

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR THE SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

COLUMBIA

THE

OWL

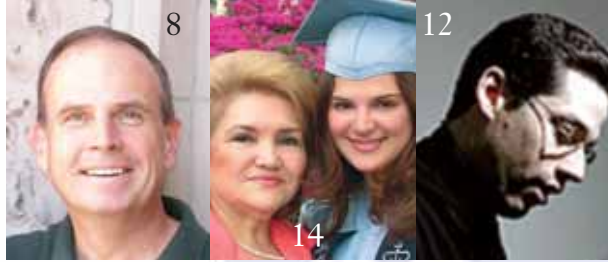


STUDENT LIFE
AT GS EVOLVES

COLUMBIA RESPONDS TO KATRINA
APARTMENT 6D'S MANY KEYS

FALL/WINTER 2005

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THE OWL IS DESIGNED BY
DI VISION STUDIO,
NEW YORK, NY

AND PRINTED BY
NORTH JERSEY MEDIA GROUP INC.
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ

COVER IMAGE

Clockwise: Dominic Stellini, GS Assistant Dean of Students; Walter Sweet, GS 1996; Stephen Davis, Current GS Student; and Evelyn Kircher, GS 2001 (Cover and Table of Contents Photo: Alan Orling)

Back Cover Image: Graduates lining up in Alfred Lerner Hall for GS Class Day, May 17, 2005. (Photo: Chris Taggart)

Letter from the Dean



Dear GS Alumnae and Alumni,

It struck me recently how critically important GS students and alumni have been and continue to be to the life of this great University. The current issue of *The Owl* highlights student leaders who have, over the decades, contributed actively to the integration of GS into the academic and community life of Columbia; and alumni who continue to remain champions of GS long after their graduation. This is a very powerful legacy, and one for which all of us should be justly proud.

This brings me back to a theme I never tire of invoking: If you want to understand truly what GS is all about, come and meet the students. And if you get to know the students, you will understand why they become such dedicated alumni. Their energy, creativity, and unwavering commitment to our mission are what have helped make GS the finest college of its type in the country, bar none.

Let us also celebrate the distinguished alumni and alumnae of the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program, the oldest, largest, and most distinguished such program in the country. The Postbacc program has just celebrated its 50th anniversary, and counts among its graduates an amazing array of talented physicians and healthcare professionals. We are especially proud that the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program has been traditionally more than 60% women. Over the past half-century, GS has been a major point of entry into the world of medicine for highly skilled and compassionate women.

We have much to celebrate, and much more that we can accomplish. I hope you will stay actively involved with this dynamic community, and share the extraordinary energy of 21st Century Columbia. On behalf of all of us at GS and the University, I want to wish you the very best for the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter J. Awn".

PETER J. Awn
DEAN

Student Life Evolves

BY ALLISON SCOLA



Photo: Alan Orling

On New Student Orientation Day in late August, Stephen Davis, President of the 2005–2006 General Studies Student Council (GSSC), took the podium to address the crowd in Alfred Lerner Hall’s *Roone Arledge Cinema*. He proudly told his new classmates — whose ranks include Olympic medalists, parents, former taxi drivers, and IT consultants — that they are about to embark on an amazing intellectual experience. If they want to play an active role in the life of the student community, there are over 200 student interest groups, and the GSSC meets on Tuesday evenings. Everyone is welcome.

Davis is able to advertise such possibilities because over the past ten years, the School of General Studies Student Council (GSSC) has evolved from a small student governing group into an active organization of passionate students focused on community building and campus-wide integration. Achieving greater campus-wide integration has been challenging, but

Observer journal, the Women’s Coalition, the Speakers Club, the Writers Club, and the Yearbook Committee.

Student life at GS has transformed since Sweet’s undergraduate days. Because of a number of sweeping changes, today’s students enjoy an array of academic and extracurricular choices vastly different from the mid-1990s. The transformation traces back to 1990 with the creation of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, an initiative that formalized years of work towards academic integration by creating one faculty for all of the Arts and Sciences schools at Columbia.

Further, in the early-to mid-1990s an even greater change occurred: an administrative reorganization separated the continuing education programs, Summer Session, American Language Program, the Columbia sponsored study abroad programs, and the non-degree and visiting students programs from the undergraduate degree granting program and the Postbaccalaureate Premedical program. This separation created a new division called Continuing Education and Special Programs. The new

The creation of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences in 1990, which integrated Columbia’s schools academically, set the table for another integration — that of student life.

because of previous visionary GSSC leaders, today’s students have a greater sense of community and more opportunities than ever before.

Just ten years ago, current GS Assistant Dean of Students Paola Scarpellini-Crotts (GS 1995) was in her final year as a GS student. She recalls that only a handful of GS student groups existed. “I remember attending a few Writers Club readings,” she commented, and then added that learning about other events and opportunities for undergraduates was difficult, “If you saw the flyer, you saw the flyer. If you didn’t, you missed the event.”

In 1995, a few social events and organizations were available to GS students; however, before widespread use of the internet, email, and cell phones, contacting the general student population was limited to printed newsletters and posters that were distributed only on-campus. In addition, because much of the GS population worked, had families, or were focused on academics, few students participated in extracurricular activities.

Walter Sweet (GS 1996), President of the 1994–1995 General Studies Student Council, noted that although few, there were students who sought an extracurricular life at GS. He explained that a minority of students expressed interest in interacting with undergraduates at Columbia College (CC), School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), or Barnard College (BC), but the majority of GS students who sought activities participated in the six or seven organizations that the GSSC supported — groups such as the Columbia Dramatists, The

structure enabled the School of General Studies to focus on its core mission: to attract, train, and support nontraditional students who possess exceptional academic potential within the challenging intellectual environment that is Columbia University.

Walter Sweet remembers that it was a tumultuous yet exciting time for the school. “Before the official administrative split, there were some people that questioned the necessity of having an undergraduate college for nontraditional students. Once Caroline Bynum was appointed Dean, she moved to clarify GS’s unique mission and strengthen its relationship with the Arts and Sciences Faculty and the University administration.”

Dean Bynum’s tenure (1993–1994) was followed by that of Dean Gillian Lindt (1994–1997), who led the School through structural changes recommended by the University Strategic Planning Commission spearheaded by Provost Jonathan Cole. According to Sweet, Lindt infused GS with a new sense of pride and tradition, which led to stabilized enrollments and revitalized fundraising. Sweet commented, “Under each dean’s leadership, the mood shifted, and students, faculty, and administrators renewed their commitment to the School.”

In 1997, Peter Awn was named Dean, and he worked aggressively to continue the academic integration started by his predecessors. It was this academic integration that set the table for greater student life integration among the undergraduate colleges. The momentum was contagious, and many students began to seek social integration that mirrored the progress made on the

academic front. That is what prompted Bridget Burke (GS 2003) to ask her advisor about how she could meet other GS students. “I joined the Student Council because it was one of the only extracurricular venues for GS students. I wanted to be part of what was going on,” Burke recalled.

In her first year on the Council in 1996–1997, Burke served as the liaison to the Columbia College Student Council. The position introduced her to the potential for the GSSC. Her enthusiasm prompted her to run for President that spring. She won the election and led the Council for the following two academic years.

During her term, Burke exploited her background in public relations to cultivate a more cohesive GS student community. Through publications such as the Student Guide to Living, the first GSSC website, and a monthly community newsletter called *Civitas*, she established ways for her classmates to learn easily about events. In addition, she reached out to journalists at the *Columbia Spectator*, which generated a number of articles covering the activities of the GS Council.

Burke’s enthusiasm was joined by that of her colleagues: In just two years, the Council expanded from eight positions to twenty-two. The new leadership regime represented a growing population of GS-ers who believed that involvement in extracurricular activities and the life of the Columbia community added an important dimension to their educational experiences. Six years after the academic integration of the undergraduate faculties, a desire for social integration had grown among the nontraditional student population.

A movement toward equal opportunity in student life began in February 1997 when the GSSC requested that the Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) appoint a liaison to participate in the GSSC’s weekly meetings in order to facilitate relations between the two student councils. The request prompted a surprising response, “I don’t consider GS to be of the same genre as the other three undergraduate colleges. We have different needs, different concerns, and very different constituencies,” stated the CCSC Vice President presiding over the meeting. (Hofstetter, Steve. “Council Denies General Studies a Representative.” *Columbia Spectator*, 25 Feb. 1998)



The 2004–2005 General Studies Student Council embarked on a team building retreat in September 2004. Events such as these help GSSC leaders create thoughtful programming for their colleagues. (Photo: Erica Jackson)

The CCSC’s decision brought to light issues that the GSSC would be championing for the next few years: Not only did the Columbia College, SEAS, and Barnard student boards feel GS was not “of the same genre” as the other undergraduate schools, but they also pointed out financial reasons for not granting the GSSC’s request for representation.

“[Creating such] structural links will lead to pressure to open up every door to GS students. Establishing a link with GS council could create some friction with [the Union of Student Organizations]. It’s our student activity fees that pay for these clubs to run,” declared the CCSC Vice President. (Hofstetter, Steve. “Council Denies General Studies a Representative.” *Columbia Spectator*, 25 Feb. 1998)

The denial of the liaison request was a setback for the GSSC, yet they worked to resolve the matter in a constructive fashion. Later that semester, the CCSC amended its constitution to appoint a liaison to the GS Council. With the appointment, the GSSC made strides, however, the issue made it clear to GS students that in order to participate fully in activities with other undergraduates, they would have to challenge the perception of what a GS student is, and they would need to change the funding policies of all the student government organizations.

With this focus, Burke and the councils she led began to lay the foundation for a broader change, one that guaranteed future GS students full integration into extracurricular life on campus. She did this by creating a Presidents’ Council that met monthly and gave the leaders of the CC, SEAS, BC, and GS councils an opportunity to share news and ideas. She also encouraged GS students to participate in campus inter-

est groups and programmed activities and social events targeted at the nontraditional student population.

As time passed, more matriculants showed interest in participating in student groups and activities. The following spring, a record turnout for the 1999–2000 elections revealed a new lineup of GSSC officers featuring Christopher Smith, President (GS 2000) and Bernard Goldstein, Vice President (GS/JTS 2002). With fresh energy, Smith and his team embarked on a year of continued community building, networking, and public image overhaul. As 1999–2000’s Senior Class President Evelyn Kircher (GS 2001) explained, “We on the GSSC wanted to bust the myth that GS students weren’t interested in enjoying a richer social experience.”

Optimism about positively changing perceptions grew until an October 1999 *Columbia Spectator* opinion piece written by the CCSC Communications Director noted a series of negative impressions about the School of General Studies and its students.

“Ask most College and SEAS students what sort of contribution is made by the GS students in their classes, and you will most likely receive a snort, snicker, and a crude response.” (Neumann, Ariel. “Identity Crisis Plagues School of General Studies.” *Columbia Spectator*, 6 Oct. 1999.)

The segment prompted an uproar among the GS Community, and in the days following, the *Spectator* received a flurry of letters-to-the-editor from Columbia College students, alumni, current GS students, and a religion professor, to name a few — all contesting the piece. One published letter from GSSC President Christopher Smith countered each published inaccuracy about GS regarding admissions standards, graduation requirements, and the misperception that the School advertises in the New York City subway. Smith concluded his letter challenging, “[GS students include people] who came here specifically to be in this environment of gutsy pioneers who dared to do things backwards.”

Kircher remembers that at first, response to the article felt like defeat, but, “After reading Chris’s piece in the *Spectator*, I wanted to become even more involved.” Mason Beard (GS 2004) who held a number of positions on Council throughout her four-year academic career commented, “It woke us all up.”

Consequently, the Council and its supporters went to work to dispel misunder-

standings about the School of General Studies' population. Smith explained that although uniting GS, CC, Barnard, and SEAS students was a "painful process, we made progress in little steps by co-sponsoring events and holding meetings between the council presidents every month."

Smith's Council also turned inward. They knew that developing a sense of GS pride would help their cause within the larger University community. The GSSC became a reliable resource for students, helping them network, giving them a voice with administrators, building community, and programming inclusive social events. The result was a change in the overall energy in Lewisohn Hall. The year's kick-off barbeque was well attended, the Lewisohn lounge became a hub for degree students to meet and study, and the year culminated in the first formal social event for GS in decades.

"There was a lot of skepticism about whether or not there would be interest in a formal dance," Kircher remembers, "And the question was raised, 'Do thirty-year olds really need a prom?' but Chris Smith's answer was, 'Why, yes!'"

The GS population proved the GSSC right: 300 tickets for the 2000 GS Spring Formal dinner-dance held in Low Library's rotunda sold-out within 24-hours. It was a huge success and illustrated the enthusiasm GS students had for more traditional student customs.

During the following two years with Bernard Goldstein (GS 2002) as President

in 2000–2001 and Michael Nadler (GS 2002) as President in 2001–2002, the GSSC continued to forge relationships with the other undergraduate councils and organizations. Goldstein used his experience from serving as CCSC Liaison in 1998–1999 to encourage further interaction between GS and College, SEAS, and Barnard students. With more GS students extending themselves, in concert with an increased offering of University housing and the explosion of modern communication tools, the GS student body chipped away at the barriers between campus communities.

Mason Beard remembers that, "More than anything, GS students wanted to be respected on campus and be an integral part of the undergraduate community."

Big strides had been made, but ultimately, both Goldstein and Nadler understood that constitutional and administrative changes needed to be addressed to gain full access to undergraduate student activities. Nadler recalls, "I thought it was unfair that we couldn't participate in executive positions in student groups that we were contributing a great deal to. As members of organizations, our participation and dedication was the same in every other way. Why not just make it equal?"

During the 2001–2002 academic year Nadler and Vice President Mason Beard made it their business to force the discussion about total integration. They spent the entire year of their term "fighting the uphill battle" to have the new Activities

Board at Columbia (ABC, formally the USO) bylaws amended. They finally made headway when the ABC realized the fiscal benefits of full integration. By the last month of the spring 2002 semester, Nadler and Beard composed a proposal that tackled what Beard termed, "the funding hurdle." With support from GS Assistant Dean of Students Dominic Stellini, they were able to raise the GS Student Life Fee to match the funds required by ABC and the Earl Hall Center for full participation.

Mary Catherine (Katie) Daily (GS 2003), who served as GSSC President following Nadler in 2002–2003, had the honor of signing the amended ABC constitution. "It was a long time in the making. In fact, many people said, 'I can't believe we didn't do this sooner!'"

Stellini remarked, "GS students were off and running once the organizations opened up."

Today GS-ers continue to work to integrate the Columbia community. In addition to scores of GS students participating in extracurricular activities (the GS Student Activity Fee now pays into five student governance councils), outreach tools, such as "Faces of GS," a feature on the new GSSC website, introduce the greater community to the diversity and distinctiveness of GS students.

Ariel Beery (GS 2005), President of the GSSC in 2004–2005, wrote in his February 2005 web-address, "...together we can create a [stronger] community and lay down the foundations for a better future for the students of the School of General Studies."

With that sentiment, internal community development continues, not only with traditional events such as teas, happy hours, and the annual spring formal, but also with new concepts such as an ethnic meal series, town-hall meetings, and parents-who-are-students events. Furthermore, Council elections for the past few years were held on-line, making voting more accessible to students who are not on campus everyday.

It is a new era at GS, and as the current GSSC President Stephen Davis reflected in his campaign platform, "When you walk around campus, unlike my freshmen year, people now recognize what GS stands for. This is in no small way thanks to years of hard work by the GSSC."



1997–1998 GSSC leaders from left to right: Ralph Charles (GSSC Social Chair), Kristin Pietrykoski (GSSC Barnard Liaison), Chris Smith (GSSC COI Rep), Bridget Burke (GSSC President), David Acosta (GSSC Treasurer). (Photo: Alan Orling)

COLUMBIA RESPONDS TO KATRINA

BY ROBERT HORNSBY

One of the less reported aspects of Hurricane Katrina is that it damaged up to 30 colleges and universities in the Gulf Coast region, displacing as many as 100,000 college students, according to the American Council on Education. Tulane University alone had 13,000 displaced students from eleven different colleges and schools, many of whom had just arrived to begin their fall term when the storm hit.

As news and images of the devastation wrought by Katrina emerged, Columbia University acted quickly. A group of key administrators and faculty worked together to create a seamless system for admitting over 200 of the displaced students as visiting students — waiving tuition, extending registration deadlines, offering academic and psychological counseling, and providing a full range of student services, including temporary housing assistance and health benefits. The planning team also pooled information and coordinated responses with other universities in the New York area and with the American Council on Education.

Provost Alan Brinkley summed up the sentiment driving these efforts in a letter to the Columbia community: “All of us in New York were the recipients of the enormous generosity of people across the nation and the world after September 11, 2001, and I know that we will all do our best to reciprocate by helping those affected by the disaster along the Gulf.”

FAST-TRACK ADMISSIONS

Within hours of the hurricane’s landfall, the admissions offices at many of Columbia’s schools began receiving calls from distraught college students and anxious parents seeking help. Most of the callers were Tulane students with home residences in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; but a few were also from faraway states, such as California, Florida and Texas.



Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger welcomes visiting students to campus at a special orientation dinner on September 7, 2005.

With home institutions unable to produce transcripts and other written records, admissions officers conducted sessions with individual students to determine their academic level and assigned them to classes accordingly.

AT LAST COUNT, 139 UNDERGRADS AND 66 GRADS

Over 200 displaced students are now taking classes at Columbia. They come from a variety of institutions — not only Tulane but also Loyola University and the University of New Orleans.

The majority are undergraduates and have entered the University through the School of Continuing Education, where they are mixed in with regularly enrolled students in Columbia College, Fu Foundation School

of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) and the School of General Studies.

At least 66 students are enrolled in graduate schools, including Arts and Sciences (18), Law (6), Business (5), Architecture, Planning and Preservation (4), Teachers College (4) and SEAS (1). The Mailman School of Public Health has admitted 23 graduate students; and by special arrangement, the College of Physician & Surgeons has accepted four third- and fourth-year medical students from Tulane for their ten-week clinical rotation.

GETTING ORIENTED

On Wed., Sept. 7, over 100 visiting students and parents filled the President’s Room of Faculty House for a special orientation session. “It means a tremendous amount to all of

us that you are here, and we would invite you in every way to participate in the life of Columbia,” said President Lee C. Bollinger in his welcoming remarks. “I think you’ll love this place,” he added.

Loyola University New Orleans freshman Jackson Nardelli, 17, said he was looking forward to starting physics classes at

Columbia despite missing New Orleans. “I was away from home in a cool city, but the flip side is that Columbia’s a great university. So far, I’m really blown away by it.”

RAPID MOBILIZATION EFFORT

Crisis response presents a particularly daunting challenge for large, complex and

decentralized institutions like Columbia. Yet in the wake of Katrina, the University acted quickly to respond with one voice and to craft and implement a university-wide process for accommodating students displaced by the disaster. A group of faculty and administrators spent long hours hammering out policy and overcoming hurdles to ensure that Columbia could do its part in assisting the students whose lives had been disrupted by one of the worst natural catastrophes in U.S. history.

The list of those who helped ensure a smooth, equitable response is long. In addition to faculty at the schools involved, it includes directors and staff from Student Affairs, Health Services, Housing & Dining, Academic & Residential Facilities, Student Financial Services, Student Information Services and Public Affairs, plus the University Registrar and the University Chaplain.

For the latest on the University’s ongoing Katrina relief efforts, go to www.columbia.edu/cu/news/05/09/katrina_final.html



GS Dean of Students and Associate Dean of Faculty Mary McGee led the academic advising session at the September 7th special orientation for Katrina students.

Katrina Brings Father and Son Together

BY ALLISON SCOLA

At the end of August, Bob Caldwell dropped his son Bobby off at Loyola University in New Orleans to start his freshman year of college. Unlike most parents, however, he returned home to New York to embark upon his own Bachelor’s program at the School of General Studies at Columbia.

In the early 1970s Caldwell left Fordham University to work full-time in his family’s furniture business on Canal Street. After successfully running that business for years, he embarked on a career in finance and sales, working for companies such as Shearson Lehman Brothers, Dow Jones & Company, and Standard & Poor’s. When it came time for his son Bobby to consider college, he advised him about the value of a liberal arts education and encouraged him to stay intellectually curious, following his passions rather than focusing on coursework geared toward a specific career. In the midst of counseling his son, Caldwell realized he was engineering his own plan for resuming his educational journey.

The afternoon before his own orientation at GS, Caldwell learned that Bobby had been evacuated to a Red Cross shelter in Baton Rouge, Louisiana as a result of Hurricane Katrina. “I was on the phone with him between orientation sessions scheduling his flight home,”



Bobby Caldwell is spending his first semester of college with his dad, Bob Caldwell, a new GS student.

Caldwell recalls. When it became clear that Loyola University would be closed for the fall semester, the Caldwells sought the offer from Columbia’s School of Continuing Education (SCE) to accept students from affected universities.

On September 6th while Bob attended his first class at Columbia, his wife Deborah assisted Bobby in registering at SCE. “I came out of my lecture and learned Bobby was already in philosophy class!”

Grateful to Columbia for the opportunity for his son, Caldwell said, “What initially looked like a disastrous start to Bobby’s college education has morphed into a unique and special opportunity. Funny how things work out sometimes.”

THREE KEYS FOR 6D

BY BONNIE ERICKSON, GS 2001

“YOU ARE THE KEY MASTER”

On the afternoon of May 16, 2004, unable to attend GS Class Day commencement exercises, Bonnie Erickson (GS 2001) resorted to zeitgeist technology and fervently text-messaged her housemate, the luminous Mason Beard. “The Key is yours. It is your destiny. You are the next Key Master.”

Some hours later, Erickson’s phone beeped to reveal the truly prophetic nature of her text: Beard had, in fact, been awarded the Alumni Key Award, following in the steps of, first, founding housemate Evelyn Kircher, and second, Erickson, making Beard the third female denizen of apartment 6D to have the honor of the Alumni Key Award conferred upon her. The circle was complete, the troika of power realized.

Awarding the Key to all three women may seem an uncanny coincidence, but in fact they were destined — by their dedication to academic distinction, by the discipline they had gained as professional dancers, by the experiences they sought and enjoyed at Columbia, and, most specifically, by their contribution to life at the School of General Studies — destined to be the key holders three.

The Alumni Key Award is given for the double threat of “academic excellence and service to the school.” In discussing the significance of the honor, these key holders all agree that part of what made receiving it profoundly rewarding was having their efforts recognized by the administration — both their academic records and their contributions as GS citizens. Kircher feels the award is “A significant recognition of our passionate commitment to the GS community,” an opinion each winner shares.

DON’T JOIN A BOOK GROUP!

Evelyn Kircher (GS 2001) is a classically trained dancer who switched disciplines from ballet to a career in competitive ball-



The inhabitants of Apartment 6D holding an Alumni Key. From left to right: Mason Beard (GS 2004), Bonnie Erickson (GS 2001), and Evelyn Kircher (GS 2001).

room dance. Although successful, she always felt intellectually dissatisfied with her professional life. One evening while teaching cha-cha to a retired Columbia professor, she asked if he knew of a good book group. He replied, “Don’t join a book group. Go to GS!”

Kircher matriculated in the fall of 1998, the same year fellow Key Award winner Bonnie Erickson enrolled.

Like Kircher, Erickson had been a professional dancer, though of the Jazz persuasion. She was a member of several dance companies, taught extensively in southern California, and toured Europe. In addition, she supplemented her dancing with a career as a restaurateur, which culminated in the opening of a restaurant in Kuwait in the summer of 1998. The daughter of an English teacher and a NASA astrophysicist, Erickson also found her career intellectually unsatisfying. She yearned for a liberal arts education as well as to live in New York

City. After some research, it became clear that GS was the ideal locus for her studies.

Kircher and Erickson did not meet until 1999, their second year at Columbia, but once acquainted, they proceeded to make up for lost time with a vengeance. During that academic year, they had three classes together, both served on the General Studies Student Council (GSSC), and Erickson assisted Kircher in teaching ballroom dance classes on campus.

Shortly after Erickson graduated in 2001, the year she won the Alumni Key Award, the two friends set up shop in a beautiful pre-war building on the Upper West Side: apartment 6D.

CHANGE COMPANIES, CHANGE CAREERS, CHANGE ATTITUDES

Fellow GS-er Mason Beard (GS 2004) left her home in St. Louis at age 16 to live and study full-time at the esteemed

Pennsylvania Ballet Company. After performing with the company for four years, in January of 2000, she moved to New York seeking to either change companies or change careers. Always a stellar student, she was attracted to GS for its community of artists and professionals as well as its academic flexibility. After her first semester of classes, Beard decided to focus on her studies full-time. She leapt into student life, and in 2003, Beard moved in with the iconoclastic women of apartment 6D.

One evening while teaching cha-cha to a retired Columbia professor, she asked if he knew of a good book group. He replied, “Don’t join a book group. Go to GS!”

Not only do Kircher, Erickson, and Beard have 6D and dance in common, they also share a passion for academics and an appreciation for the world-class education they received at Columbia. During their tenure at General Studies, these spirited, enthusiastic women all served on the General Studies Student Council (GSSC) in various positions. Participating as key members, they contributed to the growth of the GSSC as it burgeoned into a major undergraduate political force. Each one was instrumental in the introduction of events such as the Spring Formal and

Senior Dinner, and each contributed to improving GS students’ experience, changing public attitude toward GS, and crafting a new GS identity within the University.

AUDITING THE POWER

Because of their dedication, enthusiasm, and discipline, upon graduation Kircher, Erickson, and Beard each were awarded the Alumni Key Award.

While they all strove to achieve academically and found the academic curriculum to be rigorous and rewarding, when discussing their time at Columbia, the trio finds that the experiences that most resonate and are most memorable are those related to the friendships forged from their participation in GS activities.

Specifically, they note their service on the GSSC as a highlight of their student life, and one that provided some of the most pragmatic lessons of their collegiate experience. From their participation in the Counsel, they learned firsthand how to negotiate effectively within a team, how to resolve spirited disagreements between colleagues, and how to change the course of established streams of challenging attitudes. They learned that their passion and determination would persist over what, at times, could be great adversity.

In a way, possessing a key to apartment 6D represents the spirit of GS — “Lux in tenebris lucet” — In the darkness there is light — Because each holder came from a place of career dissatisfaction, each had an enduring spirit, and each created remarkable success. Erickson, Kircher, and Beard emphatically concur, not only did their efforts yield a world-class education, but they also yielded scores of prized memories, some life-long friends, and two keys — one to GS and one to a great New York City apartment.

THE SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES ALUMNI KEY AWARD WINNERS

The School of General Studies Alumni Key Award is presented each year at Class Day to a graduating senior who combines academic achievement with outstanding service to the School.

- 1985 KATHRYN MCREYNOLDS
- 1986 SIGRID GOODMAN
- 1987 SYLVIA GOLDEN
- 1988 SUSAN JOERLING
- 1989 RICHARD J. COX
- 1990 NANCY SELLECK
- 1991 ROBERT DE LUNA
- 1992
- 1993
- 1994
- 1995 LAURIE WILLIAMS
- 1996
- 1997
- 1998
- 1999 AVA ELIZABETH BARR
- 2000 DAVID A. ACOSTA;
EVELYN MEGAN KIRCHER
- 2001 BONNIE ERICKSON
- 2002 AMY RODGERS
- 2003 MARY CATHERINE DAILY
- 2004 MASON BEARD
- 2005 CLAUDIA BARRERA

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In the next issue of *The Owl*, we’d like to profile the past Alumni Key Award Winners and fill in the above historical blanks.

Please send your information to gسالumni@columbia.edu!



You want to go to medical school. You have your B.A.
But the only science course you’ve taken was Physics for Poets.
We have a program for you.

Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program

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Student NOTES

Like our alumni, current GS students are a vibrant group of distinguished personalities from an array of backgrounds — all experiencing the power of GS!

MATAN ARIEL, as the GS Representative to the University Senate, served as the project director for the National Tuition Endowment Act of 2005 campaign, spearheaded the re-design project for Columbia University's diplomas, and helped draft the University's new grievance procedures. This past academic year, he co-chaired the Senate Student Affairs Committee, and was a member of the Senate Executive Committee and the Senate University Housing Committee. Before attending Columbia, Ariel served three years as a singer in the Israeli Navy Entertainment Unit. He produced and performed on seventeen CDs and in four videos of beloved Israeli children's music.

ABIGAIL BECKER is a GS senior majoring in political science with a concentration in history. Since becoming a GS-er, she has acted as an orientation leader as well as a peer mentor to new GS students. Becker is also the copyeditor for *The Observer*, the literary, art, and features magazine of the School of General Studies. She is currently seeking an internship in the social justice field in New York City, and this fall, plans to apply to law school.

JONATHAN BISS, an accomplished concert pianist who has performed with most major U.S. orchestras, recently released a CD on EMI Classics featuring works by Schumann and Beethoven.

SCOTT BRINKER is a Ward H. Dennis Scholar and the president and CTO of ion interactive, an e-business consulting firm that provides web solutions for companies such as Citrix, Office Depot, and Siemens. He graduated in February with a 4.0 cumulative grade point average in computer science, and in June, began attending business school at the Sloan Fellows Program at MIT. This past May,



GS Valedictorian Scott Brinker addresses his classmates at Class Day ceremonies on May 17, 2005.

he delivered the Valedictory speech at GS's Class Day ceremony. Brinker lives on the Upper West Side with his wife Jill, a current M.Ed. candidate at Columbia's Teacher's College. Together they own a large black Labrador Retriever.

MATT DANIEL is a junior and the co-president of the Culinary Society of Columbia University. At the *Columbia Spectator*, he is the Editor of the "Food and Drink" section and the Associate Editor for the "Arts & Entertainment" section. Before double majoring in English literature and political science at Columbia, Daniel graduated in 2003 from the Culinary Institute of America with an Associate of Occupational Studies degree in the culinary arts, concentrating in wine and beverage management. He is currently developing an online restaurant guide and a student cookbook by students for students.

This past school year, **STEPHEN DAVIS** served as vice president internal for the GS Student Council and secretary for Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, Beta Chapter. In addition, he was the recipient of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) Dean's Award. A senior in



*Above: Stephen Davis
Below: Concert pianist and current GS student, Jonathan Biss.*

the joint program majoring in Jewish history at JTS, he majors in American history at the School of General Studies. During the summer of 2004, Davis interned as a Regional Director for the League of Conservation Voters in Washington D.C. on the Environmental Victory Project, a grassroots political campaign which supported John Kerry. He plans to attend law school.

OSCAR ESCANO, the recipient of a Bronze Star Medal with Valor device for service as an Army Ranger on a Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan, will be featured on Dateline NBC in the months ahead. He applied to GS the day before he was deployed and is now the president of U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University, a social group that helps ease the transition of recent military veterans into the Columbia community. Escano is a junior



Wesley Griffin (center) and fellow Columbians Andrew Liebowitz, CC '06 (left) and Matthew Dinnuson, CC '06 (right) raised money with for the British Red Cross after the London bombings this summer.

majoring in pre-med with a concentration in philosophy. He currently works as a research assistant with the Children's Hospital of New York's PECARN Project, a nationwide-project geared to improving emergency health care for children, and wants to become a physician so that he can help improve health services and education in the Latin-American community.

This past summer **KATIA GAIKA** participated in "Encouraging Dynamic Global Entrepreneurs," an eight-week program in Dunbartonshire, Scotland. EDGE, as it was called by the 48 student contributors, gave students a chance to experience the workings of small business on an international level.

In 2003, **GLORIA GARDNER** was appointed Student Representative by the Dean of Students Office to serve on the Committee on Instruction where she worked with a panel of deans and professors on GS academic programs and policies. Gardner returned to college after spending thirty-five years as an advertising executive in film production. She is now a senior, majoring in English literature with a concentration in art history. In 2002, she interned at the American Museum of Natural History, working for GS alumnae Nancy Lynn, '96, whom she met through a networking seminar. Last fall, she studied

art history at Reid Hall in Paris. After graduating from Columbia, Gardner hopes to create multi-media presentations and exhibits for art galleries and museums.

WESLEY GRIFFIN and his fellow interns at the Royal Bank of Scotland organized a charity soccer match that raised a total of £2,120 (approximately \$3,800) for the British Red Cross London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund.

Junior **KATIE KOCZYNSKI** was recently named to the US Skeleton World Cup Team. A sociology major, Koczynski will lead the squad during competitions in Lake Placid, New York as well as in Europe. Koczynski, a native of Nyack, New York, has been a part-time student at GS since the summer of 2003. She splits her time between her studies at Columbia and her training and competition commitments. Koczynski's dream is to compete in the 2006 Olympics in Torino, Italy. Her best season yet was in 2003–2004 when she finished 4th in the World Cup race in Calgary, Canada.

Before attending GS, **DANNY MAGARIEL** worked as an assistant logistics coordinator with American Catastrophe and Environment Services, Inc. a Florida organization which provides hurricane disaster relief. He is a junior hoping to major in urban studies and creative writing. Magariel is cur-

rently applying for human rights internships and a volunteer position as a student teacher with the Read America Program.

GEORGE PAPPAS, who suffered kidney failure after years of radiation and chemotherapy treatment, was honored and supported with a benefit concert that was held on February 10th, 2005. Pappas, whose academic success was acknowledged in 2003 with the Jennifer A. Pack Prize in psychology, found a kidney donor in long-time friend, Chrysoula Zikopoulos, whom he met years before while he was receiving treatment at the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The concert was organized by the Hellenic Studies Program of Columbia University, the Hellenic Students' Association of New York University, and Hope for Life, a non-profit organization that provides support to Greek-Americans with serious medical conditions. To learn more information on Pappas' condition or to donate please visit www.columbia.edu/cuhellenic/fundraising.html.

VIKKY URENA attended the Scottish Institute for Enterprise International Summer School in Edinburgh this past July. The Institute gave participants the opportunity to gain a broader understanding of enterprise on an international level, enhance awareness of their own skills, and create international networks.

AKIVA ZABLOCKI served as Junior Class President for the School of General Studies last academic year. As a member of the GS Student Council, he organized class events, and assisted in university-wide programming for all of the junior classes at Columbia. For the 2005–2006 academic year, he will serve as Senior Class President. Zablocki is majoring in economics and philosophy, an interdisciplinary program. Before attending Columbia, he served as a commanding sergeant in the Israeli Defense Force and worked as an associate producer on Reality Lost, an independent film directed by his brother Yitzi Zablocki, a GS alumnus. He is currently applying for internships at investment banking firms.

Contributed by Marguerite Daniels, Allison Scola, and Jennifer Vermillion.

CLAUDIA BARRERA, CLASS OF 2005

FROM CARACAS TO NEW YORK

MARGUERITE DANIELS, GS 2005

In July of 1999, Claudia Barrera took a semester off from her studies in business administration at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Venezuela to study English at a language center in New York. Barrera had never spoken a word of English before arriving in Manhattan five and half years ago. She intended to stay in New York for only a semester to become competent in English for business purposes. Her short visit soon became a permanent stay. “Once I came to New York, I fell in love with it,” Barrera recalls. “I felt it was my home.”

Within six months, Barrera had outgrown her English-language program and was fluent in English. “I learned because I wanted to learn. I watched TV in English. I would go to the movies in English. I didn’t speak to anyone in Spanish except for my mother and my family,” says Barrera.

With this success, Barrera began looking for more educational options. Then a friend who was living in New Jersey suggested that she take classes at Bergen Community College in Paramus, N.J.. Realizing that living New Jersey was more cost-effective than New York, Barrera enrolled, and chose to study all of the courses she studied in Venezuela.

“It was new to me because it was in a different language. I didn’t feel that I was wasting my time. I had very good grades, and I was very involved in student life,” she says as she smiles coyly.

Indeed, Barrera had achieved a 4.0 cumulative G.P.A, while she worked full-time at the Park Ridge, N.J. Marriot, as a banquet server. “It was a fancy name for waitress! I worked double shifts, sometimes 20 hours in a row.”



Claudia Barrera (right) with her mother at Class Day, 2005.

All of her hard work paid off. In 2002, she was nominated by the president of Bergen Community College, Dr. Judith K. Winn, for the All-USA Academic Team. For Barrera the nomination was an honor itself, since she was chosen to represent Bergen’s 13,000 students. Then she became one of 20 students named to the 12th annual All-USA Community and Junior College Academic First Team, USA TODAY’s program honoring exceptional two-year college students. Barrera received a trophy, and \$2,500 in cash awards.

At Bergen Community College, Barrera served on the Student Government Council, was a finalist for the Guistwhite Scholarship, and was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. By the time she graduated from Bergen in May 2002, she was named the class valedictorian, and was invited to apply to Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, Montclair State University, and Columbia University’s School of General Studies.

Having received her A.S. in business administration, Barrera was keenly aware of the value of money, so she initially chose to attend Montclair State in N.J. where she received a full scholarship that included liv-

ing expenses. Still, Barrera did not feel satisfied academically.

“I didn’t belong there,” she says. “Even though it was beneficial to my pocket. I felt Columbia would challenge me, and I wanted to be challenged. But I thought I wouldn’t get in,” she humbly states.

Barrera was admitted to GS for the spring of 2003 semester.

She financed her Columbia education by working as a tutor and translator at the Columbia Tutoring and Translating Agency and the Academic Resource Center of the School of General Studies, additionally, she credits her mother with providing both emotional and additional financial support.

“Throughout all the decisions I’ve made in my life my mother has always been there for me. She is what motivates me.”

Barrera admits her first semester at Columbia was demanding, but she believed it was important to get involved in student life. In the fall of 2003, she became the Alumni Affairs and Career Service Representative, a position which allowed her to serve on the GS Student Council and plan events such as the Women of GS Reception. Last year she was elected and served as Senior Class President.

“At Columbia,” Barrera reflects, “I’ve learned that it is important to build relationships with people. All the classes I have taken, all the people I have met, have built my confidence. I have discovered that once I put my heart into something, I can be successful.”

Her hard work has paid off. Not only was she awarded the 2005 Alumni Key Award, but since graduating, she landed a position with ThinkEquity Partners, an investment banking firm in New York.

EVENTS RECAP^{GS}

ALUMNI WINE TASTING: FEBRUARY 22, 2005

More than 40 alumni and friends joined GS at the Recent Alumni Wine Tasting held at the Morrell Tasting Room on Tuesday, February 22, 2005. The event, which sold-out within 2 weeks, brought together alumni from the class of 1991 all the way to GS's most recent graduates. **Marc Matyas** (GS 1996) owner of the restaurant Nolita House, catered the event and paired assorted cheeses and appetizers with the wines. Nolita House is located at 47 East Houston Street, between Mott & Mulberry Streets, and Marc Matyas encourages GS alumni to stop by and say hello.

BUSINESS NETWORKING RECEPTION: MARCH 21, 2005

On March 21st, 2005 GS hosted a Business Reception featuring **Roger Leeds** (GS 1966) at the Columbia Club of New York. The evening opened with Dean Peter J. Awn's introduction of the featured speaker, an introduction so rousing that Dr. Leeds commented how happy he was to have his wife, Ellen, on hand to hear it. His only wish was that his mother could have heard it as well. Dr. Leeds began by describing his enormous gratitude to General Studies for the start it gave him. His career in international business and finance spans 30 years: As an investment banker and private equity investor structuring and valuing financial transactions in a range of industries; as an advisor to governments, companies and private investors on privatization, project finance and foreign investment (International Finance Corp.); and as an academic, teaching, writing and advising on global investment issues, corporate governance reform and private equity investing. Currently a Professor at Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), he also serves as Director of the Center for International Business and Public Policy at Johns Hopkins.

DEANS DAY: APRIL 9, 2005

On Saturday, April 9th, GS alumni gathered with Columbia College alumni for Dean's Day. The alumni were able to attend a variety of class offerings throughout the day and then gathered at the Faculty House for lunch with GS Dean Peter J. Awn.

GS FILM NETWORKING RECEPTION: APRIL 12, 2005

Kristi Zea (GS 1974) was the featured speaker at the GS Film Networking Reception on April 12th. The evening included a brief video presentation showcasing some of the wonderful films Ms. Zea helped produce and worked on as the set or costume designer. Ms. Zea regaled the audience with stories and shared her mindset on what kept her going when at GS: "I knew if I failed in film, well, I was really a student, and if I didn't do well in school, well, I worked in the film industry!" After her talk, Kristi Zea took questions from the audience and tried her best to share personal as well as practical stories about her work and the industry. She explained the reason behind placing Dr. Hannibal Lecter in *Silence of the Lambs* behind Plexiglas as opposed to bars, and shared her stories about working with Woddy Allen, Jonathan Demme, and Martin Scorsese. Kristi Zea is currently teaching set design and production at NYU and working on the next Martin Scorsese film, *The Departed*, expected out in 2006.

POST BACC PREMED RECEPTION: APRIL 21, 2005

On April 21st, GS hosted the Post-baccalaureate and Premedical (PBPM) Alumni Reception in the Faculty House. The event brought together a wide-ranging group of alumni to discuss their career paths and choices in the field of medicine. The event, one of the PBPM program's most popular, was over subscribed with more than 120 current students in attendance.

CLASS DAY AND COMMENCEMENT 2005

On Tuesday, May 17th GS celebrated the graduation of the class of 2005. **Michael Margitich** (GS 1999), Senior Deputy Director for External Affairs at the Museum of Modern Art, was the Class Day Speaker. He implored the class to persevere and never give up their goals or dreams.

Melissa Bell (GS 1993) was awarded the University Alumni Medal at the 107th Commencement Day Luncheon held on May 18th in the Rotunda of the Low Memorial Library. Ms. Bell is credited with initiating a student-led orientation program for incoming students, reviving the alumni newsletter, *The Owl*, and serving as its editor for more than eight years. As a member of the GS Alumni Association, Ms. Bell lobbied to create an endowment for the School, named the General Studies Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, and organized the Columbia Literary Society, a group which has been under her leadership for 12 years. The luncheon, held every year following the University's Commencement exercises, was hosted by the Alumni Federation and the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations.

CAREER DINNERS

GS alumni **Marc Matyas** (GS 1996), **Simon Metz** (GS 2002), and **Diana Rodriguez** (GS 1997) gathered with a group of 25 GS students on Monday, April 4, 2005 to share their life stories and give students advice on how to change careers. The evening, sponsored by the School of General Studies Student Council and the Office of Alumni Affairs, was designed to bring together students and alumni.

On Thursday, April 7, 2005, **Joseph Ehrlich** (GS 1992) and **Raymond Aab** (GS 1975) met with GS students interested in pursuing a career in law. Both gave the students honest and frank advice about what to expect in the legal profession and what to do to enhance their chance of gaining admission to law school.

GS DEVELOPMENT NEWS

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

GS is grateful to all our scholarship benefactors for their extraordinary generosity to the School of General Studies. We are delighted to announce the creation of five new scholarships:

Eli and Adam Casdin Endowed Scholarship for general excellence and financial need

Harry G. DeMeo, M.D. Scholarship for general excellence in the Sciences or Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program

Lucia DiNuzzo Scholarship for excellence in Music

Ford Motor Company/U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Scholarship for underrepresented minority students

Ida Mae Snyder Scholarship for excellence in Sociology

Judith Lee Stronach Memorial Scholarship for general excellence

If you would like more information about how to create or endow a scholarship at GS, please contact Diane Carlyle at the GS Development Office at 212.854.9614 or dc2125@columbia.edu.

PLANNED GIVING AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Are you interested in supporting financial aid at GS or other GS programs through a bequest or other planned gift? For information on planned giving opportunities at Columbia University, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (212) 870.3100, (800) 338.3294 or via e-mail at gift.planning@columbia.edu.

BECOME A MEMBER OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S 1754 SOCIETY

The 1754 Society honors and acknowledges alumni and friends of Columbia who have made plans for the University through trust, estate, or other future gifts. Named for the year in which King's

College was established, the Society recognizes the vital role benefactors have played over the centuries in Columbia's emergence as the preeminent educational institution and the role they play today in ensuring its continued preeminence.

Qualifications for Membership

We invite you to become a member of the 1754 Society if you have:

- Included Columbia in your estate plan through a will or living trust.
- Created a charitable remainder trust, administered by either Columbia or another trustee, which names Columbia as the remainder beneficiary.
- Entered into a charitable gift annuity agreement with Columbia or invested in one of Columbia's pooled income funds.
- Named Columbia as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan.

Membership Benefits

The most important benefit you will receive from joining the 1754 Society is the satisfaction derived from making a lasting contribution to the University's long-term prosperity. In addition, you will receive:

- Recognition, with your permission, in honor rolls listing members of the 1754 Society. This recognition will never specify the details of your plan.
- Invitations to members only events sponsored by the 1754 Society as well as to University events both on campus and around the country.

For information on how to join the 1754 Society, please contact:

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School of General Studies

Alumni Wine Tasting Series

at Morrell's of New York

Old World Night: Thursday, September 29, 2005
New World Night: Thursday, February 2, 2006
Old World vs. New World: Thursday, April 27, 2006

School of General Studies & Morrell's of New York

Invite you to join fellow alumni in a series of wine & cheese tastings. Wine experts will steward you on a world-wide journey featuring selections from Morrell's vast cellar. Come meet old friends and discover new ones - not only from GS, but also from Morrell's collection!

Each evening is **\$30.00 per person and is from 6-8 p.m. at Morrell Tasting Room 729 7th Avenue**

For more information and to purchase tickets and register online please visit:
www.alumni.gs.columbia.edu

Questions or problems registering online please call 212-854-8498

2004 – 2005 JUDITH LEE STRONACH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Last year, GS was honored to receive a generous bequest from the estate of GS alumna, Judith Lee Stronach, Class of 1967. Before she passed away on November 29, 2002, Stronach, a long-time contributor to the GS Annual Fund, made provisions for the School in her will along with an equally generous gift to Columbia's Art History department, from which she received her M.A.

GS has received more than half a million dollars from Stronach's estate, yet her generosity towards the School is only one part of her remarkable legacy. "Judith Stronach truly embodied the ideals of GS," says Dean Peter Awn. "She never abandoned her intellectual life, and, like so many GS alumni, made a difference in the world and in the lives of other people."

Stronach was a longtime advocate for human rights who worked independently as well as with numerous international human rights organizations. She served on the Amnesty International Executive Board and was a supporter of the Center for Justice and Accountability, which helps survivors of torture and their families to hold their perpetrators accountable. Her commitment took her into the field as an interpreter for the Guatemalan Office of Human Rights as well as a worker at a respite camp for Bosnian children, among other projects.

Stronach's active engagement with the world also included her own community. Concerned about the growing plight of the homeless in Berkeley, California, she volunteered at local evening drop-in centers and later published a reader, *Visible and Vulnerable, The People We See on Berkeley's Streets*, a compilation of interviews with people she met. The book was an attempt to improve the public's understanding of homelessness. As she wrote in

its introduction her mission was: "to counter the stereotypes, to enable the [reader] to see the homeless a bit more clearly by listening to them tell of their own experiences."

In addition to her activism, Stronach was a scholar who loved art and literature. She and her husband, Professor Raymond Lifchez, supported programs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, including the restoration of the Greek and Roman galleries in the museum; restoration and cataloguing of rare books; a full-time curatorial internship; efforts to make the museum's holdings accessible through the internet; and the museum's program to support art education in the public schools. A writer and a poet, she was a volunteer teacher through the "I Had a Dream" program at the Prescott School in Oakland and taught poetry to gifted students at both Berkeley's Martin Luther King Middle School and Willard School.

Befitting her life's commitment to improving and enriching the lives of others, GS will use her bequest for scholarships. According to Dean Awn, "Judith Stronach's generosity will help GS accomplish what is absolutely essential — preserve the quality and diversity of its students. The only way to do that is to be able to offer financial aid to outstanding students who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford Columbia University tuition." The gift is being used to support current scholarships for economically disadvantaged students. GS has established two endowments in Stronach's memory: One is for the Judith Lee Memorial Prize, to be awarded to a graduating senior, and the other is for the Judith Lee Stronach Memorial Scholarship, which was first awarded in the 2004 – 2005 academic year.

2004 – 2005 JUDITH LEE STRONACH MEMORIAL SCHOLAR



Leeam Azulay-Yagev

Leeam Azulay-Yagev is a native of Israel where she served in an intelligence unit during her mandatory military service. Since youth, she has been interested in international

relations and international law which she pursued at Columbia University through the study of history and human rights. At Columbia, she has studied history from the Renaissance to modern times with a particular interest in the history of ideas, global issues, and women's rights. Her other interests include languages, translation, and writing, and she speaks Hebrew, English, Finnish, Arabic, and French, with varying degrees of fluency.

Azulay-Yagev began her studies at GS in 2000. She pursued her education mostly on a part-time basis, while continuing to work extensively. She was an assistant at the small academic book publisher Other Press, and during a year off from GS, she worked as an editor in the news department of *Haaretz Daily* in Israel while engaging in humanitarian and political activism there. On campus, she has been active in Israeli-Palestinian and Jewish-Arab dialogue and peace and advocacy groups. She aspires to work for international human rights organizations, study international law, and raise awareness of human rights issues.

Alumni NOTES

1945

DUNCAN SMITH thanks GS for his academic experience and for the opportunities it provides current students. He notes that his professional path has been rich. Smith worked as a professional for the Y.M.C.A. for 19 years in four cities and three states, was the Director of Public Relations, Publications, and Development at Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois, and worked for a year as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the New Jersey Commission for the Blind. The last 14 years of his career, Smith was a counseling psychologist in the Student Services Department at Nassau Community College, where he achieved full professorship. Smith and his wife married in 1950, and they have four daughters. He is proud to share that one of his daughters is an assistant professor of English at Quinnipiac University.

1948

CHRISTOPHER AND YOLANDA F. KENDRIS generously donated to GS's Academic Resource Center a number of French and Spanish books. Kendris is the author of 24 titles and has recently appointed his son, Theodore, as co-author of some of his works. Kendris and his wife reside in Albany, N.Y.

1951

EUGENE A. DEFELICE, M.D., CSGS, is the author of a book entitled *Web Health Information Resources*, Second Edition (iUniverse Inc., 2004). The book provides a basic compendium of key Web resources and strategies for obtaining health information from the internet. DeFelice, author, educator, and retired Distinguished Clinical Professor of Medicine (Robert Wood Johnson Medical School), is a Fellow of the American Geriatric Society and a Fellow of the Academy Psychosomatic Medicine. DeFelice is the author of 10 medical books and numerous medical/scientific publications. His latest book can be found at the following website: <http://www.iuniverse.com>

1953

L.D. CLARK published his 12th book *Bittersweet Christmas*, (Austin's Plain View Press, 2004) a novella set in his native North Texas. Since last June, his book *Moransaga* has appeared a chapter at a time and is being serialized on Readwest.com. Also his wife, LaVerne Harrell who attended John R. Humphrey's writing classes, was one of 21 Texas women select-

ed to include a short story in the anthology, *Listen Up* (Texas A&M University Press, 2004).

1956

HAROLD MARCUS see article page 19

1957

EDMUND W. PEASE, who is known internationally as the artist Lancelott, created quite a stir in art circles in Thailand with his exhibition Area. Area comprised more than 20 abstract and semi-abstract works in various mediums inspired by Lancelott's visits to locations in Thailand, Europe, and the United States. The National Gallery of Thailand has selected *The Fells Suite II (Thelma)* from the Area exhibition for its permanent collection. *The Fells Suite II (Thelma)* is a combination of enamel, acrylic with collage elements, on Kozo-shi paper, and mounted on canvas.

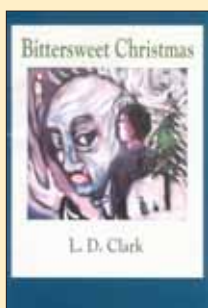
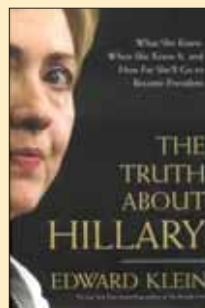
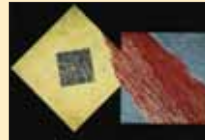
1960

BILL GRUVER, who has taught at ASU and ASU-West for the past 12 years, is teaching a new course, "The History of Political Scandals in America." The course is offered through the Center for Learning and next year at ASU's Life Long Learning Center. Gruver is also working on a book, drawn from a magazine article he penned, "The Political Transformation of Robert F. Kennedy."

EDWARD KLEIN, author of *The Kennedy Curse*, *Farewell Jackie*, and other best sellers, recently released *The Truth About Hillary* on Sentinel books.

1961

R.W. (JOHNNY) APPLE JR. has authored a new book, *Apple's America* (North Point Press, 2005). For more than thirty years, Apple has roamed the United States as an eyewitness to history. His robust enthusiasm for the food and culture of New England, the South and West, the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and his native Middle West carries him to forty great cities where he proves to be an ideal guide — amused and amusing, knowledgeable, indefatigable, and endlessly curious. From Boston to Honolulu, from Montreal to Las Vegas, Cincinnati to Seattle, Apple explores the landmarks, architecture, business, culture, and, of course, the food and beverages of his favorite urban communities.



1962

HAROLD L. CARTER authored a high school/college text book, *Comprehensive World History*. The content for the textbook has been a research project since graduate school.



STEVE WHITTLESEY, who is head of the Woodwork and Furniture Design graduate program in the Artisanry Department at UMass Dartmouth in New Bedford, Massachusetts, was recently invited to participate in an upcoming exhibition at The Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston. The exhibition, which will run from May through July 2006, is titled, **Old Friends, New Work: 25 Years of Studio Furniture at the Society of Arts and Crafts**. This coming January his work will be displayed at the Copia Museum in Napa, California at an exhibition titled, Trashformations. Trashformations has been showing at the Fuller Museum in Brockton, Massachusetts since this past summer.

1963

JUDITH GERBER is the president of her New York based career counseling service.



HELEN LEVIN was featured in a two-person show, **Gestural Abstraction in Painting and Sculpture**, with fellow artist Ed Davin. Levin's work appeared from mid July through August 2005 at art gallery 55 Mercer in Soho. She told *The Owl*, "My work is based on expressionist traditions with its roots in the compositional integrity of the masters. This is my struggle. Expect joy!"

1965

MALCOLM A. BORG, Chairman of the Board at North Jersey Media Group, was a 2005 Commencement Honoree at Fairleigh Dickinson University of New Jersey. Mr. Borg received a Doctor of Humane Letters for his

"prodigious contribution to and involvement in civic, educational, health and environmental activities. His work is a testament to his deep commitment to New Jersey and the nation."

1967

JUDITH ABRAHAMSON received an M.A. in Hebrew Letters and the title of Rabbi from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in June 2004. Judith works in the public schools in New Jersey as a consultant in special education. She has provided Jewish education for the special needs populations for more than 20 years and is exploring new options for Jewish learning for adults with unique learning styles. Judith hopes to expand her work in Jewish special education.

DINNAH G. PLADOTT, Ph.D., R-ACSW, is a Certified Corporate Coach who wants to enhance and compliment the lives of Columbia and GS alumni. She muses to *The Owl*, "The idea of aiding and abetting alumni is very intriguing." To learn more about Dr. Pladott's coaching and consultant practice, visit her website at www.Leadership-skill.com.

1969

SUSANNE BRAHAM'S (SHEIFER) daughter, Diana, entered her first year at Columbia College this past fall. Now there will be three Columbians in the family: mother, son, and daughter.

KEVIN SULLIVAN is the producer of the comedy, *First Time Caller* written by his sons. The story follows an odd night on Dale Sweeney's late-night radio show. The sports call-in show, employing the usual line up of oddball, conspiracy-obsessed callers, is interrupted by a panicked phone call in an indecipherable language. When FBI agents arrive investigating the call, Dale enlists his friends help to uncover what he hopes is the amazing identity of this first time caller.

1956

Harold Marcus

In 2004, Harold Marcus viewed a program on PBS Channel 13 on the history of Columbia University in preparation for its 250th anniversary. It reminded him of his time as a student at GS in 1954 when Columbia celebrated its 200th anniversary.

In June 1953, Marcus was discharged from the US Army after serving for sixteen and a half months in South Korea. He enrolled in GS in September 1953 under the Korean War GI Bill. Tuition then was slightly lower: a semester of 15-19 credits cost \$395. His monthly government check was for \$110, \$85 of which he paid the University bursar as

part of a monthly payment plan. Marcus graduated in three years with advanced standing.

A biology major, Marcus was terrified when he learned that he would be required to take two years of mathematics — a subject in which he had always done poorly. His first course, "Elements of Algebra," was led by Professor Howard Levi who taught using an unconventional approach based on set theory. The preface to the Levi's textbook inspired Marcus's academic experience: Levi invited the student to "rejoice that he could confront, without arduous preliminaries, some of the richest and boldest intellectual achievements of the human race."

Levi's words put Marcus on the path to obtain As and Bs in his four math courses at GS — success that Marcus accounts as the Columbia's special gift to him.

In 1991, after twenty-four years of employment, Marcus retired in from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in the Bronx. A physicist in the radiology department with the faculty rank of Senior Associate, his principal duty was as a radiation safety officer for the medical school research laboratories as well as at the Albert Einstein College Hospital and its two affiliated city hospitals, Jacobi and VanEtten. Marcus enjoyed a successful career, one supported by the foundation of his education at GS and Columbia. Marcus resides in Butler, New Jersey.

1973

In 1972 **NORMAN A. JOHANSON** (PBPM) was directed by a medical school, whose wait list he was on, to go to Columbia School of General Studies to “get more A’s.” He writes, “This was good advice.” Johanson started at Cornell University Medical College in 1974 and ended up going into orthopaedic surgery. For the past 15 years, he has been in Philadelphia and is currently the Chairman of Orthopaedics at Drexel University College of Medicine. He was remind-



ed of his professional roots at Columbia when he ushered his oldest daughter Kendra onto campus fall 2004. She is a sophomore at Columbia College and rows for the Crew Team.

1974

EDWARD GOLDSTEIN is a proud new grandfather. And Bernard Goldstein '01 is a proud uncle.

YUNGMEI TANG is teaching in China. She is affiliated with several institutions: Xi'an Foreign Language University and Chengdu University. She teaches creative writing and oral English.

1977

Liane Gutman

The Making of a “Valid” Student



Liane Gutman

In the fall of 1972, Liane Gutman (GS 1977), entered the hallowed halls of the School of General Studies. The forty-three year old mother of two began her academic career as a “validation student,” a term used to describe new students who academically, were not quite ready for college level courses. Like her validation peers, Gutman was on probation and an uphill battle lay ahead.

Her acclimation to student culture took some time. Gutman remembers her first day in European Civilization 1500–1815, a required GS survey course, “The five-page syllabus looked like a bad dream and made me break into a cold sweat!”

Success would not be far behind, however. Having grown up in France, French language was natural for her. She arrived in Professor Dan Penham’s French honors class feverish. The required reading included *Essais* (1580) by Michel Montaigne, the eminent 16th century French literary figure who lived in Bordeaux. Gutman proudly recalls, “Professor Penham declared, ‘Madame Gutman, the mayor of Bordeaux should bestow a medal upon you!’”

Glory was short lived, however, because when Gutman decided to major in art history, she created a minor storm. Upon reviewing her records in the department, the late Howard Hibbard, professor of 17th century art history, exclaimed, “Liane Gutman, stay away from me and from art history!”

Of course Hibbard’s comment was a great disappointment, but actually, he did her a favor. The setback opened new doors for Gutman.

Art history quickly was displaced by anthropology, and with that, a relativistic world opened

up. Gutman discovered that simultaneous yet dissimilar phenomena could be happening in various cultures. She became inspired by the synchronic versus the diachronic and the horizontal versus the vertical. And she discovered that anthropology could be poetic!

Durning her studies in 1976, Gutman attended a seminar on structuralism under the aegis of the late anthropologist Robert Murphy. During the seminar she “met” her lifelong mentor, Claude Lévi-Strauss. Often accused of being an “armchair” anthropologist because he wrote his field notes some twenty years after doing his research, Lévi-Strauss’ work inspired Gutman like nothing had before. To her, his book *Tristes Tropiques* was a masterpiece. His field notes accounting the lives of indigenous peoples of Brazil were not merely notes — they were poetry and philosophy. After this “introduction,” her life would never be the same.

Gutman was captivated by her study of *Tristes Tropiques*. She wanted to share this French text with the English speaking world, but “How would Levi-Strauss’ *Tristes Tropiques* translate into English?” she mused, “Did translations already exist?”

After some research, Gutman learned the names of translators who had already undertaken this monumental task: John Russell in 1961 with *A World on the Wane* and John and Doreen Weightman in 1973 who retained the original title.

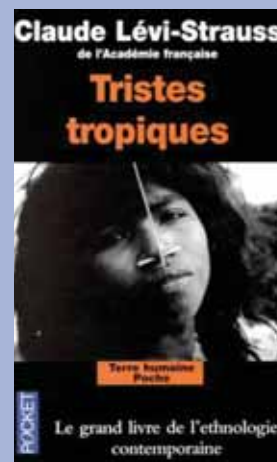
Gutman sought to purchase her own copy of Russell’s translation, but learned it was out of print. “Sitting in Butler Library for hours on end did not seem feasible, and photocopying the entire book seemed impractical,” she recalls.

Then she conceived a much closer solution: Gutman’s next-door neighbor of many years was Ed Riegelhaupt, the husband of the late Joyce Firstenberg Riegelhaupt, a cultural

anthropologist who received her doctorate from Columbia in 1964. Firstenberg Riegelhaupt performed fieldwork and wrote about traditional peasant societies in Portugal and later in Brazil. Gutman thought, “She must have studied Lévi-Strauss with the translations available at the time! Was *A World on the Wane* on the shelf not fifty yards away?”

Seconds after inquiring, much to Gutman’s glee, Ed Riegelhaupt appeared on her doorstep with the Russell translation in hand.

The opportunity cemented Gutman’s fascination with anthropology and laid the groundwork for her future academic pursuits and successes. Some time later, when reflecting upon the trio of books: Firstenberg Riegelhaupt’s copy of Russell’s *A World on the Wane* flanked by her own copies of the French *Tristes Tropiques* and the Weightman English translation of *Tristes Tropiques*, Gutman realized something interesting:



Her French edition of Levi-Strauss’ *Tristes Tropiques* had a young Nambikwara Indian on the jacket, while the English publication of *Tristes Tropiques* was illustrated with a Caduveo Indian pattern and an inset photograph showing Caduveo people. Gutman considered, “Why has no one ever compared book jackets?”

This question inspired Gutman to examine the two English translations in detail and eventually write an essay juxtaposing them. In 2003, the analysis was published as an article in University of

Texas’ Center for Translation Studies’ *Translation Review* (No. 66. 2003, 27–29, University of Texas).

It is with this triumph Gutman that proudly reflects on her modest beginnings as a validation student at the School of General Studies. It is clear that once she hit her stride, Gutman was able to travel a long way.

1977

LIANE GUTMAN: see article page 20



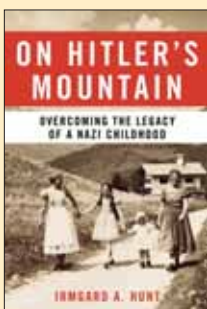
1979

NANCY STERNEELD received the Chancellor's Award from SUNY Cortland in May 2004. Sternfeld joined SUNY Cortland in 1996 as a lecturer and in 1998 became an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She was recently promoted to Associate Professor. Her field research has taken her to Turkey, Armenia, Cyprus, Israel, and Jordan. Her studies have been supported by grants including those from the National Science Foundation, the Foundation for the Exploration and Research of Cultural Origins, and the Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology Group.

1982

IRMGARD A. HUNT is the author of a new book, *On Hitler's Mountain, Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood* (William Morrow/Harper Collings, 2005). Hunt shares her perspective as a young girl who lost her soldier father at age 6, and was obligated to join Hitler's Youth at age 10, and who nearly betrayed her anti-Nazi grandfather. She states that the book is not meant as an apology on behalf of Germany, but the story of an ordinary family's survival during insane times. It is a remembrance of an era when a civilized nation's moral compass broke down, and a nation's people went like sleepwalkers into disaster.

CECILIA SACOTO (now Ortiz) reported that her GS degree opened many doors. After working for Jones N.Y. as a National Representative, Sacoto taught high school. She married Orlando Ortiz, a Columbia alumnus, and together they have four children. Presently her focus is educating her children, "Academically as well as about the values needed for this next generation." She writes, once her children "Have left the nest," her goal is to achieve a masters or Ph.D. in Spanish Literature.



1985

GHELAWEWOS ARAIA recently founded the Institute of Development and Education for Africa, Inc. You are invited to visit the website to learn more: www.africanidea.org.

1986

CRAIG WILSON won the the 2004 "Regularly Scheduled, Bulletin, or Breaking News Report" Writer's Guild of America Award for his CBS television news broadcast *Showdown with Saddam*.

1989

COLIN S. TURNNIDGE, II returned from a seven and a half month tour in the Middle East last summer. Turnnidge is a U.S. Army Active Duty Physician Assistant stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. He has spent almost 19 years in service.



1990

BEN SAHL and his wife Jeni Mahoney Sahl celebrated the birth of their first child, Noa Virginia Sahl, on February 9th. Ben received his J.D. from the U.C.L.A. School of Law in May 2005 and began his new career in the New York office of Latham & Watkins this fall.

1991

DEVONNE (BARNHISEL) JOHNSON moved from Manhattan to Bay Ridge, Brooklyn five and half years ago where she practices residential and commercial real estate with Prudential Realty. Her son, Derek, is starting his second year of college at University of Stony Brook. Johnson is also happily engaged to be married.



KATE MELLOR and her husband Rob Gibson are celebrating their adoption of Caleb, 5, and Samuel, 2, in October 2004. Mellor and her family live in Poole, Dorset, England where Mellor and her husband own and run one of the UK's largest sailing schools, **Sail UK Yachting and Racing**.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

HAVE YOU TAKEN A NEW JOB? PUBLISHED A BOOK?

GOTTEN MARRIED? HAD A BABY?

APPEARED ON BROADWAY? OR MOVED?

SHARE WITH FELLOW ALUMNI YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL NEWS IN THE ALUMNI NOTES SECTION IN THE NEXT EDITION OF *THE OWL*.

Send us your news by email to gsalumni@columbia.edu or by mail
c/o GS Alumni Office, 601 Lewisohn Hall, MC 4121, 2970 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
Photos of weddings, babies, paintings, head shots, and book jackets are welcome.

1992

ZACHARY COFFIN, CEO of Zachary Coffin Productions and General Partner of Coffin Capital, is to produce a feature film about the 1984 Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal. Aishwary Rai, the executive producer of the film and the queen of Indian film, is to star. Rai said, "The story of the disaster in Bhopal is all too tragic. But this film will be inspiring... And I hope the films' success will draw attention to the needs of victims in Bhopal, and to those everywhere who've suffered from injustice." The tentative title is *Windfall* and filming is scheduled to begin in fall 2005.

MARK ROTELLA published his travel memoir, *Stolen Figs: And Other Adventures in Calabria* (North Point Press, 2004). In it he recounts the discovery of his family in southern Italy. Rotella is an editor at *Publishers Weekly* magazine, and his writing has appeared in several publications, including the *New York Times*. He and his wife Martha Bonta live in Jersey City, N.J.

JASON SCHMIDT is a portrait, fashion, and architecture photographer. His portraits and fashion photography have appeared in *V Magazine* and *Vanity Fair*, and he is working on a book featuring artists in their studios. He said, "I try to use their personal spaces and work to get a context and understanding of the person." Schmidt's book, tentatively titled *Work in Progress* (Steidl, 2005), has been five years in the making.

This summer **JON F. SNYDER'S** Il Laboratorio del Gelato shared a sampling of its over 75 flavors of gelato and sorbet with concertgoers at New York's MOMA Summergarden 2005 series.

1994

KOHLÉ YOHANNAN, a former fashion model, an author of three books on fashion, and the owner of a castle in Yonkers, has opened the doors to his "kingdom," Greystone Court. In 2001, Yohannan acquired his castle and then spent the next several years meticulously restoring it to its original splendor. He now rents it out for fashion and movie shoots. Yohannan is currently pursuing a doctorate in cultural history at Bard College.

MIYUKI M. YOSHIDA joined the law firm Lane Powell as an associate in the Firm's immigration practice group where she will focus on advising national and international clientele on employment-based and family-based immigrant and nonimmigrant law and procedures.

1996

NANCY LYNN and her husband Mitchell joyfully announced the arrival of their daughter Anna Elizabeth on June 3, 2004.

WALTER SWEET returned to New York last summer to join Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. Sweet was in the D.C. area helping to stabilize a family-owned business.

1997

STEPHEN M. PAGE'S poem "Building a Beach House" was published by *Burnside Review* (Volume 1, Number 2). For more information, visit: www.burnsidereview.com

1998

HERMIA NELSON received her MBA from Fordham University. She currently runs a company in real estate which owns a rental building in Washington Heights and is in contract to purchase another in Hamilton Heights.

1999

FENIX ARIAS was mentioned in a *New York Times* article, "On Education: Dominicans Take Their Place as an American Success Story," by Samuel G. Freedman. Arias, as well as other Hostos Community College alumni, participated in a reunion to thank Professor Kerr and a faculty colleague, Lewis Levine for their support and guidance. Arias is now the Director of Testing for York College in Queens.

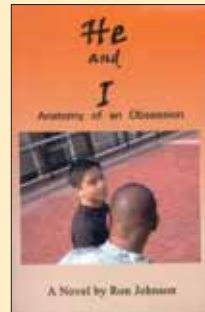
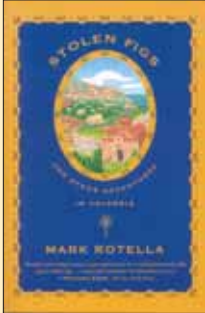
RON JOHNSON is a graduate from the writing/literature department and a former Financial Aid Counselor (CC/SEAS 1993–2002). Johnson has self-published his novel, *He and I: Anatomy of an Obsession*. The novel presents a view of the life of a black, gay college administrator. More information about his book can be found at: www.heandi.net

JOEL N.H. STERN received the 2004 Student Prize for Natural Science Award from the Harvard Extension School for his thesis *Amelioration of PLP 139–151 Induced EAE by Synthetic Amino Acid Copolymers and Its Mechanisms*. Stern's research explored a more effective way to reduce the frequency of relapses that multiple sclerosis (MS) patients' experience. Using an animal model of MS (EAE mouse model), he developed novel copolymers with modified amino acid compositions and elegantly showed that these copolymers mediate protection against the disease in his mouse model.

2000

ERIK COURTNEY is living in LA and is writing and directing films. He recently wrapped up post production on a short IMAX recreation of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. The short stars Jeffrey DeMunn (*Green Mile*, *Shawshank Redemption*, and *Our Town*) and was the first recreation to have permission to shoot on location at Ford's Theatre.

PHILIPPE REINES, the Press Secretary for US Senator Hillary Clinton, was featured in a *New York Times* article on July 15, 2005.





CHRIS SMITH spent the past year traveling through Australia and New Zealand. Since returning to the Northern Hemisphere, he has relocated to Vancouver where he is working as a photojournalist for the Associated Press and local magazines. Smith has plans to return to performing music and will record a CD of original songs to be released next summer. This fall he will be releasing two books on Greenwood Press: *Rock Music in American Culture, 1967–1973* and *Rock Music in American Culture, 1974–1980*. In addition, he will begin work on another music survey, this time focusing on the 100 most important albums of the 20th Century. To see photos of his adventures visit www.hellskitchen.com.

2001

VONNI GUTHRIE is a FACTS (Family Advocacy Counseling Training Services) Coordinator for the Brain Injury Association of NYS. The mission of the non-profit is to act as a mediator between consumer and facility or state/federal agencies to assure proper placement and treatment. In addition to educating laypersons and professionals on the reality of brain injury and the options for survivors and their families, Guthrie also facilitates college preparatory workshops and does public speaking on topics of self-esteem and effective decision-making for young adults.

IRA LIRAN is the co-founder of Vita Coco, a new, innovative beverage that's dubbed, "the



most fascinating new health/sports drink on the market." Vita Coco is based in Brooklyn, NY. To learn more about Vita Coco, visit www.vitacoco.com

JOANNA PEREZ MARTORELL AND STEVEN said good-bye to Hong Kong and traveled the world for a year. They've now landed in Madrid, Spain where they'll set up house and home until the next adventure. Read all about it at www.thirty-one.org.



MARK MORAN co-produced *Chavez Ravine: A Los Angeles Story*, a 24 minute documentary narrated by Cheech Marin, scored by Ry Cooder, and written and directed by Jordan Mechner. It has played festivals all over the country, winning 2004 Florida Film Festival and the 2003 International Documentary Association Award for Best Documentary Short. Last August and September the documentary short had a limited theatrical run in order to qualify for an Academy Award nomination. This year PBS will begin broadcasting it nationally on its *Independent Lens* program.

EYTAN SCHWARTZ is: *The Ambassador*. Out of thousands of applicants, fourteen candidates, twelve missions, three judges, an average TV rating of over 25% (more than 30% for the final episode), and three finalists, Eytan was declared *The Ambassador*, the winner of the most successful reality show in Israel.



2004

Jamie Alliotts

Jamie Alliotts (GS 2004) was selected as the 2005 winner of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival One Act Play Competition. His play, *A Waltz Between*, received a staged reading at this past spring's festival.

The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival is an annual five-day celebration held in New Orleans, Louisiana each March. It showcases national and regional scholars, writers, and performing artists. Programs include panel discussions, theatrical performances, a one-act play competition, lectures, literary walking tours, musical performances, and a book fair. Perhaps the most prestigious competition of its kind, the one-act play contest is sponsored by the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation and is coordinated and judged by faculty at of the Creative Writing Program at the University of New Orleans.

Alliotts' play had its first reading at Columbia in St. Paul's Chapel during November 2004's night of short readings overseen by Gregory

Mosher, director of the new University Arts Initiatives program.

"I owe so much of my good fortune to the faculty and fellow students I learned from and with while at Columbia," said Alliotts, who since leaving GS has fared well in the writing world. "Some years ago, I was homeless here on the streets of New York. I have since finished Columbia with high honors, and hope that my future is as colorful as my past!

"Without teachers like Caplin, Cress, Jefferson, Kendall, Manrique, and Wagenheim, without the General Studies Scholarship that made it possible for me to continue to finish school, and without all that Columbia afforded me — intellectually, artistically, philosophically, and personally, I would not [have gone] to New Orleans."

A Waltz Between will be fully produced by the University of New Orleans Department of Drama and Communications for the 2006 Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.

2002

MICHAEL NADLER just completed his studies at the University of Florida Law School.

PAULINE AND GEOFF SAAVEDRA are proud new parents to a baby girl. (Geoff is CC '98)



STEVE HOFSTETTER was recognized by the stand-up comedy magazine, *Two Drink Minimum*, as one of the two Best New Faces in 2004. The award was part of the first annual "Goddammies," which were given in thirteen categories and decided by tabulating votes from subscribers to the magazine. Hofstetter appears on Sirius Satellite Radio hosting the controversial new show, *4 Quotas*. Each week, the show features some of the business' top comedians discussing current events from a decidedly racial angle. More good news: His first book has been optioned for a possible TV series. Hofstetter currently lives in Los Angeles, where he is pursuing a career in standup comedy, film, and television.

MICHAEL LAPIDUS has worked as a paralegal and high school math teacher in New York City since graduation. He is now a second year law student at American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. Lapidus plans to become a tax lawyer. For fun, he recently got involved in studying improvisations. Lapidus welcomes emails from old classmates: mgl15@columbia.edu.



MEGAN O'GRADY GREENE is attending the London School of Economics. She is completing her M.Sc. in Social and Public Communications within the Social Psychology department. She is very impressed with the professors in the department. Although she states that a huge part of the learning and growth comes from her interactions with other students in the program. Greene is one of three students from the United States who were accepted into the program.



NOLA AND TORRANCE KOPFER (a GS couple) opened **Cold Fusion Gelato**, a gelateria, last summer in Newport, R.I. This summer was their second season. They serve artisan-style (homemade by Torrance with fresh natural ingredients) ice-cream and sorbet, plus espresso and other drinks. They have received favorable reviews/mentions in the *Providence Journal*, *Newport Daily News*, *RI Monthly Bridal Issue*, and *Happy Belly Guide to East Coast Dessert Shops* (to be published this year). They welcome any GS visitors who are visiting Newport, R.I. For directions, give them a call at 401.849.6777.



2003

DEREK JOHNSON'S first feature length documentary, ***A Home Still Stands, A Garden Still Grows***, premiered as part of the New York International Independent Film Festival last fall. Johnson documents a story of an

Italian family that has remained closely knit for over a century. The story is guided by family member Anthony Diomede. This film is about one man's awakening and the family who made it possible.



YITZI (ISAAC) ZABLOCKI'S film, ***Reality Lost***, screened at Roone Arledge Cinema, Lerner Hall. ***Reality Lost*** tells the story of a world in which fictional film no longer exists. It is a digital feature film fictional film not yet in its final version.

2004

JAMIE ALLIOTS see article page 23



KATKA MAXIANOVA and **AARON HAGEDORN** (GS 2005) were married in Bratislava, Slovakia on June 18, 2005. In attendance at the wedding were Dave Metzler (GS 2004), Gil Shapire (GS 2005), Nic Maisana (GS 2004), Ngoc Wasson (GS 2003), Whing Chiu (GS 2005), and Thomas Reardon (current student).

In March **CARLOS BARRUZUETA** was awarded one of thirty Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans. Soros fellows, all new immigrants or children of immigrants, are chosen from a pool of 1000 applications received from students hailing from 336 undergraduate and 156 graduate institutions. Honorees will receive for two-years one half of tuition costs for graduate study at any institution of higher education in the United States, as well as a maintenance grant of \$20,000 per year. Carlos was born in Ecuador and is currently studying at Yale Law School.



JENNIFER FAL (PBPM) was married in July to Dr. Aftab Kherani, a chief resident in general surgery at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. The wedding took place at the Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida. Fal is currently in her second year of medical school at Duke University.

SHANE HACHEY was quoted in a *New York Times* article on May 1, 2005, "Offering R.O.T.C. a Truce," which discussed the options of current students at Columbia who belong to an ROTC unit.

DAWSON HER MANY HORSES is working at Merrill Lynch and is leading its American Indian Business Development unit. Through its Multicultural and Diversified Business Development Group, Her Many Horses is coordinating the firm's efforts with Native American governments, their enterprises, and their members. He will manage Merrill Lynch's retail, institutional, and asset management strategy and business efforts for initiating services for American Indians and work closely with the American Indian professionals and Financial Advisors active in Indian Country.

GS siblings **KATHRYN LANGHAM** and **JAMES BIGHAM** are the owners of the unique Critter Caravan, an educational experience that introduces children to insects and other "critters."



JOSH MOHRER, entrepreneur, is making his internet business a success. His online business sells primarily Ralph Lauren Polo shirts and other designer clothes on eBay and its own **Rationalfashion.com** web site. He has become an eBay gold power seller, a prestigious rank among merchants who do high-volume business and who receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from customers. Mohrer would like to expand his business and entice brick and mortar businesses to use him as a middleman to sell their goods online.

LEAH YANANTON worked as a Cinematographer and Sound Recordist on *Cannibals* for the History Channel and *Conjoined at the Head* and *Split Second: Arctic Void* for the National Geographic Channel.

BENJAMIN ZANIELLO (PBPM) married Marion Roach on July 16, 2005. The ceremony took place at the summer home of the bride's parents, Catherine and Thurston Roach, on Sinclair Island in Washington State. Benjamin is a medical student at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in Lexington and his wife, Marion is a designer for Nanette Lepore, a New York based women's dress and sportswear company.

2005

MARGUERITE DANIELS is currently working on her MFA in Creative Writing at The New School. This fall she moved into her first home located in Jersey City.

GABRIEL DIAZ enrolled at the NYU School of Law in this Fall.

LEAH FLEISCHNER (PBPM) married Matthew Reimer on July 3rd at a ceremony held at Hammond Museum in North Salem, N.Y.

In fall of 2005 **ALISSA GAFFORD** enrolled at the University Of Pennsylvania Law School.

AARON HAGEDORN married Katka Maxianova (GS 2004). See Maxianova note under 2004.

DORON KENTER was awarded the Dean's Scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he began his studies in the fall of 2005.

RICHIE SPACE began working at Bear Sterns as an analyst in their investment banking division after graduation.



2004

Clarence C. Walton

In April 2004, Clarence C. Walton, Dean of the School of General Studies from 1963 to 1969, passed away at his Maryland home. He was 88 years old. Not only was he responsible for establishing the GS mathematics requirement and the Concepts of Science course for non-science majors, but Walton was also the champion of GS securing the authority to grant the Bachelor of Arts degree, a controversial issue across the University.

Walton left GS to become the first lay President of Catholic University. In addition to his administrative and faculty positions, he wrote or edited 14 books and a number of articles. An expert on business ethics, he consulted for major corporations including U.S. Steel, IBM, General Electric, and Prudential.

In Memoriam

JACK ARBOLINO

(former GS Associate Dean – 1946–1958)

DAVID T. BAZELON (GS 1949)

PETER BEDRICK (GS 1955)

JOEL DEAN (GS 1978)

VINCENT GARVEY (GS 1960)

LESLIE GOURSE (GS 1960)

INGE D. HALPERT

(former member of GS Faculty)

CAROLYN HEILBURN (GS 1959)

J.R. HUMPHREYS

(founder GS Creative Writing Program)

DONALD JUDD (GS 1953)

JOHN (JACK) LAWSON (GS 1968)

JOSEPHINE NEGLIA (GS 1953)

MIRIAM MERRITT

(GS Creative Writing Program)

LLOYD MOTZ (GS 1936)

EFRAIN A RAMIREZ (GS 1975)

WALTER RIKER (GS 1939)

JUDITH LEE STRONACH (GS 1967)

CLARENCE C. WALTON

(Dean of GS – 1963–1969)

Events CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2, THURSDAY

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
GS Wine Tasting Series
New World Night
Morrell Tasting Room
729 7th Avenue
between 48th & 49th, 15th Floor

Join fellow alumni in a series of wine & cheese tastings. Wine experts will steward you on a world-wide journey featuring selections from Morrell's vast cellar. Come meet old friends and discover new ones — not only from GS, but also from Morrell's collection!

APRIL

1, SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Dean's Day
Morningside Heights Campus

Members of the Columbia family enjoy the opportunity to participate in a day of informative discussions with some of our finest faculty. More information to follow.

27, THURSDAY

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
GS Wine Tasting Series
Old World vs. New World
Morrell Tasting Room
729 7th Avenue,
between 48th & 49th, 15th Floor

Join fellow alumni in a series of wine & cheese tastings. Wine experts will steward you on a world-wide journey featuring selections from Morrell's vast cellar. Come meet old friends and discover new ones — not only from GS, but also from Morrell's collection!

MAY

16, TUESDAY

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
GS Class Day
Columbia University Campus

Join us as we celebrate the class of 2006!

DATES TO BE DETERMINED:

GSSC Reunion, Part Duex

Did you serve on the GSSC or on a student council while at GS? If you would like to be invited to the Second GS Student Council Reunion, please e-mail the Alumni office at gsalumni@columbia.edu to be added to the alumni list. The reunion offers students and alumni the opportunity to meet, network and share ideas.

GS Networking Night

Mark G. Rotella (GS 1991)
Stolen Figs and Other Adventures in Calabria

Join Mark Rotella as he discusses his adventures in Calabria, Italy — the foods he discovered and the journey to discover his heritage. The evening will feature readings from his book, opportunities to discuss the challenges on getting published, and an opportunity to taste some of the foods highlighted in Mr. Rotella's book.

GS Networking Night

Philippe I. Reines (GS 2000)
Press Secretary, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)

Join GS as we meet with Mr. Reines and discuss life under the Capitol dome while working for New York's junior senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton. Discover the path Mr. Reines followed before and after GS which lead him to his current role.

REGIONAL EVENTS:

Do you live outside of the NY-NJ-CT Tri-state area? Please visit www.alumni.columbia.edu for information on clubs in your local area and how to join.

Meet Dean Awn on the Road

Winter 2006 in London and Paris

To learn more details about the above events and to register, visit www.alumni.gs.columbia.edu.

All events require registration. For event information and updates, please visit OwlNet at www.alumni.gs.columbia.edu or call 212.854.8498.

ANNOUNCING A NEW UNIVERSITY ONLINE ALUMNI DIRECTORY

NOW CONNECTING.

Whether they live along a rural route or in a cultural mecca, Columbia alumni all over the globe now have new ways to connect, communicate and contribute their ideas.

The newborn online alumni directory, launching in November, allows you to keep your contact information free of cobwebs. With a few clicks, you can update your profile with current whereabouts and passionate interests beginning November 15th. All alumni will be listed with the latest information on file. To update information, add notes or hide specific details, simply go to alumni.columbia.edu/directory, create an active UNI and password, and start editing.

In January 2006, alumni can also search for and contact grads across schools and years of graduation via the directory. For instance, law school grads can find friends from the B-School or SOA. College grads can search for and contact alumni from the GSAS.

NOW COHERING

Behind the new directory is a more cohesive approach to alumni services across all Columbia schools — the primary mission of the new Columbia Alumni Association (CAA). Until recently, Columbia's alumni programs were largely the purview of the individual schools. The CAA will support, enhance and connect these school efforts.

Headed by Trustee Stephen Case '64CC, '68LAW, the CAA is actively seeking alumni input. "Columbia alumni are helping us to develop a full continuum of services and activities, relevant whether they graduated last May or 50 years ago," comments Vice President for Alumni Relations Eric J. Furda.

PORTABLE POTENTIAL

This fall, alumni also received the CAA's first print publication, the University-wide Alumni Resource Guide. It's a colorful compendium of the University's wide-ranging alumni programs: online seminars, events on campus or in your region, professional development, travel opportunities — you name it. NYC may be time zones away. But the benefits of being a Columbia graduate are 100% portable. Find out where they can take you. Read the book. Click on the directory. And stay connected.

parisatlantatokyonewyorkmadridchicago



**Wherever you plug in, stay connected
through the online alumni directory.**

It's free and easy. **1.** Go to alumni.columbia.edu
2. Click on Alumni Directory. **3.** Click on the links to
update your directory listing.

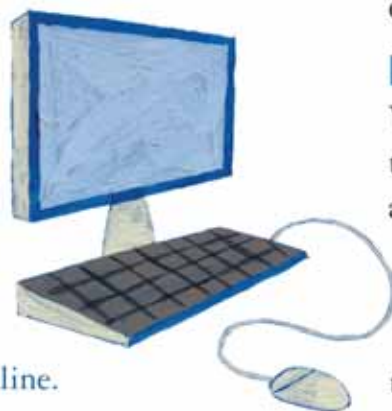
Help us get it right.

If your life is in a different city, time zone, or
evolutionary phase since last we heard, edit your
information. Prefer to opt out? You can do that, too.
But we bet you'll want to stay with us. For a world
of reasons.

More than just your alma mater.

Via our Web site, Columbia can be your connection
to a lifetime of enrichment: Alumni clubs in your
area offering events and programs. Electronic library
resources. Travel and career opportunities. Free
e-seminars. Continuing education. Events. You're
connected to all of it. And, frankly, it wouldn't be
the same without you.

Be sure to
come back
after
January 1 to
search for
friends and
classmates online.



COLUMBIA *alumni*
ASSOCIATION

alumni.columbia.edu 877-854-2586 Stay Connected.



COLUMBIA
THE OWL

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