung on a wall in his Lincoln Center apartment. Below the American flag were the signatures of the astronauts with an inscription that indicated they brought the flag back from the moon as their way of thanking Paul for his work as their attorney during the moon landing.

Once again, I'm terribly sorry for any anguish the article may have caused Mort, his family, and many classmates and friends. [Editor's note: A corrected version of the note is available at www.college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Robert Prendergast: At the time of our 50th reunion, Bob wrote, "My fondest recollections of Columbia College concern my interest

in crew. That degree of interest was termed 'too much' by the dean of admissions at the College of Physicians and Surgeons." P&S' loss was Boston University's gain. After graduating from BU Medical School, Bob went on to become the chief resident of pathology at Sloan-Kettering. Later, after working at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, he earned his post-doc at Rockefeller University. Subsequently, Bob spent 40 years as a professor in the department of pathology and ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins, where he did basic research on the relationship between the body's immune mechanism and disease. He is the author of more than 120 scientific papers. Bob is on the board of directors of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., and is an adjunct senior scientist.

Talking to Bob by phone, I learned that he was the classmate who decided that it would be a good idea to paint a large Varsity "C" on the great rock that's opposite the boat house on the Harlem River. However, he enthusiastically suggested talking to **Don Fagan** to learn how they managed to use 20 gallons of white paint to paint the C. One last note: Bob is still rowing. He only regrets that there isn't a rowing club in Massachusetts.

Don Fagan: Don and Diane have been married 51 years and have three children and five grandchildren. They spend most of their time living in Acworth, N.H., a quiet, friendly town of 850 people. In 1976, Don founded a pharmaceutical research company and was active until he retired in 2007. When I asked Don what was one of his most fascinating projects, he recalled doing research to determine why many older men were not using a certain 'erectile dysfunction' medication. As a result of his research, the company began to promote the drug to younger men!

As Bob predicted, Don eagerly remembered painting the Varsity "C" during our senior year. He recalled that Bob had written to the New York Central Railroad, which owned the property, for permission to paint the "C" on its rock. After they received an appropriate response, he and Bob sold the chief of building and grounds on providing them with 20 gallons of white paint. After enlisting the team's rigger, "Pops" Johnson, who had been a sailor in Norway, to build a bosons chair, they got 200 feet of 3/4-in. manila rope. They hooked the bosons chair to a wire at the top of the rock and began painting the "C," which is 60 ft. x 60 ft. Before winter set in, they completed about 80 percent of the "C" and finished their work in the spring. We all owe a huge debt of

gratitude to Bob and Don for the Varsity "C" which, 57 years later, is still there.

Donald Taylor: In 1980, Don was married for the second time, to Charlene. They live in Upton, Mass. After medical school and completing an internship at Vanderbilt, Don returned to Montefiore Medical Center in New York, where he completed residencies in internal medicine and radiology. From 1963–66, he was associate professor of radiology at Columbia Medical Center. In 1966, Don joined a private practice in Brookline, Mass., and was assistant clinical professor of radiology at Boston University Medical Campus. In 1977, Don opened a solo radiology practice in Chestnut Hill, Mass., and became preeminent in the practice of mammography until he closed his office 25 years later, in 2007. Talking to Don by phone, I learned that he continues to be vigorously active and reads approximately 50 digitized mammograms daily. I asked Don's opinion of the research reports that indicate that women in their 40s and 50s only require mammograms every two years. Along with many other breast cancer experts, Don believes that women should have annual mammograms.

William Dick: Sad to report that after a courageous battle with Parkinson's, Bill passed away in November. Bill earned a master's from Oxford in 1956. However, his most important achievement at Oxford was meeting and marrying Esme Inglew. She survives him, as do sons Paul and Peter; and grandchildren Connor, Kelsey and Stephen. Amazingly, Bill was descended on his mother's side from the family of Hans Hansen Bergen, one of the original European settlers of the colony of New Amsterdam. From 1960–98, Bill taught Latin at the Brunswick School in Greenwich, Conn. He also was dean of coordination for Brunswick and the Greenwich Academy, and developed a system that allowed students in the high school section of both schools to enroll in classes at either campus. Some of Bill's poetry has appeared in anthologies and textbooks. He wrote the following for his sons.

"For Paul and Peter"

As children grow we do not stay the same each swiftly-wheeling day, but change with them, teach and learn, as a nervous lake inherits blue, yet gives the air a silver glow sparkling in return.

We learn to cheat the end of death, for whatever sphere God's grace or wrath

is pleased to send us, we shall leave two angel minds remembering who make us demigods, and sing what trifles we achieve.

And more, as first they play or read or love in that novel, smarting time, we know ourselves; not displayed at once, but love and hate in sum, as no one knows the road's high bend

But the climbing traveler at the end.

I'm sure all our classmates join in saying to Esme and the family, "We'll miss him!" [Editor's note: An obituary is scheduled for a future issue.]

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Come on, gentlemen. We can do better. Please send me your news. We all want to read it.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6
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Not only is Dean Michele Moody-Adams trying to meet with as many College students as possible, but she also is getting together with alumni, either on campus or across the country. In January, she made the West Coast swing to Los Angeles and San Francisco, where she talked to an enthusiastic bunch of College alumni, students (on break) and parents about the state of the College, her goals and her thoughts about undergraduate education.

Remember the song (and movie), *April in Athens*? In late April, Deans Carol Becker (School of the Arts), Feniosky Peña-Mora (SEAS) and Mark Wigley (Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation) will join alumni for a visit to contemporary and ancient Greece. The experience will include special access to the Acropolis and the newly opened Acropolis Museum. Incorporated in this breathtaking tour will be a visit to the Parthenon and the Temple of Poseidon. Alumni might have to write a paper about their experiences on this tour.

There is no shortage of new books being written by Columbia people. In fact, our own President Lee C. Bollinger recently finished *Uninhibited*,

Robust and Wide-Open: A Free Press for a New Century, in which he argues that while freedom of the press was a great 20th century achievement in the United States, an increasingly global society must have robust, uninhibited and broadly friendly news media. The book makes for interesting and provocative discussion. A couple of interesting lectures were given recently at the Café Science and Café Social Science series of talks at the PicNic Café in the campus neighborhood: "The Birds and the Underwater Bees: Sex Education in Animal Societies" with behavioral ecologist Dustin Rubenstein, and "Sex and Death in the Galapagos" with science writer Jonathan Weiner. There was much give and take between the attendees and the faculty. It was definitely worth the price of admission.

We recently met up with the Class of 1955 Scholarship recipient. For the second consecutive year, Jin Izawa '10 was the recipient of our class' benevolence. Jin, who was born in Hawaii, will be working in the Far East after he graduates.

What's new with our class and specifically our classmates, you ask? **Joe Vales**, who we last saw at the Society of Columbia Graduates Great Teachers Award Dinner last October, was ecstatic that his granddaughter had been accepted to the College. **Stanley Lubman** (from Berkeley) reports that *The Wall Street Journal* recently has initiated a blog on China, "China Real Time Report" (<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime>) and that he will be contributing his thoughts on Chinese law. **Jim Hudson's** former floormate in John Jay and roommate in Hartley, Frank Pasquinelli '56, has been trying to contact Jim to renew old ties and memories. From Washington, D.C., we heard from **Lew Mendelson**, who told us that he spent the end of 2009 living at the historic American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem, consulting on a USAID West Bank/Gaza project with the Palestine Capital Market Authority in Ramallah. Lew has been in touch with **Gerry Pomper**, who mentioned his new book, in which he presents essays from *The New York Times'* coverage of Presidential elections going back to the origin of the *Times*. For further information, Google "Gerald M. Pomper New York Times Presidential Elections."

All the aforementioned gentlemen probably will make an appearance at our 55th, along with **Sven Johnson**, who recently played a role in a special Toys for Tots initiative involving the United States Marine Corps League. This group involved businesses, stores and service organizations collecting an estimated 28,000 toys. The 2009 results were

not final at this writing, but it looks like another home run. One part of Alumni Reunion Weekend will be the affinity group segment on Saturday afternoon when alumni of the choral groups (Glee Club, etc.), *Spectator*, WKCR and the band will all get together (not in one room, however). For more on this, see "Around the Quads."

At the special bimonthly classmate dinner, we espied newcomers **Peter Pressman**, **Stanley Zinberg** and **Bob Kushner**. Most of the group — **Bob Brown**, **Bill Epstein**, **Herb Cohen**, **Larry Balfus**, **Dick Kuhn**, **Ron Spitz**, **Alfred Gollomp**, **Mort Rennert** and **Don Laufer** — will be at one or more of the events in early June. As you might expect, other classmates of note (aren't they all noteworthy?) will be part of the 55th (from near and yet so far): **Chuck Garrison** (upstate New York), **Jim Berick** (Cleveland), **Jeff Broido** (California), **Arnold Schwartz** (Connecticut) and **Eliot Gross**, **Ezra Levin** and **Roland Plotzel** (Manhattan). And the list keeps growing. We almost forgot **Jack Stupp** from Northern California, whose paintings will be part of a special showing at a gallery in Chelsea in late March for classmates and members of the Class of 2005. **Donald Kuspit**, a noted art critic and writer, will be the featured speaker.

The reunion program is almost set except for a couple of minor details — Thursday: class reception at the home of a classmate; Friday: American Museum of Natural History Tour in the late morning with Columbia astronomy professors, followed by lunch at Citrus and dinner on campus; Saturday: Dean's Brunch, lunch on campus, lectures/panel discussions, affinity group gatherings, wine tasting, dinner on campus and then dancing on Low Plaza. Other things are being planned as you read this column.

Don't forget the Columbia College Fund. Our goal is 55 percent participation (the highest ever for a reunion class) and \$275,000. We are getting there!

A sad note to report: **Don Schappert** passed away a couple of months ago (see Obituaries). Close to Don were **Tom Brennan**, **Ron McPhee**, **John Naley**, **George Raitt**, **Jack Freeman**, **Charlie Brown** '56 and **Paul Taormina** '56. Condolences go to Don's wife, family and friends.

Members of the sterling (and sturdy) Class of 1955, the groundswell is well underway. Classmates are busy signing up to be part of another record-breaking reunion. Rest assured, there will be something for everybody. You'll want to reminisce on College Walk under the stars in early June. Where else

would you want to be at this time of the year?

Three months to go, guys.
Love to all, everywhere!

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Guys, when you read this, it hopefully will be much warmer and spring-like. The end of December and first half of January were bitterly cold and snowy, not just in NYC but in much of the country, including Florida. I spent New Year's in the north Berkshires with my sister and 96-year-old mother. It was well below zero with the wind chill, windy and snowy. I spent the next weekend in Ann Arbor, Mich., visiting my first cousin and best friend since age 3 in the Bronx, who is dying of cancer. It was just as bad.

To go to another topic, I was invited to the Columbia-Maine basketball game at home by two friends and poker players from the Class of '58, Ernie Brod and Peter Cohn. The first half was OK, not great, and the second half was a disaster. We managed to lose. The players were so confused and disorganized that we thought they needed more coaching. We hope for better.

I recently had a long talk and exchanged e-mails with **Hillel Tobias**, who, as a full-time surgeon, envies us our ability to have class lunches. Maybe he will eventually find time to join us. I invited him to work on the 55th reunion. Hillel recently was honored as the American Liver Foundation Physician of the Year at the foundation's annual gala at Cipriani. Supporting him at the awards dinner were many of his Phi Sigma Delta fraternity brothers, including **Robert Cabat**, **Munro Levitzky** '57, **Myron Stein** '57 and **Ira Jolles** '58. Hillel is a professor of medicine and medical director of the Liver Transplant Service at NYU Medical Center.

Also on a pleasant note, we congratulate **Steve Easton** on the birth of a fifth grandchild. He is now one ahead of me, but two more marriages and one more child. This marriage is working well.

I recently had several long talks with **Bob Long**, who lives in Syracuse and who has never seen so much snow. Bob is the author of 50 books and is working on No. 51. He is impressed with the number of classmates who are authors (up to 12). He is preparing an article for the next CCT summarizing our class talent. [Editor's note: CCT profiled Long in the "Bookshelf" section in September 2005. Go to

www.college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/sep05.]

We have started planning our 55th reunion enthusiastically, since our 50th was magnificent. The first meeting will be held in my apartment, with sandwiches from the Second Avenue Deli, as we did for the 50th. I think the food added to the enthusiasm. We will have meetings at various places, including lunch at the nicely redone Faculty House, evening meetings at the Columbia Alumni Center on West 113th Street and at other various apartments—**Ed Botwinick**, please note. A number of the usual guys were down in the freezing South—could have stayed in NYC—or unavailable but said they will make future meetings. At one point, we had a Reunion Committee of almost 30. All are welcome to join us in this fun undertaking and offer ideas by whatever communication means preferred. At our first reunion meeting were **Steve Easton, Lou Hemmerdinger, Alan Broadwin, Al Franco '56E, Ralph Kaslick, Maurice Klein, Ron Kapon** and yours truly.

At the great 50th, we added 10 annual scholarships to the four permanent ones we set up decades ago. Please keep giving to the Columbia College Fund to keep the scholarships going (www.college.columbia.edu/giveonline). It is marvelous meeting these impressive young people annually.

So young and dolls, let me hear from you with news for CCT and ideas for our 55th reunion, scheduled for Thursday, June 2—Sunday, June 5, 2011. Don't be bashful.

As usual, here is wishing us all health, happiness, longevity, and a rising stock market and positive financials overall. We continue to be hopeful for concerned children and extraordinary grandchildren. Any great-grands, let me know for publication. Do keep contributions coming to CCF for our scholarships.

Love to all.

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Raymond Federman, writer and professor emeritus, died in San Diego on October 6. He entered with the Class of 1957 but earned a degree in 1957 from GS. A full obituary will be published at a future date, pending receipt of information and depending upon space considerations.

Marty Fisher reports that attendees at the December 8 class luncheon were **Alan Brown, Ted Dwyer, Sal Franchino, Dave Kinne, Ron Kushner, George**

Lutz, Neil McLellan, Carlos Muñoz, Steve Ronai, Mark Stanton, Ed Weinstein and himself.

After the luncheon, Marty and George discussed George's recent trip with his wife, Eileen, tracing St. Paul's apostolic journey to Rome via, among other places, Damascus, Antioch, Tarsus (his birthplace), Colossae, Ephesus, Philippi, Thessaloniki and Corinth. George brought his journal of the trip, and Marty brought a biblical atlas with a map of the journey. Afterward, George introduced Marty to the Onassis Cultural Center, 645 Fifth Ave., near East 52nd Street, where they saw a very good early El Greco icon exhibit.

The New York Times, December 23, covered the exhibit, "The Origins of El Greco: Icon Painting in Venetian Crete," which was scheduled to run from November 17, 2009–February 27, 2010. According to the *Times*, "this glowing show [was] essentially a triple-layered visual essay. It rough[ed] out the complex texture of a specific, cosmopolitan, East-meets-West island culture. It [told] the story of a great artist who emerged from that culture, lived outside it and lastingly belonged to it. And it [began] to suggest the variety and charisma of icons as a genre: spiritually instrumental

Paul Liberti '58 received an award for "best medical technology" from Prix Galien USA for a blood-testing product he pioneered.

objects that lie outside and beyond ordinary definitions of art."

The *Times* reported the Web site for the exhibit was onassisusa.org, which noted that the exhibit included "approximately 46 exceptional works from public and private collections in Greece, Europe, the United States and Canada, many of which will be traveling for the first time."

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Adding to our last note about him, **Jim Sternberg** sent us a copy of his article from *Sunshine Bridge News* about his trip to Turkey for the World Junior Championships. "It could have been worse. I, as coach for USA Blue ... along with USA Red, were meeting at JFK airport on our way to Istanbul, Turkey, the players having previously qualified in the USBF trials to play in the World Bridge Federation World

Youth Championship ... Of course, as soon as I arrived at JFK, my cell phone started ringing. Adam Kaplan, being only 13, was an unaccompanied minor, so he couldn't check in. I had to go out, get him and re-enter. The next call was from Owen Lien; his plane was going to be three hours late from Atlanta. Great! When we finally were ready to leave JFK, we were missing five players. Two got in as they were closing the plane door. Owen got rerouted through Paris. The others came the next day."

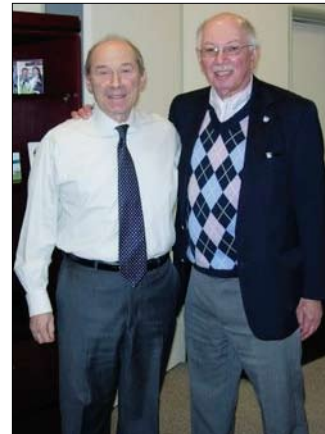
We'll leave out the details of the match, except to say that both teams won bronze medals.

Jim concluded, "The Turkish hospitality was exceptional. Then after 12 long days, it was time to go. Fortunately no one had lost his passport, and we all got to the airport in plenty of time for the long ride home. It was a great experience. Everyone came home with a medal, and [we'll] try to bring home the gold next time."

A blood-testing product that was pioneered by **Paul Liberti**, a physician in Naples, Fla., has received an award for "best medical technology" from Prix Galien USA, which recognizes technical, scientific and clinical research skills that lead to innovative medicines

and advancements. The selection committee includes seven Nobel Laureates. Paul developed the CellSearch System, which identifies circulating tumor cells to predict the progression of cancer in a patient and to determine the effectiveness of the chemotherapy. Paul created the devices and techniques that made the system possible. He discovered that his magnetic systems could recover cancer cells when only a few per billion were present in bone marrow. On this basis, he theorized that cancer might be spread by means of solid tumors shedding small numbers of cells into the blood at an early stage of the disease and that detecting and characterizing the cells could be helpful in treating cancer. Paul founded a biotech company (eventually acquired by Johnson & Johnson) and tested the system at the University of Texas Medical School and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Morrie Amitay wrote, "I enjoy reading the Class Notes, and I just noticed that the regular Class of '58 lunches are held on the second



Class correspondent Alan Miller '56 (right) got a tour of Buz Paaswell '56's office in November. Paaswell recently was named interim president of City College.

Wednesday of every month. This happens to coincide with the posting of my monthly Social Security checks, certainly a notable occasion for this senior citizen. Fortunately, working full-time, I do not have to rely on this miserly sum to sustain me, particularly since my daughter, Rae (18), is in her freshman year at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. It's hard to believe what the costs are compared to our day. I hate to think what they will be for my five grandkids!"

In its ongoing series of articles on health care reform, *The New York Times* quoted **Dave Rothman's** wife, Sheila, who said "People are being asked to think differently about risk. The public state of mind right now is that they're frightened that evidence-based medicine is going to be equated with rationing. They don't see it in a scientific perspective." Sheila is a professor of public health at Columbia. Dave teaches at P&S.

The Class Lunch is held on the second Wednesday of every month, in the Grill Room of the Princeton/Columbia Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). E-mail **Art Radin** if you plan to attend, up to the day before, at aradin@radin-glass.com.

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Stephen Joel Trachtenberg sends us comments on our reunion: "I've just returned from our reunion and a quite splendid reunion it was, too. Sincere thanks and congratulations to all volunteer members of the class who served on the committee

and to the Columbia professionals who I think executed this year's event better than did any of their predecessors over the past half-century. As soon as I got in the front door of my house and put down my overnight bag, I went online to see what messages had accumulated while I was in New York. Not surprisingly, **Stanley Feld** had already written to ask for commentary. I do not know what vitamins Stanley is taking but whatever they are, I want some of them!

"Reflecting on those in attendance, two thoughts came to mind. With notable exceptions, we look healthier and younger than our parents did when they were 70. And I was struck at the continuing intellectual as well as physical vitality that was apparent. Whether it was the active discussion about ROTC or [Bernard] Wisny '48, [Norman] Gelfand and [David] Horowitz reflecting on the times we've lived through, we were all Columbia men, which is to say, opinionated and slightly quarrelsome, but in a good way. We are, of course, very different than those who will celebrate their 50th reunion five decades from now. First of all, I didn't see a tattoo in the crowd, nor a nose ring; not even an earring. And surely in the next half-century they are going to discover a cure for baldness. They have already found a way of dealing with gray hair, but interestingly, I don't believe very many of our colleagues took advantage of the cosmetic option. I didn't spot much plastic surgery, either — a choice I have, I confess, flirted with for myself from time to time.

"Our world seems to have broken down into two groups: those who have retired — some successfully, some less so — and those continuing to work — some successfully, some less so. People asked me how I was enjoying retirement. I replied that I hadn't retired. I had, after 38 years as a university administrator — dean, v.p. and president — given up administration and taken advantage of my tenured professorship to assume an academic chair at [The] George Washington University. I reinvented myself.

"My wife had prompted me in this direction, pointing out that being a university president is a high wire act, all the more so in these daunting economic times, and underscoring the fact that we lived in Washington. She thought I ought to give it up before I got indicted!

"Strangely, I find that in some ways I am working harder now. Teaching is more daunting than I had given it credit for being, not withstanding all of my years in the

academy. I have been scribbling madly: two books; a year-and-a-half of columns two or three times a week for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*; lecturing all over the country, indeed all over the world; and serving on boards in Hong Kong, England and Madrid (and New York and Washington). I also consult for Korn/Ferry International, serving as a trusted adviser to colleges and universities, searching for the next generation of institutional leadership: college presidents and law school deans and such. It is a full plate without a lot of support staff.

"For me, our 50th reunion was educational in its own way and a chapter in a continuing narrative that began in 1955 when I arrived in Morningside Heights after graduating from James Madison H.S. It occurred to me, as I listened to **Roald Hoffman**, that I had a debt to the institution, and of course, to the professors and to you — to all of you, from whom I learned so much during our four undergraduate years and from some of you who have been my friends and teachers ever since. We all have a debt to the future, as well. As a recovering university administrator, I can't resist urging those of you who have not yet contributed to the College to do so. These are daunting times for colleges, even Ivy League institutions, and these schools particularly need discretionary funds that they can use like the fingers of little Dutch boys to fill holes in dikes. I thought the College was particularly gracious in not hammering us with this subject, but I am under no such diplomatic restraints. Give a little now and more in your estate planning.

"Take care of yourselves, and I will do likewise. Take your meds. Eat with care. Drink less. Exercise. I'd love the pleasure of seeing you in five years, at our 55th reunion, and five years hence at our 60th reunion, but I have no ambition to be the last man standing. It is quality of life we seek, not length. Our lives have been informed by the time we spent in Hamilton Hall. Let's cherish it and each other and make it possible for generations yet to come. And for mercy's sake, buy my book, *Big Man on Campus: A University President Speaks Out on Higher Education*. You can reach me at trachtenberg@gwu.edu. Hugs to you all."

From **Robin Motz**: "When **Paul Winick** was my roommate in Livingston, the late **Robert Nozick**, who spoke memorably at our 25th class reunion, was our connecting-door roommate, and we had fascinating, all-night bull sessions. And does anyone remember **Brian Ardizone**, who competed with Ta-Kome by

walking up and down the dormitory corridors with a shopping cart laden with bread, meats and cheeses? When their business fell off noticeably, Ta-Kome complained to Columbia that it was a zoning violation for a food sales operation to take place in dormitory halls. I also remember taking fencing with Archie Oldham as my contact sport, since he also was my tennis coach on the freshman team."

I continue with the comments from **Luigi Lucaccini** (domani@pacbell.net): "Unique education: The reunion awakened in me memories of the superior education that Columbia provides — a function of its unique faculty and curriculum, not to mention the ongoing interaction with fellow students. Somehow the excellence of this process had dimmed in my consciousness during the last five decades.

"The discussion of Gandhi's life led by Roosevelt Montás '95 was a reminder of the breadth and rigor of the Core Curriculum we experienced 50-plus years ago, of the range of ideas we were forced to confront and engage. I believe that the quality of education I experienced at Columbia served me well, helping me think a little better and clearer, and sensitizing me to a world of issues beyond my parochial upbringing in an Italian Catholic tradition in a small California town.

"Although I entered as a member of the Class of 1959, I did not graduate with the class. After struggling for three years as a chemistry/chemical engineering major (there were no Nobel prizes in my future, nor did work operating a New Jersey soap factory beckon), the administration gently but firmly suggested that I take some time off to determine what my true vocation was.

"I returned to California, found work as a chemist and quickly verified that my interests lay elsewhere. Rather than returning to Columbia, I transferred to UCLA and pursued a career in the then-new field of human factors engineering-ergonomics. I ended up with a Ph.D. in engineering psychology and worked some 32 years for the U.S. Public Health Service in San Francisco, first as a research scientist and then as a program manager, all the while teaching business and management part-time at local colleges and universities. Along the way I got an M.B.A., which proved valuable as an administrator and a teacher. I like to think that my time at Columbia taught me the value of an education and how to get one.

"Bottom line: For me, the 50th reunion is a reminder of the unique opportunity that Columbia offers

students to grow and contribute both as professionals and as individuals in their communities. The achievements of the members of the Class of 1959 bear witness to this. I wonder if the raw talents of classmates would have developed in the same ways if they had attended other schools where they perhaps might not have been challenged quite as rigorously to think in new ways.

"A second personal outcome of the reunion is the belated recognition of how many members of the Class of 1959 were not economically privileged, but had to work hard for their education, depending heavily on financial support to obtain it."

John Erlich is sorry to have missed the 50th and the opportunity to reconnect with old friends. He reports being reappointed as adjunct professor of social work by Smith College School for Social Work. His responsibilities include advising 18 M.S.W. students who are spread across the country with a "community project" that focuses on mental health reform. Other projects address health care reform and gender equity.

From **Allan Franklin**: "My attendance at our 50th class reunion was the first time I had attended a reunion. It was pure magic. Everything about the four days was marvelous. It was great to see people I hadn't seen in 50 years and catch up on how their lives had gone. It was quite important and even moving to talk with people who were very important to me at a very important time of my life. I don't think I heard an unkind word during the four days. I am looking forward to the 55th reunion.

"I teach at the University of Colorado. My big plans for [2010] are a 2,000-mile bike ride from Brainerd, Minn., to Bar Harbor, Maine. It is one-half of a Sea-to-Shining Sea ride."

M.J. Tannenbaum had quite a Thanksgiving. He was a guest at the ceremony for the awarding of the Ettore Majorana-Erice-Science for Peace Prize on November 25 at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in The Vatican, and presented a short talk on "Fundamental Science and Improvement of the Quality of Life — Space Quantization to MRI" at the following discussion on "Why Science is Needed for the Culture of the Third Millennium." The talk is posted at www.phenix.bnl.gov/WWW/publish/sapin/conferences/EricePrizeVatican/.

"By the way, the 12-minute talk went over very well," said M.J. "To be clear: I wasn't a prize winner, only a guest (of Nino Zichichi). In fact there were six prizes awarded."

M.J. later had dinner at the Yale Club in New York.

Eric Jakobson wrote to us from Champaign-Urbana: “Hold fast to the spirit of youth, let years to come do what they may.”—Inscribed on a mantelpiece, John Jay Hall, Columbia University.

“Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution.” —Theodosius Dobzhansky.

“Not a whole lot to add for the last six months. I officially retired in August, but still am active in science. After a bit of soul searching, I decided to be one of those old professors who does not leave but just fades away, so I am redoubling my scientific efforts. I have several papers in the pipeline, am planning a couple of grant proposals and will travel in the next few months to both the East and West coasts as well as to India to speak and give papers.”

Reunion speaker **David Rosand** is to be honored on Wednesday, March 3, with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

Gil Wright has completed the monumental task of identifying the people in the class photo taken on the steps of Low Library during the reunion. Obviously not all of us were present for the picture. I will include in the group picture, via Photoshop, the picture of anyone who wishes to send me a picture of himself. If I have your e-mail address, I will send a copy of the modified picture along with the identifications. Since it is agreed that no one has changed the way we looked since 1959, the picture should be a good test of your memory. Send me a picture and something for Class Notes.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6

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Bill Tanenbaum reports on a three-week summer visit to Japan, the second he's made in four years. This trip took him to Tokyo, Nikko, Kamakura, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Himeji, Kitakyushu and Beppu. “My day in Hiroshima,” Bill writes, “became the most vivid one of the entire trip.”

Universally, the name “Hiroshima” evokes an ineradicable set of images framed in a horrific fragment of time — August 6, 1945. The Potsdam Declaration was issued on July 26, calling for Japan's unconditional surrender, and having been immediately and publicly rejected, the response followed swiftly. On August 6, the B-29 *Enola Gay* released a uranium bomb over the city. The result was devastating: bodies incinerated and scarred; countless lives lost, maimed, forever changed; a city leveled and in ruin. Hiroshima, it was estimated, would be uninhabitable for 70 years. With these imbedded images, Bill stepped into a new and astonishing reality.

“I stepped off the ‘Shinkasen’ bullet train and viewed a flourishing city filled with high-rise office buildings, schools, parks, street cars, bridges, businesses, restaurants, traffic, ferry boats and museums. This was my new reality. August 6, 1945 is history.

“At the Peace Park, a Japanese woman approached and asked whether she could tell the story of

her mother, a survivor of August 6. I said ‘yes.’ For 25 minutes, she told the story of her mother and showed me photos and drawings related to that historic day. There was no animosity in her voice. After she finished, I visited the Peace Museum, which is visited by approximately eight million Japanese a year. Some of the exhibits are emotionally difficult to view — shredded clothing, photos of survivors and the city's destruction, and stories by survivors. From the time of its defeat, Japan changed historically. The emperor abdicated his absolute power and today is merely a figurehead. With that change, a new view of life emanated from the people, bringing their creativity and industry into the forefront of the world.”

Bill's photographs are mesmerizing: Hiroshima illuminated at night, rivaling the brilliance and night-scapes of Paris and New York.

The people of Japan began rebuilding Hiroshima into a major metropolis in the mid-'50s, and the city was reborn as a “peace memorial city” dedicated to the sanctity of human life, personal dignity and the opportunity to live in tranquility. Today's Hiroshima stands as a striking tribute to human resiliency and determination.

Two years retired as the Elizabeth A. Woodson Professor Emeritus of Religion and Biblical Literature

at Smith College, **Karl Donfried** was awarded one of 20 annual Mellon Foundation Emeritus Fellowships. Karl will use the grant to study “Paul, Judaism and the Roman Empire,” visiting sites in the near East, including a synagogue recently discovered during an archaeological excavation in Magdala on the Galilee Sea. This first-century synagogue from the Second Temple period contains the oldest-known engraving in stone of a menorah. As part of his work, Karl will lead a Society of Biblical Literature tour of Syria and southeast Turkey.

In the '60s, the Chiffons' “Sweet Talkin' Guy” hit the top of the charts, and its tight harmony and catchy tune were heard on every jukebox and radio station where disc jockeys played top 10 hits. **Doug Morris**, who co-wrote the music and lyrics, launched his stellar career as a songwriter and producer of hit records. He proceeded to found his own record label which, in 1978, was acquired by Atlantic Records. Two years later, he was named president of Atlantic. Doug went on to be appointed president and COO of

Karl Donfried '60 was awarded an annual Mellon Foundation Emeritus Fellowship.

Warner Music, and in 1995, chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group which, under his direction, evolved from a record company into the largest multifaceted music entertainment company in the world.

On January 30, the evening preceding the annual Grammy Awards, the Recording Academy's Pre-Grammy Gala honored Doug by presenting him the President's Merit Award, in recognition of his singular contributions to the industry. The academy president, in presenting the award, gave this salute to Doug: “We are humbled to honor another music industry great in Doug Morris, who has had a profound impact on the music business throughout his dynamic and rich career. With his creative vision and digital strategies, he continues to explore and shape innovative new ways to bring great artists and their music to fans around the globe while being a staunch advocate of artists' rights.”

Congratulations, Doug.

The class survey was distributed in November. Within weeks, 77 responses had been received by the Alumni Office, where the results are being tabulated. By now, that number undoubtedly is much larger.

A few comments regarding the survey: As the surveys were and are being returned anonymously, only two (the last being my own)

have an attribution.

One classmate submitted several suggested additions to the questionnaire. The sequential response options to each question end with a humorous yet revealing possibility. The pattern is established in this, his first question: “Since graduating from Columbia, I still have all my hair, I have lost some of my hair, I have lost most of my hair, I am not bald, I just have a very wide part.”

Now this is more than just a humorous confection. It is an acknowledgment that time in its passage may not have dealt kindly with our once luxuriant manes (and by extrapolation, with some of our vital organs) and seeks to elicit what percentage of our number make the best of things by taking refuge and finding comfort in denial. Furthermore, it is a quintessential Columbia question, as it has its roots in classical philosophy. It echoes the sorites paradoxes that arise where an indeterminate resolution results from the lack of clear boundaries in cases of incremental change. Eubulides of Miletus, the fourth-century B.C. philosopher, attained prominence (for a time) for the construction of seven paradoxes, one of which, The Bald Man paradox, or falakros, is recorded this way: A man with a full head of hair is not bald. The removal of a single hair will not make him so. Nor will the removal of two hairs or three, etc., etc., and so forth. Yet the continuation of this process must eventually result in baldness. But where do you draw the line? Now, almost three millennia after Eubulides propounded the falakros, one of our classmates submits that the paradox can be resolved not by drawing a line but by endlessly widening the part.

Nathan Gross writes that he much enjoyed the survey, applauding its raising of useful questions. He offers “a minor observation” about Question 18, concerning the net worth of our families at the time we attended Columbia, suggesting that the choice of responses probably is not compatible with economic realities of the 1950s or the socio-economic roots of a broad spectrum of the class. Whereas the response options begin with “less than \$1 million,” followed by a set of calibrated options between \$1 million and \$20 million, and concludes with, “in excess of \$20 million,” Nathan proposes a ladder of possibilities that ascend from a starting point of “under \$10,000.” Nathan comments that “in the *Spectator* crowd [Nathan having been managing editor on the managing board our senior year], no one had parents earning, I'd guess, more than \$25,000, and that was a lot of money in those

days for a family of four living modestly in a rented apartment on the Lower East Side or in Brooklyn or the Bronx. I'd guess that very few classmates who had attended public high schools in the city went home to parents who were not shopkeepers, professionals with relatively modest incomes and local practices (dentists, doctors), civil servants ... "

Not to put too fine a point on it, but I would supplement Nathan's observation by noting that our parents had lived through the Great Depression and rationing of commodities during WWII, were in their 40s when we entered college, probably still a handspring away from the apex of their careers. Dad was probably the sole breadwinner, as women in the workforce were fewer in number and at the bottom of the pay scale. And it would be decades before our nation began minting battalions of millionaires, many of them not out of their 20s.

I was intrigued by the final survey question: "Have you answered these questions honestly?" For those who will be tabulating the survey responses, this "truth test" poses an unintended dilemma (or was it intended after all?).

Logicians and philosophers have wrestled with this and similar questions since antiquity. Socrates posed the paradox as follows: "This sentence is false." Being self-referential, the statement is both true and false. If it is true that "the sentence is false," then the assertion of falsity is also false because what it says about the condition of the sentence is, in fact, true, whereas consistency requires that the assertion itself should be false (which is to say, the sentence would read: "This sentence is true."). Stay with me, as this will become even more opaque as you read on; and now Eubulides makes a reappearance.

The most famous of the seven paradoxes for which Eubulides is credited is the Liar Paradox, or pseudomenon. "A man says he is lying. Is what he says true or false?" In the case of the class survey, a respondent says that he has not answered the questions honestly (heavens forefend). If he has not answered the questions honestly, and responds that he has not, his answer to the truth test (being truthful) is not consistent with his confession of falsity; thus, the response to the truth test being both true and false at the same time, the test, it might be argued, is negated and of no value. But, no, the test actually proves useful in this instance. Those who responded to the survey honestly would not be inclined to change that pattern by responding to the

truth test that they had not. So every negative answer to the test can be taken at face value as true, and the surveys of those so answering can be disregarded. The problem with the truth test arises where the respondent has not answered the survey honestly but responds to the truth test that he has. His statement, of course, is false; yet at the same time it is true for being consistent with the fact that all his responses to the survey are false. However he answers the truth test, his response is both true and false. Surely his survey responses should be disregarded; but then all the survey responses to which respondents asserted they had answered the questions honestly are placed in doubt and might have to be disregarded unless we can distinguish the identical responses of those who were honest from those who were not. There being no evidence extrinsic to the survey responses themselves to evaluate the responses, and there being no way to assign a consistent truth value to the question, there is no way to tell.

Faced with this conundrum, the survey tabulators are constrained to decide whether to accept as true, or reject as potentially tainted, all of the responses they've received.

The solution is simple. The tabulators are best advised to dismiss this commentary as if it had not been written, to proceed with their task of sketching a portrait of the Class of '60 from all the received responses, and to urge members of the class to fill this correspondent's e-mailbox with matters relevant to their lives and personal interests so that he has not the time, nor space, nor an excuse, to engage in such flights of sophistry in the future.

With this subtle hint, I urge you all to write and help me fill this column with interesting and pertinent information, and I bid you good health in this, the year of our 50th.

Speaking of Alumni Reunion Weekend, it is right around the corner, Thursday, June 3-Sunday, June 6. **Bob Berne** will host a reception at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center on Thursday night after a picnic and various tours. On Friday, there will be several lectures, a class lunch and a Bridge Panel with members of the class of 2010. The day will conclude with a cocktail reception featuring **Nathan Gross** at the piano. Saturday night will be our big dinner in Low Library, followed by a champagne toast and dancing under the stars on Low Steps. Your classmates truly hope you can make it to this wonderful event to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

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This is a second reminder for our 50th reunion, which will take place Wednesday, June 1-Sunday, June 5, 2011. A committee is planning the event with the help of the Alumni Office. Anyone interested in helping should contact either **Tony Adler** (awadler@spartacommercial.com) or **Burt Ehrlich** (burt@bloomberg.com) with their ideas.

Don Miller was inducted into Mercer County Hall of Fame along with 10 others on January 23 at its banquet at The Radisson Hotel, near West Middlesex, Pa. The event marks the 63rd annual year of operation for the oldest local hall of fame in the world. Since its formation, 463 athletic greats or contributors to sports in Mercer County have been enshrined. This year's class included a range of former stand-outs encompassing football, men's and women's basketball, wrestling, track, cross country and golf.

Lanny Frattare, former voice of the Pittsburgh Pirates and longtime friend of the Hall of Fame, served as master of ceremonies. Former Pittsburgh Steelers star Edmund Nelson, a team announcer, was one of the speakers. The inductees were presented special awards on January 22 at a private icebreaker with hall directors at The Radisson. For the first time, former inductees were invited to meet the new inductees.

Don's team completed an unbeaten season in the most competitive high school football class in Pennsylvania, and then Don was a lineman at Columbia.

George Gehrman has signed an agreement to work under contract for the State Department with the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund Program Office, helping with contracting efforts. He will be located at the main State Department building not far from **Alex Liebowitz**, who is also at the State Department.

George and his wife, Sharon, were in Florida in January and visited with **Pete Giovine** and Bob Johnson '63.

On November 30, The National Arts Club hosted a "Mad for Plaid" evening inspired by the book, *Tartan: Romancing the Plaid*, co-authored by Doria de La Chapelle (wife of **Phillipe de La Chapelle**) and Jeffery Banks. At the half costume party, half informal fashion show, both authors discussed their book and how plaid has become the most celebrated pattern in the world. A portion of the proceeds was donated to the NAC Façade Restoration Fund.

I received notification on the

passing of three classmates in the past few months: **Dan Blanchard** died on May 25, 2009, in Oklahoma City; **Kenneth Fuld** passed away on August 19, 2009, in New York City; and **Barry Seigel** passed away in Port Washington, N.Y., on November 9, 2009.

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Retired or not, **Crawford Kilian** continues to be extremely productive. Retirement, he writes from Vancouver, is not for the faint of heart. "It's busier than college teaching ever was. In the last year, I've published two books: the second edition of *Go Do Some Great Thing: The Black Pioneers of British Columbia*, and the fourth edition of *Writing for the Web*." His most recent book was published this fall: *Sell Your Nonfiction Book*, which emphasizes using the Web at all stages of writing, marketing and promoting a book. In addition, Crawford continues to be a part-time contributing editor at *The Tyee*, a Vancouver online magazine. In this role, he is involved in everything from writing articles to editing and maintaining a long list of British Columbia blogs.

Despite all this activity, Crawford and his wife, Alice, have squeezed in trips to Ottawa to visit their daughter and son-in-law, to the central coast of British Columbia and most recently to the Yukon, where the fall colors were astounding.

Crawford is in touch with Michael Butler and Christopher Trumbo '64, and recently "ran into" **Michael Shapiro** and Richard Beeson '59 (aka Richard Johnson) on Facebook. Everyone, says Crawford, seems to be thriving. Hope that's true of everyone in the Class of '62.

John Boatner is equally productive, churning out CDs and DVDs constantly. His older son, John, Jr., is a social worker in New York City, and his younger son, William, is successfully involved in the food service business in Memphis. William also sings his dad's compositions in concert and on recordings. A pretty sweet family scenario, I'd say. Last June 14, a choir at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Cordova, Tenn., performed John's *Mass for Unison Voices* and *Easter Cantata for an Unbeliever*. The DVD of this concert is available at www.johnboatnermusic.com.

Larry William (larry.wm@gmail.com) seems equally busy. For the past several years, Larry has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Fistula Foundation, a charity that raises awareness of, and fund-

ing for, obstetric fistula repair, prevention and educational programs worldwide. Recently, the documentary film *A Walk to Beautiful*, which the Fistula Foundation sponsored to increase awareness about this problem, was featured on NOVA, and subsequently won an Emmy. You may learn more about fistula at www.fistulafoundation.org, where you can also see photos Larry has taken while working on this initiative in Africa. He does lots of photography, traveling and activities with his grandchildren. Recently, they took a pack trip on mules and horses to a remote part of the Sierra Mountains north of Yosemite in California. At home, Larry cooks, reads, gardens and is completing a memoir of his 329 days as an Army doctor in Vietnam.

Dr. **Frank Grady** (M.D. and Ph.D.) lives in Lake Jackson, Texas, and is moderately active. He says he has little to report, but “if you really need it, my eldest son is in his second year of eye residency in New York (having graduated from law school), my second and third sons both graduated from law school this year (the third at 21) and my daughter is in college, pre-veterinary. My wife, Donna, and I travel often. We were in Turkey in January 2009, then Mexico City in March, England in May and Ireland in July. I’m trying to run a full-time ophthalmology practice with no intention of retiring but looking forward to my son joining me.”

Bob Glassman, a professor of psychology at Lake Forest College and specialist in neuroscience, modestly writes that he recently did a couple of posters for the annual fall meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago. In fact, he has done at least 20 and has written countless professional papers, especially in the field of working memory, about which I assume we all have a growing interest! You may reach Bob at glassman@lakeforest.edu.

Daniel Fife has become a grandfather.

Once again, the extraordinary talents and character of **Bill Campbell** have been widely recognized. In an article, “From Morningside Heights to Silicon Valley,” *The New York Times* of September 6 wrote that Bill, chairman of Intuit (and chairman of the Board of Trustees at Columbia) and a guru to other corporations, has become a shining beacon for the possibilities of life after shoulder pads. The National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame has named what is popularly known as the academic Heisman in Bill’s honor. The annual scholar-athlete prize will be renamed the William Campbell Award. In Bill’s typically modest way, he told the *Times* that

Roger Staubach would have been a better choice. Bill’s daughter, Maggie, is a member of the Class of 2013. His son, Jim ’04, ’08 SIPA, was a member of the football team.

Phil Lebovitz recently completed a term as president of the American College of Psychoanalysts, an honorary organization for psychoanalysts who also are psychiatrists and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement during their careers. Phil presented a paper on “Houses as Self-Portraits: Architects Who Design Their Own Homes” to a conference on creativity. He practices full-time and supervises psychoanalytic and psychiatric trainees.

Bernie Patten writes that some years ago, Ethel ’63 Barnard, his wife of 45 years, took a course at Rice on how to construct a hurricane-proof home. After Ethel completed the class, she and Bernie hired the architect who taught the class to supervise the construction of a home for them on the Galveston coast. Last September, the great storm Ike briefly visited them. Ike destroyed the home to their right and the one to their left, the one in back of them and the beach in front of them, but their home was unscathed. They call it Callie’s Cove, after their first granddaughter, and it is indeed hurricane-proof. As a reward, Bernie and Ethel let the architect and his family stay in the home for a week.

On the book scene, Bernie’s latest, *The Logic of Alice: Clear Thinking in Wonderland*, was published after a two-year delay by Prometheus. His only commercially successful book, *Truth, Knowledge, or Just Plain Bull: How To Tell the Difference: A Handbook of Practical Logic and Clear Thinking*, has been translated into Chinese and Korean and, Bernie assures us, is helping correct this country’s balance of payment deficit. Tap dancing, Bernie writes, “continues to be my passion and recently, due to the death of the other male dancer in the group (death cancels all appointments), I have become the best male tapper in the Silver Star Tappers. We have been featured on CNN several times, but I haven’t seen the show because I don’t watch TV. Tap dancing is an art form so deep, no one masters it, but we keep trying.

“This has been a good year for collecting trophies at music festivals. So far, I have received five, including a first place at the Jazz Festival for my version of ‘Blues in the Night.’ The secret is simple: Play from the heart. The judges are just too bored with technically correct but essentially soulless performances.”

Allen Young, who enjoys retirement, writes a weekly column for his former employer, the *Athol*

(*Mass.*) *Daily News*. Titled “Inside/Outside,” the column focuses on the environment and the outdoors of the North Quabbin Region, where Allen has lived since 1973, but he writes about anything he wants.

Dick Schwartz checks in: “Through the years, I have been in touch with many Columbians, and kudos to you who have inspired me. Particularly, I want to thank **Stan Lupkin**, who helped me through a nasty divorce. It was your advice, Stan, that led me to a New York Bar Association program that guided me through stormy waters. **Mike Charney** and I got back in touch when I relocated to the West Coast in the late ’60s. We often played tennis near his peninsula home, where his gracious wife and boys entertained me. **Paul Alter**, thanks to you and your lovely wife for having us over to your place on Park Avenue and for the opportunity to rub elbows again (after our Arizona hotel days) with **John Modell**, **Richard Kobrin** and **Armand Bartos**, who inspired me to play Bay Area tennis and especially doubles with some U.S. Open champs. Finally, I’d like to thank **Jerry Speyer** and his charming lady, Katherine Farley, for entertaining us regally at their home. What a pleasure to give a bear hug to **Sandy Greenberg**, who looks great and is as upbeat as ever.”

December 2009 was the 20th anniversary of the passing of Dick’s older brother, Dr. Gabe Schwartz ’62 P&S (via Princeton), who died from Lou Gehrig’s disease. Gabe wrote more than 100 research papers on immunology, internal medicine and renal physiology. He left his mark on all who knew him — soft-spoken, a pool shark and nicknamed “the Chaz” at Princeton’s Hillel! “At his funeral in Chicago,” Dick writes, “I was surprised to learn of Gabe’s gridiron genius and the reverence in which the Chicago Bears team held him. They called him ‘Dr. Gabe.’ Using Apple Computer technology, he had been able to signal Mike Ditka of their opponents’ plays. During Gabe’s bout with ALS in the mid-’80s, Iron Mike rolled up the best win-loss record of any coach of his era!”

Through Facebook, Dick has been in touch with **Charlie Morrow**, **George Graff**, **Marty Erdheim**, **Alan Harris**, **Bob Kaminsky**, **Bob Dobrish**, **Dave Saland**, **Mike Stone** and **John Freidin**. “It’s great sharing our life experiences, milestones and photos,” Dick says. His daughter, Maya, recently graduated from Brooklyn College, is pursuing a master’s in education at Hunter College and talks about getting a Ph.D. Daniela, Dick’s

eldest, works in the real estate division of the Schubert Organization. And Samantha, adopted from an orphanage in Guangzhou, China, is pursuing her A.A. at Sussex County Community College.

Dick recently founded a mentoring company in Connecticut. He is developing projects for entrepreneurs in the media, health care and illustrative arts areas. “I love getting involved in the everyday ops of each client. At heart, I am a salesman with lots of enthusiasm. In addition to basic Web design, we do blogging, Twittering, create Facebook pages and use YouTube to penetrate the ‘cloud’ for our clients. These tough economic times create many opportunities for those with savvy and guts to incubate, nurture and bring projects to fruition. And that’s what we do best. One of our clients is Mort Walker, the cartoonist and creator of *Beetle Bailey*, who is read in more than 1,800 daily newspapers. We’re developing his *Best of Times Magazine* here in Fairfield County with the intention of bringing on board associate publishers in as many as 100 American, Canadian and Scandinavian cities. See us at www.thebestoftimes.us.”

Dick would love to hear from you at rschwartzc63@sbcglobal.net.

Please write to tell us what is happening in your world.

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The small e-mail discussion list that has grown from the attendees of our various class lunches had a flurry of communication after I recently wished them a Happy New Year (which I now extend belatedly to all of you). I had asked for news or resolutions, and among the exchange of greetings from more than 20 of your classmates, I received the following: **Joe Applebaum** resolved “to stay in close touch with my friends and colleagues.” **Harvey Schneier** wrote that one of his resolutions was “to work less hard so I can attend the class luncheons regularly. Now that my twins (son at Quinnipiac, daughter at George Washington) are one semester away from finishing college, I’ll have less financial incentive to keep working this hard. What’s retirement like, guys?”

Which prompts me to ask all of you, “What’s your retirement like?” Not that I think I’ll ever be able to retire, but this seems like a good time to warn your working classmates of what’s in store. Please send me a note and let us all know how

retirement is treating you.

David Alpern writes, "In the last week of '09, a contractor began excavating for expansion and remodeling of the little ranch house in Sag Harbor on Long Island that I bought more than 30 years ago. Lots of memorabilia tossed out, but a great new home coming for me and the Mrs."

Bill Goebel shared that he "received a nice, handwritten note from coach Joe Jones thanking me for my support to the Columbia basketball team. I am not a major contributor, but I really appreciated the gesture from him, along with a New Year's greeting card from the athletics director. It is great to see that Columbia, at least regarding the Athletics Department, is attempting to reach out to its alumni. It is a welcome change that I hope continues." **Henry Black** seconded this sentiment, and writes, "I, too, am pleased that the Athletics Department reached out and sent personal notes and cards at Christmastime and that there is some tangible evidence that we are improving across the board."

Lee Lowenfish writes, "My first book, *The Imperfect Diamond: a History of Baseball's Labor Wars*, comes out in a third updated edition in the spring from University of Nebraska Press. On January 22, I received an award from the New York Pro Baseball Scouts Hot Stove League for meritorious service to the national pastime. Really honored by that."

Phil Satow's daughter, Julie '96, was married last May. Her husband, Stuart, is the editor-in-chief and a principal at *The Real Deal*, a successful real estate publication.

Frank Sypher's latest book, a bicentennial history of St. James' Church, New York, is in production, for publication in the spring: *St. James' Church in the City of New York, 1810-2010*.

Recent Class of '63 lunches have been well-attended. At the December lunch, a particularly happy group of 10 of us toasted the holidays and exchanged news. On a more sobering note, **Dan Perl** updated the group on his recent work on traumatic brain injury in the NFL.

These are usually interesting and fun get-togethers. During the past year, we've averaged more than eight classmates in attendance at these monthly events. I hope that even more of you will try to make the next Class of '63 lunch, scheduled for Thursday, March 11 (and then on Thursday, April 8). Check our Web site at www.cc63ers.com for details and to review pictures of past gatherings to see if you can spot an old friend.

In the meantime, let us know

what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next.

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A new year is underway, and I am happy to report that the informal class lunches at the Columbia Club in Manhattan on the second Thursday of the month continue.

Mark Zucker spent his sabbatical from LSU (Baton Rouge, La.) in New York City. Mark teaches art history; his specialty is the Renaissance. For many years he has taught a summer session in Innsbruck, Austria.

Harvey Weiss lives in Short Hills, N.J., where he is an independent computer consultant. He has three grown sons and three grandchildren.

Marty Isserlis has gone south from New York with his wife, Judy, for a month of sunshine in Naples, Fla.

Alan Tobias arrived at a recent lunch and reported that he is studying Moshe Isserlis, one of Marty's rabbinical ancestors.

Columbia's plans to expand north of 125th Street suffered a setback when an appellate court ruled 3-2 that the State of New York could not use the state's eminent domain authority to condemn private land in order to turn the land over to the University. A further appeal by the state is expected. **Steve Case**, a University trustee, was on hand at lunch to explain (and bemoan) the ruling.

After retiring from a law practice a few years ago, **Danny Schechter** gave up his Manhattan apartment to live in Dutchess County, N.Y. While it is cold in the winter, Danny extols the "joys of a warm fireplace." Danny's son, Matthew '93, joined us for lunch in January.

Steve Rodner's law firm has relocated closer to the Columbia Club in Manhattan. He plans to attend the class lunch more often.

Fred Kantor is a regular at the class lunch.

My wife, Jacqueline, and I had dinner at a Turkish restaurant in Manhattan with **Ivan Weissman** and his wife, Jane, and **Gil Kahn** and his wife, Bernice. I've learned a lot about Turkey in the last few years from **Beril Lapson**, who often travels there on business and then regales us with tales at the class lunch.

Barry Bley writes that since his retirement he has been active with the Alumni Representative Committee, interviewing high school seniors in the Denver area who have applied for admission to the College. In the past two years, he has interviewed more than 80

applicants. "I very much enjoy working with these talented young people," Barry writes, "and I know that the admissions officers have a job I don't envy."

Jonathan Cole, the John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University, Provost Emeritus and Dean Emeritus of Faculties, has written *The Great American University: Its Rise to Preeminence, Its Indispensable National Role, Why It Must Be Protected*.

Send news. Your classmates want to hear from you.

REUNION JUNE 3-JUNE 6
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Like the newly popular vampires, my thirst (in my case the news) is never slaked. One gambit I have been using lately is to ask 1965ers whether they have been in contact with classmates. **Richard Kagan**, a professor in the history department at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, sent the following: "I have not seen, spoken to or been in contact with classmates for many years. Odd. I guess that my major news is the publication, in October, of my most recent book, *Clio and the Crown: The Politics of History in Medieval and Early Modern Spain*. This semester, I have been a visiting professor at the University of Barcelona. I am writing from Barcelona but am scheduled, weather permitting, to return to Baltimore tomorrow. I expect to again be in Spain during the fall semester, but in Madrid rather than Barcelona."

Richard's e-mail address is kagan@jhu.edu.

Charlie Schwartz sent the following: "In the 45th year since our graduation, I thought it was time to send you a note about me, and about meeting a fellow alumnus (albeit from the Class of '77).

"I am with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, D.C., where I have been for the last 10 years and where I am senior commercial law reform adviser. My work involves designing and implementing projects for reform of commercial laws and institutions in developing countries worldwide. This has taken me to Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean, and I have lived and worked in Israel,

Switzerland and Bosnia (before working for USAID).

"One of the areas I work in is intellectual property rights. At the beginning of November, I spoke at a conference of the World Intellectual Property Organization, where I was pleased to see Geoffrey Onyeama '77. Geoffrey recently was promoted to deputy director general, Sector for Development, one of WIPO's new senior management team of seven.

"I try to keep up with classmates (**Brian Fix** is one) as well as friends from other classes. It will be nice to see familiar faces at our 45th reunion. I was told the other day about a reunion at Dartmouth where, after the first five minutes, an announcement was made that from that time on, no discussion was to be allowed on illnesses, grandchildren and travel. I promise to have other matters to discuss (although I must admit that if anyone asks, I will tell them that my first grandchild, Adam Michael, was born last December 18).

"I can be reached at caschwartz2004@yahoo.com."

Steve Steinig also wrote. He begins with a warning about the risks of making any contact with your hungry class correspondent: "I called Leonard recently on an unrelated matter, and the next thing I knew, I had promised him an e-mail suitable for publication in Class Notes. Leonard, thank you for your dedication and persistence to bringing us news of one another for so many years.

"Family being the biggest source of pleasure and meaning in my life, I'll start there. We have four grandchildren and get to see them often — two in Baltimore (3 and 6) and two in Chappaqua, N.Y. (7 and 11). My wife, Renee '67 Barnard, spends most of her time doing genealogy (primarily as a volunteer but also professionally) and the time that's left over as a leader in our synagogue community and in the local library system; dinner time is allotted to me. If you knew Renee when we were dating at Columbia, you would recognize her still because she's barely changed during the 42 years we've been married.

"I returned to full-time work in 2006, after five part-time years, as New York Life's chief actuary. Eighteen months later, as scheduled, I officially retired but immediately returned to part-time as a consultant. Currently, I'm in the office two days a week. My 45th anniversary working for New York Life coincides with our 45th reunion this June, which accounts for the flexibility I've had in tailoring my hours to my desires. Last winter, I took the three-session Mini-Core Course offered to alumni in New York City. We read *Oedipus the King*, August-

Joseph Goldstein '65: A Radically Examined Mind

BY JOSHUA SUMMERS '97

In the more than four decades since graduating from Columbia College, **Joseph Goldstein '65** has played a significant role in transmitting the practice of mindfulness meditation to the West through his career as teacher, institution builder and author of numerous books on Buddhism, including *The Experience of Insight: A Natural Unfolding* (1976), *One Dharma: The Emerging Western Buddhism* (2002) and *A Heart Full of Peace* (2007).

Although mindfulness is at the heart of almost all Buddhist meditation, it has now spread in this country as a secular practice that trains the mind in moment to moment, non-judgmental awareness. Advocates say this training leads to various benefits, such as stress reduction, clarity of mind and a more compassionate connection with the world around us.

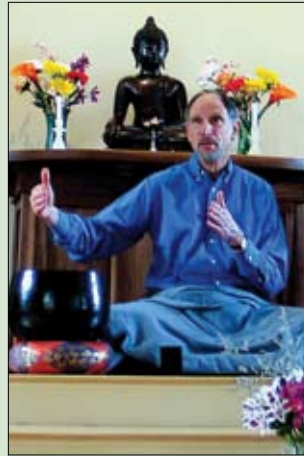
"Joseph has had a seminal influence on the mainstreaming of mindfulness in the world. Over the past 35-plus years, thousands of people have sat retreats with him in the United States and around the world and have had their lives transformed by his extremely clear, kind and insightful teaching and his love for the Dharma or the teachings of the Buddha," wrote Jon Kabat-Zinn, founder of The Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, in an e-mail. "In his quiet, unassuming and transparent way, he exemplifies the power of non-doing and being ... nothing is forced, yet nothing important left undone. I sat my first insight, or vipassana, retreat with him in 1974 and continue to consider him one of my teachers, and a good friend."

The word "vipassana" means "insight" in Pali, the original language of the Buddha. Vipassana is often used as shorthand for "insight meditation" or "mindful-

ness meditation" when speaking of Theravadan Buddhism's approach to the cultivation of insight into the nature of phenomena and the nature of the mind.

In 1975, with colleagues Sharon Salzberg and Jack Kornfield, Goldstein co-founded the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, Mass. As the first large residential center in the United States to offer seven-day to three-month retreats in mindfulness meditation, IMS annually attracts 2,700 retreatants from more than 80 countries. And while some people might question the relevance of spending even seven days in meditation, Goldstein speaks resolutely to its benefit: "The practice here [at IMS] revolves around what the Dalai Lama calls the art of happiness. It's about understanding ourselves — our minds and our emotions — deeply enough so that we know for ourselves the causes of genuine happiness in our lives and the causes that perpetuate suffering and greed. This training in mindfulness gives people a direct experience of this, rather than simply an intellectual understanding. And what's really key to the work we do is the understanding that our minds *can* be trained."

The origins of Goldstein's interest in meditation can be traced to his years at Columbia and to the years immediately thereafter. Although his extracurricular interests at Columbia were ordinary — he rowed crew, played saxophone and co-founded the Columbia Ski Club with Robert Jastrow '44 — his major in philosophy cultivated his ontological interest. Goldstein still feels the influence from the Core Curriculum, his course in 20th-century literature with Lionel Trilling '25, and his classes on Eastern religion and Western philosophy, especially the metaphysics of Descartes and Spinoza.



Joseph Goldstein '65 answers questions during a mindfulness meditation retreat at the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, Mass.

PHOTO: ELIZABETH VIGEON

Graduating early, in January 1965, Goldstein embarked on one of the first Peace Corps missions to Thailand, where he taught English at the King's School in Bangkok. It was during this time that he encountered Buddhist practice and philosophy. The King's School was close to the well-known Marble Temple, where a British and an Indian monk hosted weekly discussions on Buddhism. Goldstein recalls arriving at these meetings "with my Spinoza in hand" and a relentless volley of questions. In the midst of a lively debate, one of the beleaguered monks politely suggested Goldstein actually "try meditation." And so he did, and from his first attempt, Goldstein remembers how he was "continuously amazed at the systematic methodology for turning the attention inward to look at the mind itself — rather than always turning outward to look at the world."

After the Peace Corps, following a brief stint of work back home in the Catskills and feeling the need for a teacher's guidance, Goldstein ventured East again, this time to India. In Bodhi Gaya, the town of the Buddha's enlightenment, Goldstein met his first meditation teacher,

Anagarika Munindra, a quirky iconoclast, an anti-guru of sorts, who possessed both exhaustive scholastic knowledge and a deep wisdom gained from nine years of intensive meditation and study in Burma. Goldstein worked closely with Munindra over the span of seven years, with long periods in silent meditation. Following this concentrated period of practice, Goldstein was poised as one of the few Westerners at the time who possessed such a depth of meditation training.

In 1974, Ram Das — another prominent figure in the nascent world of East-meets-West spirituality — invited Goldstein to teach meditation during a summer course at Naropa Institute, in Boulder, Colo. Ultimately, this experience proved to be the watershed moment in Goldstein's career from which he began teaching grassroots retreats both in the United States and worldwide, a period of work that culminated in the founding of IMS.

Goldstein's work has influenced everything from Buddhist-informed psychotherapy to mindfulness-based stress reduction programs to cutting edge research on meditation and neuroscience. Columbia's preeminent Tibetan Buddhist scholar, the Jey Tsong Khapa Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies in the Department of Religion Robert Thurman affirms, "Joseph has been a great teacher for many, many people, helping them enormously. His recent book, *One Dharma*, has been influential in reducing divisiveness and sectarianism in the extremely diverse American Buddhist community. The Insight Meditation Society has been an important force in American culture, and it is well positioned to carry on its work for generations. All in all, Joseph is an American Buddhist 'Venerable.' "

Joshua Summers '97 is strategist at Sati Solutions, a mindfulness-based strategy firm.

tine and Montaigne. Part two is being offered this winter, featuring *King Lear*, Virginia Wolff and Toni Morrison. Christia Mercer, the professor, artfully weaves in touches of CC and Art Hum as well, putting the literature in a broader cultural context. Class made me feel young again, tackling the issues presented by these texts, and I'm looking forward to the continuation. I hope to see you all on campus in a few months at reunion!"

I second Steve's hope to see you all at our 45th reunion Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. As stated in my last column, planning for our class' 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend continues to accelerate. The current thinking includes a cocktail reception hosted by **Michael Cook** on Thursday, June 3; a Chelsea art gallery crawl led by **A.G. Rosen** on Friday afternoon, June 4, followed by a private tour and cocktail party reception at the Bloomberg headquarters; an on-campus class luncheon on Saturday, June 5; and a cocktail reception and dinner for our class that evening.

If you have news about yourself that you would like to share before the reunion, *CCT*'s publication schedule requires that it be submitted by early March for publication in the May/June issue. Get your news to me as soon as you see this column!

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"Returning to New York City after two decades of exile in Los Angeles has been better than I could have imagined," wrote **Jim Matison** late last year. He continues, "My wife, 5-year-old daughter and I moved to California for business purposes in 1989. I left believing we would be back in New York at the end of my five-year contract with a Fortune 500 company, but life got in the way. We made great friends in Los Angeles, but the pull of family, old friends and the life in New York was increasingly difficult to resist. Last December, my wife and I drove our two hybrids in tandem across the country, stopping in a dozen second-tier tourist spots (e.g., Biosphere 2 (Arizona), Carlsbad Caverns (New Mexico), the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum (Arkansas), The Hermitage (Tennessee), etc.) and using only \$225 in gasoline (gas prices had dropped fortuitously), averaging more than 50 miles per gallon. We arrived in New York on Christmas Eve, feeling we had finally arrived home.

"We live on Claremont Avenue



Even at a Vermont Mozart festival, alumni were showing their school pride. Pictured (clockwise from top left) are David Blanchard '67, Gerry Botha '67, Robert Chapla '68 and Bruce Chattman '67.

PHOTO: EVE PRANIS

(subletting an apartment from a couple of professors who are spending a year abroad) and are looking forward to finding a more permanent home next summer. There is something strange about going to the Dodge Fitness Center as an older alumnus, realizing that many of the sweating throngs could be my grandchildren (yes, where did the years go?). I have a daughter (25) who lives in New York and who created a successful Web site catering to New Yorkers and tourists who want to explore cultural, scenic, entertaining and novel places outside of Manhattan but who don't have a car to get around. Every destination on www.offmanhattan.com is accessible by public transportation. Smart idea and actually quite useful for anyone who is not afraid of stepping off the island to the outer boroughs and beyond.

"I recently was hired as the executive director of a not-for-profit that for nearly 120 years has been providing educational and social services to hundreds of young children in impoverished areas of Brooklyn. If anyone wants to do some good for kids in need, volunteer or simply write a check to the Brooklyn Kindergarten Society (www.bksny.org).

"The Columbia campus is changing slowly, but the old brick paths and the wonderful century-old buildings still look great. And the amount of stimulating cultural activities available every day and night are fantastic.

"I miss seeing **Paul Hirsch** and **Ron Brookshire**, who have lived in Los Angeles since the 1970s. Paul was nominated a year ago for an Academy Award for his brilliant

film editing of *Ray* but couldn't repeat by winning another Oscar, as he did for *Star Wars*. Brooks has kept his sense of humor (but not his waistline) and is living a comfortable, semi-retired existence near the Pacific, where he surfs regularly.

"I did my Southern California thing recently and made an appointment with a dermatologist who was highly recommended by my new internist. **Dr. Herbert Hochman**, former lightweight oarsman on the 1963 freshman team, walks into the office and more than 40 years of separation disappeared. There is something about old old friends. Is it being 65 that makes us nostalgic, or am I just getting more sentimental as I age?"

"Looking forward to seeing other classmates soon."

Jim's e-mail address is jmatison@aol.com.

After a decade in magazine writing and editing, **Stephen Steiner**, former editor of *CCT* and sports editor of *Spectator*, has spent the past 28 years in public relations at Jewish organizations, the last eight as PR director of the Orthodox Union (the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America). During that time, he has had one wife (Joy), two children (Andrea and David) and three cats. Steve has lived in Briarwood, Queens, for 29 years. He can be contacted at steiners@ou.org.

Just in time before a major snowstorm shrouded the entire Northeast on the eve of the winter solstice, **Josh Gutman** and his wife, Eva, managed to get out of Boston to fly south — way south — to Rio de Janeiro. They had three lovely days here (we ordered good weather for them) and also spent an evening with your correspondent and his wife, Gilda. We were delighted to renew acquaintances and hope to see them again. From Rio, Josh and Eva went on to Iguacu Falls and then to Buenos Aires.

Josh can be reached at joshua.gutman@yahoo.com.

Our congratulations to **Leam Lowin**, whose daughter, Rebekah, has been accepted to the Class of 2014 via early decision. She is a senior at Greenwich Academy in Connecticut.

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Mark Schlesinger has retired after many years in higher education administration at UMass. He has lots of plans, including visits to old friends and getting out on his kayak. The annual renewal of FOGW (Four Old Guys Walking) — Mark,

Stan Adelman, Dan Carlinsky '65 and Steve Bachenheimer '68E — took them on their first international hike, from Lubec, Maine, across to Campobello Island, New Brunswick, and back.

Diane and I welcomed Sadie, our third grandchild. All of our children, spouses and grandchildren, 11 in all, made it home for Christmas.

Please do write. As a member of the cleverest class, you must be up to something ...

68

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Happy belated New Year. I hope you all were warm somewhere, as it seems that anywhere you went, it was cold. I thought of Miami Beach for the weekend ... So much for that idea.

I recently had my regular, once-in-a-while lunch with **Paul de Bary**, and we were talking about Ivy League basketball. The Columbia team seems to have lots of potential, but injuries may slow this team's progress. Football was great this year in many ways. For those of you who haven't seen a game in a while, I predict this coming year's team should be very good.

I received a wonderful e-mail Christmas card from **Mas Taketomo** and heard from **Reid Feldman**. I wonder when Reid will next be in from Paris. And **Ken Tomecki** (and his wife, Eileen) sent a card from the "tundra of Cleveland." **Dr. Tomecki**, the vice-chairman of his department, seemed to be in grand humor at the reunion. I wonder how he does in cold weather.

So there were many other cards and calls, and I should stop. This is not a "send me a card at holiday time" note.

Greg Winn left me a cheerful message. I called back with no luck but will try again. He said he was retiring, but that is hard to believe.

The end of 2009 was a challenge for me, as my mom, almost 94, passed away. She always was an inspiration and had a photographic memory. She left Malden H.S. to go to Portia Law School when she was 17 and had to wait a year to take the bar because she was too young when she graduated. I am sure many of us have had parents pass on, and moms are surely special.

Bo Oryshkevich continues to help young folks from Ukraine come to America to go to college. I marvel at his persistence and his devotion to this cause. His efforts are sending students to the finest colleges and universities in America.

Keep up the fabulous work!

Susan and **Bob Carlson** continue to send the most amazing pictures from Sitka, Alaska. Bob, thanks for them. I wonder if the whole class should receive them, and how we could to that. The pigeons out my window can't vie with your eagles.

Bob Levine was in town from California, as was **Phil Mandelker** from Israel, during my mom's last days, so I couldn't see them, but I hope they will call again.

I received this note from **Chris Friedrichs** — we all need to visit him in British Columbia. He wrote: "I was pleased to get the latest copy of *CCT*. And I am very pleased that alumni outside the United States can continue to receive paper copies of *CCT* if they prefer [www.college.columbia.edu/cct/subscribe].

"I am still at the University of British Columbia. It is neither British nor Columbia, but it's a fine university, and I enjoy my job as much as ever. My wife and I became grandparents for the second time in May 2009. We now have a granddaughter (3) and a baby grandson in Brooklyn. I teach, my wife teaches, our daughter is a teacher (in Brooklyn) and our older son is a teacher (in Vancouver). But our younger son has rebelled against the family tradition. After getting his B.A., he set his sights on a culinary career and is now a restaurant cook!"

I wonder if Chris has views on *Spectator* today. I check its Web site once in a while (www.spectator.com). Chris, can you update me on where your *Spectator* team is now? I bet you know.

I bumped into **Ira McCown** recently. He was, as always, charming, and is spending time — I think I have this right — in Los Angeles. He lives on the Upper West Side, and it looks like he can row faster than **Tom Sanford**.

One final note: I continue — at a high-end gym to which I belong — to see **Seth Weinstein**, who refuses to age. He seems to be in grand humor, some of the time. And he likes to bike in Central Park even when it is quite cold.

So all the best to you and your families for a special and wonderful 2010, hopefully full of good health and peace.

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I just love it when news about classmates literally arrives at my

doorstep. This happened twice during the current column cycle. First, *The New York Times* Book Review for November 15 carried a review of **Paul Auster's** 15th novel, *Invisible*. It is as good a review as an author could wish; the reviewer — herself a novelist — revealed at the outset that she was "not a fan of Auster's last few books" but finished her summary of the book with these enviable words: "It is the finest novel Paul Auster has ever written." (I am sure Paul must be pleased. I know I enjoy being told six times a year that "This is the best *CCT* column you have ever written.") Despite the book's title, Paul has hardly been invisible. He is well-known in literary circles around the world, he gives readings and lectures, and he is among our classmates having a Wikipedia posting devoted to him alone (where one is told that "[i]n the 2008 Russian film *Плюс один* (Plus One), the main character is in the process of translating one of Auster's books."). Paul is no stranger to films, having screenplay and director credits, and he also has written song lyrics. What he hasn't written is a *CCT* item about himself, but he gets a pass, since news about him repeatedly shows up anyway.

Then, on December 27, 2009, it would have been hard to overlook the news of **Nick Weber's** latest book, *The Bauhaus Group: Six Masters in Modernism*. The Book Review section carried a mostly favorable review from John Simon (whose career has produced more criticism than praise for a variety of works), and the Arts & Leisure Section ran an article by Nick himself, "Deadly Style: Bauhaus's Nazi Connection." Nick's book, as suggested by the title, is a group biography, covering architects Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; painters Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky and Josef Albers; and weaver and textile designer Anni Albers, Josef's wife. The Bauhaus — as stated in the review — "was meant to reconcile beauty, simplicity, unity and mass production." Nick's article discusses new information about "how palpably" the Bauhaus influence lived on in the Third Reich (when most scholars had thought the school ended in 1933 "when its remaining faculty members shut it down rather than work with the Nazis").

Nick is the director of the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation [editor's note: See the alumni profile in March/April 2008: www.college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/mar_apr08] and the author of 13 previous books, among them *The Clarks of Cooperstown*; *Balthus: A Biography*; *Patron Saints: Five Rebels Who Opened America to a New Art, 1928–1943* and *The Art of Babar*. The book review made reference

to "Weber's very pretty wife and gifted daughters," which naturally prompted me to contact Nick for some personal news. Nick replied: "My wife Katharine's fifth novel, *True Confessions*, was published in January; daughter Lucy is working in fashion-related P.R. in New York; and daughter Charlotte is studying psychoanalysis and training to be a psychotherapist in London." When I asked Nick which professors have had an influence on his career, he authorized me to copy the following tribute from his new book:

"When I was a senior at Columbia College in 1968–69, I took a semester-long course in the Bloomsbury group, which was then far less well-known than it has since become. Naturally, we read Woolf and Forster and Strachey and others, and discussed a large cast of characters and their work. At the end of the term, when we sat down for our three-hour exam with our blue books in front of us, we expected the usual two or three mimeographed pages with a combination of short multiple-choice questions and complex essay topics. Instead, the brilliant young professor, Michael Rosenthal, went to the blackboard, picked up a piece of chalk, and wrote, in large letters, 'What is Bloomsbury?' He then faced the dozen or so students and said, 'That's the exam question. You have three hours.' I have never gotten over the brilliance of Professor Rosenthal and his directive. There was no right or wrong answer; what counted was our understanding of the underlying passions and goals of an artistic movement led by very different individuals. Forty years later, I remain extremely grateful to a teacher who encouraged us to see the broad picture while also knowing each genius for who he or she was. My goal in this book has been to capture the true spirit of the Bauhaus while, I hope, evoking the marvelous personalities of the people I consider its stars."

Nick told me that he sent a copy of the book to Professor Rosenthal and "had an extremely nice letter from him." Nick added: "That way of thinking remains the essence of our education at CC. We were taught not simply to memorize facts, but to consider the real value and meaning of art and literature, and to appreciate the originality and bravery of creative pioneers. I am forever grateful." (Note to Columbia College Fund executive director: Here is some great language for the fund solicitation.)

For those who are counting, so far this column has referred to 34 books, and it didn't even mention Paul's translations and other books beyond the novels.

As much as I love news about classmates just appearing in other media, I really appreciate those occasions when a classmate reads a column, is stopped by one of my pitiful prayers for news and actually contacts me. That happened after November/December appeared. From **Mike Schnipper**: "This summer, Ann and **Roger Walaszek** (my freshman floormate and law school roommate) got together with my wife, Ida, and me on Cape Cod, after about 35 years. Roger has a terrific memory and reminded me of many things I had forgotten (like carrying his law school books from 122nd Street to the Law School for the several months his leg was in a cast). Roger looks exactly as he did in law school, only the mop of hair is gray."

Steve Steindel also contacted me after reading November/December, largely to graciously comment on the news item about me that the column included. Knowing it was time for Steve to share some news, I asked him to do so. Steve writes: "It might be of interest to classmates that our 40th anniversary Alumni Reunion Weekend on campus had the entire Steindel clan together in Pittsburgh for a gala weekend and tribute dinner marking the conclusion of 23 years in the pulpit of Congregation Beth Shalom. In all, 33 years and 90 percent of my congregational rabbinic life was in the city of Heinz, Warhol, Lemieux and Crosby. My wife, Lisa, and I have relocated to Boston to be within walking distance of our three young grandchildren, born to our two oldest daughters. Sara '99 is married to Andrew Dauber '99, and they came as newlyweds for his HMS career. Andrew received his M.D. in 2004, and Sara earned her M.B.A. from HBS in 2005. They made us grandparents with the birth of Boaz in 2007. Shiri graduated from Penn in '01 and received her M.B.A. from Yale in '09. She is married to Josh Friedman '06 JTS, and they presented us with grandson No. 2, Niv, in August 2008. All of us now live within a mile of one another in Brookline, and it is a blessing beyond words to have granddaughter Jordana, born in August 2009, in the mix. If only daughter Sivya '04 GW and her husband, Keith Leventhal '03 Maryland, weren't so far away in Pasco, Wash., where he does TV sports every evening on CBS affiliate WKPR in the Tri-Cities. Our youngest, son Avi '08 Haifa University and Duquesne, is the only branch of the family still in Pittsburgh, serving as youth director at Beth Shalom and guiding the fortunes of his successful rock band, Vindell.

"I am happily doing 30 hours a week as a chaplain intern in the Clinical Pastoral Education program of Brigham and Women's

Hospital, an easy 15-minute walk up the avenue and halfway to Fenway Park. I have time not only for family but also for pleasure reading, sports on TV and walking. While I have yet to take up competitive bicycling or cross-country skiing, I have to believe I'm happier and healthier than when Lisa and I moved here in May. Oh yeah, the Penguins won the Stanley Cup, too. And one of these days, I'll be taking Boaz ice skating."

Finally, my other favorite source of news is word from the Admissions Office that the Class of 1969 legacy group has grown. Congratulations to **Bill Bonvillian**, whose son, Marcus, was accepted early admission to the Class of 2014. As reported in November/December, Bill is director of MIT's Washington office and co-author of the book *Structuring an Energy Technology Revolution*.

So, classmates, unless you know you will be written about in newspapers, now would be the right moment to e-mail me your news and/or views.

REUNION JUNE 3-JUNE 6

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This is my first column as class correspondent for the Class of '70. I take over duties that were carried out with absolute distinction by my friend **Peter Stevens**. I confess to having mostly fond memories of my undergraduate years, even though we all lived through the "Revolution." I will be contacting as many of you as I can in order to solicit submissions for this column.

Please note that our 40th Alumni Reunion Weekend will take place Thursday, June 3-Sunday, June 6. The events kick off on Thursday with a with a tour of the High Line and a cocktail party at the Gaslight G2 Lounge. Our distinguished classmate Dr. **Mark Pruzansky** will host the Friday night class reception at his Park Avenue apartment. The Saturday activities will include lectures, courses, a wine tasting and a class dinner. At dinner on Saturday, we will honor the basketball team that won the Ivy championship in 1968; two of the stars of that team, you may remember, were **Jim McMillian** and **Heyward Dotson** '76L.

I hope that many of you will return to campus for this important reunion, and I urge all who can to make a special contribution to the College in recognition of this milestone.

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A short column, but a lot to think about.

From an interview by Aaron Elstein in *Crain's New York Business*, December 14: "Turnaround expert **Meyer Sandy Frucher** faces one of his toughest projects in trying to revive New York City Off-Track Betting Corp., which operates 66 betting parlors and filed for bankruptcy earlier this month. He brings a wealth of experience, having served as the state's chief labor negotiator, chief executive of the Battery Park City Authority, and CEO of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange before selling the institution last year to Nasdaq, where he's a vice chairman. As chairman of the NYC OTB, he's working for free.

"How did a gambling business ever get into such financial trouble?"

"Everyone likes to joke, 'How can a bookie operation lose money?' Well, the bookie didn't lose money. But this operation has been distributing its money to city and state governments and the racing industry for 40 years, so it's never had the capital it needed to improve the business because it was at the end of the food chain. So what you're left with is a static bricks-and-mortar business model with parlors declining in appearance, amenities and technology.

John Borek '71 is director of artist development at the Multi-Use Community Cultural Center in Rochester, N.Y.

"Why even bother trying to rescue the OTB business?"

"It's a good question, and my answer is that this business, even in its current state, is still providing \$100 million a year to the city, state and racing industry. I would add that there's no such thing as a free shutdown: We have \$200 million in pension and benefit obligations to employees that have built up over the years, and those pension benefits are constitutionally guaranteed.

"How are you going to change how the OTB works?"

"It will be difficult because

there are so many interconnected interests, but it's doable. The racing industry supports 40,000 jobs directly or indirectly, and a lot of those jobs are upstate, where there are 500 farms that raise horses. We have to convince people it's not business as usual anymore. In the old days there was enough money, people would line up and go to legislature and come up with a solution. That's over."

John Borek: "Columbia B.A.s can do anything. Of this I am finally convinced. After careers as a bookseller, a stockbroker and a community activist, I now am the director of artist development at the MuCCC Theater (Multi-Use Community Cultural Center) in Rochester, N.Y.

"The premise is affordable theater both in terms of ticket prices and theater company overhead. As a result, we have hosted 17 theater/performance companies since we opened last March and have presented works as varied as *Edge*, a one-woman show about the last hours of Sylvia Plath, and *Closer*, the celebrated British sex drama by Patrick Marber. Teen poetry slams, a dance troupe, a night of performance art and my own odd concept art pieces fill out our schedule. We won the Theater Association of New York Award for Community Service in this, our first, year.

"Decades ago, a math professor, not at Columbia, asked me why I majored in English literature since I already spoke English. I look at my eccentric work record and my happy life and answer him, 'This is why.' Thank you, Columbia."

Lambert Chee: "My wife of 37 years, Sandra, passed away unexpectedly on December 13 from complications of acute leukemia.

and your classmates, and they look forward to seeing you.

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Clearly we've reached that point in our lives when reminiscences of things past come more easily than they once did. **Scott Atran**, for example, is a presidential scholar in sociology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice of CUNY, visiting professor of psychology and public policy at the University of Michigan and research director in anthropology at the National Center for Scientific Research in France. Scott sent a memory (truncated here for space reasons) from his time as an anthropology doctoral student at Columbia about Claude Lévi-Strauss, arguably the world's most famous and influential anthropologist, who died last October 30 at 100.

Scott had been working for Margaret Mead since he was an undergrad and wanted to organize a discussion with scholars whose ideas he'd admired. Mead sent him to invite a small group of notables, including Chomsky, Piaget, Monod and Lévi-Strauss. Tracking down Lévi-Strauss in Paris, Scott found that Mead's name opened the door for him, and Lévi-Strauss accepted his invitation. "At the discussion, which took place over the course of a few days at the Abbaye de Royaumont outside Paris, Lévi-Strauss sat patiently and said nothing as others spoke their piece or pontificated, or pleaded and shouted their oppositions. But his doodles of cats and other real and fantastical animals were stunning, and those he left behind were the objects of a fierce competition among some of the conference's participants, including myself. On the way to our last lunch, Chomsky, who had dominated this conference of Nobel-prize winning biologists and world-famous mathematicians, philosophers, psychologists and anthropologists as I have never seen anyone do before or after, walked up to Lévi-Strauss and said in a shy sort of way: 'Perhaps you remember me when I sat in on your class at Harvard with Roman Jakobson?' Lévi-Strauss looked at Chomsky and said: 'I'm sorry, but no.' Those were the only words he would utter in the conference room.

"In an interview the following year, Lévi-Strauss was asked what recent intellectual developments he considered to be important. He said that what had transpired at Royaumont was the most significant intellectual event he had thus far encountered in the second half

of the 20th century. He also implied that his time was in the past: 'I imagine myself in the New World with Columbus for the first time,' he mused, 'a symphony of sounds, of colors, of smells, of desires and of hopes. Then I imagine myself on the moon with the astronauts, and all I see is gray, dust and barren rocks, and the earth I long for is far out of reach.' "

Alan Sheiner brings us up to date on his life since graduation and reflects on the Columbia experience. "I attended the NYU College of Dentistry and 'did Columbia proud' by graduating first in my class every year and picking up a bunch of prizes and honors through the years. I completed a general practice residency at Einstein, followed by residency and fellowship in prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Since then, I have essentially been in private practice with faculty appointments at Mount Sinai and a short stint running a graduate pros program a few years ago. I married Dale, a Finch College grad, right after finals my first year at NYU. Dale and I were happily married for 36 years; she passed away in December 2008. I still live in the house we built in New Canaan, Conn., with our miniature poodle, Roxanne, whom we adopted in Paris in 2000. After Dale died, I switched from using my rowing erg (Concept 2) to serious cycling and spend most of my spare time with my cycling club — even riding in subzero temps or riding indoors at a triathlon training center in Westport — or with the Columbia Club in Fairfield County, where I am on the executive committee.

"Other than that, I have been living a quiet life. I have come to value the subtleties of the CC education. Things come up when least expected that illuminate a thought process and appreciation possibly secondary to the student body/Core Curriculum combo. I was at Low Rotunda a couple of months ago for an Alumni Association dinner, and that episode with Mark Rudd [69] during freshman week came flooding back as we were entering the dinner — our class gave Dean [Carl] Hovde [50] a standing ovation after he rebutted Rudd quite well."

For a memoir of a different sort, check out **Jonathan Freedman's** Web site and blog: <http://confessionsofahausmann.tumblr.com>. When last heard from, Jonathan was pursuing his career as a writer and journalist in San Diego, with the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing gleaming on his shelf. But life takes odd turns: "Then the newspaper business tanked, the housing bubble popped, the stock

market crashed and my wife came home with big news. 'I got a job offer in Basel.' 'Ah, basil!' The smell of pesto wafted through my mind. 'Not the herb, the city on the Rhine River.' It was an offer she couldn't refuse. She tests experimental drugs to treat kids with cancer. I look after our kids, Genevieve (9) and Lincoln (7). In Swiss German, they call a stay-at-home dad like me a *hausmann*. There are other pejorative words for guys like us: wimps, wusses ... " When he can slip away from his household duties, Jonathan works on his new book, *Confessions of a Hausmann*.

In civilian life, **William Paul Diefenbach** is a neurosurgeon at St. Vincent Hospital in Erie, Pa. But he's also a colonel in the Army Reserve, and this past fall Paul was on active duty in the Medical Corps on a 90-day Boots on the Ground rotation, operating at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, 50 miles from Baghdad. The medical team at the hospital provided trauma care to injured soldiers and stabilized them so that they could be air evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany, before returning to the United States. Four years earlier, Paul had served at Landstuhl. The team also provided care to detainees and Iraqi soldiers, police and civilians. Most injuries occurred from improvised explosive devices and gunshot wounds. To put his Iraq experience into perspective, the base where Paul served is nicknamed "Mortartaville" because it endures one to three mortar attacks weekly. "We were protected by predator drones flying overhead and naval C-RAM structures, which fire 4,000 rounds of explosives at incoming mortar. When attacks occurred, we had to take cover in a protected area and put on our 'battle rattle,' which is protective body armor. The hardest part of being there was living in a war zone region, knowing that there are bad guys on the other side of the 'wire' who want to kill you. Basically, I was an old man serving in a war being fought by young people. I have a lot of respect and admiration for what they are doing. They are putting their lives on the line to help the Iraqis gain security of their country so we can leave. All I did was fix broken soldiers."

Alex Abella writes, "I've been in California since the 1970s, working as a journalist, novelist and translator. My last book, *Soldiers of Reason: The RAND Corporation and the Rise of the American Empire*, was favorably reviewed in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. I live in the Los Angeles area with my California-born wife and three children. My 18-year-old daughter, alas, has decided not to brave the snows of New York and the frigid

winds off Riverside Drive and opted to attend a California college, which shall go unnamed here. My second child also has stated his strong preference for studying in the Golden State, but I still hold hope that my youngest will attend my alma mater. Columbia may have to wait a while, though: he's only 6. All the same, I'm planning to attend the 40th reunion. It will be my first time back since graduation — although I skipped the ceremony in '72; it was too 'establishment' for my taste. I still have my diploma, written in Latin, which I will get around to framing one of these days. The one thing that Columbia taught me, and for which I will always be grateful, was how to think — how to analyze and how to mount an argument and a counterargument. That and, of course, the Core Curriculum. I still get by on my recollections of the Kant, Montaigne and Ortega I read for Contemporary Civilization. I just wish every university in the country offered the same courses."

Beresford (Berry) Hayward fills in the years since he left Morning-side Heights: "I finished my last two years of undergrad work here in Paris, returning only briefly to New York in 1973 to collect my diploma. I haven't been back to the States since then — no reason for me to go into the details, but that's what happened! Nevertheless, my Columbia years stick with me: the wonderful courses with Arthur Danto, Pearl Bell and Leon Roudiez, and a graduate seminar with Donald Frame on Montaigne that reinforced all of the things I was looking for intellectually and artistically. Columbia allowed me two years independent study in Paris, and most of my professors from that period became close friends."

Berry became interested in and translated the work of the great French psychoanalysts before immersing himself in jazz and improvised music in the early '80s. "One night, at a jazz club, the Riverbop (in 1972), when I was playing some really wild free-jazz, which included a long recorder solo, some musicians from the early music movement asked me to go with them the next day to meet Antoine Geoffroy-Dechaume, the musicologist and harpsichordist. Well, that transformed my life. We had ahead of us a 30-year relationship of playing and practicing together until his death at 96. My work with him led to my forming my own vocal group and instrumental ensemble with which I recorded some 20 CDs devoted to medieval, renaissance, baroque and traditional European repertoires for Erato, BNL and Milan records.

"For the last six years, I have

been directing the choirs and the instrumental ensembles at the Maison des Métallos (a cultural center under the auspices of the Mairie de Paris): Malian and Arabic music (I formed a choir in Sana'a, Yemen, and did a project with young musicians from Ramallah), jazz, Turkish music, writing projects, rap with children in deprived school districts, Medieval cycles, etc."

Berry is married to Claire Caillard, a harpsichordist and choir director, and they have three children: two musicians and an actress. "Because I spent only one school year on campus and have not returned to the United States for such a long time, I have lost track of friends, and this I regret. But I would like to take this occasion to *saluer d'anciens amis que je n'ai pas vus depuis longtemps!*: **Bill Hudgins, James Arden, David Lehman '70, Peter Frank and Peter Grossman.'**"

Speaking of **Bill Hudgins**, for the past three years, he and his wife, Wilda Dodson, have been foster parents to a changing cast of abused and neglected horses. Rescued by Volunteer Equine Advocates, the equines are usually malnourished and extremely underweight. At Bill and Wilda's microfarm in Gallatin, Tenn., they have rest, pasture, hay, a creek and nutritious grain feeds as well as love. Though a town kid, Bill has taken avidly to rising at dawn to feed and water the horses as well as the two donkeys he and his wife adopted and named Edgar and Rice Burros. Bill also has been chairman of the town's Beer Permit Board, which he says Columbia helped prepare him for.

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Good news first: Julia Jarrett, daughter of **Mark Jarrett**, was an early admission to the Class of 2014.

After many years in the Northeast, **Henry Weisman** has moved to El Paso, Texas, where he is the director of the psychiatric residency program and the Psychiatric Consultation Liaison Service at Texas Tech. The Paul L. Foster School of Medicine is brand new, and the med school is the only one on the U.S./Mexico border. Henry writes that "the work combines two areas (the medical-psychiatric interface and teaching psychiatry) that I have loved and developed during the past three decades or so."

Angelo Falcon, through his work with the National Institute for Latino Policy, has been promoting the participation of Latinos in the 2010 census. Last year was the 27th

anniversary of the NiLP, which Angelo co-founded with **Jose Sanchez** (Jose teaches at LIU–Brooklyn). Some other high points of 2009 for the NiLP were participation in the campaign to get Sonia Sotomayor elected to the Supreme Court as well as the censure of Lou Dobbs from CNN “for his inflammatory anti-immigrant rants.”

Don Jensen married the former Nataliya Khyzhniak on December 12 in Washington, D.C. Nataliya is the Washington, D.C., correspondent for the BBC Ukrainian Service. **Barry Kelner** was best man. Don is resident fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins, where he specializes in the politics and economics of the former Soviet Union. He’s a consultant to various federal agencies and has a weekly blog on the Voice of America Web site (www.vo.gov) where he debates current foreign issues with his partner in Moscow. In his spare time, Don is a baseball historian, now working on his fourth book (on the New York Giants of the 1880s). He and his wife live in Alexandria, Va.

And, finally, the bad news; we regret the passing of **John Eckel** on November 13. John founded Copano Energy in 1992 and was most recently its chairman and CEO.

He was a great supporter of many nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. He will be missed sorely. [Editor’s note: See Obituaries.]

Keep ‘em comin’, troupe. No News Too Small is our stock in trade. Hasta.

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“The War on Fun: Barnard Cracks Down on Party Scene.” The recent *Spectator* headline caught my eye, not least of all because I don’t recall the great BHR (the Brooks, Hewitt and Reid dorms at Barnard) “party scene.” (Perhaps the garbage cans of sangria caused the brain cells with these memories to die.) Reading the article made me realize how different life has become on our campus and at most colleges across the nation.

No longer can you just flash a Columbia/Barnard ID and get into the dorms. Now the Barnard or Columbia hosts must come down and sign in their guests. At Barnard suites, residents are limited to two guests per person (which means only 12 guests for a suite of six residents). Columbia allows five guests per resident. I guess we will have to add to our list of “back in my day” tales how we used to “party-hardy” in a serious way!

And get this: The 21 drinking age has led to major changes in general. There are now fines and requirements of community service for alcohol use in the dorms, coming back to the dorms intoxicated or going to the hospital due to alcohol. The Class of ‘74 would never have survived these Puritan times! (Just thinking of it makes me want to reach for a Singapore Sling.)

Almost all of the news in this column comes from the two coasts. Hope to receive more from the midlands and from classmates abroad. I also have to admit that Facebook postings have helped to locate news on a number of classmates who have slipped off the radar. (If you want to get in contact with classmates, try putting “Columbia College 1974” in to the friend finder. At least 15 percent of the class is on Facebook. Seems nerdy at first — until you make contact with a long-lost friend.)

As usual at this time of year, the column starts with congratulations for the children of classmates who have gained admission to the College. This year, the sole child admitted “early decision” was Leigh Colvin, daughter of **Geoff Colvin**. Leigh will be joining her brothers, Jeremy ‘08 and Andrew

Vic Fortuno ‘74 has been named the interim president of the Legal Services Corp. in Washington, D.C.

‘10, as members of the Columbia College family. Welcome, Leigh!

A Twitter alert (or “tweet”) came in announcing that **Vic Fortuno** has been named the interim president of Legal Services Corp. in Washington, D.C. (while he “gets” to also continue his current positions as general counsel and v.p. of legal affairs of the organization). Coincidentally, Legal Services was created by Congress in 1974 with the backing of President Nixon. It offers legal representation for more than one million poor people and gives legal advice to an additional five million in all 50 states.

I had been looking for **Brad Higgins** for the past year. Knowing that he was a Bush appointee (as assistant secretary of state) following his role as CFO of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, a career change was inevitable as of January 2009. Brad now is a managing partner of the venture capital company SOSventures. The firm is based in Ireland, and Brad has established a stateside office in Stamford, Conn. Its investing is focused on new companies in the areas of energy and the environment.

Trolling the list of CC ‘74 names on Facebook, I saw a long-lost class-

mate: **Andy Tron**. From the bio information, I see that he lives in Bedford Hills, N.Y., and owns what is listed as “andytron Lighting & stage management.” I hope to get you more on Andy in a future column.

Moving to the West Coast, we learn that two classmates have shared time toiling in various parts of Chevron in various parts of California — with one big difference.

Louis Klonsky (in Bakersfield, Calif.) started working at the energy concern in 1978 and continues as a geophysicist “drilling for oil — the evil empire, I suppose.” **Mark Goldstein** started working for Chevron in 1979 and retired from his position as a project manager in 2008. He now lives in Oakland, Calif., and spends his time reading, hiking, investing and traveling. Both have logged more than 30 years at the same company — an achievement in these times of job-hopping.

After leaving the College, **John Chen** studied economics at the East Bay campus of California State University and continued his education at the London School of Economics. John lives in San Mateo, Calif., and is a consultant at Global InvestTech Solutions.

Close to the West Coast we find Dr. **Christopher Puca** living in Tucson and working for the Casas Adobes Physicians group. Despite a busy schedule, Chris does advocacy for those needing pain management.

An update to the recent note about the intimate dinner party (18 people) that Dr. **Steve DeCherney** had with HRH, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Phillip, at Buckingham Palace. Steve wrote, “I forgot to tell you a funny anecdote. The Prince asked me where I received my education, to which I proudly replied ‘Columbia College, along with other degrees.’ The prince hesitated a moment, smiled, and said, ‘Ah, yes — Kings College in New York.’ I am not making this up. I guess the Empire lives on . . .”

There you have it. Classmates who have stayed at the same company for three decades, those switching responsibilities at the same organization and those starting a new career. Some show up on Facebook, while others are spending “face time” with a prince. Many different paths are being followed, and this column tries to report them all. Take a moment to send a letter or e-mail so your

classmates can find out where your path has led.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6

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75

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Before I start reporting on other items, I want to pass on some good news of my own. I recently closed on a new home in the Canton area of Baltimore (see new address above). It’s beautiful and will be a great party house. Those of you in the Baltimore/Washington/Wilmington/Philadelphia area should expect to get invitations to Columbia (or other) events at my new home in the near future!

After 19 years of service to New York’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority, **Gary Dellaverson** has retired and is done fighting the good fight to keep MTA solvent.

After practicing for 16 years at Horne, Bistrow & Dulberg, **Michael Dulberg** joined the Phoenix law firm of Burch & Cracchiolo in 2000 as a shareholder. Before moving to Arizona, he served as an assistant district attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, where he tried more than 40 felony cases. Since 1984, Mike’s practice has concentrated on construction law and commercial litigation, focusing primarily on helping clients resolve disputes that typically arise out of construction projects. He has represented the gamut within the construction industry, from property owners to design professionals, contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers, obtaining a jury verdict of more than \$3 million in a business tort case arising out of a street improvement project and defending numerous multi-million-dollar construction claims. Mike is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, which is its highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. He has lectured to the State Bar of Arizona and various construction industry groups on construction law issues.

Mike and his wife, Marcy, recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Their older son, Adam, graduated from Penn in 2008 and is in his second year with Teach for America teaching social studies at William Penn H.S. in Philadelphia and has been accepted at Georgetown Law School

to begin this fall. Younger son, David, is a broadcast journalism major at the University of Southern California, Class of 2012.

Father **C. John McCloskey III** sent holiday greetings on the Feast of the Holy Innocents (December 28). He continues his writing and pastoral work from his home in Chicago.

Father **Moses (né Michael Worchester)** also sent holiday greetings, with the reminder that he and his monastery were gearing up for Christmas according to the Julian calendar on January 7. On December 25, they celebrated one of the feasts of St. Herman.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Business Valuation section awarded **Robert F. Reilly**, a managing director at Willamette Management Associates, a leading national independent financial valuation and financial advisory firm, its Volunteer of the Year Award. The announcement was made during the 2009 AICPA National Business Valuation Conference in San Francisco in November.

During the week between Christmas and New Year's, I got a holiday call from my good buddy **Bob Schneider**. After giving best wishes from him and his wife, Regina, Bob passed some news. Of the 2,500 freshmen at Penn, 50 are selected for interviews and 12 are selected for the position of peer tutor in the Penn Writing/English Composition Program. As a proud father, he's happy to report that his daughter, Meg, was selected.

Yes, it is time for another reunion. Plan to meet your classmates, their families and Columbians from other years and schools on campus Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. We've planned an exciting program of tours, seminars, parties and dinners. You've heard some already (Dead Head or not, we're in for a treat!) and will be receiving registration packets soon. Please do plan to join us. And, whether you can attend reunion or not, know that one of your classmates will be calling you to ask for a contribution to our anniversary gift to the Columbia College Fund. When you get that call, please be generous. Every dollar counts in supporting the young men and women who will build all of our futures as the leaders of tomorrow and the next generation.

Your Reunion Committee is working hard to plan a great reunion, as well as raise a substantial class gift. You should have received information on the matching challenge issued by one of our classmates: Any classmate who has never made a John Jay-level gift (\$1,500 or more) and makes one this year will have his gift matched dollar for dollar from the

donor's matching pool. Anyone who was a John Jay donor in the last 10 years but who didn't make a John Jay-level gift in fiscal year 2008–2009 can renew his John Jay gift at or above his last John Jay gift and have it matched dollar for dollar from the donor's matching pool. Current \$1,000–\$2,500 level donors who increase to the Fellow level (\$3,500–\$4,999) will have their gifts matched dollar for dollar from the donor's matching pool. And Sponsor-level donors (\$5,000) who raise their gifts to the Benefactor level (\$10,000) will have their gifts matched dollar for dollar from the donor's matching pool.

One of the Reunion Gift Committee members may have called you already. If not, or if you have not yet made your gift, or you would like to make an additional gift to participate in the challenge, please go to www.college.columbia.edu/giveonline.

Not entirely related to reunion is the CC75 Network. We see more classmates there every month and will continue to use it to communicate in the years to come. If you have joined the network, please stop back and see what's new. If you have not joined, you're missing out. You can return or join by pointing your browser to columbia.cc75@ning.com. Several classmates report renewing friendships with long-lost classmates because of seeing them on the network. Who would you like to hear from or contact? He may be there!

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Bill Minutaglio is a professor of journalism at the University of Texas and a prolific author, most notably of *First Son: George Bush and the Bush Family Dynasty*, a biography of George W. Bush. Bill is married to Holly Williams '80 Barnard, a professor of dance at UT. Ed Izzo '77 reports that as president of the Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, he persuaded Bill to deliver the keynote at the society's annual meeting. "We've been friends since college, and it was terrific to spend time with them this summer. We have tremendously fond memories of our Columbia days, very few involving academics."

George Freimarck reports that he is: "a) still employed; b) still making the house, car and now, college, payments; c) still happily mar-

ried to Gratia Pellicciotti '80 Barnard; d) most pleased to be the father of two daughters, Olivia and Averyl." After 21 years in the reinsurance business, George spent the last eight providing catastrophe modeling services to the insurance industry. Olivia is a first-year student in history at Victoria College at the University of Toronto, and Averyl is a sophomore at Glen Ridge H.S. near home in Essex County, N.J., juggling field hockey, drama club and rowing with lofty academic aspirations. Gratia, now active in real estate after a career in municipal finance interrupted by child rearing, is the women's captain of the rowing club Nereid and assembled a crew of eight women averaging 40 years of age for Boston's Head of the Charles for the fourth consecutive year. George also rowed in his umpteenth Head of the Charles with his doubles partner from Germany. "Speaking of rowing,"

infrastructure projects in Southeast Asia with focus on hydro-electric and coal-fired power plants, mining projects and resort hotels. Vientiane, however, is *not* a 'city that never sleeps.' The place could use some NYC jazz clubs."

Sounding a reflective note, **Scott Morgan** sent this update, which also resists summary: "Life has taken some unusual turns since college graduation. I thought I would pursue my talent for imitation, and you might recall some of my guest spots on WKCR portraying Bob Dylan, Boris Karloff and Totie Fields. But my best impression was Karl-Ludwig Selig, and no one south of 114th Street had heard of him. After my solo album, *Did Someone Say Samba?*, failed to sell, and much soul searching, I went to law school, made law review and now am a satisfied trial lawyer. I am not married and have no children that I admit to (in this

Michael (Bornstein) Oren '77 is Israel's ambassador to the United States and recently spoke at the 92nd Street Y in NYC.

he says, "I am thrilled by the historic accomplishment of the men's heavyweight crew in taking back the Child's Cup (the oldest rowing cup in collegiate U.S. competition) from Princeton after 46 years and their outstanding performance during the last two seasons. I am ever hopeful for the football squad and witnessed their final game of the '09 season, a well-executed victory over Brown, with fellow former oar Allan Cox '78. I was saddened to learn of Carl Hovde '50's death, the passing of yet another figure who brought renaissance to Columbia. I am, of course, gratified Columbia continues to build on its outstanding academic legacy and am ever fond in my memories of Morning-side. *In lumine tuo ...*"

And I end with a couple legacy admits: Elizabeth Berg, daughter of **Howard Berg**, and Gideon Wolf, son of **Edward Wolf**. Welcome to the Class of 2014.

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Our far-flung correspondents: **T. Walter Heiser** provided this information (quoted verbatim): "Have now completed two years working for the DFDL Mekong Law Group based in Vientiane, Laos. Rather cutting-edge work in development and financing of

country)." Scott goes on to mention a few classmates. "I recently went with Dr. **Ray Basri** and his wife to hear **Michael (Bornstein) Oren** speak at the 92nd Street Y. If you didn't hear, Mike was appointed earlier this year as Israel's Ambassador to the United States."

From another source, I have learned that **Geoffrey Onyeama** has become Deputy Director General, Sector for Development, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, one of WIPO's new senior management team of seven.

From Tampa, **Ed Izzo** reports that he is a married father of four and a cardiac surgeon. He is president of the Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, and in that capacity persuaded Bill Minutaglio '76 to be a guest speaker at the annual convention. "We've been friends since college," Ed says, "and we have tremendously fond memories of our Columbia days, very few involving academics."

Although **Bart Holland** has kept us posted over the years on such things as books he has published, I was gratified to receive a big-picture update from him. An associate professor of biostatistics and epidemiology at New Jersey Medical School, where he directs the school's epidemiological consulting service and his department's teaching program, Bart has been married for going on 25 years to Jean Donahue, whom he still thinks is "gorgeous and brilliant." Daughter Alicia is a

senior at the Bronx H.S. of Science and son Charlie is a junior at Regis H.S. in New York City.

78 **Matthew Nemerson**
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This column should not be empty. Please send me your news for a future issue.

79 **Robert Klapper**
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Joe Ferullo is a v.p. for programming and development at CBS Television Distribution, which produces syndicated television programs such as *Entertainment Tonight*, *Judge Judy*, *Rachael Ray* and others. Joe has been involved in the creation and production of a new syndicated show for CBS, *Swift Justice with Nancy Grace*, starring the outspoken CNN personality. It debuts in September. Joe also blogs for the *National Catholic Reporter* (<http://ncronline.org>), a biweekly publication that focuses on social justice issues. They pretty much let him write about whatever he wants, however. Joe's blog topics include his hatred of his Black-Berry, various attempts to teach his 16-year-old daughter to drive and the pleasingly familiar Bronx accent of the newest Supreme Court justice, Sonia Sotomayor.

Tom Costigan (Falls Church, Va.) is a system configuration analyst with Online Resources Corp. (Chantilly, Va.), a leading provider of online banking, bill payment and credit management software systems. If your bank is not using ORCC on the back end for these services, change your bank now!

David Edward Bauer has "worked as an attorney for the State of Maine for more than 20 years and lives in Portland. I'm an avid contradancer, enjoy playing the dia-tonic button accordion and recently became active in the 9-11 Truth Movement after waking up to the fact that the official story concerning the events of 9-11 is a monstrous fraud.

"My oldest son ('08 Wesleyan) is an actor/waiter in New York City, my second son is a freshman at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and my daughter is a freshman at Portland H.S. I can be found on Facebook and would be happy to hear from classmates."

Congratulations to **Edward S. Barnes**, **Michael P. Kelly** and **Alan Seife**, whose daughters and son have been accepted early admis-

sion to the Class of 2014 — **Anastasia Barnes** from Manhasset H.S. on Long Island, **Joanna Kelly** from Tower Hill School in Delaware and **Andrew Seife** from White Plains H.S. in Westchester, N.Y.

Robert C. Klapper: My thoughts for this column were going to be about how silly all the worry about Y2K was, and I cannot believe that was 10 years ago! Holy prostrate, Batman!

As the look and feel of the University administration continues to change (unfortunately, not the football team), I would like you all to know the name of the one administrator who has been there for so many years, is my main contact person and to whom I truly enjoy speaking each year. It turns out he is in the Alumni Office and has multiple roles. All the donations I have made through the years have always been with him, and I believe he truly understands the important place the alumni serve in the overall university. The presidents at the school have come and gone, and so have the many deans, but he has always been there for me. His name is Jim McMenamin. I am not trying to solicit money in this column, but if you feel, like many of you have told me, that you are not being heard, this is the guy whom I have felt so comfortable with all these years. God bless you, Jim, and thanks for all that you do.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6
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It has been a long, cold winter here in New York City, and we are looking forward to some nice spring weather. The basketball team has put on an impressive season with coach Joe Jones leading our boys, and baseball started its season at a tournament in Las Vegas. All in all, lots to look forward to as we lead up to Alumni Reunion Weekend, Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6.

Dr. **Josh Stolor** sent a nice note on the acceptance of his son, Joshua, to the Class of 2014. Josh runs the Center for Arthritis and Rheumatic Disease in San Antonio, Texas, which provides complete and comprehensive care. He is married to a classical musician, and they have four children.

Eric Goldstein's son, Aryeh, will be in the Class of 2014 as well. Eric is a partner in the litigation department at Paul Weiss in New York City. He specializes in securities law, white collar crimes, corporate investigation and complex commercial disputes. Eric is active in many community and legal associations throughout New York.

Mark Schnitzer checked in from Seattle, where he is the general manager of MSN Money for Microsoft. He has served in a number of leadership positions with XBRL International and XBRL US since 1999. Mark led the development of Model Ware systems for Morgan Stanley and was the founder of Free EDGAR, which he sold to EDGAR in 1998.

The Reunion Committee is working hard to create a memorable event for our 30th. We all need to consider attending the event, especially the class dinner on Saturday night. In addition, there will be a gallery tour, a tour of the High Line park, dancing on Low Plaza, Camp Columbia for kids 3–12 and other events to keep the party going all weekend. We look forward to seeing you there!

81 **Jeff Pundyk**
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Our Columbia education may have prepared us for many things to come, but golf and procreation would rank fairly low on the list. And yet ... and yet, four of our own have managed to earn actual money — 500 bucks among them — through a clever and apparently legal combination of these two sets of talents. **Bob Haskins**, **Sean D'Arcy**, **Lou Casali** and **Clayton Jones** rose above our humble beginnings to win the "low gross" (whatever that is) at the Frank McGuire Golf Tournament at the Ardsley (N.Y.) Country Club last September. The foursome also won the 50/50 raffle for the house, as they were featured as the bet of the day. The question everyone bet on was how many children the four of them had sired. (The answer: 19. So I'm guessing that "low gross" does not relate to their collective sperm count.) These are, of course, some of the same characters in the picture accompanying this column: **Marc Mazur**, **Sean D'Arcy**, **Scott Gresky**, **Clay Jones** and **Lou Casali** are pictured at a recent surprise 50th birthday party for Clay in Boston. Squint your eyes (a lot) and they could be 18-year-old freshmen. Marc resides in Pelham, N.Y., and is chairman of Elsworth Capital Management. Sean resides in Bronxville, N.Y., and

is s.v.p. of Northwestern Mutual Life. (His daughter, Margaret, was recently admitted early decision to the Class of 2014, as were the offspring of **Theodore Johnson**, **Sami Mnamneh**, **Orlando Ortiz** and **Allan Taffet**.) Scott resides in Cincinnati and is s.v.p. of business development of global fabric care for Procter & Gamble. Clay resides in Boston and is president and CEO of Jones and Bartlett Learning. And Lou resides in New Canaan, Conn., and is s.v.p. of Ehrlich Green & Co.

Also on the late-breaking birthday front, **Kevin Fay** reports that he helped celebrate **Ed Klees'** 50th in Charlottesville, Va., with **Ed**, **Bob Spoer** and **Jonathan Dahl '80**. Kevin has managed to tamp down his famed zest for life: "My wife is teaching a class at the UVA Nursing School (great credential, lousy pay). Kids are healthy and still talking to me. One of our dogs has cancer — real bummer. I am one step ahead of my creditors and losing hair rapidly."

Erik Jacobs gets the last word on our birthday year: "As part of my demi-centennial celebration, I'm letting all my slacks and suit pants out and having my double-breasted jackets converted to single-breasted. Oh, and heli-skiing was still scheduled for January." Erik and his wife, Laura Eberstein Jacobs '88, recently celebrated 15 years of marriage — to each other.

Barry Waldman manages to link my name with the term "gaping yaw," something I usually hear only from my wife. Barry writes: "Jeff, I relate the following to fill the gaping yaw that might otherwise exist beneath your name in the Class Notes section, and not because I have any delusions of adequacy. I was named Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member at the College of Charleston, where I teach P.R. and marketing courses to unsuspecting upper-classmembers, and Non-Profit Marketer of the Year (from the American Marketing Association) despite my work for United Way in Charleston, S.C. I also was voted 'Most Likely To Get Hit Over the Head with a Le Creuset Pot Cover' by my wife, although I'm dubious of that honor because I've seen her try to lift those things."

Jon Elsen joins the exodus from traditional journalism. He has taken a position at The Abernathy MacGregor Group, where he will advise executives on their communications strategies. For the last five years, Jon had been an editor at *The New York Times*, where he worked with his friend and former *Spectator* colleague, Jim Schachter '80, and **John Leland**. Before that, he was business editor at *The New York Post* after having worked at a variety of newspapers as a reporter

and editor since college. Jon and his wife, Ellen, live in Rye, N.Y., with their children, Maggie (9), Benjamin (7) and Rebecca (4).

Jay Lee reports from the sidelines of Columbia's Dick Savitt Tennis Center: "We are real proud of the CU tennis team for winning back the Ivy championship. One of our twins (both juniors at the College), Alex, is bragging about his Ivy championship ring but is still refusing to show me. Our youngest, Courtney, also is doing well on her high school varsity tennis team, with only one loss in three seasons."

Manny Tirado writes in with some nice news: "I'm certainly thrilled to say that my marriage on October 3 was the highlight of my year. My best man was **Ricardo Salaman**, and the judge who officiated the wedding was Sheila Abdus-Salaam '74 Barnard, '77L. My lovely wife, Christine (maiden name Rickoff), is a 1983 NYU grad. The wedding was performed at the beautiful NYS Appellate Division First Department courthouse in Manhattan, where Justice Abdus-Salaam is one of the justices who serves on that bench."

I received very sad news: **James Eddinger** passed away on Christmas Eve after a brief illness. James' wife, Pam, writes: "James held fond memories of his days at Columbia. He and I met on campus as undergrads (I went to Barnard); we married shortly after graduation and had been together close to three decades." James, 50, of Camarillo, Calif., was born in Seoul, Korea, and spent much of his youth in Maryland and Pennsylvania. His life's work included architecture, fine arts photography and fiction writing. James also is survived by a son, Nicholas.

And, finally, as you read this column, **Brian Krisberg** will be stepping up to the podium on March 3 to collect his John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement from the College. Through the years, Brian, a partner at Sidley Austin, has volunteered countless hours in many roles for the College. Among Brian's fellow John Jay recipients is Julia Stiles '05, who may not have served the College as long as Brian but is surely prettier than he.

As always, send updates and other unlikely pairings — real or imagined — to jpunddyk@yahoo.com.

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Greetings, gentlemen. I trust the New Year so far finds you in good

health. It is now nearly 28 years since graduation, and it recently dawned on me that our 30th reunion coincides with the end of the Mayan Calendar in 2012. I say this by way of warning, because that leaves but two years to make a contribution to this column! It appears that you were collectively overcome by l-tryptophan poisoning during a mass turkey-eating binge during the holidays. I will overlook it just this one time.

I have some good news to report. Our esteemed classmates **Gabriel Dugue, Edward Lopez and Victor Lopez-Balboa** all have managed to keep their talented progeny on the straight and narrow path to Columbia College next fall. Andrew Dugue, Douglas Lopez and Andrew Lopez-Balboa have all been admitted and declared their intent to attend the College as members of the Class of 2014. Fantastic! I can't help but remember Victor's humorous comment made during a brief speech at our 25th reunion where he stated, "I would first like to acknowledge that none of us would get in here today."

In other news (note the journalistic turn-of-phrase), our highly accomplished valedictorian and über-pundit **George Stephanopoulos** was named co-anchor of *Good Morning America* in December. Aside from graduating summa cum laude from the College, attending Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship, serving as the senior adviser to President Clinton for policy and strategy, writing the *New York Times* No. 1 bestseller, *All Too Human: A Political Education*, being named chief Washington correspondent for ABC News, anchoring *This Week* for ABC News, twice winning the USC Annenberg School of Journalism's Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism, marrying actress Alexandra Wentworth and having two daughters, he really hasn't been up to very much ...

Congratulations to **Frank Lopez-Balboa** and **Tracy V. Maitland**, who both will be honored by the College on March 3 with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. Watch for a follow-up article in the May/June issue with photos from the black-tie gala.

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I was honored that Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig joined my family in celebrating my son David's fifth birthday.

My wife was quoted in the No-



Clayton Jones '81's 50th birthday party included a big surprise when four classmates made the trip to Boston to join him. Celebrating half a century were (left to right) Marc Mazur '81, Sean D'Arcy '81, Scott Gentry '81, Jones and Lou Casali '81.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CLAYTON JONES '81

ember 17 *New York Times* article, "Many Doctors to Stay Course on Breast Exams for Now." It stated, "Dr. Deborah Gahr, a gynecologist in private practice in New York, said the guidelines would make the estimated 10 to 15 percent of women who resist having mammograms more confident in their decision. 'In a sense that's good,' Dr. Gahr said, 'nothing is black and white in medicine.'"

Congratulations to **Michael Pucker**. His daughter, Abigail (Walter Payton H.S.), has been admitted early decision to the Class of 2014.

Congratulations to my dear friends Marc Ripp '80, '83L and Shari Ripp. Their daughter, Elena, was admitted early decision to The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science Class of 2014. She will join her sister, Brandi '12. Marc's father also graduated from CC (Joseph '48). Marc remains a tireless supporter of the College, conducting countless alumni interviews.

Kevin Chapman: "In case you are looking for a good cause to which you can make a tax-deductible donation, the Tug McGraw Foundation is great, supporting brain cancer research and support for patients with brain injuries and illnesses. The foundation honors the late great New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies pitcher, who died in 2004 from brain cancer. And, by coincidence, my wife, Sharon '83 Barnard, is raising funds for the Tug McGraw Foundation in connection with her goal of running the New York City Marathon in November. The link to her fundraising page is www.active.com/donate/teammcgrawnyc2010/tmnycm10SChapma if you would like to donate \$5 or \$10 (every little bit helps) to help her reach her goal so that she gets an automatic

entry to the race as part of Team McGraw."

The *New York Times* reported that *The Washington Post* is to close three U.S. bureaus. It notes, "The *Post*'s executive editor, **Marcus W. Brauchli**, issued a memo to *The Post*'s staff Tuesday outlining the plan. He cited 'limited resources and increased competitive pressure' for the move. He said the paper's 'commitment to national news of interest to our readers is undiminished.'"

George Bogdan wrote a letter to the editor, published in *Crain's* November 23 issue as follows: "Is Goldman Sachs' \$500 million small business initiative a sincere effort or a PR ploy? It can be helpful at the margin if it can provide equity financing on a long-term basis, along with some advice. But not based upon the principles used by venture capitalists. Most promising small businesses will never go public and float shares on an exchange, nor should they contemplate doing so. VCs only want the potential billion-dollar company that gives them a chance to cash out big. If Goldman partner Warren Buffett can create an entity that will hold shares long-term and just collect dividends, then that is really helpful. Few bankers like doing small business lending, and I'm not sure if you can do anything about that. But if micro-lenders can lend \$100 per business to poor women in Bangladesh and make a profit, then certainly a micro-equity program can work in the U.S."

George also writes: "Last September, I sold my house in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. It took a year, but the final price was palatable. I moved to Elmhurst in Queens."

David Hershey-Webb has been with the tenant law firm of Himmelstein, McConnell, Gribben,

Donoghue & Joseph for eight years, the last two as a partner. Along with his law partner William Gribben and associate Ronald Languedoc, David wrote an amicus curiae brief submitted on behalf of two tenant groups, New York State Tenants and Neighbors Coalition and Met Council, in the Court of Appeals case *Roberts v. Tishman Speyer*. The court's recent decision was a big victory for tenants, finding that thousands of apartments at Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village had been unlawfully removed from rent regulation. The decision is expected to lead to reregulation of thousands of apartments throughout the city and substantial overcharge awards for tenants.

David and his wife, Amy Hershey-Webb (née Schwartz, '84 Tufts), celebrated their 10th anniversary in Paris in October. David and Amy's daughter, Lilly, turned 10 in November. She had the lead (male!) role of Conrad in P.S. 158's January production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. David's second CD is expected to be released next June, in time for his 50th birthday. "I am writing because I know you love music, and I want to invite you to be part of something very special. Thirteen years ago, I released my first CD, *Blue Heart*. It was a collection of original songs that did not fit neatly into any one genre. The songs were country, folk, blues, rock, swing. You can still see a video for one of the songs, 'Never Been A Cowboy,' on YouTube (just search 'Hershey-Webb'). *Blue Heart* was made possible by my good friends Paul Lindemulder (aka Paul Trudeau, a great singer-songwriter) and Debbie Edison (another great singer).

"Well, the last 10 years of working as a lawyer and being a husband and dad (raising a singing daughter) haven't left me much time to write or record. But last summer, I went back into the studio and recorded nine songs for what will be my second CD. (At this rate I should be able to put out another two or three CDs before I join that jukebox in the sky.) I am so excited about these recordings. Paul Trudeau arranged the session, sang harmonies and played guitar. Paul has recorded with Meredith Brooks and recently toured with Melissa Etheridge. On bass and harmonies, I was joined this time by John Troy, a veteran recording artist and performer who has worked with the Pousette-Dart Band, Joe Cocker, Jonathan Edwards and Troy, Mattacks, Brown, among others. Rodger Carter (currently touring with Rick Springfield) played drums and provided the first-rate studio, Dog House Studios. Grammy Award winner Neil Citron engineered. Again, the songs are varied, a range of country, rock, blues.

"There is still a lot of work to do to finish the CD in time for my 50th birthday. We are looking to add pedal steel to several tracks and a horn section to two or three songs. One song cries out for a mariachi band and another will sound complete with a gospel choir. Finishing the CD is going to cost money, and that is where you come in. I am hoping that you will consider investing in my music career and helping me to complete this creative project. Please contact David Hershey-Webb, New CD Project, 1700 York Ave., #10J, New York, NY 10128. Thanks for your support. And check me out at myspace.com/davidhersheywebb."

I had the pleasure of sitting next to Dean Kavita Sharma of the Center for Career Education at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner. Interestingly, she said there are many, many job opportunities for seniors. Her biggest challenge is making students realize the many job offerings still available. Sharma noted that many students are applying to grad school, taking time off to travel or not even looking for jobs because they are falsely discouraged by the soft job market. Since my companies continue to grow, we are in the process of posting several job listings on the CC online recruiting system (at no cost!). Anyone interested in listing employment opportunities at CC should contact me.

I also had a chance to spend time at the dinner with Michael Schmidtberger '82, Doug Wolf '88, Mark Amsterdam '66, Gerald Sherwin '55, David Filosa '82 and James McMenamin (director of principal gifts and senior adviser to the dean).

Matthew Cooper '84 is senior adviser to the Congressional bipartisan Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission.

On October 12, *Fortune Magazine* published the article "Which Ivy Performed Best." Four Ivy League endowments (June '08-June '09) were featured with results as follows: Harvard (-27 percent), Yale (-25 percent), Penn (-16 percent) and Columbia (-16 percent).

I had the great pleasure of receiving a telephone call from legendary Columbia swimmer **Tony Corbisiero**. Tony was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. His sports prowess is summarized on the Go Columbia Lions Web site (www.gocolumbia.lions.com):

"From 1981-1983, Corbisiero won Eastern Intercollegiate Swimming League titles in four different

freestyle events. In 1981, he was the EISL champion in the 1650 freestyle; in 1982, he added the 500 free championship to another 1650 freestyle victory, and in 1983, he accomplished a rare triple win, taking home the laurels in the 200, 500 and 1500 freestyles. A month later, on March 23, 1983, the boy from Bayside won the NCAA championship in the 1650 freestyle in an NCAA, American and world-record time of 14:46.29. An All-American and All-Ivy League standout, he won seven EISL championships and set EISL records in the 500, 1000 and 1650-yard freestyle races. Nearly 25 years later, he still holds the 1000-yard mark. Twice, in 1982 and 1984, he was the high point-scorer at the EISL Championships. Co-captain of his 1983 team, Corbisiero set Columbia records in four different events and still holds pool records at six league aquatic venues — Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Yale, Army and Navy. His name appears so many times on the pool record board at the Naval Academy, they should make him an admiral. A four-time AAU All-American, Corbisiero set the American record in the 800 freestyle (7:58.50) in July 1982 while attending Columbia, and was ranked in the top 15 in the world in the 1500 freestyle as an undergrad. He was a member of the U.S. National Team from 1982-1984. His ability to swim several different distances was just one of the reasons why he was widely regarded as one of the top swimmers in the nation during his time at Columbia. A recipient of the prestigious Van Am Prize Medallion for his service and dedication to the University, Corbisiero

has become a well-known figure in volunteer activities in the Astoria/Long Island City area. As chairman of the board of the Long Island City YMCA, he has played a principal role in raising the funds to build a new 30,000-square-foot facility for the youth of Long Island City. Tony and his wife, Janice Rae, whom he married in 1987, live in Monroe Township, N.J., with their two sons, Christian Michael (13) and Anthony Michael, Jr. (10). In his spare time, Tony is a devoted yachtsman. Incidentally, his induction to the Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame marks his third entrance into such an organization. In 2003, he was inducted into both the Metropolitan Swimming Hall of Fame and the New York City Public Schools Athletic League Hall of Fame."

Tony is in contact with **Andy Gershon, Lester Brofman** and many of his swimming teammates. Tony's brother, Richard '80, was a CC class president.

I love hearing about classmates like Tony, who are successful entrepreneurs, job creators, risk takers and the backbone of our economy. Please send e-mails!

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Welcome to the world, Jack Alan, born to **Mark Stuart Gill**, a writer in Maine, and his wife, and Stella Wrae, to **Adam Belanoff**, a TV writer/producer in Los Angeles, and his wife.

Having met Jack *et famille* several months ago, yours truly — an honorary member of the '84 Los Angeles chapter of the Columbia College Legacy Committee (which includes L.A. denizens **Michael Ackerman, Carr D'Angelo** and **Peter Lunenfeld**) — was looking forward to meeting Stella and her *mishpocha*.

Speaking about the left coast, **Jim Weinstein** and his family, and his sister, Ilene Weinstein Lederman '87, and her family spent part of Christmas Eve at the San Francisco home of **Larry Kane** and his family, where the Weinstein and Lederman kids met Santa!

Taking a page from Jim (who once served as an elected official of West Orange, N.J.), **Phil Donahue** recently was elected a Tredyffrin Township Supervisor in Pennsylvania. Phil, his wife and their five children have lived in this area for more than 17 years. He is a community volunteer who has worked with groups such as the Valley

Forge Civic Association and the Boy Scouts. In his own words, "**James D. Weinstein**, financial and political wizard, inspired me to run. Of course, being a slow learner, it only took about 24 years for me to get around to it. We could really blow this race out of proportion with national implications in that it was a grassroots Republican sweep in a really off-year election cycle."

Another L.A. TV guy, **Peregrine Hopkins Beckman**, checks in: "As a freelance TV editor and producer, I've had a remarkably steady gig at Original Productions in Burbank for the last two years. Latest hit is *1000 Ways to Die* for Spike." As the son of Richard Beckman '53, husband of Elizabeth Leicester '87 and father of Julian (10) and Eleanor (16), Peregrine does Columbia proud by volunteering to conduct interviews of candidates for admission.

With regard to one early decision candidate cum acceptee, "The kid who was admitted is spectacularly qualified, I must say, and since his admission, he's been asking advice on dorms. Offered a choice of John Jay or Carman, I told him that although freshman year in Carman is a trial, the best friendships seem to come from there. Seems like a good discussion to have online sometime — how important is your first dorm? Maybe I should start a Facebook page for the Class of '84. I'd like to include Barnard '84 as well since I have many friends from there."

The Third Coast? Imagine that ... and **Tom Dyja** did! He sold a book proposal to Penguin Press called "The Third Coast," a cultural history of post-war Chicago, when a fascinating cast of characters — people like Hugh Hefner, Sun Ra, Richard Daley, Mike Nichols and Elaine May, Nelson Algren, Bauhaus veterans Mies van der Rohe and Moholy-Nagy, Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, Saul Alinsky, Mahalia Jackson, and Ray Kroc for starters — created the template for modern American culture. With luck, it'll be in stores in 2012."

Think you're having a good day? I didn't have any other news for this column, so I sent out my last ditch effort e-blast plea, aka a "Hail Mary," and it was caught by none other than football great **John Witkowski!** "My wife, Cathy, and I are coming up to our 20th wedding anniversary and live in Orchard Park, N.Y. (home of the Buffalo Bills), with our children, Alec (AJ) (17), Kyle (16) and Christie (11). AJ and Kyle are three-sport athletes at Orchard Park H.S., and Christie is involved in many different sports/activities. I worked for Fleet Bank, FleetBoston and Bank of America for 14 years before we moved to Orchard Park. For the last four

years, I have been regional president and director of retail banking for Five Star Bank, a \$2 billion bank headquartered in Warsaw, N.Y."

Jim Satloff spent the winter break in Asia, visiting Tokyo, Kyoto and Shanghai with his wife, two sons and mother-in-law (!). Asia was fascinating, and Dustin, Jim's high-school junior, wrote an article outlining the notion that China is as different from Japan as they both are from the United States. The article should appear in the *Collegiate School (NYC) Journal* of Chinese class students. Jim also reports how proud he was to see his sons (including Theo, 13) speak Mandarin and make themselves understood. Jim, too, has taken Mandarin for many years, although his sons' abilities now eclipse his own. The ski company in which Jim is a majority owner reports that it is 100 percent sold out this year, which is, as he reports, "a high-class problem," which could be remedied by more working capital — anyone interested in being a part owner of a ski company? His company's site is www.libertyskis.com. For full disclosure, he has made use of your class correspondent's customs expertise.

Max Rosen, president and founder of Indigo Productions, an NYC video production company, had an exciting year. For one project, Max and his company shot interviews with 50 corporate executives in eight countries around the world simultaneously — quite a logistical challenge. For fun, Max produced a comedy "viral video" that was launched on YouTube and has so far been seen by more than 20 million people worldwide. The video, which grew out of a video workshop that Max and his company presented at NYU last summer, received press coverage from CNN, NBC, *Forbes* and *The Chicago Tribune*, among others. Yahoo also voted it the No. 1 comedy video of the year, as well as the No. 2 "viral video" of the year. You can find it on YouTube by searching for the "JK Divorce Entrance Dance." Indigo's Web site is www.indigoprod.com.

During Art Basel Miami, the Columbia Alumni Association held a special tour of a "satellite show" and dinner party for more than 100 Columbians living in South Florida and visiting from afar. Attorney **Bernardo Burstein**, a native of Miami Beach, attended at the behest of yours truly, **Dennis Klainberg**, owner of www.ShipMyArt.com, international freight forwarder for Scope, Pulse, Nada, Art Miami and more than 200 art galleries from around the world. Also dropping in on the way to yet another recording industry event was dear friend Seth Schachner '85, v.p.,

digital business - Latin America and U.S. Latin for Sony BMG.

Roland Matthews is chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. His subspecialty is gynecologic oncology. Roland enjoys teaching and being a mentor, and is father to sons Remi (13) and Omari (11). In the words of his wife, Audrey Jacobs '86 Barnard, "Roland and I met at the Caribbean Students Association meeting in 1982. We often reflect on the importance of college for us. Our closest friends are Columbia grads. We think of **Jacques Augustin** often."

As do I. When **Adam Belanoff** and **Stephen Gee** resurrected the *Varsity Show* during our tenure, no one could have imagined how wildly successful it would be, and has been, on campus ... and on the world stage! Now, for a limited run of anywhere from four to eight years, it's playing way, way, way off Broadway, featuring a pride of Columbia-bred extroverts charged with leading the nation, and providing yet another installment to Barnard's weekly Zooprax "Reel" Politics.

Barack Obama '83 stars as "The President" and Eric Holder '73, '76 is the "Attorney General," supported by Julius "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore!" Genachowski '85 taking aim as the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (with a little help from his svengali in the Office of Strategic Planning think tank, **Steve Waldman** (reported last issue)). Standing in the wings and ready for his close up is the galvanized **David Cavicke**, who serves as the Republican chief of staff to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Keeping us posted is George Stephanopoulos '82 as host of *This Week* (returning to New York for *Good Morning America* later this year) and Marcus Brauchli '83, who does a mean Perry White as editor of *The Washington Post*.

But perhaps most noteworthy of all is when a member of the fourth estate crosses over, as in the case of **Matthew Cooper**, starring in this his sketch/remake/homage of "Who's Minding the Mint."

Matt is a veteran journalist who has worked at *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New Republic* and other places of ill repute. Having moonlighted at various comic venues (The Improv, The House, The Senate), he explains his new gig: "In December, I took a position as senior adviser to the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. This is a bipartisan, independent commission established by Congress to investigate the

financial crisis. Its job is to unearth what really happened and report to Congress and the President by the end of 2010. I've been brought on to help with investigations and to help write the report. It's an exciting opportunity. I covered the financial crisis as the Washington Editor of *Condé Nast Portfolio*, and I watched that magazine fold in large measure because of the crisis." Before taking the job at the commission, Matt was writing for *The Atlantic* and talking pointsmemo.com, where he was editor-at-large. Matt, a central figure in the CIA leak case, hopes to avoid the limelight. "I'm here to serve," he said. "After it's done, I can go back to the world of bylines."

Remember old friends fondly, make new ones, enjoy your life and be sure to check in now and again.

Roar, Lion, Roar.

REUNION JUNE 3-JUNE 6
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As of this publication, fewer than 100 days remain until our 25th reunion! We are aiming for a record turnout for our class, as well as class fund records in both participation (25 percent) and total unrestricted dollars (\$250,000). We have had several challenge grants to assist us, and I am pleased to report that we are well on the way. As of this writing, we are close to reaching three-quarters of our gift-giving goal. I have spoken to many classmates, so let me thank you again for your most generous support to date. For those of you who have not yet contributed in this special reunion year, we appreciate whatever you can add.

The Reunion Committee has continued to expand, up to 19 members at last count. Thanks again to the entire committee: **Kevin Kelly, Heather Paxton, Tom Scotti, Amr Aly, Steve Quackenbush, Adam Fischer, Colin Redhead, Leslie McCarthy, Brian Cousin, Paul Bongiorno, Michael Cho, David Zapolsky, Rich Froehlich, Brian Margolis, Joe Titlebaum, Daniel Savin, John Phelan and Mike Reilly.** Just drop a line to me or the Alumni Office if you would like to join us.

You will be getting the complete schedule of events from the Alumni Office later this month. In the mean-

time, I wanted to note some of the highlights:

Thursday evening cocktails in the *New York Times* tower, followed by the opportunity to attend several theatre/ arts events.

Friday tours and lectures, highlighted by a family-friendly dinner at V&T and then cocktails with our Barnard and Engineering classmates.

Saturday Dean's Day lectures, activities for the kids, reunions of various interest groups across the classes (WKCR, *Spectator*, music groups, etc.), followed by our class dinner at the Italian Academy and dancing on Low Plaza.

We would love to see as many of you as possible! Please let me know if you are coming so I can include this in my next column (as well as any updates). Hopefully, the updates we will get at reunion should fill this column for many months.

Eric Kanter lives in Short Hills, N.J., is married to Melissa and has three daughters, Hannah, Emily and Rachel. He is the managing partner of Retina Vitreous Consultants in Livingston and Morristown, N.J. Eric is involved in venture capital investment in medical device and pharmaceutical companies in the ophthalmic industry. He plays competitive squash when not running around to watch each of his kids' soccer games.

Tom Scotti is the president and principal in the Appraisal and Valuation Division of Gordon Brothers Group. Located in Boston, Tom oversees daily operations for the appraisal group. In addition, Tom calls on his extensive industry experience in asset-based lending and collateral monitoring to maintain and expand client relationships.

Prior to joining Gordon Brothers Group, Tom was a managing director of Fleet Retail Finance, where

he was responsible for the due diligence and collateral monitoring functions of a high-risk commercial loan portfolio. Before Fleet, his experience included five years with Morse Shoe as the manager of financial and merchandising planning and three years with Laura Ashley as the director of inventory control.

Adam Weisman and his wife, Rebecca Taylor, can report the birth of yet another child "with a strange name selected perversely by his parents to heighten his chances of being the first American to win Paris-Roubaix. Lucien Austin Peter was born on August 6, which makes him CC '31 for those of you keeping score at home. He joins his sister, Isabelle, and brother, Bastien, already in progress."

Pace Cooper lives in Tennessee with his wife, Aileen '85 Barnard, and their six kids, including two sets of twins (boys 14 and girls 5). He sent me a fabulous picture. Pace is the CEO of Cooper Hotels, a third-generation, family-owned company that operates and manages more than 20 hotels throughout the Eastern United States. Cooper Hotels was named Hilton Hotels Corp.'s Developer of the Year last year.

Kevin Kelly is assistant commissioner of NYC Business Express at the NYC Department of Small Business Services. SBS is one of the Bloomberg administration's economic development agencies. NYC Business Express (www.nyc.gov/BusinessExpress) is a one-stop, online tool containing information a business needs to start, operate and expand in NYC. It also enables businesses to apply online for licenses, permits and certifications, something that was impossible before 2009. Kevin has been with SBS for six years. He also is an adjunct professor at SIPA, where he teaches Capstone workshops to second-year SIPA students each spring.

Amr Aly is a partner in the Intellectual Property group of Kilpatrick Stockton's New York office. Amr's practice focuses on intellectual property litigation with emphasis on patent matters. His experience spans several disciplines, including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, banking, Internet and chemical fields.

Several folks have given their first update in 25 years ... glad that reunion has inspired new submissions. **Gary Klein** is back living on the Upper West Side, just 10 blocks south of campus, with his wife, Courtney, and their daughter, Madelyn (4).

Rich Maimon earned a master's of architecture from Princeton, worked for several architecture firms and moved back to his hometown

of Philadelphia. He is a principal of KieranTimberlake, an internationally recognized architecture firm noted for commitment to research, innovation and invention. His firm received the national AIA's firm award in 2008. Rich's current projects include the new Center City Building for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, under construction; a housing prototype for Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation in New Orleans; a master plan to improve the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia; the redesign of Dilworth Plaza, also in Philadelphia; and the recently submitted competition entry for the new United States Embassy in London. Past projects include the Melvin J. and Claire Levine Hall at Penn, Atwater Commons at Middlebury College, the F. Otto Haas Stage at the Arden Theatre Company and the Philadelphia Theatre Company's Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

Rich and his wife, Susan, have two sons (7 and 9) and live in an 1860s-era townhouse in Center City Philadelphia.

After working on Wall Street for a couple of years after graduation, **Serge Ozerov** earned an M.B.A. in 1989 from the Business School. "The last 25 years have been great, and I often attribute this in part to the excellent undergraduate and graduate education I received in Morningside Heights. At business school I was recruited by Ford Motor Co. After putting in five years in Michigan, I had the opportunity to 'see the world,' with my work assignments taking me to Mexico, the United Kingdom, Brazil and Russia, where I met and married Ludmila. We live in Moscow with our sons, Anthony and Maximilian. I am CEO of DeltaCredit Bank, where I have worked for 6½ years. DeltaCredit Bank is part of the French financial services group Société Générale.

"It is not likely that I will be able to make it to the reunion, so I am sending my congratulations to everybody for this important milestone and wish everybody much happiness and success."

I am pleased to announce that three members of our class are about to have their "legacies" join the Class of 2014. **David Avigan's** son, Zachary, and **Len Genova's** son, Jerome, are the first two. As to the third, I can enthusiastically announce that I have added the "P'14" moniker to my Columbia credentials; our eldest son, Isaac, will be entering the College this fall, a truly special moment for all of us in the White family. I could not be happier, and I look forward to navigating the freshman dorms again.

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Jack Merrick continues his good work in promoting colorectal health. He writes: "As you may remember, in 2007 I became an unlikely poster boy for colorectal health when seven of my bravest buddies and I celebrated my 43rd birthday with colonoscopies and a raging awards banquet at Trader Vics. And who could have predicted the resulting media storm triggered by our unusual 'Scopefest?' I'd be thrilled if you'd consider joining me for my 46th birthday and a new round of colonoscopies on or about Friday, March 26, here in Los Angeles. Besides the fawning media that can't get enough of my large intestine, I'm considering inviting high profile celebrities and putting them on a *brown* carpet. We'll see, but rest assured, the after party will be delightful. So please save the date, which happens to be at the tail end of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Let's not allow any other beautifully alive 40-somethings to fall prey to this completely catchable killer called colon cancer. And by all means, do not let yourself or your loved ones be caught off guard!" You can check out Jack's efforts at www.scopefest.org.

Congrats to **Scot Glasberg** on his election as v.p. of finance for the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, the largest plastic surgery group in the world. He's also president-elect of the New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons. Scot lives in Manhattan with his wife, Alisa, and children, Alex (9) and Evan (3).

Mark Gibson e-mailed an update of his recent move. "After 15 years in Los Angeles, I have finally made the move back east and now reside in very snowy and very cold Kent, Conn. My wife, Aija, and our daughters, Gwendolyn, Catherine and Anneken, are making the adjustment to small-town living with gusto, and I am seeing if life as a screenwriter 3,000 miles away from the action can actually work. Hope to see lots more of my '86 friends and am eager to get to as many crew events and races as possible this season."

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A hearty congratulations to Jane Brennan, daughter of **Doug Brennan**, who has been accepted early decision to the Class of 2014. Doug

What's Your Story?

Let your classmates know about your family, work, travels or other news. Send us your Class Notes!

E-MAIL to the address at the top of your column, or to cct@columbia.edu.

MAIL to the address at the top of your column.

FAX to Class Notes Editor at 212-851-1950.

Class Notes received by **March 10** will be eligible for publication in the **May/June CCT**.

is the first of our classmates — but I'm sure not the last — to make Columbia a family tradition.

Demetria Gallegos reports that after 15 years in Colorado, she has suddenly moved back to New York to start a new job as community editor of *The Wall Street Journal*. Her husband and four daughters are staying in Colorado through the end of the school year, and then looking to relocate as well. Demetria said, "I am so thankful right now that I have our freshman orientation guidance to fall back on: 'Even streets run east' has kept me from getting lost in the city more than once."

Eli Kavon had a busy 2009, starting with his marriage to Mayira Hirsch of Chicago on March 1 in Weston, Fla. He then earned a master's in Jewish studies from Spertus Institute in Chicago. Eli also has been writing essays for *The Jerusalem Post* and the Zionist journal, *Midstream*, which have been translated into Spanish, Italian and French.

Last year also was a year of nuptials for **Melanie Hahn Roche**, who married James Roche in October in Sedona, Ariz. Melanie is an energy healer in private practice and serves on the faculty at the Barbara Brennan School of Healing, a four-year college of energy healing. She has taught at the school's two campuses, in Miami and Tokyo, and has offered workshops worldwide. Her husband runs his own business as a marketing consultant to small business entrepreneurs and teaches online marketing with Ali Brown.

Shona Chakravarty, making her debut in Class Notes, announces that she and her husband, **Andy Tepper**, gave birth to a son, Kavi Selvon, on June 3 in New York. Shona works for a small family foundation, the Hill Snowdon Foundation, and Andy works at *Vanity Fair*. They live in Queens and see some classmates frequently. Shona reports, "So far, parenthood has been pretty smooth, albeit tiring!"

Garth Stein's novel, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, has spent more than half a year and counting on *The New York Times* Trade Paperback Bestseller List. Garth reports that the novel has been translated into 28 languages and is being made into a movie with Patrick Dempsey.

In more literary news, **Keith Thomson's** new novel, *Once a Spy*, is being published by Doubleday. Keith said to check www.onceaspy.com for news about events, including readings around the country and links for what he calls "spy gizmos and related services."

Sandy Asirvatham wrote, "My modest career as a pianist and

singer-songwriter chugs along down here at a mellow, Mommy-friendly pace, despite the atrocious economy. Although I still am working on bringing my own band to New York City, I had a Manhattan debut in another project, a free/experimental jazz collective called KREation, at the Shrine in Harlem and at ABC No Rio on the Lower East Side. I'm excited to enter the NYC music scene semi-covertly and without the leadership pressure, for now.

"Meanwhile, my husband, Kevin Donovan '87E, and I are happily exhausted chasing after our sports-obsessed son, Miles (6), and coming up with various flimsy reasons why we shouldn't a) get a puppy and b) let Miles start drum lessons. I have the feeling we'll be cratering on both matters before he reaches 8."

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Happy belated New Year, all! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and weathered the cold. Our big excitement was my daughter receiving an acceptance from college; I remember my excitement when I heard from Columbia! We are now back to routine life, at least as routine as life can be in a home with two teenagers. However, life sounds anything but routine for **Aaron Stern**, who works for the U.S. Agency for International Development in the Philippines. He

Andy Cheng '89 was appointed a judge of the San Francisco Superior Court.

relates, "Just like CNN reported, a typhoon in September caused a lot of damage. We ended up with a meter of nasty flood water in our house and had to move out. Our family did not experience any injuries, though Ying, my wife, had to brave flood waters up to her chest to get back to her mother, who was in the house at the time.

"My latest tasks at the U.S. Agency for International Development have focused on the Mayon volcano here. It was spewing lava for about two weeks, amazing to watch at night. I have worked on major storms, a volcano and major population displacements due to armed conflict since we arrived in March 2008. The resiliency of people here truly impresses me."

I touched base with **Jessica Miller**, who is a litigation partner at Skadden Arps in Washington, D.C., and has three kids. Her oldest,

Claire, is a competitive gymnast, enmeshed in the rat race of middle school applications, and Jessica's twins, Nate and Sophia, are in first grade, where she reports that Nate spends all day cooking up trouble and Sophia chases after boys.

Sheryl Hoke Love and Thomas

Love will celebrate their 20th anniversary in June. They live with their sons, Kevin (10) and Brian (7), in Shaker Heights, Ohio, where Sheryl is an intellectual property attorney at Jones Day, and Tom is an associate professor at Case Western Reserve and chair of the Health Policy section of the American Statistical Association. Tom is active in theater, recently as The Beadle in *Sweeney Todd* and The Pharaoh in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

I also had the pleasure of hearing from several other classmates, who sent brief updates. **Robert Monaco** writes, "I was on the wrestling team at Columbia. I went to medical school and now am director of sports medicine at Rutgers in New Brunswick. I am married, have two kids and live in Hunterdon County, N.J." **Sharon Koren** shared, "I married **Matthew Cohen** after graduation. Matthew is an infertility specialist at North Shore Hospital, and I teach medieval studies at Hebrew Union College. We have three daughters: Atara (17), Talia (13) and Tamar (10). We live in Riverdale, N.Y."

Susan Dixon McCammon lives in Galveston, Texas, where she is on the faculty of the medical school and practices head and neck surgi-

cal oncology. Her husband, Tom, and bulldog, C-pap, weathered Hurricane Ike, and Susan and Tom are rebuilding their house on the island.

Finally, I was delighted to hear from my freshman year John Jay floormate **Martin Lewison**, who sounds like he is having a blast! He writes, "For the last year I've been teaching accounting and finance at Hotelschool The Hague, an 80-year-old college of hotel and hospitality administration in The Netherlands. I had studied Dutch as a hobby for years, and this has been a great way to nail down my Dutch, get back into academia and gain invaluable international work experience. I'm also studying the relationship between hotels and the theme park industry. My wife, Cheryl, and I have done a lot of field research, visiting more than 50 parks in the United States and

Europe in 2009 and riding almost 200 new roller coasters over the course of the year. We have an even bigger 2010 planned."

I hope everyone has great plans for 2010. Enjoy the spring.

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I recently heard from **Brian Domic**, who helped me remember a part of my time at Columbia I hadn't thought of in, well, too long. Brian recently wrote *Econoclasts: The Rebels Who Sparked the Supply-Side Revolution and Restored American Prosperity*, which features the work of Professor Robert Mundell, whose classes I attended in Hamilton. Professor Mundell, who received the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1999, introduced foreign trade, capital movements and currency swings into formal economic analysis. As an undergraduate, I hardly appreciated Professor Mundell's greatness, but fortunately I can read about his work in Brian's book. Brian wrote to me, "The biggest mistake I made at Columbia (aside from tolerating 1 Carman as dorm space) was not taking economics professor Robert Mundell, now a Nobel and University Professor. So I guess I had to half make up for it by writing a book where he's the central hero. The book is a history, based on primary sources, of the genesis and implementation of supply-side economics, aka Reaganomics. Supply-side economics is the most consequential revolution in economic policy since the New Deal, first hatched as it was from the mind of *enfant terrible* Mundell in the '50s and put into practice in the '70s and '80s. Professor Mundell came to Columbia in 1974 and is still there."

Brian's book's release was well-timed, as it is a history of how the United States has dealt with economic crises. He has been widely interviewed. Brian's conclusion: "The policy mix as best articulated by Mundell of stable money and tax cuts is the only thing that has worked in response to economic crises since 1913." In addition to *The Wall Street Journal* and *Investor's Daily*, you can find Brian's writing on his blog, www.econoclasts.net.

Of our last reunion, Brian writes, "Had a grrreat time, palling around with **Pete Siegel**, **Barbara (Rosenthal) Bagley**, Nathan Neb-eker '88, **Duchesne Drew**, **Gene Lee**, **Leslie Feld**, **Marci Lobel-Esrig** ... Ah, college days."

Andy Cheng was appointed a judge of the San Francisco Superior Court last September by Governor

Arnold Schwarzenegger. Andy earned a law degree from Yale, clerked for a federal district court judge and worked in the private sector for three years. He then spent six years as a deputy city attorney in San Francisco and six years as an assistant United States attorney for the Northern District of California. Andy is as an adjunct professor at University of California Hastings College of Law. He and his wife, Yvonne, have three children, Sam (12), Joshua (10) and Annie (7). Asked how he ended up settling in SF, Andy wrote, "I went to SF on a lark but ended up meeting my wife on a plane 17 years ago. She's a Bay Area native, so my fate was sealed." Andy sees close friends **Greg White** and his wife, Vera (née Chen) White '90, every other year. Greg is a busy executive in his family's business, White Coffee Corp. Greg and Vera have two children, Sophie and Julian.

To welcome in the new year, my husband, Dave Terry '90, and I and our three kids visited **Jody Collens Fidler**, her husband, Phil, and her family in their new digs in Chevy Chase, Md. The Fidlers showed us a wonderful time, including reminiscing in front of a roaring fire, a lobster dinner, poker games and the secret recipe for the best brisket either side of the Mason Dixon line.

REUNION JUNE 3-JUNE 6

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Several columns ago, I reported on **Jeremy Simon**, who is on the faculty at P&S. His news is of two additions: a Ph.D. in philosophy from NYU and a second daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, born last February.

In December, **Laura Shaw Frank** proudly celebrated the bat mitzvah of her oldest child, Ateret, among a multitude of family and friends (the usual suspects included).

I look forward to seeing everyone (OK, almost everyone) in a few months at our 20th reunion. Can you believe it? I can. In fact, I distinctly remember attending our 10th reunion (for those of you not so good at math, it was held in 2000) and noticing the paltry showing of the Class of 1980 (who were attending their 20th reunion). I thought to myself at the time, "Well, that will never be us. The Class of 1990

is much too spirited to not attend our reunions in droves." So, please, drove on out this June and reconnect with long-lost buddies or catch up in person with all your Facebook friends. Whatever you do, don't stay home. The reunion crew has been working hard to plan events for every age group, meaning your kids are welcome!

From Thursday, June 3-Sunday, June 6, we'll have the chance to prove that we can still party like sophomores. Our reunion will be packed with events that take full advantage of what NYC and Columbia have to offer. There will be cultural happenings as well as class-specific cocktail hours and dinners. The festivities will culminate with a class dinner, wine tasting, champagne toast and dancing on Low Plaza on Saturday night.

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Greetings, everyone! I was in NYC during Thanksgiving week and got to see **Annamarie Giarratano Della Pietra** and **Jodi Williams Bienenfeld** and their families. Annie and Jodi had recently completed the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. They walked 39 miles in two days, starting at Chelsea Piers, past Columbia, and over the Brooklyn Bridge and back. They had an amazing experience! Unfortunately, I didn't get to see **Julie Levy**, who was traveling, or **Beth Shubin Stein**, who was working and taking care of her new baby, Brady.

Sandra Lora Cremers sent in this update: "I'm one of those Columbians who is sort of stuck in between the Class Notes columns: I'm CC '91 but was supposed to be CC '92. So, I usually read both

2000. I helped publish a book last year, *Ophthalmic Surgical Procedures, Second Edition*, with Dr. Peter Hersh and Dr. Bruce Zigelbaum. We are homeschooling our kids, which is the biggest adventure of all and the most difficult, though enjoyable. We spend our time among Boston, New York City and Miami. We'd love to get back in touch with friends. Before going to Miami for maternity leave, we saw **Lorraine Chen** and **Todd Idson** (previously a professor of economics at Columbia). She has a wonderful boy, Hayden, and they are doing well. **Jose Ramirez '90** also is doing well, married to our good friend Dr. Pearl Wong. They have four children, and he is the head of the pediatric ER department at a children's hospital in Orlando."

Andrew McFarland is one of the founders of Houston-based Hometta, a collaborative of designers, architects, builders, writers and editors who have banded together to rethink and improve the way residential architecture is designed. You can visit the Web site at www.hometta.com. Andrew earned a master's of architecture from the University of Texas at Austin in 1995. He and his wife, Gretchen, have a small design firm, d>mcf.

Christine Vardaros wrote in: "Last year, I married Belgian Jonas Bruffaerts and moved permanently to Belgium. I am a professional cyclist and writer/journalist/columnist. I have picked up a few more writing clients, such as U.S.-based *Cyclocross Magazine*, U.S.-based *VegNews Magazine*, Belgium-based *Ladies Cycling Magazine* and the Australia-based *cyclingnews.com* Web site. In my limited spare time, I am a spokesperson for In Defense of Animals (I promote a vegan diet for health). My last appearance for them was at Veggie Pride Parade in NYC last May." [Editor's note: See the January/February cover story for more on Christine: www.college.columbia.edu/cct/jan_feb10]

Chris Petrovic '91 is s.v.p. and general manager of the newly created Digital Ventures division of GameStop.

columns. As a quick update, I did medical school at Dartmouth and then Brown. I did my residency in ophthalmology at New York Eye and Ear. I got married to a wonderful man, Jan-Hein Cremerson, on January 2, 1999. He did his Ph.D. in physics at Harvard and now manages a hedge fund in NYC. We recently had our fifth child, our first girl. I've been on staff at the Harvard Medical School since

I received this update from **Chris Petrovic**: "Early last year, I left my post as v.p., digital media, for *Playboy* after more than three memorable years there and took a much needed mini-sabbatical to spend time with the family and watch my daughter, Remy, turn 1 this past April. In August, I took a job as s.v.p. and general manager of the newly created Digital Ventures division of GameStop, the

world's largest video game retailer. I'm lucky in that even though the company is based in the Dallas area (nothing against the big D!), it allowed me to stay in Los Angeles and open a satellite corporate office there. My team and I are responsible for helping move GameStop into the digital future via strategic initiatives and acquisitions of digitally-focused companies and businesses in the games space globally. And on a related note, my wife Jen's company recently was acquired by Apple, so we're looking forward to a fun 2010."

Andrew Stone is a gastroenterologist in private practice in southeastern Massachusetts. He lives in Providence, R.I., with his wife, Mindy, son, Ben (5) and daughter, Lila (2). Andrew keeps in touch with **Darren Finestone**, **Chris Antollino**, **Peter Cole**, **Daryl Colden**, **Joel Barron**, **Michael Cohen** and **Steve Weinstein**.

Hopefully, they and everyone else will join us at our 20th reunion next year. Until next time...Cheers!

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Hi everybody.

I was all set to write to you that this was one of those columns where the mailbox ran nearly dry. But, almost "at the buzzer," I got a beautiful "assist" from my CCT neighbor, the Class of 1991 correspondent, **Margie Kim**. Even I could make the "layup" from there. Can you tell it's basketball season? (Thanks, Margie!)

Let me start with some news I received directly. There's no greater treat to an alumni magazine columnist reporting on others' news than to be able to share the good news of one's college roommate.

To that end, congratulations to **Alex Oberweger** and his wife, Caroline, on the birth of Natalie Tania on December 7. Alex is the associate athletics director for strategic communications at Columbia and told me he hopes to see plenty of our classmates at Columbia sporting events this year.

Margie's e-mail forwarded a communication from Dr. **Sandra Lora Cremers**, who started with our class but finished with the Class of 1991. Sandra understandably keeps up with both CC '91 and CC '92, and was kind enough to forward news of several of our classmates.

According to Sandra, **Alessandra Cazzaniga Soares** lives in Worcester, Mass., with her husband, David '91E, who earned a master's in engineering, and their six children.

According to Sandra, “they are busy but very happy.”

Sandra also reported that **Maria Master**, who is the godmother of Sandra’s first son, decided to go to medical school after being a lawyer for years. Maria completed her schooling at Cornell and is now doing her residency in psychiatry.

Sandra added that Patrick Lannon ’91, a lawyer, lives in Aventura, Fla., with his wife, Valerie, and three children.

Finally, Sandra wrote that **Ruben Hernandez** lives in Miami, where he is married with two children and working in finance, and that **Mike Tarbutton** lives near Manhattan with his wife, Joan, and their three children.

Thank you again, Margie and Sandra, for providing news on so many of our classmates.

Although I am sorry that I don’t have more to report this time, you do know how to fix that. Touch base. Let me know how you’re doing and what you’d like to share. I can take care of the rest.

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I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season (though by the time you read this column, it will be spring-time).

I ran into **Sara Niego** at my husband Mike’s high school reunion over Thanksgiving. Mike and Sara grew up together and were prom dates (talk about a small world!). It was great to catch up with her, especially since I had not seen her since our fifth reunion. Sara graduated from P&S in 2001 and is a psychiatrist in private practice in West Hartford, Conn. She also is the program psychiatrist for the eating disorders program at the Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital. She and her husband, Petr Protiva, live nearby in Avon with their sons, Eli and Leon. Sara is in touch with Liz Hale ’93 Barnard and J.M. Liggio ’93 Barnard. Liz lives in Cambridge, Mass., where she teaches graduate and undergraduate literacy and writing classes at Emmanuel College. She also is a literacy consultant for the Boston Public Schools. Last year was a big year for Liz, as she published her first book, *Crafting Writers, K-6*, that teaches the art of writing, and recently got engaged. J.M. lives in Virginia Beach, Va., and she and her husband, Cret Wilson, recently welcomed a daughter.

Shortly before Christmas, **Neil Turitz** celebrated his birthday with his annual “bacchanal” bash in New York City. He had

a great turnout, and attendees included **Dave Shimkin**; **Addison Golladay**; **Joe Saba** and his wife, Jen Fettner Saba ’93 Barnard; Joan Campion ’92; Axuve Espinosa ’93E and Eric Zukerman ’94. Neil said he’s already received a number of RSVPs for next year’s 40th birthday celebration (are we really all on the verge of 40?).

Sara Niego ’93 is the program psychiatrist for the eating disorders program at the Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital.

Finally, I heard from **Rachel Mintz** during the holidays. She was on her way to India for a five-week trip as part of her M.B.A. studies at NYU’s Stern School of Business. Rachel took a winter course in global business at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad, and she was looking forward to traveling the country while there. Rachel is getting her M.B.A. part-time and spends her days working in the Office of the Auditor General in the New York City Department of Education.

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Amit Bose writes about his exciting new Presidential appointment as director of congressional affairs for the Federal Railroad Administration at the U.S. Department of Transportation. He’ll be working for FRA Administrator Joe Szabo and with DOT Secretary Ray LaHood. Before joining FRA, Amit was New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez’s senior policy adviser on transportation and infrastructure issues.

In other professional news, **Tim McCutcheon** has been named CEO of Ovoca Gold, an international gold exploration company based in Russia. Tim has been a director of Ovoca since January 2009 and has lived and worked in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States since 1994. Prior to working for Ovoca, Tim worked in multiple financial institutions such as Bear Stearns, Aton Capital and Pioneer Investments as an award-winning metals and mining sector analyst and as an investment banker. Tim was one of the first analysts in Russia to write about its gold mining sector, and he has advised numerous international gold mining companies on mergers and acquisitions, business development and Russian business practices.

Sergio LaPorta has become the Haig and Isabel Berberian endowed chair in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. He arrived at Fresno State in fall 2009 after teaching at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Forward, one of the premier publications of the North American Jewish community, has named

Shawn Landres one of the 50 most influential leaders in American Jewish life. Shawn is co-founder and CEO of Los Angeles-based Jumpstart, a nonprofit incubator, catalyst, think tank and advocate for sustainable Jewish innovation. *Forward* called him “an essential thinker in explaining the new Jewish spirituality and culture.”

And finally, **Mary Killackey** writes with happy news of the birth of her son, William (Will) John DeCell, on November 16. He arrived a few weeks early, but both mom and baby are doing well in New Orleans.

Thanks for all the news. I look forward to more updates!

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6
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I hope you will attend our 15-year Alumni Reunion Weekend on Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. **Adlar García**, reunion chair, said the program is all set and advises you to watch for information in the mail. The event will be packed with activities for the whole family. There will be dinners, cocktail parties, lectures, dancing on the Low Plaza and Camp Columbia for kids.

Join the Columbia College Class of 1995 Facebook group to view the current schedule and see who is coming to reunion. **Raymond Chan** is reunion gift chair. The class set a goal of \$150,000. We already have more than \$75,000 in gifts and pledges, and we encourage classmates to make gifts soon to reach the goal.

Daniel Petroski will be supplying our class dinner with wine from his Massican Winery. Other alumni

helping with reunion are **Jamie Bennett**, **Franklin Chiu**, **Maria Celis**, **Amanda Kahn-Kirby**, **Mike Stanton** and **Jason Rosen**. Contact Adlar at adlar-garcia@kellogg.northwestern.edu.

This couldn’t be a Class Notes column without baby news.

Christine Senft Callahan, wife of **Fletch Callahan**, sent an e-mail about the birth of their son, Fletcher Maximilian, born on November 16 in New York. He weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz. and measured 20 in. long. The Callahans live in the city, where Fletch is a bond salesman at Barclays Capital. Christine is a 1995 graduate of Columbia; she received her master’s from the Institute of Human Nutrition and is the director of digital media for the Visiting Nurse Service of New York.

Giles Giovinazzi and his wife, Jolynn Shoemaker, welcomed their first child, Kathryn (“Kate”) Maribel, on October 5 in Alexandria, Va.

A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Giles returned to his job on Capitol Hill in January after a year on active duty, including nine months serving as an intelligence officer in Afghanistan. In July, he was promoted to staff director of the House Aviation Subcommittee. Giles, Jolynn and Kate live on Huntsman Lake in Springfield, Va.

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Greetings, classmates.

Gabriella “Biella” Coleman is in her third year as an assistant professor in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication at NYU. A few years after majoring in religious studies at Columbia, Biella got a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Chicago. She notes that at Chicago, she did

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Maya Gupta '99 Aids Victims of Domestic Violence, Human and Animal

BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08

The New York City subway may seem like an unlikely place to discover one's calling, yet **Maya Gupta '99** first pondered the connection between domestic violence and animal cruelty — the crux of her career and research — while riding the 1 line as a College senior.

"I was idly looking at the posters at the top of the car when my eyes lit on an ad for a domestic violence crisis hotline. It asked about a number of warning signs of domestic violence, including if your partner had ever threatened or hurt your pet. That was kind of my 'light bulb' moment," explains Gupta, who since 2007 has been president of Ahimsa House (www.ahimsahouse.org), an Atlanta-based nonprofit dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence and their pets reach safety.

Gupta oversees the organization's three main programs, which include a 24-hour hotline for Georgia residents, an emergency safe house network to hold animal victims until they can be reunited with their owners and outreach aimed at raising awareness about the ways in which pets are often implicated in domestic violence. According to Gupta, pet owners often are hesitant to escape violent situations if they cannot take their pets with them to a shelter.

"Nationwide, fewer than one in eight domestic violence shelters allow animals, so it's a real problem," she says. "A lot of time the abuser will retaliate against the pet if the human victim escapes, or will use the pet to coerce the human victim into returning."

It is difficult to imagine a more fitting role for Gupta, who majored in psychology and French in the College and earned a master's and doctorate in clinical psychology from the Uni-

versity of Georgia in 2003 and 2006, respectively. Her dissertation, inspired by her subterranean epiphany, explored the links between intimate partner violence and animal abuse.

"One of the take-home messages was that there do seem to be subtypes in cruelty to animals in the same way we think there are subtypes in patterns of

shelters where they might otherwise be euthanized and placing them in foster homes until a permanent adopter is found. As a graduate student, she also helped rehabilitate and retrain a pair of former racetrack horses to become event horses.

"It was really a rewarding pursuit because these animals were getting a second chance,"



Maya Gupta '99, shown here with her cat Biskie, fostered kittens in her off-campus apartment during her senior year at the College.

PHOTO: GEORGE CARLESS

domestic violence," says Gupta of her research. "Some people's aggression is triggered mostly by perceived rejection while others fit a different subtype of the more typical, callous, unemotional aggressive person."

Gupta went on to serve as co-chair of the organizing committee that developed the American Psychological Association's Section on Animal-Human Interaction in 2007 and is now chair-elect of the section's governing board.

"It is the first time that the work of psychologists in the area of animal-human interactions has been officially recognized by the APA," says Gupta, who will begin her term as chair in 2011.

Gupta also is the founder of the Magi-Cat Adoption Network in Athens, Ga., a no-kill rescue group she started in 2000 with the goal of extricating cats from

explains Gupta, who still keeps the horses, Luther and Normandy, as well as a pony named Dennis the Menace. She also shares her home with four cats: Biskie, Sterling, Fred and Chitlin'.

Gupta became involved in animal rescue during her senior year in the College, when she fostered cats in her off-campus apartment. During her time at Columbia, she also was a member of the cheerleading squad and the sorority Alpha Chi Omega, whose national cause is working to end domestic violence. As a senior, the West Lafayette, Ind., native also escaped Morningside Heights several times a week by venturing to Brentwood, Long Island, to ride horses at Knoll Farm.

Kerri Bauchner Stone '97, one of Gupta's sorority sisters and a fellow cheerleader, recalls her friend's enthusiasm for the endeavors she pursued.

"I was always aware of Maya's love for animals. She spoke passionately about the causes in which she was interested," says Stone, a professor at the Florida International College of Law in Miami. "I loved that we could talk about shopping and music like typical college students one minute, but also discuss human nature or art the next."

It was precisely that balance that Gupta sought when she decided to attend the College, drawn in part by the Core Curriculum, which she credits in retrospect for allowing her to explore the interests that have shaped her career.

She explains, "The Major Cultures requirement was fantastic. Studying ancient Indian texts and Jainism really fit right in with my developing interest in non-violence and violence prevention, sort of linking the philosophical with the applied."

Location also played a role in Gupta's decision. "Growing up in a fairly small town in the Midwest, I really wanted to be at the center of everything, not just for the active off-campus life that New York offers, but also for the career enrichment opportunities it affords," says Gupta.

She never could have predicted however, that years later one of her fondest recollections of the Big Apple would be of an experience she had while commuting.

"I have, among other things, the 1 train to thank for helping me get started on this path," says Gupta. "That always stands out as a good memory of Columbia and of how New York helped me get where I am now."

Nathalie Alonso '08, from Queens, is an editorial producer of and contributing writer to *LasMayores.com*, *Major League Baseball's official Spanish language Web site*.

her research “among free software geeks and hackers.”

New York Times Washington correspondent **Jodi Kantor** has secured a seven-figure book deal with Little, Brown to write a volume on the Obamas. Jodi’s book will draw on the three years of reporting she has done since giving up the editorship of the *Times’ Arts & Leisure* section in 2005. During President Obama’s campaign, Jodi produced a number of biographical stories about the President and his inner circle, including one on his time at the head of the *Harvard Law Review*, one on his career as a law professor, one on his basketball playing and one on how his friends were bracing themselves for his presidency. The book deal comes on the heels of Jodi’s *New York Times Magazine* cover story on the Obamas’ marriage, which argued that “the Obamas mix politics and romance in a way that no first couple quite have before.” Congratulations on this wonderful accomplishment, Jodi!

That’s it for this issue. Please send in more news. You know the drill. I leave you with this thought: “I tore myself away from the safe comfort of certainties through my love for the truth; and truth rewarded me.”

—Simone de Beauvoir

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Darrell Cohn, Avani Patel and **Brian O’Dwyer ’97E** have gotten together with other Columbians to breathe the new life into the Chicago Columbia Alumni Club (www.chicagocolumbiacub.com). Darrell is the treasurer and Webmaster, Brian is the secretary and Avani is one of the directors. They’ve had many successful events, including an Epicurean Circle series, where Chicagoland alumni get together to eat dinner at different restaurants. So far they’ve had German and Ethiopian cuisine. Darrell lives in Lakeview near Wrigley Field with his wife, Leah Kahn, and is hoping for a Cubs World Series victory.

Oren Lerman finished his residency training in plastic surgery at NYU Medical Center last June. He now is pursuing sub-specialty fellowship training for one year in reconstructive microsurgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

My own joyous news is that on December 30 I gave birth to a son, Micah Amir. My husband, David, and I are thrilled beyond words with the newest addition to our family.

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A December article in *The News-Press* of Fort Myers, Fla., profiled the company Impact Education, which was founded and is run by CEO **Adam Hall**. The business-section piece praised Adam’s education piece company, which provides online instructional software for students K–college. Adam, who reportedly founded Impact Education 10 years ago after a stint as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan Chase, counts among his loyal clients a diverse roster of public schools, community colleges, prisons and special-education programs throughout the country. Congratulations, Adam, on your company, which is obviously meeting a real need.

In baby news, I accidentally left off a belated birth announcement in my January/February column. **Elana Sinensky Blumenthal** wrote in last fall to announce that she and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first child, Jonah Isaac, on October 25, 2008. Jonah weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz. and was 20.5 in. Columbians in attendance at Jonah’s bris at the Jewish Center on the Upper West Side included **Max Strongin**, Sarah Green Spatz ’00, Eleanor Assa Bertrand ’98 Barnard and Polly Blitzer Wolkstein, who, along with her husband, Mark, are Jonah’s godparents. Elana is on hiatus from the practice of matrimonial and family law while she raises her now 20-plus-lb. toddler.

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Hello, and welcome to my third column. So far I have received one piece of actual Class Notes mail! It’s from my mom in Kansas City, and it reads, “Hi Lauren, Diane and another former co-worker took me to see Farragut North on Sunday. Noticed that the playwright is a ’99 CC alumnus and M.F.A. Columbia grad, so here’s the program in case you are interested for your Class Notes column. Diane says this may be made into a movie — per her Google search. Love you, Mom.” Via phone, my mom also revealed that she and her former co-workers really enjoyed **Beau Willimon’s** play and were not surprised at all to learn he’s from Saint Louis, since KC is forever in awe of that classy town. [Editor’s note: See the alumni profile of Willimon in May/June: www.college.columbia.edu/cct/may_jun09.]

Also reporting from the weather-



M. Austin Ripley ’01 married **Oliver Eslinger** at her parents’ house in Rhode Island. Joining the party were (left to right) **Maren Maier ’01**, **Aimee Silverman Horowitz ’01**, the bride, **Myvonwynn Hopton ’01**, **Maggie Romao Mintzberg ’01**, **Ellen Shofner Bolotin ’01** and **Michael Bolotin ’01**.

battered middle section of the country, **Esther Chak**, now a reluctant Chicagoan, sent me one heck of an update but failed to mention that she saw *Avatar* in 3D with **Jenn Kaufman**, who moved back there last year with her husband, William, and dog, Anderson. In light of the following A+ Class Notes contribution, I will forgive this oversight. On top of being a super-talented graphic designer who picked up an M.F.A. from RISD like it was an hors d’oeuvre, Esther writes newsy e-mails like a bandit. Witness: “Kevin Aptowicz ’99E and Katie Ayer ’99 Nursing now have two sons, Cian and Lucas, and Katie recently won her first trial. Kevin is up for tenure review at West Chester University near Philly. They both do research at Penn as well. David Meshoulam ’00 and his wife, Becca, now have two daughters, Ella and Hannah. David is finishing his coursework for a Ph.D. in the history of science at Madison and is going to start his dissertation soon. **Kamryn Eddy** recently married **Cathryn (Freid)**, whom she met at University of Chicago, now living in Boston. **Bryan Carlson** married **Amy Wilk** on New Year’s.”

After some gentle prodding from **Sahil Godiwala** and **Jay Cosel**, good old **Slatan Bickford** has stepped into the fray and tries to account for himself as follows: “**Slatan Bickford** and **Lara Yanovsky** were married October 17 in New Orleans. In attendance were **Sahil Godiwala**, **Ian Kell**, **Chris Harriss**, **Jay Cosel**, **Nihal Godiwala ’02**, **Blaine Bell ’96**, **Ommeed Sathe ’00** and **Jamie Vandenberg (née Ballantyne) ’00** Barnard. Sadly, we have reached the

age where almost everyone arrived coupled up, so despite our best efforts to re-create The West End circa 1997, there were no scandalous hook-ups to report. Also, **James Boyle** was unable to attend.

“Slatan has spent the majority of his time since 2004 consulting along the Gulf Coast, fighting insurance companies on behalf of his clients to get their hurricane claims paid. The first couple years were mainly in smaller towns and cities, where he lived like a local, swilling copious amounts of domestic beer, cheering SEC football and dating cocktail waitresses.

“Fortunately, he met his wife, **Lara**, in early 2007 in New Orleans, where she now is finishing her final year at Tulane Medical School. Their first kiss was at the med school prom (I wish I were making this up), and they have been together ever since. The two are currently crisscrossing the country for Lara’s emergency medicine residency interviews and will learn in March where they will spend the next three to four years.”

Class Notes are troubling in that people seem to think that the only newsworthy items are those about work, marriage, advanced degrees, parenthood and other adult kinds of things. I, for one, don’t have a baby or a house. I’m not married. And I don’t have a job — I live in a subplot and have been fairly unencumbered by stuff like responsibilities and ambitions — so it’s nice to get a low-key, non-life-changing update like this, from **Kristina Kaufman**: “**Susan Harlan**, **Ania Wajnberg** and I went to **Nick Anderer’s** new restaurant,



Anna Martinez '02 (center) married Gamal Kader (left) at the Masjid al-Nur in Denver in October. Tizoc Brenes '02 (right) flew in from Los Angeles to serve as Martinez's best man.

Maialino. It's the latest Danny Meyer restaurant in the Gramercy Park Hotel. Nick is the executive chef and doing well, but tired. He works 7 a.m.–1 a.m. every day. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Google it for more info. It's a big deal!" (N.B.: **Mike** "epicurean" **Erman** hasn't yet weighed in on Maialino, but I will be sure to let you know when he does.) Kristina continues, "Not sure if this is interesting enough, but **Sara (Wilson) Frajnd** is moving back to Israel with her husband, Amos, and their daughter, Ella (2), but first they are traveling in South America (Brazil and Argentina) for five weeks. They [recently] had a goodbye party that I, Ania and **Jenn Alzona** went to."

That's beyond "interesting enough," Kristina — it's the kind of material that makes *Columbia College Today* a must-read. As is this interjection from Sarah: "You forgot the part about our dog, Henry Benz, who has dual citizenship!"

Many thanks to Kristina for her tireless efforts and to Sara for giving us the full scoop.

Finally, since Ruth Altchek '00 asked to be mentioned in the '99 column, I'm pleased to tell you

Cristina Pippa '02's play *Cell Cycle* will be produced at Russell Sage College this spring.

that I saw her at a really delightful and slightly ritzy dinner party on New Year's Eve. **John Bennett** was there, as were Andrew Dennington '01, Matt Poindexter '01, Kitty Greenwald '00 Barnard and various people who attended other colleges. Late in the evening/early in the decade, **Konrad Fiedler** arrived in high-flying California style. Konrad likes to make mournful pronouncements about our extended adolescence, but regard-

less, it was a nice way to kick off the teens.

That's all for now; many thanks to all those who wrote in! And please, everyone, be sure to keep me posted on all the things you're doing, not doing or maybe even avoiding.

REUNION JUNE 3–JUNE 6

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Dan Hoffman lives in Huntington Woods, Mich., with his partner, Ariel, and their children, Michael and Shiloh (both 3). Dan has about a year left of his dermatology residency at Henry Ford Hospital and is on the job hunt. He and his family miss New York a lot — he lived there from 1995 when he started at Columbia until 2008. He notes, however, with the kids, life in Manhattan is probably not in their future. Dan reports that Michelle Lokitz '96 was one of his dermatology attending physicians at Henry Ford until she moved to North Carolina in August with her husband and two children.

Columbia tennis sensation **Salil Seshadri** lives on the Upper West Side with his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter, Mia Sullivan Seshadri (1). Mia apparently already owns a tennis racket, which is of great concern to Jennifer! Congrats to my fellow JJ12 floormate Salil!

Omosede Idehen and Grigor Licul were married in a gorgeous, mountaintop ceremony in Lovran, Croatia, in September. Several friends flew in from all over the world for the wedding, including myself. Other guests included

Erica Easley; **Alicia Dooley** and her husband, Danny Rappaport; **Rana Yates** and her husband, Ivar Draganja '03L; **Ben Giesmann** and his wife, Yuliya Smyk; Louis-Simon Ferland '06 Business and Tami Chuang '06 Business. The festivities lasted all weekend and involved pasta, truffles and exploring Grigor's hometown, Opatija. The photogenic wedding lasted for 12 hours and was the first wedding I've attended where guests danced between

courses. The last course — a traditional Croatian soup — was served well after 2 a.m. The happy couple resides on the Upper West Side.

Make sure you mark your calendars for our 10th (you read that right) reunion, Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. The Reunion Committee has been working hard to put together a fantastic program of private tours, cocktail hours, dinners and other Columbia and NYC events. There will also be a class dinner and wine tasting Saturday night, followed by dancing and champagne on Low Plaza.

01

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At the close of my last column, I promised I'd provide details about **Nancy Perla's** "star-studded" wedding in Arizona to Matt Michaelis, and I like to deliver on my promises. The stars were, of course, all the Columbia and Barnard alumni in attendance, including **John Balzano**, **Andrea Cherkerzian**, **Joyce Chou**, **Dina Epstein**, **Billy Kingsland**, **Annie Lainer**, Patricia Marinoff '02, Dr. Sarah Palestrant '02, **Joe Rezek**, Jamie Rubin '01 Barnard, Chelsea Scott '01 Barnard, Victoria Spodek (née Vinarsky) '01 Barnard, Melissa Tominac '02, Brandon Von Tobel '02, **Susan Wilsey** (née Pereira) and myself. It was an incredibly festive affair held at the Arizona Biltmore, and I was honored to help celebrate with Nancy and Matt.

Jorge Herrera wrote in with an update: "On July 10, my wife and I welcomed a daughter, Alejandra Gloria, into the world. She and her big brother are doing well, except I am just dying for some sleep. I practice law, specializing in business and personal injury litigation. I was honored this year to be appointed as the legal adviser to the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which is the oldest Hispanic Chamber in the country. Between my family, work and the several boards I serve on, my life is pretty hectic, but I wouldn't have it any other way. My best to everyone."

My wife, Jamie, and I are disappointed that **Michelle Nayfack** (née Braun) and her family are moving from Los Angeles to the Bay Area in June. Michelle is finishing her Ph.D. in urban education at USC. Her husband, Aaron, will be starting a three-year fellowship at Stanford in developmental and behavioral pediatrics. All of us, including our daughter, Julian, will miss Michelle, Aaron and their

adorable son, Isaac (14 months). That being said, the Nayfacks are thrilled about this move and promise to visit.

Enjoy the spring, and stay in touch!

02

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I am hoping 2010 is filled with lots of updates from our classmates.

The rights for **Helena Andrews'** first book, *Bitch is the New Black: ... And No One Wears It Better than Me*, which will be published by HarperCollins in June, have been optioned by Fox Searchlight Pictures. The movie will be produced by *Grey's Anatomy* creator/executive producer Shonda Rhimes, and Helena will write the screenplay. More information is forthcoming on www.bitchisthenewblack.com.

Nick Schifrin is ABC News' Pakistan-based reporter. He covers Pakistan and Afghanistan for all ABC News broadcasts, including *World News with Diane Sawyer*, *Good Morning America* and other affiliated networks.

Sydney Rose Cicchillo and her husband gave birth to a daughter at the beginning of the year. **Cristina Pippa's** first child, Francesca Perry Price, was born in August. Cristina teaches playwriting at Buffalo State College and is an artist in residence in the Arts in Healthcare Program at the Center for the Arts. Her play, *Cell Cycle*, is set to be produced at Russell Sage College this spring.

Kyla Pavlina writes, "My husband and I had a gorgeous son on January 29, 2009. His name is Beckett Pavlina Hayden, and he will be taller than me before he is 5. LOL. He is tall like his father, an absolute dream and the most fun job I have ever had!"

Anna Baltzer continues her work as a lecturer and organizer for Palestinian human rights and is touring internationally with her book, *Witness in Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories*. She recently appeared on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart alongside Palestinian political leader Dr. Mustafa Barghouti to talk about her book and joint Jewish and Palestinian nonviolent resistance to the Israeli occupation. View the interview and more at www.AnnainTheMiddleEast.com.

Andy Cheung and his wife, Karen, recently celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary, as well as their one-year anniversary of living in the Netherlands. Please e-mail him at andrew.k.cheung@gmail.com.

com. He is building the company he co-founded, www.sensobi.com.

03

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Spring is in the air again, and the change in seasons coincides with changes in the lives of our classmates. **Alan Lue** started a master's in financial engineering at UCLA-Anderson in January. The program offers a multidisciplinary degree with a focus on applying quantitative methods to financial services. **Lauren Lewis** writes, "Since graduation, I have dreamed of being an entrepreneur in the retail industry. After years of living abroad (Tokyo, London and Dubai) studying fashion on the side with a full-time career in finance, I am launching an online retailer, Glassworks Studios (www.glassworks-studios.com). It is a stylish boutique for professional women with an international mindset. Working toward launch has kept me busy, but it has been a great ride so far and hopefully will continue to be so for years to come."

Eric Siskind moved to Manhasset, N.Y., last summer and started residency in general surgery at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System after graduating from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He also married Lauren Goldfarb '07 Barnard. **Stephanie Peng** is in her second year of residency for plastic and reconstructive surgery. She went to medical school at the University of Chicago and completed her

Lisa Pettersson '03 recently launched the New York-based nonprofit Scandinavian American Theater Company.

westward journey by ending up in Seattle. Stephanie has been at the University of Washington for two years and will be there for a total of four.

Alexander Michaels graduated from the Law School in 2008 and clerks for the Honorable Robert S. Smith on the New York Court of Appeals. **Matt Pellow** writes, "Matt Pellow and Sarah Kummerfeld were married on September 6 in Sydney, Australia. Matt is a Ph.D. student in inorganic chemistry at Stanford." **Peter Neofotis's** *Concord, Virginia: A Southern Town in Eleven*

Stories, will be the featured performance of this year's festival of the Theater of the American South in Wilson, N.C. The show will run for three weeks in May. **Jonathan Schwartz** writes, "I'm an editor on *Modern Family* (a film editor, not an editor of text). Our first season has seen great reviews, high ratings numbers and best-series nominations from the Writers Guild, Screen Actors Guild and the Golden Globes. Everybody, please tune in to ABC on Wednesdays at 9 p.m."

Robyn Schwartz writes, "Dan Hammerman '02 and I are staying in Italy another year (we'll be here at least through September; after that, who knows?). I keep busy through a variety of remote non-profit consulting gigs and our blog (<http://martelloetrofiewife.blogspot.com>). We try to travel as Dan's vacation time permits and were thrilled to ring in the New Year on the Champs Elysees in Paris."

Adeline Yao writes, "I finished my government scholarship bond at the end of 2009 and am taking a sabbatical from my job to figure out what I want to do next. I am spending six months in Tokyo, from February to July, working at an art gallery and wandering around the city."

Daniel Shamah writes, "In September, I finished a clerkship for the bankruptcy court in the Southern District of New York, where I witnessed history with the Lehman Brothers, GM and Chrysler bankruptcies. I recently returned to private practice at O'Melveny & Myers in the city, where I've been practicing bankruptcy law. Danielle Shamah (née Schieber) '03 Barnard and I also had our second child and first daughter, Marlena Lilly, just before Thanksgiving."

Lisa Pettersson writes, "I live in New York and recently launched

Scandinavian American Theater Company (www.satcnyc.org), a nonprofit with a mission to bring innovative productions of Scandinavian plays to the New York stage. I founded it together with six other Scandinavian New Yorkers (including two other Columbians of the graduate film and theatre directing programs). Our first show is a modern staging of Strindberg's *Miss Julie*, at Scandinavia House in June."

I asked classmates to reminisce about what they miss most about campus, and they shared the following: Football Sundays at AmCafe



Jacob Danziger '04 and Phoebe (Day Connell) Danziger '05 were married on June 14, 2008, at Bear Flag Farm in Winters, Calif. Celebrating with them were (left to right) Sandy Naylor '03, Julia Shannon '03, Scott Tift '03, the bride, the groom, Melanie Micir '03, Simon Fischer-Baum '03 and Greg Ferguson '03. Not in attendance was the couple's daughter, Hazel, who was born on May 15, 2009.

(**Erik Moss**), Columbia Hot Bagels (**Stephanie Peng**) and frozen margaritas and a burger at The West End on a hot summer day (**Loraine Wu**).

04

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Hello fellow alumni!

I hope you are all well. For those of you who do not know (or remember) me, allow me to introduce myself: My name is Angela. I studied biochemistry and Spanish, and my favorite Columbia memory is an amalgamation of the countless hours spent on the steps talking with friends or "studying" (read: talking with friends). Currently, I am at Ricochet Public Relations working in the healthcare division and loving every minute of it. I am excited to become your Class Notes reporter and have to thank my good friend **Miklos Vasarhelyi** for doing such a commendable job for the past five years. He has left some pretty large shoes to fill, but I am determined to try. *Please* don't be shy. Send me any and all updates!

On a somber note, it is with a very heavy heart that I report the passing of Garland English '04E in January. He was a second lieutenant in the Army and served one tour of duty in Iraq, where he commanded a platoon. He died in a rock-climbing accident in Hawaii, where he was stationed.

Mischa Byruck writes, "Through the eyes of his classmates at Columbia, Garland was the archetypal

character of the Western Canon: as physically superior as Nietzsche's superman, as fascinatingly engaged as Kerouac's Dean Moriarty, as radically self-reliant as Thoreau at Walden and as beautiful and poised as Michelangelo's *David*. To Garland, every edifice was a challenge to be surmounted, every discussion a life lesson, every day a potential adventure. Calmly and lovingly, he dragged both friends and family into this heightened and invigorating world. Through him our perspectives shifted, our horizons expanded and our compasses righted."

REUNION JUNE 3-JUNE 6

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05

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A new year is in full swing. How has 2010 been for you so far? Some updates from our classmates:

Elizabeth Segran is traveling a great deal as she writes her doctoral dissertation. She has been dividing her time evenly between the United Kingdom, the United States and India as she does research, writes articles, participates in conferences and generally plows through her dissertation. Last summer, Elizabeth collaborated with



Rebecca Sendor-Israel '05 married David Sendor-Israel (second from left) in Boston in May. Joining the couple were Rebecca's brothers, Sam Israel '11 (left) and Nafi Israel '07 (right).

PHOTO: CARYN COHEN

a colleague from UC Berkeley to translate a series of ancient Tamil poems about love and a river. These poems, which have never been translated into English, will be published by Penguin Classics in 2011.

Andy Rios writes: "I am in Dallas helping to grow a clothing manufacturer into a nationally recognizable brand. Always looking for good people, so if anyone is interested, send me a note."

Alex Rolfe is moving to Dublin this year to trade energy. He would love to hear from people who are there.

Jenn Handorf began production on her first feature film, *Isle of Dogs*, in February.

Eliana Meiorowitz Nelson writes: "Life is great! On November 8, I married Lev Nelson in Brookline, Mass. We moved together from Morningside Heights 1½ years ago and have a happy life in Brookline. I work at Boston University Medical Campus at the Institutional Review Board while also pursuing a master's in public health at BU part-time. Lev is studying to be a rabbi at Hebrew College. He's a proud alumnus of Brown, but we seem to like each other anyway."

Eliana also noted that about 30 Columbians were present at the wedding, including **Steve Melzer**, **James Bondarchuk**, **Rachel Grant Meyer** and **Suzanne Schneider**.

Phil Sandick writes: "My girlfriend and I will be in Botswana from the time this issue hits press until the start of law school in the fall. (Some may remember that I lived there for 2½ years.) If anyone plans to hit the World Cup, drop me a line."

Jeannelle Folkes: "I'll finish my M.A. program in higher and

postsecondary education at Teachers College in May. I'm also taking advantage of the extended first-time homeowner's tax credit. By June, I'll be a homeowner. It's a daunting yet exciting process. I've been watching a lot of HGTV. During the holiday season, I met up with **Charlotte Jacobs**, **Kyle Carraro**, **Joyce Liu**, **Tara Coleman '05** Barnard, **Nick Burke '07** and **Emil Diaz '09E**. I'm looking forward to what this new year brings."

Congratulations to **Julia Stiles**, who will be honored by the College on March 3 with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. Watch for a follow-up article in the May/June issue with photos from the black-tie gala.

And lastly, **Melanie Lee** writes: "I'm newly engaged to our class correspondent. After more than four years together, **Peter Kang** proposed to me in front of my entire family! We are planning a summer 2011 wedding."

It already has been five years since the gates at Morningside opened and released us into the world. Now it's time to party like it's 2000 again. Alumni Reunion Weekend will be held Thursday, June 3–Sunday, June 6. There will be tons of events all weekend, culminating with the Saturday wine tasting, class dinner and dancing on the steps of Low Plaza. So come on up (or down, or over the ocean) to celebrate.

06

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Jose Montero recently was promoted to director of market research at Bloomingdales and is studying to take the GMAT this spring. **Andrew Liebowitz** is facing the snow, ice and cold of Syracuse, N.Y., bravely as he works toward his master's in public administration. He spent his brief winter break reconnecting with friends and family, and welcomed in 2010 with his sophomore year roommate, **Matthew Disney '06E**, and his significant other, **Christina Sardinias '06** Barnard. Andrew looks forward to joining the blogosphere soon with a non-partisan journal dedicated to analysis of public affairs and hopefully working for the federal government or in a government consulting role by the summer. Please reconnect with him at aliebowitz@gmail.com.

Mike Brown will be leaving the investment arm of Virgin Group (Richard Branson Investments) to join AOL Ventures. He will primarily be responsible for building out the venture fund and platform as well as making seed

and Series A investments in early stage technology businesses in the United States, United Kingdom, Israel and India. **Emily Tang** moved to Baltimore. **Monica Betancourt** is in her second year at the University of Chicago Law School. Last summer, she worked at the Gilbert & Tobin Centre of Public Law at The University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, on constitutional law and human rights issues. **Teddy Diefenbach** lives in Los Angeles and is studying game design for his M.F.A. in interactive media at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. **Justin Ifill** writes, "Recently, for Homecoming, Justin helped put together the Black Alumni Council Homecoming event, which had its most successful turnout in recent history. Ifill Events is going strong and is here for your event needs."

A warm congratulations to all those who recently tied the knot.

Joe Winters married Angela Suber of Jacksonville, Fla., on December 19. **Mike McAndrew**, **Wade Fletcher '05**, **Alex Ehrhart** and **Shay Murphy** were groomsmen. Other CU alums who attended were **Matt Kaplan**, **Brooks Hansen '05**, **Brandon Bowser**, **Colby Blitz '06E**, **Arun Ramachandran '06E** and **Jeff Coles**.

David Ribner, also a groomsman, writes, "**Evan Marlin** married Aviva Androphy on New Year's Eve in East Meadow, N.Y. Attending the wedding were many Columbians, including Sarah Marlin Swartz '98, Jessica Levi Ribner '06 Barnard, **Joshua Berliner**, **Benjamin Silver**, **Dov Sebbrow '07**, **Yonatan Brafman '07**, **Ariela Rosenberg Brafman '09**, **Montgomery Wilensky '06E**, **Barry Wohl '06E**, **Kristen Loveland**, **Julia Ribner '14** Barnard and **Dr. Hillel Ribner '67**."

Elizabeth Ruddle and **Ross Gabrielson** were married on September 5 near her home in Carversville, Pa. A reception followed at the Water Works Restaurant and Lounge in Philadelphia. It was an amazing day, made all the more memorable by the 16 Columbia alumni in attendance. **Danny Concepcion** was the best man. **Nick Jennings '06E**, **Tyler Boyd** and **Paasha Mahdavi** were groomsmen. "It was a fantastic day and a great start to our new life together," Ross writes. "Our honeymoon on the Greek Isles also was pretty amazing."

Jennifer Jae-Yeon Kim is engaged to **Nathan (Sangyoon) Park '07L** and will be married at St. Paul's Chapel in June. **Siham Sobhan** is engaged to be married this June and is completing a master's in traditional Chinese acupuncture and herbology in San Diego, Calif.

Congratulations to all!

07

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I hope that everyone had an enjoyable winter (and stayed warm!). Many of our classmates have been extremely busy. Here are some exciting updates.

Susan Cheng made her TV debut representing Cornell University Cooperative Extension-NYC on the PBS special *Go Greener*, a show that talks about how being sustainable can help you save money and strengthen your local communities. **Paul Chuffo '95** co-created and co-produced the show and is working on the companion DVD and book. The show is scheduled to air nationwide in March. **Sharon Chin** sat in the studio audience and watched as her four-year college roommate hosted the show. Congratulations, Susan!

Christian Capasso writes, "**Faisal Saidi** and I founded Shenanigans for Charity, a nonprofit organization now operating under the umbrella of **Jerone Hsu's** 501c3, Prime Produce. **Faisal**, **Rob Cohan '07E** and I have been guest bartending throughout the city with **Andrew O'Connor** manning the DJ booth at each venue. All proceeds go to the selected charity of the evening; a recent beneficiary was the South Bronx United, a youth soccer organization. We have had a multitude of Columbia alumni come out to support these causes. Anyone else who is interested in upcoming events can e-mail us at ShenanigansForCharity@gmail.com."

Jimmy Vielkind-Neun shares, "Starting in January I returned to the *Albany Times Union*, writing about state politics and government from the Capitol. It's an exciting time — major elections this year as well as the lingering challenges of an all-Democrat government — and I'm delighted to be writing about it for the paper I grew up reading. I'll still be blogging like I was for *The Observer*, and you can follow the dysfunction at blogs.timesunion.com/capitol. I'm also now a regular contributor (on-air, despite the fact that my face was designed for newspapers) to *New York NOW*, which airs weekly on public television stations around the state."

Matt Reuter, now in his third year of medical school at Georgetown, writes, "The hours have been long, but the rewards make them more than worthwhile — during one of my on-call nights last month, I delivered a baby at 2:30 a.m. Also, I enjoyed seeing a whole bunch of my '07 classmates at Homecoming in October and have been having fun in D.C. dur-

Jake and Marty LaSalle '07 Juggle Pins and Possibilities

BY GORDON CHENOWETH SAUER '11 ARTS

Watching them during a performance of what they call "athletic artistry," identical twins **Jake LaSalle '07** and **Marty LaSalle '07** appear as different as apples and, well, apples. Fitting, since at 9 their juggling career was sparked by apples in an apple orchard. "I remember seeing the apples and thinking, 'Oh, it'd be cool to juggle those apples.' And I don't remember not being able to do it. I started juggling them, and I taught my brother," says Jake.

Born less than a minute apart (Marty is older) in Kennett Square, Pa., the brothers, currently performing with the Big Apple Circus, showed an early propensity for performance: The two began formal gymnastics training at 8. Flashing forward 10 years — a decade including summer performances for the Holland America Cruise Line off the coast of Alaska; first place at the 2001 International Juggling Association Championships in Madison, Wis.; and a performance in the fall 2002 international Cirque de Demain Circus Arts Festival in Paris — Jake and Marty arrived at the College to begin their academic tenure. They chose Columbia because they wanted to be in a big city, one that would, as Marty says, "allow us to continue working a little bit, even though we'd be full-time students."

"We visited the campus and both fell in love with the space up there. It was good to be around the energy of New York, and to be able to have some exposure to creative communities," Jake says.

But despite the academic rigors of the College, the two kept practicing — not as often as they had in high school, but enough to enter the Big Apple Circus following graduation. "We decided at the College that we wanted to keep performing, so the Big Apple Circus was one of the first

companies we contacted. It's one of the best circuses in America, and it has a really nice energy to it," says Marty.

David Donner Chait '07, a first-year dormmate of Marty's, recently attended a performance. He says, "Going to the Big Apple Circus with five Columbia friends was an amazing experience. Despite years of friendship with Marty and Jake and an intense knowledge of their technique, this was the first time I'd seen them perform. Their act was unbelievable, and their talent is unmatched."

So when it comes to performing, what about the twin factor? "I think, without a doubt, being twins helps us stay in sync while performing," says Jake. "A body has its innate internal rhythm, and there's a fluidity that Marty and I have that is innate. Of course, practicing together since we were kids has helped." Marty says, "There is a natural advantage to being twins, but most of the seamless qualities in our performance don't come from that as much as they come from just practicing a lot."

It was at the College that they began to fully contextualize their performances. Jake says, "Having the opportunity to engage proactively with actual texts, historical texts in Contemporary Civilization,

was really eye-opening. I was able to situate what we do, how I live and what we do on stage within a historical and cultural context. Columbia really encouraged me to think more about what I was doing for the circus community as a whole and by corollary, what the circus community was contributing to the artistic commu-

nity and even the value of art."

Marty says, "What I do now is in a lot of ways different from the Columbia experience, because you're just in a totally different world. What Columbia does, what the objective of the liberal arts education really is, is it gets you to think on your own. It gives you the confidence and the ability to

I went to Oxford. When I came back, I had already decided I was going to start performing after I graduated."

Jake condensed the pre-med curriculum, essentially completing it by the end of his sophomore year. This led him to a course of study concentrating in anthropology. He says, "I feel like I have a great base

of knowledge because of what I was able to study at Columbia. My studies weren't super-specialized. I was all over the place, in a good way though."

Now, with the end of their contract with the Big Apple Circus approaching, Jake and Marty intend to go their separate ways professionally. Jake begins medical school in the fall, most likely at Columbia. "I am not quite done with New York yet," he says. "I definitely want to do some form of surgery. I bounce back and forth between most types, but I like the intensity of an operating room and the tangibility of it."

Marty is planning a career in the entertainment industry — ultimately, he thinks, on the production side — and considering business school for next year. "I'd really like to head the creative development of big entertainment projects," he says. "Not necessarily be the creative voice, but sort of manage creative talent." Marty's performance days, however, may not be over just yet. He's

considering performing solo for a couple more years, as a generalist — someone who performs various acrobatic feats on circus apparatus.

Gordon Chenoweth Sauer '11 Arts is a freelance writer, instructor in Columbia's University Writing Program and M.F.A. in fiction candidate.



Jake LaSalle '07 and Marty LaSalle '07 say the seamless qualities in their performances come somewhat from being twins but also from "just practicing a lot."

PHOTO: MAIKE SCHULZ/BIG APPLE CIRCUS

think about your problems. I think I'm more confident in the creative process as a result of being at Columbia."

Marty studied international economics, completing his junior year abroad at Lady Margaret Hall at Oxford. "My college experience was divided in two," he says. "The first two years I was a normal student, and then



John Schneider '07 and Stephanie Pahler '06 Barnard had an outdoor wedding in August in her hometown of Solvang, Calif. Partying with the happy couple were (left to right) Jose Pelaez '07E; Kevin Meek '07; Jacqui Yunits '05 Barnard; Schneider's mother, Regina Mullahy '75 Barnard; the bride; the groom; Schneider's father, Robert Schneider '75; Cecelia Baum '07 and Ashraf Fawzy '07E.

PHOTO: COLLEEN ROSENTHAL

ing the precious little time when I'm not busy at the hospital. I'm now in my surgery rotation." **Tao Tan** and **David Chait** are in their first year at the Business School, where they are the University Senators from CBS.

Riddhi Dasgupta writes, "I am splitting my time working for the Texas public defender (for capital cases) and on my doctoral research (international trade law). We are excitedly planning a March-long tour of Italy to check out some art and sculptures. Bernini's *Ecstasy of Saint Theresa* and Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment* top the list."

Eric Bondarsky shares, "I recently had two of my college roommates, Jeffrey Feder '07E and **Matthew**

at any time with updates. Happy spring!

08

Neda Navab
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Hi, Class of '08. Below are some updates from our classmates.

After graduation, **Catherine Taylor** moved home to Perth, Australia. In January 2009, she was joined in Perth by her boyfriend, **Jordan P. Davis**. Shortly thereafter, Jordan proposed, and the happy couple were married on January 2, 2010. **Rachel Welt**, **Stephanie Rosales**, **Stephanie**

You Gregory. It is a tribute to the legends of tap. I live in Washington Heights and teach dance and perform around the city when I'm not on tour. Living the life of a dancer, constantly hustling!"

After a year in "the real world" (aka retail), **Kirsten Andersen** started her first semester of graduate school at the University of Virginia in the fall. She is working on a Ph.D. in English literature, focusing on Victorian and Modernist novels. The faculty and students at Virginia are amazing, and Kirsten is happy to be back in school. Boyfriend Matt Steiner '08E is enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Virginia's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

09

Alidad Damooei
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As winter wears on and we approach warmer days, members of the Class of 2009 who live in colder regions are beginning to get excited for the spring. Others like me, who migrated to warmer pastures, are starting to get nostalgic for that feeling you have on the first warm spring day when you can take off your coat and sit on the steps. In California, you just don't get that feeling since it is always warm. As the weather brightens up, our classmates continue to have all sorts of exciting adventures.

We start off with life updates from the Rockaway Beach Eight, whose human pyramid was featured in the September/October issue. **Priya Murthy** recently returned from researching hydrothermal vents at the University of Bremen/Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology and farming in France with **Rahul D'Sa**. **Shira Burton** is a paralegal at an employment/class action firm, Giskan Solotaroff Anderson and Stewart. She lives with **Ashraya Gupta**, **Joanna Smolenski** and **Ben Reininga** in Clinton Hill. **Morgan Whitcomb '09E** is an engineer at Sam Schwartz Engineering in Manhattan. **Katie Reedy** recently received her top-secret government security clearance, but (alas) does not yet have a start date for Foreign Service Officer training. **Andrew Lyubarsky** is living in Philadelphia until he leaves in March for his teaching Fulbright in Argentina. He recently returned from volunteering at the Mexican border in Nogales, Ariz. **Nick Kelly** is a political assistant to State Assemblymen Daniel Squadron and Brian Kavanagh. **Benny Shaffer** is in Kunming, China, on

a research Fulbright he started in September. **Max Friedman** recently visited him there. **Glover Wright** is at the Law School and lives in Prospect Heights with Nick, Morgan and Nathalie Celcis '09 Barnard, a researcher at Columbia Medical Center.

Stephanie Russell-Kraft spent last summer in Ankara, Turkey, on a State Department Critical Language Scholarship. She then avoided the real world by visiting family in Germany before making her way back to New York to look for a job. For a few months, Stephanie worked in catering and as a server at Bubba Gump Shrimp Company (in the heart of Times Square!) but shortly thereafter she found a steady office gig as a "strategic writer" for Send Word Now, an on-demand emergency notification company. She writes papers, case studies and (soon) a blog for the software company, and is starting to enjoy being the lone liberal artist among businesspeople and engineers. Stephanie lives in an apartment on the LES with **Amanda Karl** and is really excited to see direct sunlight again.

Rickie Siegel lives in Hamburg, Germany, and works for ITDP Europe (Institute for Transportation and Development Policy). She recently ended a three-month stint at the Regional Planning Association of Greater Stuttgart, a placement she earned through the Transatlantic Renewable Energy Fellowship. On the weekends, Rickie took advantage of her fantastic central location in Europe to visit cities such as Vienna, Munich, Paris, Berlin and Copenhagen. She writes about innovative planning issues around Europe in her blog, Europlanning (www.europlanning.blogspot.com).

Sumaiya Ahmed now takes the 1 train one more stop, up to 125th Street, where she is a paralegal at African Services Committee, a social services organization that focuses on providing French-speaking African immigrants with HIV care and advocacy. The firm takes on all kinds of cases, including housing, public benefits, asylum and domestic violence. Sumaiya lives in Astoria and loves it!

Yelena Shuster has been mastering the art of unemployment since graduating. When not fulfilling every parent's dream of having a jobless English major for a daughter, she blogs at ivyleagueandunemployed.com. To survive and ensure sufficient caloric intake, she lives off free cheese samples at Westside Market. I must say that the blog provides an interesting and real perspective into the consequences of the recession that many of our peers face.

Sumaiya Ahmed '09 is a paralegal at African Services Committee.

Kondub, over to my apartment in Queens for the Sabbath. We then met up with our other roommate, Daniel M. Friedman '08E, for pizza on Saturday night. A fun time full of reminiscing about our days in college was had by all!"

David Greenhouse lives in Cambridge, U.K., with Emily Jordan '09 and recently started a new job with IBM as an information technology consultant. David and Emily also recently traveled to Istanbul and highly recommend the "beautiful historic buildings" and "excellent food."

Thank you again for all of the submissions. Feel free to e-mail me

Shieh, Alyssa Gates '09, Courtney Wong '09 Barnard and Kyle Jurado '09 joined Jordan and Cate in Perth to celebrate the wedding, with Kyle serving as one of Jordan's groomsmen.

Olivia Gorvy moved to San Francisco in January to work for Facebook and live with **Melody Quintana**. "While I've loved my time in NYC, I'm excited to explore the West Coast," says Olivia.

Maud Arnold was on the cover of the December 2009 issue of *Dance Spirit Magazine*. "It's the tap dance issue! Check it out at www.dancespirit.com. I am going on a tour with a show called *Thank*



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ALUMNI CORNER

Tales from a Lapsed Slacker

How I learned to stop whining and love reading (again)

BY NICK KELLY '09

Though it may not get as much press as its Spanish counterpart, *The Running of the Seniors* has to be as much fun to watch — if only for its sheer absurdity. The scene is the Steps, not a Pamplona street, but the drama is essentially the same: senior runs to print out his or her thesis (late); senior, chased by a fear of failure, awkwardly runs with armful of theses past the incredulous faces of his peers; senior, upon turning in his masterpiece, blacks out.

Handing over my thesis should have been a time for celebration. But as I lay down on Low Steps after turning it in, exhausted, I felt none of that sense of completion and relief that usually accompanied the end of a class. I hadn't even asked for my own copy. You would think that I would want to say to my classmates, "Hey, *you* may have had fun senior year, but I made *this!*" But I never wanted to see the thing again. And my books fared no better: I stuffed them into duffel bags and threw them into the Butler Library book return without a second thought. Over the course of that year I had come to dread reading them, and thus had come to dread reading in general.

What had happened to me? How had I completely lost my taste for reading? And most importantly, I found myself asking over the last couple months of school, would it ever come back?

Take some time off, people told me — you'll want to go back to school eventually. After all, they said, "You've been in school for 20 years!" But I was stubborn. Looking down at another 10-page writing assignment later in spring semester, I was pretty confident that I'd rather be in a coal mine than pull another all-nighter. I was convinced that I was off reading for a long while; that I would join the real world and have real experiences and meet real people, far from the cobwebs and stultifying bubble of academia.

I thought all these things, and then I got a white-collar job.

As my days became an endless parade of phone calls and e-mails, I started to feel mentally vacant. Not because my job wasn't interesting, but rather because, like most jobs liberal arts majors get out of college, it just doesn't involve a lot of reading. I also felt myself slipping into the typical yuppie cycle of never-ending happy hours. And so I drifted back toward reading again — slowly, cautiously. My former sworn enemy wouldn't make it back into my life without a fight.

I began with newspapers. These only required brief bouts of attention, and could be abandoned, guilt-free, at any moment. But soon I found myself reading them front to back. Newspapers then gave way to full blown magazines. And though I still regarded them with a distrustful eye, I gradually started to become interested in opening books again — and even reading a few. My friends from Columbia felt the same way. In a summer when vampire movies and TV shows were seemingly every-

where, my friends and I joked about our vampiric needs for reading, as if it were some blood-like substance we needed for our mental health.

More than a habit, reading had become a daily necessity. That may sound unremarkable: Most Columbia grads probably attest to a deep love of reading. But I was never one of those who really *loved* reading. I enjoyed it, sure, but I never threw myself into novels between semesters. It was at Columbia that I became a reader, even if I didn't realize it until after the fact.

I remember freshman year, walking across campus and trying to explain to a prospective student what made Columbia unique. Every other time I purported to impart some generalized knowledge about this school to willing (or unwilling) listeners, I was later proved wrong. But that time I think I got it right. "Columbia forces you to learn how to read endlessly," I said, exasperated at trying to read half of Robert Caro's epic *The Power Broker* the night before. "Your teacher assigns you hundreds of pages, and you just deal with it."

I never imagined the lasting effects of those classes. By confronting us with impossible reading lists, our professors were turning us into readers for life. My error, while I was in school, was to mistake my mental exhaustion — so understandable in retrospect — for lasting apathy. On the contrary: Though I had been briefly turned against reading, Columbia also had made my need for it inescapable. Whatever we vampires may say, we'll always be back for more.



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Nick Kelly '09 majored in political science and is a political assistant for State Senator Daniel Squadron and Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh. He lives in Brooklyn with Glover Wright '09, Morgan Whitcomb '09E and Nathalie Celcis '09 Barnard.



Nick Kelly '09 finds much to read in the main branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.

PHOTO: NORA SCHAFFER '09 BARNARD

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