

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

COLUMBIA

THE

OWL

# PALS: LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS

POSTBAC PREMED:  
TWO WONDERFUL YEARS;  
THANK GOD THEY'RE OVER

ALUMNUS MARTIN BENTZ  
AND THE ELECTIONS  
IN THE CONGO

GS STUDENT MATCHES  
SENIOR CLASS GIFT

FALL/WINTER 2006



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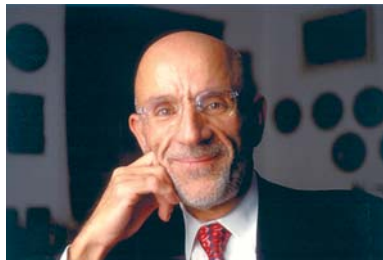
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**CORRECTION:** A byline for the following articles was omitted from the Fall/Winter 2005 issue of *The Owl*: Student Notes and "New Graduate Profile: Claudia Barrera." Marguerite Daniels ('05) contributed to Student Notes and wrote the "New Graduate Profile: Claudia Barrera."

**COVER IMAGE:** Loy Phillips ('06) in Morningside Park. Photo by Alan Orling.

**BACK COVER IMAGES:** from *Children Speak: Tsunami*, an exhibit organized by Arlene Atherton ('01).

# Letter from the Dean



2007 marks the 60th anniversary of the School of General Studies and my tenth year as dean. I have never been prouder of the accomplishments of our students and alumni, in the classroom, across the nation, and, indeed, around the world. In this issue of *The Owl* you will find highlighted a small sample of those accomplishments as we try to share with you the diversity and breadth of the GS Community.

Our Program for Academic Leadership and Service (PALS), the cover story for this issue, is a program that I am particularly proud to share with you. PALS students are typically first-generation college students, and members of historically underrepresented groups. All students in PALS have significant financial need and receive tuition scholarships to support their studies. What makes this program exceptional is the students—women and men who embody the best of the Columbia tradition: scholars passionate about learning and passionate about giving back through community service and leadership. PALS students, like so many other GS students, would not be able to attend Columbia without the significant financial support they receive from alumni and friends.

I also want to tell you about the extraordinary generosity of one of our current students, Christopher Riano, a member of the 2007 graduating class. Mr. Riano has pledged to match donations to the 2007 Senior Class Gift. This is the first time a student has offered a challenge match to the senior class, in itself a wonderful gesture. What motivated him to step forward, however, is his profound realization of the centrality of scholarship support in the lives of his fellow GS students, and his desire to make more scholarship assistance available to the students who will come after him. Financing a Columbia education is one of the biggest challenges facing GS undergraduates, and Mr. Riano's gift highlights how one person can make a difference. You should also be aware that the enhancement of financial aid at GS and the other undergraduate colleges at Columbia is one of the central goals of the Capital Campaign announced this fall.

We clearly have much to celebrate in our 60-year history, and an exceptionally bright future ahead of us. I want to wish you the very best for the New Year, and I hope that you enjoy this particularly interesting issue of *The Owl*.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter J. Awn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

PETER J. AWN

DEAN



# PALS: *Learning*

I wonder if it's that simple?

I am twenty-two, colored, born in Winston-Salem.  
I went to school there, then Durham, then here  
to this college on the hill above Harlem.  
I am the only colored student in my class.

The steps from the hill lead down into Harlem,  
through a park, then I cross St. Nicholas,  
Eighth Avenue, Seventh, and I come to the Y,  
the Harlem Branch Y, where I take the elevator  
up to my room, sit down, and write this page...

An excerpt from "Theme for English B,"  
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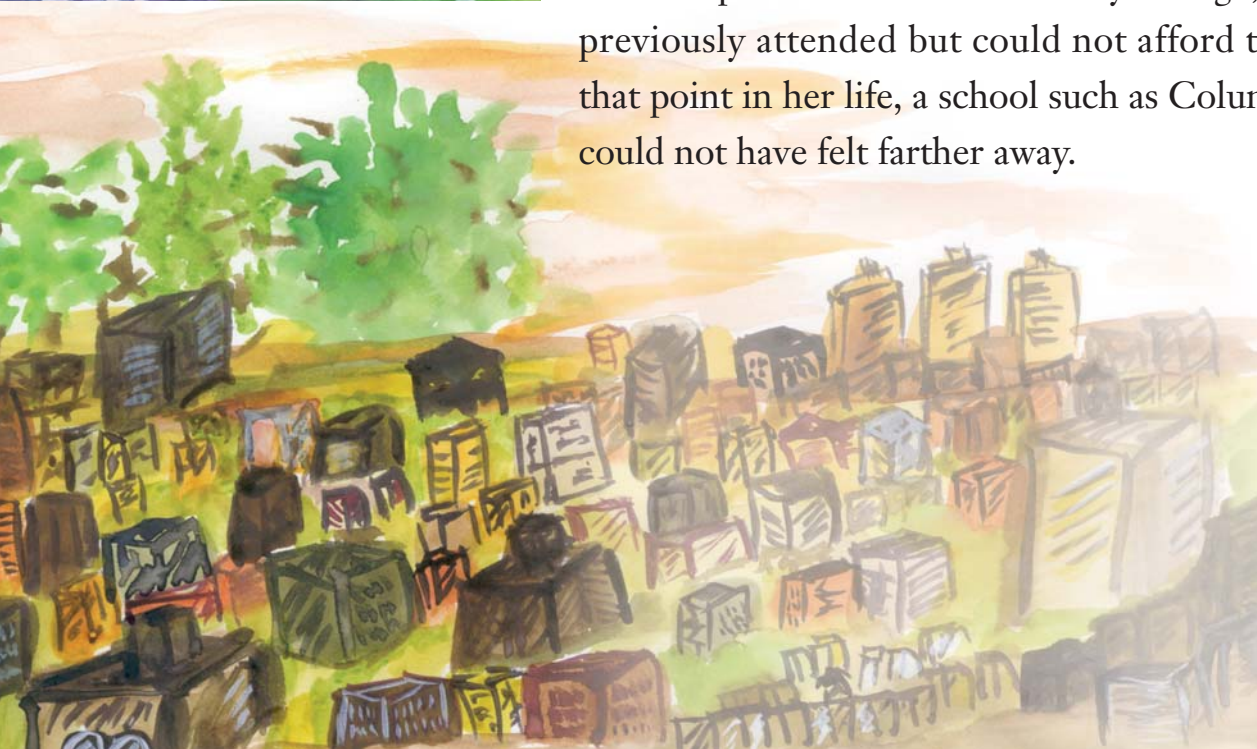


# Without Limits

BY SHARON GOLDMAN

As a teenager growing up in a poor household in Brooklyn’s East Flatbush neighborhood, Loy Phillips had never even heard of Columbia University. “At my high school you’re trained to work at the supermarket or the drugstore,” she says. “The Ivy League was just a different world.”

Fortunately, the London-born Phillips managed to thrive even within the narrow realm of opportunity available to her after high school—which was especially tough since by age 23 she also had a baby to feed. She worked in retail and quickly moved up to management while trying to save up to return to community college, which she had previously attended but could not afford to complete. At that point in her life, a school such as Columbia University could not have felt farther away.



In 2002, however, she moved to Adam Clayton Boulevard and 112th Street, and while unpacking some boxes, she came upon Langston Hughes' "Theme for English B." Inspired by Hughes' own experience at Columbia in the 1920s, the poem discusses the problematic nature of identity for "the only colored student in my class" and depicts the route from Columbia to the Harlem YMCA. "It was serendipitous that I read it," she says. "I made that five-minute walk every day through the avenues he described, and I felt if he could do it, I could do it. So I was inspired to pick up an application."

**"It was serendipitous  
that I read it. I made that  
five-minute walk every day  
through the avenues he  
described, and I felt if he  
could do it, I could do it.  
So I was inspired to  
pick up an application."  
—Loy Phillips**

What followed was a typical experience for scholars in the School of General Studies Program for Academic Leadership and Service (PALS)—a scholarship created in 1999 offering a special opportunity to students who might not otherwise be able to attend an Ivy League university. Phillips says she took a leap when she applied to GS; she was surprised to find out she had been accepted; and she was shocked even further when she was told she had received a full scholarship through PALS. "It was unbelievable. I was so thankful," she says. "I feel so proud to be a fellow of this group."

For the past seven years, PALS has made dreams come true for dozens of students who are handpicked to be part of this select group. No one can apply to become a PALS scholar; instead, applicants considered to be top candidates are identified during the admissions process, and recipients are then determined by the PALS Selection Committee which is comprised of officers from the Dean of Students and Admissions offices. Those who are chosen (there are around 15-18 students in the program at any one time) are typically first-generation college students and members of historically underrepresented groups with significant financial need and a demonstrated ability to succeed in a competitive academic environment. In addition, all PALS students have a record of community service that they wish to continue while at Columbia.

PALS replaced a similar, state-funded program that came with a variety of admission criteria too restrictive for the population the school wanted to assist. In the spring of 1999, GS Dean Peter Awn asked Associate Dean of Students Scott Halvorson to design and head a new scholarship program that would better suit GS's unique population. Using the already existing models of the New York State HEOP scholarship and a small institutional program called

## CARLOS BARREZUETA ('03)



As an Ecuadorian immigrant who came to New York City with his family as a child, Carlos Barrezueta did not have the luxury of focusing solely on his own education. Instead, like many immigrant children,

he had to help his parents navigate a confusing new world. "They were constantly worrying about things at home," he says. "I had to help them fill out papers in English and had to be engaged in helping my brothers and sisters go to school."

That did not stop him from pursuing a successful future, however. One year after his high school graduation, a mentor helped Barrezueta maneuver through the School of General Studies application since he was "clueless."

After one semester at GS, he obtained a PALS scholarship, which helped him graduate as the School's valedictorian with very little debt. "I enjoyed college much more because of PALS," he says. "It was an extraordinary part of my success." The support of Paola Scarpellini Crotts, Scott Halvorson, and the other deans was so important, he adds: "They were fantastic to my family, and they were really more mentors than deans."

Today, the 25-year-old is also a Yale Law School alumnus who received his J.D. last June. "I think it has an extra meaning for my parents. They are incredibly happy," Barrezueta says. "We both can't believe it. I was recently talking to them about these seven years going by, they have a great sense of accomplishment."

While studying at Yale, Barrezueta also worked in London, conducted research in Madrid, explored complex issues related to community development and banking, and worked in environmental protection. Currently an associate in a New York City law firm, Barrezueta says he will never forget what he has been given. "I really still feel that I have a great debt to pay to society and the many people around me that need help. And now I have the ability with my experience and degree."



Special Opportunity Scholarship (SOS), Dean Halvorson, in conjunction with Director of Educational Financing Skip Bailey and other administrators from the Dean of Students and Admissions Offices, developed a program that became PALS. Halvorson thought that fostering a sense of teamwork and community would be crucial to the new program's success. For students coming out of an inequitable educational system, often with significant breaks in their education, financial support alone is not enough. "They must be willing to trust and help one another because they can't afford to begin feeling isolated or alienated," Halvorson explains. "Advisors are not in the classroom with them, so peer support can make or break certain students." Counseling from the administration can also assist those for whom the prospect of receiving a large scholarship and not having to worry about financing their education can be, ironically, overwhelming.

"It's sometimes a double-edged sword," Halvorson says. "There's the initial happiness of receiving the scholarship, but that is often followed by a sense of 'Am I worthy?'" Some PALS students get a B minus on a paper or test and then feel terrible, as if they've let everyone down. They haven't, of course, but that feeling can become destructive if it isn't checked."

Before coming to GS, Halvorson spent eight years as a high school English teacher in a violent, gang-infested neighborhood in Long Beach, California. He is passionate about the program and committed to making the PALS students feel worthy and at home in Morningside Heights, because he knows firsthand how even capable students may find it difficult to envision attending a college like Columbia. He believes that unless one has lived or worked in an embattled community, it is often difficult to truly understand how hard it is for so many young people growing up there, even the brightest and most talented, to get out successfully and safely. "For many of these young men and women, simply to apply to a place like Columbia University is an act of moral courage," he says. "To see them actually come to this great university, thrive, and graduate has been the most fulfilling experience of my professional life."

Emilio Rodriguez, another current PALS scholar, knows about that kind

of courage, as well as having faith and faith in oneself. After joining a gang and dropping out of high school at age 16, the Miami, Florida native eventually turned his life around and earned an associate's degree at a community college. Then, after being accepted to the School of General Studies, he arrived in New York without any idea how he would pay for an Ivy League education.

"When you do things on faith, other things happen," Rodriguez says of receiving the PALS scholarship. "Columbia felt like a calling for me, a higher purpose. I wanted to challenge myself and learn how to help others who are struggling in life." The best part of PALS, he agrees, is the sense of camaraderie among the other students. "There are other groups on campus, but they don't have the peer support that we have," he says. "We really admire each other and we know each other's stories. I'm humbled by the other PALS students and what they've been able to overcome." Last spring Rodriguez was inducted into the GS Honor Society and served as a teaching assistant in the Columbia Economics Department, a position rarely given to undergraduates.

A sense of curiosity she did not have as a high school student in a blue-collar neighborhood in Orange County, California, as well as a desire to challenge her own belief system and tackle topics she knew nothing about, prompted fellow PALS scholar Adrienne Herrera to apply to Columbia in 2005. "College was never on my radar—it felt like something I couldn't do," she explains. "I never imagined that I would go to a private university." She did, however, acquire an education—in life. She studied acting, traveled with rock bands, and held a variety of jobs including florist, receptionist, day care worker, and various positions in the entertainment industry.

When she applied to GS and was accepted, she was told that the dean wanted to meet with her. "I thought they were going to tell me there was a clerical error, and I wasn't really accepted," she remembers. Instead, there was good news—she was accepted into PALS. "I thought they were joking around," she says. "Even now I have a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that I have the opportunity to be of service and that I've received so much respect from the Columbia community."



*Top: PALS student Emilio Rodriguez. Middle, from left: Student Adrienne Herrera, student Rodolfo Vazquez, GS Dean Peter Awn, student Mekia Henry, Associate Dean Scott Halvorson. Bottom: Student Isaiab Powell talking with a high school student at the 2006 No Limits conference. (Photos: Michael Dames)*

## DAWSON HER MANY HORSES ('04)

As part of the Native American Banking Group, one of the largest investment banking groups at financial giant Merrill Lynch, Dawson Her Many Horses has moved closer than ever to achieving his goals.



But back in 1997, the Amherst College student and member of the Rosebud Sioux reservation in South Dakota was attempting to put his life back together after struggling with a drug and alcohol problem. He took four years off from his education, and while volunteering, he figured out what he wanted to do.

“I decided that I wanted to go to law school,” he says. “Tribes are like states or municipal governments, and a lot of young Native students are encouraged to go to law school to be stronger advocates for their people.” In the summer of 2001, he applied to Columbia and was thrilled to find out he had received a PALS scholarship. “I thought maybe it was meant to be,” he says. “It was completely unexpected.”

While the other PALS students came from a wide variety of backgrounds, he believes the group has a great deal in common. “A lot of us have the same characteristics,” he says. “We wanted to go back to school, we felt that education was important to achieving our long-term goals, most of us were students of color, and I think a lot of us had interesting experiences prior to Columbia.” He cherishes many of the relationships that he’s developed with other students in the program, including close friends and fellow alumni Carlos Barrezeuta and Derrick Wilder.

Today, the 31-year-old lives in San Francisco and enjoys working with tribal clients in his position at Merrill Lynch—after deciding to choose business over law. “There’s definitely a need for more Natives with backgrounds in finance, and I’m focused on trying to get Merrill to recruit more Native students,” he says.

Today, Herrera is double-majoring in sociology and English. “All of a sudden I’m discovering a lot of capabilities and things I’m passionate about,” she says. “I might go into teaching.”

It is that kind of excitement that thrills Dean Leslie Limardo, who coordinates support services for all GS students and is someone the PALS scholars can approach if they need to vent, cry, or just talk. “I loved the PALS program from the start,” she says. “I felt this incredible energy and love, and I was hooked. They are a wonderful group.”

One of her favorite activities with the students this year, she says, was helping to organize the program’s annual No Limits conference, a one day program for city high school seniors that encourages students to apply to college. In the fall of 2000, Halvorson asked the PALS students to think about a community service project they could work on as a group. PALS student (now alumnus) Derrick Wilder (see sidebar on page 9) enthusiastically stepped up to this challenge and created the foundation for an event that has taken place every year since the first No Limits conference in April of 2001. The conference has become a profound way for PALS scholars to learn about leadership and share their experiences with high school students that may have the same feeling Phillips did when she first moved to Harlem—that Columbia is not a place for them. “It’s a powerful program and has been my favorite memory yet,” Limardo says.

**“Students like Frederick and the other PALS scholars remind me that our flawed public education system can still change for the better, if only through the extraordinary and often heroic efforts of the students themselves.”**  
—Dean Scott Halvorson

At a “debriefing” after the most recent No Limits conference in March, many of the PALS students were moved to tears, Halvorson says. “We talked about how the day went, and it was this wonderful moment,” he explains. “The students grasped just what it was they had accomplished and what they had witnessed take place with the Harlem high school students. They also shared just how much the other people in the program meant to them. It was as powerful as you can get.”

To those in the PALS program, this feeling extends to their relationship to the administration, particularly with Halvorson and Limardo. “They are the heart of the program,” says Herrera. “They are just not willing to let people fail.”





*Students from Bread & Roses High School and The Frederick Douglass Academy attended the 2006 No Limits conference. (Photos: Michael Dames)*

But to Limardo, it is the students that show how far PALS has come since its inception. “I think the biggest successes are our graduates,” Limardo says. “Our GS valedictorian three years ago was a PALS student, and many others have been leaders and have given not only to the Columbia University community, but to the larger community.”

Halvorson believes that the students in PALS are dramatic proof of how the human spirit can flourish when given the right opportunities. He recalls the story of a PALS alumnus, Frederick Hawkins, the product of a public high school in Louisiana so miserable that it was constantly under threat of closure due to lack of funding and the poor academic progress of its students. Frederick graduated from GS in 2004 and is now studying at Cornell for his master’s degree. “Students like Frederick and the other PALS scholars remind me that our flawed public education system can still change for the better,” Halvorson reflects, “if only through the extraordinary and often heroic efforts of the students themselves.” He thinks for a moment and then adds: “But it shouldn’t have to be so hard for them to get here. We still need to do more.”



### DERRICK WILDER ('05)

When Derrick Wilder heard that he had been accepted to Columbia and to PALS, nearly 20 years after he graduated from high school, he was “blown away.” After all, he had only applied because of the encouragement of his best friend, another GS student. “I called her crazy,” he says. “I got a call from Scott Halvorson who offered me the scholarship. I just started crying.”

Being accepted and arriving at Columbia didn’t soothe all of his anxieties, however. “It actually amplified my fears,” he says. “I thought, ‘Am I going to be able to do this?’ Prior to the scholarship, all of my fears could be focused on the financial burden, and when that was removed, I had to get over my angst about deserving an Ivy League education.”

Wilder was already a success without a college degree, pursuing a career in dance after graduating from high school in his hometown of Atlanta. He moved to New York City and studied at the Dance Theater of Harlem and the School of American Ballet,

eventually ran his own company in Omaha, Nebraska and directed the junior company of the Dayton Ballet. But the question of education kept returning, he says. “I would always say that I had always planned on going to college, but it hit me like a ton of bricks that—if I was going to do this, I’d have to do it now.”

Once he had the opportunity to be part of PALS, Wilder says he couldn’t stop thinking about giving back to the community. He took the lead in developing the No Limits program, which grew out of conversations he had with other PALS students who all shared a common path, “We all dealt with overcoming hardships and the stigma that we did not belong at an Ivy League school.” The result is the annual No Limits conference, which teaches young people with backgrounds similar to the GS students’ to feel empowered that they too can pursue an Ivy League education.

Today, Wilder is the director of dance at one of the nation’s oldest private schools, the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and he cherishes his PALS experience: “It was amazing, wonderful, and true to my heart.”



# TWO WONDERFUL YEARS; THANK GOD THEY'RE OVER

BY MICHAEL GEORGE (PBPM '06)

*Offered through the School of General Studies since 1955, the Columbia University Postbaccalaureate Premedical Pre-health Program, the oldest and largest program of its kind in the United States, is designed to meet the needs of college graduates who have decided to pursue medical education but have not yet taken the science courses required for admission to medical school.*

*The Program consists of two full years of science coursework followed by one year of employment or research in a medical facility. Students are awarded a Certificate in Premedical Sciences after the academic requirements have been fulfilled. At the Certificate Ceremony, Postbacs have a chance to reflect on their accomplishments while considering the long road that still lies ahead.*

*Michael George gave the student speech at this year's Certificate Ceremony. Michael graduated summa cum laude from Loyola University Chicago and received an M.F.A. from the writing program at Columbia's School of the Arts, where he was a Hertog Fellow. In the President's Room of the Faculty House on May 12, 2006 Michael gave this address to his fellow honorees:*

Two years ago most of us didn't know how an airplane flew. We didn't know what an IR spectrometer was, how a light bulb burned, and the whimsical hexagons of aromatic substitution, if we'd seen them two years ago, would've made about as much sense as the cursive of a Martian. Two years ago maybe we'd heard of DNA, transposons, equivalence points, spermatogenesis, blastulae—but they were just names. They were like the names when you'd look at the globe when you were a kid, point to the Weddell Sea, or Ankara, Turkey, or Greymouth, New Zealand.

You'd point at those words, knowing you'd never go there, that they were beyond you, that you could stare at them all day and they'd still be distal and heatless as a star. But still, as a kid, you were OK, because you liked that it was a strange world to be lost in.

So anyway there we were, 125 of us lassoed together to share in the indignity they call "ice-breakers." We stood up, gave our names and birthplaces, and a distinguishing characteristic. Did anyone else feel a hot flash of jealousy at the girl who'd worked as a stunt double? There were former musi-

cians, computer scientists, philosophers, CEOs, and a canvas-clad journalist who looked like she was just jetting over the Pacific on the Concorde. With each fusillade of accomplishments I felt myself (as maybe some of you did) subtly shrinking, horrified at the thought that I was in a room with 125 geniuses, and that it was only by some fluke that I'd finagled my way into their company. I was sure the sheer mass of intellect, concentrated as it was in one room, would cause power fluctuations, a gravitational warp, or maybe they were all communicating telepathically—laughing in their sprightly psionic voices at those of us who really, really didn't belong. What do you say to 125 geniuses? My name is Mike, I'm from Chicago, I'm right-handed. Better yet: Hi, my name is Mike, my science background is watching *Muppet Babies*. And after all that, no matter if we were political scientists, fresh from undergrad, or stunt doubles, the astonishing thing is that we did belong, because we're sitting here. That's what's truly astonishing.

I think the real hardship of being a postbac—aside from the coursework—



is the exquisitely delicate matter of explaining how hard it is to be a postbac. Because it is *very hard* to be a postbac. And when you say to your loved one, for perhaps the tenth or twentieth time, “It is very hard to be a postbac,” it’s only a matter of time before they say, “Really? So is it Boston Marathon hard or Sunday Crossword hard?” But you couldn’t really explain, your mouth just opened and shut. I usually settled for, “It’s the hardest thing I’ve ever done.” And my wife usually replied, “You’ve had it easy.”

So in order to better inform our loved ones, I have dutifully compiled a STUFF THAT WAS HARD compendium. And if the program was a breeze for you—and I know you’re out there—then may God have mercy on your soul.

Without further ado, the much-abbreviated compendium:

**1. G. Chem I.** It’s pretty humbling when the things that are kicking your ass are the smallest particles in the universe. It’s also humbling when you’re struggling to grasp concepts that were reasoned out a few centuries ago. Said one classmate, “I’m so much dumber than Le Châtelier, and he’s dead.”

**2. Volunteer work.** Here’s what it will say on our medical school applications: “Volunteering at St. Luke’s was a deeply enriching and moving experience in which I had firsthand contact with patients and was able to more closely observe the practice of medicine. Seeing that life has only strengthened my resolve to be a doctor.” Here’s what the application would say in an alternate universe where applicants must read their essays while affixed to polygraphs: “Volunteering at St. Luke’s was a deeply relaxing experience in which I stood in a corner beneath a clock and contemplated my mortality. Every now and then a doctor would call me by a name that was not my own. Thank you for your consideration.”

**3. Physics I.** If your GPA rests on an incline of 30 degrees to the horizontal, and your GPA is attached to a pulley supporting a boulder named Sloth, how is it possible that your GPA manages to fall, as Sloth ascends? You may neglect friction.

**4. Social life.** (very long pause)

**5. G. Chem II.** It was here that we began to ask the question: “Is this worth it? My stunt double career was really taking off. I was this close to programming a kinder, gentler HAL. I could have been a good schoolteacher; kids like me. Or I could have been a dog-catcher; dogs hate me. Maybe I should’ve joined the Army, the Air Force, the Peace Corps, the Merchant Marine. I could have been a ski instructor, a philosophy professor, an archaeologist ... is this worth it? Is it really and truly worth the work?” And we kept answering: “Yeah.” Because it was.

**6. Bio.** Does anyone remember the “slaughter rule” in Little League? It was the rule that said if you were losing by ten runs, the game got suspended, because you didn’t want to injure the self-esteem of the players. That’s how I felt after the second test. I was ready to invoke the slaughter rule.

And yet, that’s just half of it: the bad half. Because there’s another side to the compendium, written on opposing pages: the index of STUFF THAT WAS INCREDIBLE.

**1. G. Chem I.** The atoms and elements that compose the universe. The structure of matter on the quantum level and its effect on the macro-level. The states of matter and the transitions between them. That we didn’t know any of this, and that one year later we did, is incredible.



**2. Volunteer Work.** One of my jobs was to work in the hospital library, bringing books to patients. One guy, whose name I won't mention, was in the mental area on the tenth floor, almost always in the solarium. I instantly felt a kinship: while most of the books people took out were romances or mysteries, he would have none of it. He wanted philosophy, specifically Martin Buber. I'd been reading Buber for other reasons at the time, and we got to talking about him. I realized midway through the conversation that not only did he know Buber a great deal better than I, but that he knew philosophy a great deal better. Not only that, he was, with a kind of rabbinical bearing, humoring me.

We became friends, or close to it. I saw him maybe once a week, whenever I brought the cart to the tenth floor, and he was always lucid. But I couldn't figure him out; the guy was too sane to be crazy. I finally asked him why he was there.

"I'm waiting for them to clean the furnaces," he said.

I didn't understand what he meant.

"The furnaces are clogged," he insisted.

It came out in further conversation that he believed he was in a concentration camp. I, by way of extension, was a Nazi guard.

I'm at a loss to describe the kind of pain that can transform a tenth floor solarium in New York City into the place he imagined. But what I do know is that pain has that kind of power; and it's that power that we're struggling to understand and alleviate. All of us have had experiences similar to that one; the great majority of us have most likely seen people die. And having seen this, I don't think it's possible to impress on somebody else how human, and deeply real, this profession is going to be. It's so real, in fact, that having seen it, everything else feels like air.

**3. Physics.** Now we know why the sky is blue. We know what keeps this planet in orbit. We can describe the flight of projectiles, the effects of electro-magnetic fields, the movement of current in a circuit. We know why engines generate work, why radiation can cause cancer, why an airplane stays aloft.

**4. Social life.** We'd heard the rumors. Coming in we'd heard how cutthroat pre-med students were, and they always used that word, cutthroat, like we'd get here

to find 125 bowlegged pirates honing cutlasses. But then you relaxed, and you realized nobody really cared what you did. You met a girl in your Bio lab course who could describe the layers of the small intestines set to the music of "My Sharona." You banded together, held conclaves, quizzed each other, and maybe it was just that everyone looked as strung-out as you did, but that made it better.

**5. G. Chem II.** You kept asking yourself if it was worth it and you kept answering yes, and each time you answered yes, it was easier. You reached the point where you'd worked too hard to give up, when you've seen too much for anything else—any other life—to be "worth it."

**6. Bio.** And now that we know something of how we work, we know how little we're certain of. It's probably more complex than we imagined, but this is comforting, because we've found, as we hoped, a strange and good world to be lost in.

When I told a buddy I was ditching a Ph.D. to be the other kind of doctor, I got one word in response: "You?" I think a lot of us got that, hopefully in more generous terms—but we were still suspected.

We'd become suspicious characters. We hadn't been ejected from the womb with a stethoscope, and now here we were, charging headlong into what, as everybody warned us, we knew nothing about. We obviously had deep-seated psychological issues. We were commitment-phobic. We were afraid of failure in our previous careers. We were dilettantes, professional students, wimps! Or maybe we were just afraid, say it once and for all, to get a real job. So, now that we're one step closer, now that we can see the life we've chosen with greater lucidity, I think we can formulate an answer to that question: "You?"

We are commitment-phobic toward succeeding at a life without consequence. We have deep-seated psychological issues with accepting a profession that doesn't reflect who we are. We are revolted at the idea of charging headlong into what we know everything about. And this is the "real job," real in that it touches people at their most basic and human level, so real, in fact, that when we're dead, the sum suffering on this planet will be slightly less.

"You?"

Yeah, us.

**"You met a girl in your Bio lab course who could describe the layers of the small intestines set to the music of 'My Sharona.' You banded together, held conclaves, quizzed each other, and maybe it was just that everyone looked as strung-out as you did, but that made it better."**



# GS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Former GS Professor Honored for *Treason*

BY ROBERT AST



Aficionados of Latin American literature know that Gregory Rabassa is a highly respected translator of Spanish and Portuguese, with translations of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Machado de Assis to his credit (among many others). What may be less widely known is that Rabassa got his start as an educator at the

School of General Studies.

After a stint as a cryptographer for the OSS during World War II, Rabassa attended Columbia for graduate study in Spanish and Portuguese, both of which he also taught at GS. Many of his students were his age or older, and most had served in the war effort; in fact, in the GS hallway, Rabassa ran into an Army sergeant he'd known while stationed in Italy.

"After the war, a lot of GIs enrolled at GS, and, of course, it was coed," he said. "There were some former WACs [members of the Women's Army Corps], and older women who wanted to get a degree. The students were a good bunch. ... When I became full-time, I was moved over to Columbia College; it was all-male and mostly traditional. There were a few GIs, but not too many. I missed the mixed grouping I had in GS and the older students who had a broader understanding of things."

Rabassa was also part of the "Columbia nucleus" that produced the short-lived but influential *Odyssey*, the first academic review to publish many young Latin American authors who later enjoyed considerable success. His first book-length translation was Julio Cortazar's complex and dazzling *Hopscotch*, for which he won the first-ever National Book Award for Translation. His next translation, Cortazar's *62: A Model Kit*, gave Rabassa a way to describe the translator's difficult—and often uncelebrated—role.

"It's Julio Cortazar's idea ... a Greek word, *paredros*," he explained. "The concept came from the Egyptians. It's a sort of doppelganger: someone who's there and not there. But it's not quite a double. It's almost schizophrenic—the other aspect of you. I suppose it could even

"Nowadays as I look away into the distance I can see that I have reached the age where everything beyond a hundred yards is all Monet, while once it had been Courbet. There is compensation, however, as the vistas of my imagination became Hieronymus Bosch, one more bit of evidence that old age is the baroque moment of existence."

*An excerpt from If This Be Treason  
by Gregory Rabassa*

fit 'muse' or 'guardian angel.' I thought that perhaps the translator could be the *paredros* for the writer in another language."

Rabassa recently published *If This Be Treason*, an account of his translating experiences, and in May 2006, the PEN American Center awarded it the PEN/Martha Albrand Prize for the Art of the Memoir.

Now in his eighth decade, he continues to translate and also teaches two classes a semester at Queens College. "I enjoy the students," he said. "Out in Queens it's a hodgepodge of ethnicity and national origin.... And I still labor under the delusion that my students are the same age as I am; it makes for a good relationship."

Rabassa's translation of Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is taught regularly in the Columbia English department course "Twentieth-Century Comparative Fiction," a course available to individuals over 65 as part of the Lifelong Learner Program through the School of Continuing Education.

*If This Be Treason* is published by New Directions and available in bookstores.

# DEMOCRACY IN THE CONGO

BY ROBERT AST

This summer, when the Democratic Republic of Congo held its first democratic elections in over 40 years, Martin Bentz was not only present while history was being made—he was part of the team that made it happen. As a Regional Administrative Officer for the United Nations, Bentz ('85) an alumnus of the School of General Studies, helped to organize and oversee what he has called the “most challenging electoral endeavor ever undertaken by the UN.

“We registered 25 million eligible voters in a country the size of Western Europe, through which there are no passable roads. We had to set up 3,000 voting stations, to which almost all electoral materials were flown or taken by river.”

The elections were conducted peacefully, with a 70 percent participation rate. “To most observers the elections were free, fair, and transparent,” Martin remarked. “The Congolese people participated in the registration process and elections with a great sense of pride. For the first time they could actually select their leadership.”

Democracy is a new concept for the Congolese people, most of whom are too young to remember when the country first gained independence from Belgium in 1960 after nearly a century of colonial rule. In 1965 Joseph Mobutu seized power and remained in control of the country (renamed Zaire) until being ousted in 1997. The leader of that revolution, Laurent Kabila, was assassinated in 2001 and succeeded by his son Joseph, who won the recent election.

Initially Kabila received 45 percent of the vote while his closest competitor, Jean-Pierre Bemba, head of the opposition party, received 20 percent. Because a majority is needed to form a new government, a runoff election was held in late October. Kabila obtained 58 percent of that



vote, but Bemba challenged the results, alleging fraud, and his followers attacked the Supreme Court, where the results were certified. UN peacekeeping forces intervened, as they also did in August, when fighting broke out after preliminary election results were announced.

“Had UN troops not been present, the exchange of fire between partisans of the two strongest camps could have spiraled into another civil war,” Martin said, referring to the fighting in August.

Sadly, violence of this sort is too familiar in the DRC, which is one of Africa’s most beautiful and resource-rich nations, as well as one of its most troubled. Years of civil unrest and corruption have left the country, which is divided ethnically, linguistically, geographically, and politically, with very little infrastructure or security.

“Risk permeates the country; from roving bandits in the East looking to plunder as much gold, diamonds, and food they can

extort from the villages, from undisciplined soldiers, ex-combatants and militia seeking to score easy cash, from forces loyal to the political leaders who pay their wages quick on the trigger in any confrontation or moment of disrespect, from street gangs without work menacingly demanding handouts, from citizens angry that their candidate did not win,” Martin said.

“The ministers nominally in power eke the most out of their positions before they are forced to leave. There is no taxation system, hence no investment in schools, hospitals, roads, air or rail transport, or bus systems. To paraphrase the late President Mobutu, ‘Every man for himself.’

“In this challenging, constantly changing environment, Martin manages operations and support activities in the capital Kinshasa as well as eight field offices for UN Peacekeepers in the western half of the country. “The worst shortfall in peacekeeping is the shortage of personnel in the field,” he said. “It is hard to attract skilled people to work in such isolated hard conditions, with electricity provided only by generator, clean water in short supply, very basic plumbing, clouds of mosquitoes, high chance of getting malaria, little food stuffs, no supermarkets, and no entertainment. Being able to make life a little easier for someone willing to live and work in a remote outpost is the most satisfying part of my job as an administrator even though I know that, as a result, we will have to juggle with limited means back at headquarters. Sometimes, though, the message to our field staff is that we just do not have in stock what they so desperately need.”

A lifelong commitment to peaceful solutions—crystallized in his youth by his personal opposition to the U.S. policy in Vietnam—is one of Martin’s strongest motivations. “I was frustrated then, and am still frustrated, that nations and groups feel that their self-interest can only be





*Facing: Martin Bentz ('85), inspecting a security outpost in Kinshasa; Left: the Congo River; Above: Martin chairing a regional meeting of MONUC, the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Congo.*

expressed through war or violence,” he said. “While not politically or historically naïve, I think there is much more that can be done through education, awareness, and negotiation, the cost of which is much lower than military force.”

This commitment ultimately led Martin to GS, though, like many GS students, his path was hardly straightforward. After earning his high school diploma from the American School of The Hague in the Netherlands, Martin traveled through Europe and Turkey before returning to the U.S. He studied at Colorado College and the University of Connecticut and worked in hospitals and as a horticulturist on private estates. “As interesting as this might have been, it did not really match my worldview, so I decided to apply to GS to study geography and international affairs,” he recalled.

While at GS, Martin also landed an entry-level job at the UN. “The discipline of commuting each day from the United Nations and my apartment on the east side to Columbia to attend class, spending hours in Low Library drafting research

papers, and then accepting the incisive comments on the papers by my Columbia professors left an appreciation for efficient time management and precision,” Martin said. “The professors at General Studies were my mentors, especially my political geography professors and Miklos Pinther, a professor at Columbia and the head of the UN Cartography Unit. I had hard lessons to learn and needed some serious fine-tuning along the way. Without the coaching and support of many teachers at Columbia and senior managers at the UN, I would never have garnered the wherewithal to be a manager today.”

After graduating, Martin took a sabbatical from the UN, working in textbook publishing, managing foreign athletes for the New York Road Runners, and producing a television fundraising program for UNICEF. He rejoined the UN in 1993, working in peacekeeping in the Western Sahara.

“When I joined the United Nations, I sensed that it was possible to play a part in making people’s lives somehow better. I believe working in the administration

overseeing the logistical operations, along with all the administrative support, contributed to the successes in the Congo so far. I and all my colleagues feel a great sense of accomplishment despite the fatigue, stress, and danger. Contrary to the advice of some, I do have my family here. They remind me that we have responsibilities both global and personal.”

For an extended interview with Martin Bentz, including information about working for the UN and daily life in the Democratic Republic of Congo, visit Owl Net ([www.alumni.gs.columbia.edu](http://www.alumni.gs.columbia.edu)).



# CLASS DAY: MAY 16, 2006

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DAMES



GALLERY

1. The GS Class Day Ceremony in Lerner Hall's Roone Arledge Auditorium.

2. Katherine Huling.

3. Josephine Johnson-Andres and Professor Carl Hart.

4. Grads lining up before entering Roone Arledge Auditorium.

5. University Chaplan Jewelnel Davis, Susan Feagin ('74), and Barbara Voorbis Levy ('48).







1. Gloria Gardner with her husband.
2. Will Eberhart.
3. Barbara Voorbis Levy (48) presents the Alumni Key Award to Valedictorian Eleena Melamed.
4. Naim Surgeon.
5. Anthony Bernard (center).
6. Salutatorian Pavan Surapaneni.
7. A new grad receives a big hug.

# GS EVENTS RECAP

## ALUMNI WINE-TASTING SERIES: SEPTEMBER 29, 2005, FEBRUARY 2, 2006, AND APRIL 27, 2006

More than 200 alumni, students, and friends joined GS at the Morrell Tasting Room this year for the GS Wine-Tasting Series. The events were open to all GS graduates and GS seniors who contributed to the 2006 Senior Class Gift Fund.



## ALUMNI NETWORKING: IRMGARD HUNT, *ON HITLER'S MOUNTAIN*: OCTOBER 25, 2005

**Irmgard Hunt** ('82) read excerpts from her memoir, *On Hitler's Mountain*, at the New York Athletic Club. The book depicts her childhood in Germany during the 1930s and 1940s.

## GS FAMILY EVENT: DINOSAURS: NOVEMBER 5, 2005

More than 65 GS alumni and their children met at the American Museum of Natural History for a private visit to the museum's special exhibition, "Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries." Guests were taken on a tour of the permanent dinosaur fossil halls and the Paleontology Department's "Big Bone Room." The visit was sponsored by **Nancy Lynn** ('96), the Director of Traveling Programs at the museum.

## GS FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: PROFESSOR HENRY GRAFF: DECEMBER 7, 2005

Professor Henry Graff spoke to a group of more than 75 alumni and guests at the New York Athletic Club on the history of the American Presidency, regaling his audience with stories of his personal interactions with Presidents and reflecting on what the future may hold for the Executive Branch.

## COLUMBIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (CAA): RECENT ALUMNI HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE: DECEMBER 8, 2005

Close to 400 recent alums from GS, CC, SEAS, and Barnard participated in a toy drive hosted by the CAA at Manhattan's Cielo Club.

## ALUMNI NETWORKING: MARK ROTELLA, *STOLEN FIGS*: MARCH 21, 2006

**Mark Rotella** ('92) read excerpts from *Stolen Figs* at the Italian restaurant Borgo Antico. After a discussion, guests were able to sample some of the Calabrian cuisine featured in the book, a travelogue and family history.

## WOMEN OF GS WITH SALLY JONES: MARCH 28, 2006

More than 70 alumni and friends gathered at the Columbia Club of New York to hear **Sally Jones** ('92) discuss her path to GS and her current role as the Editor in Chief of Parenting.com (part of *Parenting Magazine*) and the Parenting button on AOL.com (both divisions of Time Warner Inc.).

## GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REUNION: MARCH 30, 2006

Current and former GSSC members gathered at Nolita House, which is owned and operated by **Marc Matyas** ('96), for the third annual GSSC reunion.

## DEAN'S DAY: APRIL 1, 2006

GS alumni gathered with Columbia College alumni for Dean's Day. Alumni attended a variety of class offerings throughout the day and met with GS Dean Peter J. Awn for breakfast and lunch at Low Library.

## POSTBAC PREMED ALUMNI- STUDENT RECEPTION: APRIL 24, 2006

More than 60 Postbac Premed alumni and current students gathered at the Faculty House to discuss career paths and choices in the field of medicine.



## CLASS DAY AND UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT: MAY 16, 2006

On Class Day, GS celebrated the Class of 2006. The Class Day speaker, **Antonio L. Freitas** ('97), Assistant Professor of Psychology for the State University of New York at Stony Brook, thanked GS for helping him achieve his dreams and for accepting someone with his history to Columbia. 2006 University Alumni Medalist **Barbara Voorhis Levy** ('48) presented graduates with their alumni pins. Mrs. Levy helped establish the GS Alumni Association and served as its first president. She received her alumni medal—and a rousing ovation—at the University Commencement Ceremony on May 17.



**CAA: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: COLLEGE ADMISSIONS: JUNE 14, 2006**

Alumni from GS, CC, SEAS, and Barnard attended a panel hosted by CAA and featuring college admissions professionals who offered strategies on preparing children for academic success.

**CAA: GOOGLE EVENT: JUNE 28, 2006**

CAA and Google hosted a networking reception for alumni from the University's undergraduate schools at Google's New York office. Guests participated in a panel discussion on the future of online marketing and met with Google executives.



**DEAN PETER J. AWN'S REGIONAL CLUB EVENTS:**

Northern New Jersey: November 15, 2005  
Tampa, Florida: November 30, 2005  
Boston: April 4, 2006  
London: May 3, 2006  
Paris: May 4, 2006  
Cincinnati: June, 15, 2006

**GS ALUMNI NETWORK RECEPTION: AUGUST 30, 2006**

Alumni **Mason Beard** ('04), **Nancy Lynn** ('96), **Marc Matyas** ('96), **Simon Metz** ('02), **Lita Riddock** ('95), and **Porat Saar** ('01) shared their personal and professional experiences with current GS students. **Marc Matyas** ('96) catered the event with cuisine from his NYC restaurant, Nolita House.



**CAA CITY SEMINAR: CHEMISTRY OF WINE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

Almost 200 University alumni and friends gathered at the Alliance Française in New York City for "Chemistry of Wine."

**GS & CAA TASTING SERIES: JOE 101: THE ART OF COFFEE: OCTOBER 12, 2006**

Alumni and friends gathered at Joe's of Waverly Place for a presentation about how coffee is grown, processed, and roasted.

**CAA CITY SEMINAR: BODIES EXHIBITION WITH BIOLOGIST DARCY KELLEY: OCTOBER 18, 2006**

Following a self-guided tour of the *Bodies* exhibit at South Street Seaport, Professor Darcy Kelley discussed the growth processes of the male and female brain.

**GS & CAA TASTING SERIES: THE ART OF CHOCOLATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2006**

Held at Charbonnel et Walker, located inside Saks 5th Avenue, "The Art of Chocolate" invited alumni to taste a variety of England's finest and most famous chocolates. An expert from Charbonnel entertained and educated guests about the history and mystery of this favorite sweet.

**HOWL AT THE WEST END: NOVEMBER 3, 2006**

Professor Ann Douglas and English Ph.D. candidate Penny Vlagopoulos hosted the annual Howl event at the West End.

Celebrating the 49th anniversary of *On the Road*, alumni, students, faculty, and friends visited Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg's old haunt. This year's special guests included composer David Amram and writer Joyce Johnson, who recalled their shared times with Kerouac.



**GS & CAA TASTING SERIES: CHEESE AND COMFORT FOOD: NOVEMBER 15, 2006**

**Marc Matyas** ('96) hosted the third and final tasting event at his restaurant Nolita House. Marc put together a menu featuring dishes highlighting the versatility of artisan cheeses and how they can enhance the flavor of more traditional cuisine. More than 80 alumni enjoyed the Tasting Series.

**CAA ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 4, 2006**

Alumni volunteers and leaders discussed the growth of the Columbia Alumni Association and its role at the University. The conference culminated with a gala dinner held in the Low Library Rotunda. 2006 medalist **Barbara Voorhis Levy** ('48) was honored at the dinner.

# GS PARTICIPATE & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## GS STUDENT MATCHES SENIOR CLASS GIFT

Senior Christopher Riano recently pledged to match all donations to the 2007 Senior Class Gift, a year-long campaign led by the General Studies Student Council Senior Committee in which graduating GS students establish a tradition of giving to the GS Annual Fund and create awareness about giving to GS.

“The Senior Gift is a great opportunity to give even a little bit back,” he said. “To give \$10 or \$20, which is what we look for, is really not that much to ask. But it adds up.”

Riano’s pledge stems from his work on financial aid reform with the University Senate, where he is the sole GS representative and co-chairs the Student Affairs Committee, the body that represents all 24,000 Columbia undergraduate and graduate students to faculty and administration. “Instead of saying ‘Why won’t you do more?’ it’s better to have someone step up and just say, ‘I’ll do it,’” said Riano, who worked as a professional haute couture model before attending GS. “If you have the ability, I feel you have the responsibility to do it, to help out other people as much as you can.”

Riano hopes that his gift will inspire alumni, as well as his fellow students, to give more generously. “GS has the most amazing and dynamic student body,” he said. “The diversity is phenomenal. That’s what makes our school strong, and it’s something you won’t find anywhere else. That’s why it’s so important to give back.”

The Class of 2006 set new standards for the Senior Gift with a record 51 percent of seniors participating. Riano is optimistic that his pledge will increase student participation and surpass last year’s record.

*For more information about Senior Gift and the GS Annual Fund, please contact Diane Carlyle at (212) 854-9614 or dc2125@columbia.edu. Visit the Giving to GS website at [www.columbia.edu/cu/giving](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/giving).*



*Current GS Senior Christopher Riano has pledged to match the Class of 2007 Senior Gift.*

## RECENT ALUMNI GIFTS TOP \$1 MILLION

### Give to the GS Annual Fund

The GS Annual Fund is the School of General Studies’ primary vehicle for alumni giving, offering an important way for alumni to commemorate their GS experience. Contributions support current GS students and can be designated to the following areas:

- General support to underwrite the dean’s top priorities
- Financial aid and scholarships
- PALS (Program for Academic Leadership and Service)
- Postbaccalaureate Premedical Pre-health Program

### Your Participation Has an Impact

Every gift is appreciated, because every gift makes a difference. Alumni participation in the Annual Fund is an important measure of support for GS and Columbia as a whole. Alumni gifts constitute a vital source of funding—in fact, in the past four years, more than \$1 million has been raised through the GS Annual Fund.

### New Grads Set Record

The GS Class of 2006 set new standards for Annual Fund giving through the Senior Gift. With a record 51 percent of seniors participating, last year’s Senior Gift raised over \$3,700 for student scholarships. Individual donations ranged from \$5–\$200.

### Alumni Volunteer

By making telephone calls and helping to organize fundraising events, over a dozen new GS Annual Fund volunteers are reaching out to their fellow alumni and encouraging them to become involved.

*To learn more about the GS Annual Fund and how you can help, please contact Diane Carlyle, Associate Director, GS Annual Fund, at 212-854-9614 or for written inquiries at 408 Lewisohn Hall, MC 4121; 2970 Broadway; New York, NY 10027. More information about the Annual Fund can be found at [www.columbia.edu/cu/giving](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/giving).*

## Where there's a Will

If you have included Columbia in your estate plans, the Office of Planned Giving would like to invite you to join The 1754 Society.

Contact the Office by telephone at (212)870-1300 or (800)338-3294 and by email at [gift.planning@columbia.edu](mailto:gift.planning@columbia.edu).



THE 1754 SOCIETY



# GS ASSOCIATES INAUGURAL ANNUAL RECEPTION: MAY 10, 2006

GS is now recognizing the school's most loyal and generous annual fund donors through the GS Associates program. All GS Annual Fund donors of \$500 or more and recent (within the past four years) graduates who give \$100 or more become GS Associates. In appreciation, Associates are offered unique opportunities to stay connected to the school, including special events and communications sent throughout the year.



1. Overview.

2. Helen Everts ('70), Andree Dean ('74), Anne Conze ('73).

3. Jennifer Haythe, Karma Hara ('05), Eli Casdin ('03).

4. Professor Elizabeth Blackman, Dean Peter Awn, Michael Budabin McQuown ('06).

5. Judith Lipsey ('61), former Dean Gillian Lindt, Helen Everts.

6. Joseph Ehrlich ('92), John Heffernan ('76).

7. Rarymond Aab ('75), Ralph Cox ('54), Lucille Roussin ('69).



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GS ASSOCIATES PROGRAM AND HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CONTACT DIANE CARLYLE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, GS ANNUAL FUND, AT 212-854-9614 OR FOR WRITTEN INQUIRES AT 408 LEWISOHN HALL, MC 4121; 2970 BROADWAY; NEW YORK, NY 10027.

# GS PLANNED GIVING

## DEANNA WAGONER: HELPING GS AND RECEIVING ANNUAL PAYMENTS FOR LIFE

“Without GS I never would have had the courage to go to college,” Deanna Wagoner said. After working at Columbia for 13 years, Deanna enrolled in the School of General Studies and earned a bachelor’s degree in English in 1975. She went on to earn a master’s in comparative literature from GSAS in 1976.



*Deanna Wagoner (75) (center) with Clowns’ Bazaar board members Karl Karesb (left) and Mildred Jefferson (right).*

An artist, businesswoman, and world-traveler, from 1979 to 1985 Deanna worked as a missionary with the Jesuits in Nepal, teaching English and helping women to set up small-scale crafting enterprises. The country’s unstable political situation forced her to leave, and after returning home Deanna continued the work she started in Katmandu by founding Clowns’ Bazaar in Charleston, South Carolina. A nonprofit organization and shop, Clowns’ Bazaar benefits artisans in developing nations and the U.S. Since 1986, the store has sold handmade carvings, silks, brasses, and pewter from Africa, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, as well as unique crafts produced by senior citizens and the homeless in American cities such as Charleston, New Orleans, and Chicago.

Though she loves serving as Executive Director of Clowns’ Bazaar, Deanna is actively planning her early retirement. In early 2007, she plans to move to New Mexico and live as a “beatnik artist.” In preparation, she established a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) with Columbia University. In return for her one-time donation, she will receive annual payments for life. Because they offer a steady stream of income and significant tax advantages, CGAs have become an increasingly popular way for people to support their favorite nonprofits and charities.

Deanna said that her objective in making a gift to GS was to “repay what GS meant to me” and to help “keep it going” for future GS students. “It satisfies everything,” she said, noting that the CGA simultaneously provides her with a reliable source of income during her retirement years while also offering a way to express her appreciation and gratitude to her alma mater.

## GIFTS TO GS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

Columbia’s Office of Planned Giving can advise you about how your donation can benefit both you and GS. Here are a few thoughts:

*Appreciated Securities:* Gifts of appreciated stocks can be given in lieu of cash, which offers significant tax advantages. Because Columbia University is not required to pay capital gains, the stocks’ full value will go directly to GS, and you will receive a tax rebate for the entire amount of the gift.

*Charitable Gift Annuities:* In exchange for a minimum gift of \$25,000 in cash or publicly traded securities, Columbia will promise to make fixed, guaranteed payments for life to you and, if desired, one other individual. The obligation to make these payments is secured by the Columbia endowment, and the annuity amount is based on the age of the beneficiaries at the time of the gift. You receive a charitable tax deduction in the year you complete your gift, and, most significantly, depending upon how the annuity is funded, a significant portion of the annuity payment can be tax-free for a given number of years.

*Bequests:* When you support GS through a bequest, you will receive important tax benefits, because all bequests to Columbia University are entirely free from federal estate taxes. Certain bequests, such as retirement plan assets, allow you to give more to Columbia at significantly less after-tax cost to your other beneficiaries.

### A Resource for You

Our friendly, knowledgeable, planned giving officers are ready and willing to help you with any of the gifts mentioned. 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](mailto:gift.planning@columbia.edu).



# GS ON CAMPUS

## THROUGH THE EYES OF A SOLDIER



BY SHARON KASPER

Discussion of America's military involvement overseas continues to fill the airwaves, and on March 20, it filled Earl Hall auditorium as a group of Columbia students who are also military veterans took the

stage to discuss their experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Moderator Todd Murphy, a General Studies student who repaired test equipment for Marine aircraft in Iraq, began by posing a question familiar to all of the panelists: to what extent did the media portrayal of the war differ from your actual experience?

According to Ray Carl, a GS student who maintained Marine helicopters in Iraq, "There were a lot of weapons systems we didn't have, including anti-missile systems that Congress had already authorized. They'd put the money elsewhere because no one expected we'd need to use them that soon."

But Chris Danbeck, an army captain who was stationed in Iraq before coming to Columbia to pursue an M.A. in international affairs, felt that the army had been "absolutely prepared," stating that "if each general had every single thing he wants, then we'd be spending all our money on the military."

On the larger question of the media's representation of the war, most panelists admitted to feeling frustrated by the frequent discrepancies between media reports and the realities they experienced on the ground. But GS student Luke Stalcup, who served as a team leader for explosive ordinance disposal in the Army, insisted that the media had not been entirely to blame. "The situation doesn't lend itself well to a sound bite, or even 30 minutes," he noted. "It's really complicated; there are a million things going on. As someone who was on the ground there, even I can't say I understood everything that was going on."

In Carl's view, the Department of Defense should be doing more to address the problem. "The media doesn't portray what's going on out there, but at the same time, the Defense Department doesn't either. They think they're there to counteract all the negative coverage from the media, but then everyone thinks they're just painting a rosy picture." Carl suggested that the Department adopt a new tack of providing objective news coverage. "Then people might look to them as a credible news source," he said.

Asked if they had encountered a lot of negative sentiment from their fellow students, GS student Oscar Escano, who formerly served as an army ranger, said he'd been "pleasantly surprised" to find students thanking him for his service. "There were some negative sentiments from the more extremist groups, but I think that stems from ignorance, and a lack of awareness."

For more information on U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University visit [www.columbia.edu/cu/usmivetscu/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/usmivetscu/).

# M E E T DEAN SHULY RUBIN SCHWARTZ

LIKE THE STUDENTS IN THE JOINT PROGRAM, DEAN SHULY RUBIN SCHWARTZ BALANCES MANY ROLES

BY SHERRY S. KIRSCHENBAUM

Dean Shuly Rubin Schwartz is not only the Dean of Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) but also the Irving Lehrman Research Associate Professor of American Jewish History at JTS. She teaches several popular graduate and undergraduate courses, such as "The Jewish Family" and "The History of American Jewish Education," while continuing to balance her responsibilities as dean and teacher with an active research career. Her latest book, *The Rabbi's Wife: The Rebbetzin in American Jewish Life*, traces the evolution of the rebbetzin's role in America. In detailing the unique and immense contributions rebbetzins have made to the development of American Jewry, Dean Schwartz combines extensive scholarship with humor in a way that makes *The Rabbi's Wife* accessible. "In some ways, the unofficial leadership roles that rebbetzins have historically held remind me of the kinds of roles that Joint Program alumni take," Dean Schwartz said. "While our Joint Program alumni often do not serve the Jewish community in a professional capacity, they routinely devote time to



teaching children and adults, leading services, feeding the hungry, and generally promoting and enhancing Jewish life."

"I am continually inspired by Joint Program students," Dean Schwartz said. "While they are in school, they balance busy, six-course schedules with multiple extracurricular commitments: running sororities, staffing soup kitchens, playing on sports teams, and singing in campus a cappella groups. Wherever they go after they graduate, I know that our alumni will use their JTS and Columbia education to improve their communities in so many ways."

A Barnard College graduate with a Ph.D. in Jewish History from JTS, Dean Schwartz herself exemplifies this balance between professional commitments and personal leadership, between Jewish and secular, between scholarship and administration.

# Alumni NOTES

EDITED BY ROBERT AST

## 1941

**GEORGE DREW** was named one of Ohio's Super Lawyers, an honor given to only five percent of Ohio lawyers. Drew is a founding partner of Drew & Ward, LLC, which recently celebrated its 48th anniversary. He practices primarily in estate planning and probate law.

## 1950

**ROCCO FUMENTO's** fourth novel, *A Lesser Saint*, was recently published by PublishAmerica. His previous novels were published by McGraw-Hill, Alfred A. Knopf, and XLibris.

**HARRIS PEEL** enjoyed a career in diplomatic service and has been the owner of a fine art gallery in Vermont for the past three decades. He is also the author of *The Trail of the 254th Through Blood and Fire*, a history of the 254th infantry regiment written in 1945 and available online or through rare book agents.

## 1952

Discharged from the Marine Corps on a Friday afternoon in 1949, **JOHN LANE** started at GS on the following Monday. Lane found GS "a great springboard to graduate school." He studied at the Columbia East Asian Institute and in Japan via a Fulbright scholarship in 1958-59 and later taught history at Long Island University. Lane expresses his gratitude to professors John Middendorf, John Hine Mundy, Herman Ausubiel, Margaret Bancroft, Gregory Rabassa, Arthur Strahler, Arthur Lobeck, Albert Sisson, and Harold Syrett for the support they provided and knowledge they shared.

## 1953

**L.D. CLARK** recently published his latest book, *The Plains Beyond*, a Civil War adventure novel. In addition to novels and short story collections, Clark has published two critical studies of D.H. Lawrence. He also received the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award and was a finalist for the 1984 Short Fiction Award of the Western Writers of America. Clark taught English at the University of Arizona for over 30 years and also held visiting professorships in France at the University of Nice and in Japan at Kansai University.

## 1940s

### FORMER GS PROFESSOR DAVID HERBERT DONALD



Former GS professor David Herbert Donald was recently profiled on the History News Network. Now a professor emeritus at Harvard University, Donald is considered one of the leading authorities on the American Civil War. Known for his biography of Lincoln, he has written on many subjects and has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize twice. In his History News Network profile he related the following anecdote:

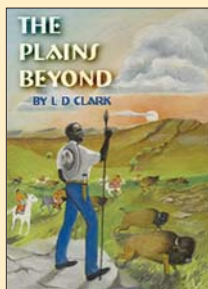
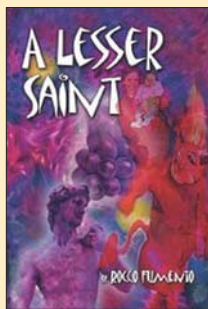
"In 1947 I received my first teaching appointment. It was at Columbia University in the School of General Studies, where most of the students were veterans whose education had been interrupted by World War II. Many were much older than I, and all knew much more of the world than I, who grew up on a farm in Mississippi. I felt lucky if I could keep one day ahead of my students, and I lived in constant fear that I would be exposed as an ignoramus. I tried to compensate by working very hard on my lectures, ransacking the Columbia libraries and staying up night after night till long past midnight.

"Toward the end of the first semester our syllabus called for a lecture on the celebrated Scopes trial (1925), where Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan fiercely argued opposing sides in their debate over evolution. I had read biographies of both men, as well as several accounts of the trial itself, and I tried to present, as fairly as I could, their arguments as well as the rulings of the judge. I thought I was doing a pretty good job when a middle-aged man in the back row raised his hand and said in a gruff voice, 'Well, Dr. Donald, that's all well and good, but it isn't really the way things happened.'

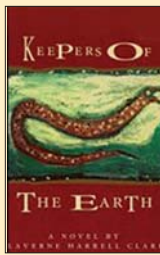
"His name was McEvoy, and he had been a reporter for one of the New York papers at the trial. Speaking without interruption for about ten minutes, he proceeded to give us a first-hand account of what went on in that court room.

"Initially taken aback, I looked around the classroom and saw that the other students were following Mr. McEvoy avidly, and when he had finished his account, they began peppering him with questions about the trial. Presently they turned to me to learn what I thought its significance was. The discussion continued long after the class bell rang, as the students and I walked across the campus, arguing about the meaning of Darwinism. For the first time I began to realize that this was what education is supposed to be—a reciprocal process in which one both teaches and learns.

"That is a lesson I have kept with me ever since. On whatever level I have taught, whether a freshman seminar or a graduate course, I have found that I can best teach students if I also am willing to learn from them."







**LAVERNE HARRELL CLARK** has published 8 works of fiction and non-fiction. Her study of the impact of horses on Native American folklore, *They Sang for Horses*, received the University of Chicago's prestigious Folklore Prize, and her *Keepers of the Earth* won the Western Writers of America's Best First Novel award. She is listed in both *Who's Who of America* and *Who's Who of American Women*.



Christie's displayed 35 of the late **DONALD JUDD's** sculptures in New York as the prelude to an open auction. The auction garnered \$24.5 million for the Judd Foundation. A prominent postwar artist most widely known for his attention to space and materiality and his ideas on non-representation and permanent installation, Judd graduated from GS with a degree in philosophy. He died in 1994.



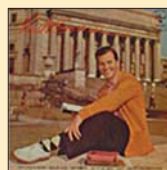
## 1956

Former U.S. Senator **MIKE GRAVEL** (D-Alaska, 1969-1981) announced that he is seeking the 2008 Democratic Presidential Nomination. Since leaving the Senate, he has been active in Alaskan business development and civic causes. A former Army counter-intelligence officer who opposed the Vietnam War and read the Pentagon Papers on the Senate floor in 1971, Gravel is running on an anti-war platform and also pledges to introduce measures for legislative and tax reform.



**IRA JOSEPHS** expresses his gratitude to the late Prof. Lloyd Motz and his wife Minna for the help they afforded him and other students, many of whom were Korean War veterans. "Prof. Motz was a pillar of support for GS students," Josephs said. "He became a friend, recognizing our strengths and conflicts." Josephs also expresses his appreciation for Dean and Mrs. Louis Hacker and professors Jack Arbolino and Helen Hull, saying that "their names will stay with us."

**JULIAN MCCONNELL** attended GS on the G.I. Bill after serving in the Korean War. Influenced by professors John Angus Burrell, John Brennecke, and William Owen, McConnell received a master's degree from Columbia and taught in high schools in Westchester County and Florida during a period of forced desegregation and student riots quelled by state troopers. McConnell remarks that "The educational philosophy of John Dewey and standard courses in education had not fully prepared me for such situations. An acquaintance, however, with the works of Camus, Kafka, Conrad, and Orwell did." Now retired, McConnell notes that "I will always value the rewards that come from helping eager (albeit sometimes distracted) young minds to enter, even briefly, the many worlds of good literature."



## 1957

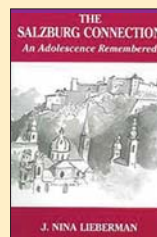
A campaign to induct **PAT BOONE** into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame is underway. Available at [www.BackPat.org](http://www.BackPat.org), the online petition was initiated by friends and fans and will be submitted to the nominating committee of the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame.



**RAYMOND FEDERMAN's** latest book, *My Body in Nine Parts*, was recently published by Starcherone Books.

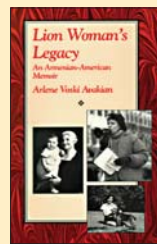
## 1958

**J. NINA LIEBERMAN's** memoir, *The Salzburg Connection: An Adolescence Remembered*, has been published by Vantage Press. She is Professor Emerita of Education at Brooklyn College of CUNY.



## 1961

**ARLENE AVAKIAN**, Ed. D, is currently Professor and Director of Women's Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has authored a memoir, *Lion Woman's Legacy: An Armenian American Memoir* and edited and co-edited, respectively, the following collections: *Through the Kitchen Window: Women Explore the Intimate Meaning of Food and Cooking* and *From Betty Crocker to Feminist Food Studies: Critical Perspectives on Women and Food*.

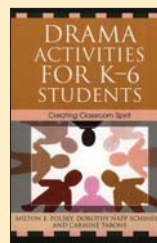


## 1963

**JUDITH GERBERG** was recently quoted in *The New York Times*. She is the director of Gerberg and Co., a Manhattan career development organization she founded in 1985.



Some of **HELEN LEVIN's** collages were recently featured in an exhibition at New York's Ceres Gallery titled *Helen Levin: Paperworks, Dreams and Innovation*. Her work has been exhibited at many museums, including the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences and the Museum of the City of New York. An online catalog of her work can be viewed at [www.etaoin.com](http://www.etaoin.com). Her son, Golan Levin, is also an artist and has exhibited all over the world.



**DOROTHY NAPP SCHINDEL** co-authored *Drama Activities for K-6 Students: Creating Classroom Spirit*, which was recently published by Rowman and Littlefield. She is the director of DramaMUSE Associates, a company that creates interactive theater productions and drama-based programs for museums. A director, scenic designer, educational theater specialist, and award-winning visual artist, she has worked in regional and off-Broadway theatre and taught at levels from kindergarten to college.

## 1965

**HENRY BOLIN** graduated from GS with a degree in physics and did graduate work in nuclear physics. Bolin worked as an advisory semiconductor reliability physicist for IBM and also served as a Radiological Defense Officer for the state of Vermont. He retired in 1991. A resident of Vermont, he enjoys travel, photography, and spending time with his family.

**PATRICIA GAVEN** received the prestigious Jefferson Award from Sen. Hillary Clinton during a ceremony in Washington. Patricia is the Executive Director of the Veterans Service Center in Binghamton, New York and was honored for outstanding public service to Binghamton-area veterans.

**STAN LIPSITZ**, Ph.D., recently retired from the San Francisco Community Behavioral Health Services, where he worked for 34 years providing mental health services to community resources. For the last 13 years he has served as director of a mental health clinic. Stan also served as President of the San Francisco Psychological Association two times and was on the board of the California Psychological Association for 11 years. Stan is married and has two daughters, one of whom is a graduate of Barnard College. Now retired, he continues with his part-time private practice and pursues his passion for photography.

## 1966

The Harvard University Press published **CECIL BROWN's** *Stagolee Shot Billy*, a history of one of the blues' most well-known songs. Brown has also written *I, Stagolee*, a novel.

## 1968

**PETER DAY** served on the GS Alumni Affairs Board from 1999-2002 (and is a former editor of *The Owl*). He and his wife divide their time between their new home in Clearwater, Florida, and Cooperstown, NY. He is a director of the Columbia Alumni Club of Tampa Bay.

**JONATHAN SILIN's** *My Father's Keeper: The Story of a Gay Son and His Aging Parents*, was published in May by Beacon Press. The book chronicles how his family's emotionally fraught relationship was radically transformed by his parents' debilitating illnesses. Silin, a former early childhood teacher, is currently on the graduate faculty at the Bank Street College of Education in New York.

**PETER L. WILKIE** is the Director of Leadership Gifts in the Vassar College Office of Development. A development officer for the past twenty years, Wilkie has also been a teacher in independent schools and a book

editor. After graduating from GS, Wilkie got his M.A. in English at the University of Wisconsin. He now lives with his wife and daughter in Poughkeepsie, New York.

## 1970

**CAROL MOBERG's** latest book, *René Dubos, Friend of the Good Earth*, a biography of the renowned scientist and environmentalist, was recently published by ASM Press. Carol is Senior Research Associate at Rockefeller University; she earned a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

## 1975

**HOWARD DEAN** (PBPM) is the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

**CATHERINE GANDILHON's** novel, *The Emperor's Bracelet*, was recently published by iUniverse. The semi-autobiographical story portrays a young French girl's dream of becoming an American citizen and the riches to rags journey that ensues.

## 1977

**ARLENE SHULER** was featured in an article in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* about fundraising professionals transitioning to chief executive positions. Currently the president of the New York City Center, she previously served as Lincoln Center's chief fundraiser.

## 1978

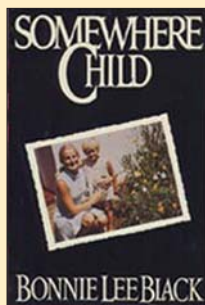
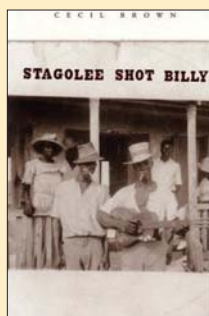
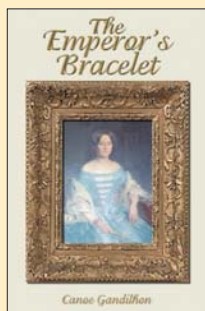
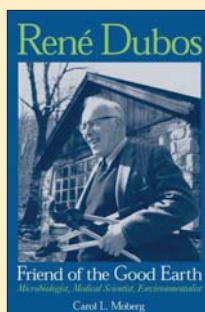
**AVINOAM (PAUL) SHARON**, LL.B. M.A., was ordained a rabbi by the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem, the Israeli affiliate of the Jewish Theological Seminary. For the last two years, he has served as spiritual leader of the Mosheshet Yisrael congregation in Jerusalem.

## 1979

**BONNIE LEE BLACK** is the author of *Somewhere Child*, published by Viking Press. She served in the Peace Corps in Gabon and now teaches English at the University of New Mexico-Taos.

## 1980

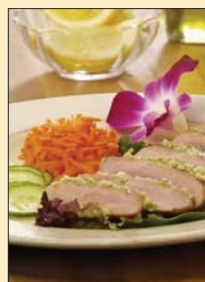
**RONALD LAMMY** is the awards co-chair of the Guyana Cultural Association, which organizes the *Guyana Folk Festival* held annually in Brooklyn. He is an international management consultant and founder of the eCaroh Caribbean Emporium, a commercial cultural center established and located in Boston.





## 1981

**DONNA FISHMAN** has been named the executive director of Gilda's Club-Westchester in White Plains. The facility offers support to cancer victims, their families, and their friends. Fishman previously was deputy director for the Jewish Fund for Justice. She earned a master's in public administration from Columbia University and a dual bachelor's degree from GS and the Jewish Theological Seminary.



## 1986

**SARAH T. GREENBERG** is a food stylist who primarily works on television commercials, cookbooks, and editorial and print ads. Inspired by a GS networking event, she decided to branch out into film and recently worked on a scene for *The Departed*, a Martin Scorsese film starring Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Jack Nicholson.

**GARY IRELAND** is an attorney with his own practice, specializing in human rights and environmental issues. He is currently representing Cecil Hollins in his discrimination suit against the U.S. Tennis Association.

## 1987

**JONATHAN LITT** is the head real estate investment trust analyst for Citigroup Smith Barney.

## 1989

**CHRIS PHILLIPS** (PBPM) attended medical school at the University of Maryland and completed residency training in internal medicine and primary care at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He completed a fellowship in general internal medicine with an M.P.H. at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Bloomberg School of Public Health. He was an instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School and a staff physician/hospitalist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He is currently on staff in the general internal medicine department of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

## 1990

**WENDY KANN'S** book, *Casting with a Fragile Thread: A Story of Sisters and Africa*, was recently published by Henry Holt and Co.

## 1991

**JOSEPH BONDY** was recently profiled in *The New York Times*. A criminal defense attorney in private practice in Manhattan, Bondy is currently representing Louis Eppolito. He is also on the faculty of Cardozo Law School's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program and the National Criminal Defense College. He lives in New York with his wife Meeka and their three children.

**ROBERT DELUNA** is the director of public information at the United Hospital Fund, a health services research and philanthropic organization whose mission is to shape positive change in health care for the people of New York. He joined the United Hospital Fund in October 2005, continuing his 11-year career in health care marketing, communications, and public relations (which started at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center). This



## 1983

A writer and clinical social worker, **JOY LEFTOW** focuses on the wacky, humorous, and sometimes painful adventure of life in New York. Leftow has master's degrees in social work from Columbia and creative writing from CCNY. Her poetry has been published in many publications, including the New Press Literary Quarterly, where she served as assistant editor. Leftow resides in Washington Heights and gives readings in and around New York. Her book *A Spot of Bleach* was recently published by Big Foot Press.

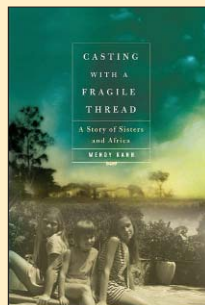
## 1984

**NANCY BERKE** received her Ph.D. in English from the City University of New York. Her book, *Women Poets on the Left*, was published in 2001 by the University Press of Florida. She has taught English and Women's Studies at Hunter College and was Fulbright Visiting Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of Liege in Belgium. She is currently at work on a cultural study of single women.

**MYKOLA DEMENTIUK'S** book *Times Queer* was recently published by Adults Only Publications.

## 1985

**MARTIN BENTZ** serves as a United Nations Senior Peacekeeping Manager in the Democratic Republic of Congo and recently finished working on "the most challenging electoral endeavor undertaken by the United Nations to date," he said. "We have registered 25 million eligible voters in a country the size of Western Europe, through which there are no passable roads. Most all electoral materials will be flown or taken by river." Bentz notes that he is grateful for his Columbia education and is "proud to be part of the team supporting this massive event and contributing to the stability of the country and the region." (See full story, page 14.)



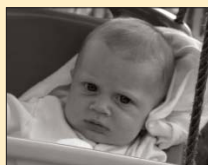
SEND US YOUR NEWS AT [GSOWL@COLUMBIA.EDU](mailto:GSOWL@COLUMBIA.EDU)  
OR GS ALUMNI AFFAIRS, 408 LEWISOHN HALL,  
MC 4121, 2970 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10027-9829.

past summer, Bob trained for his third New York City Marathon. He is a frequent theatergoer who's completed his first play (any producers interested?), and competed in the World Series of Poker for the first time. He recently traveled to Peru, where he experienced an earthquake (while lying on a massage table) in Lima, hiked to Machu Picchu, flew over the Nazca lines, and explored the Amazon rainforest.

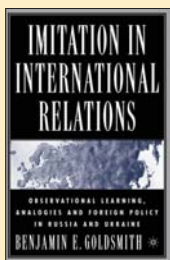


## 1992

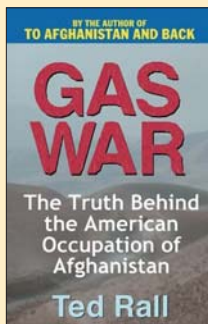
**JAY AMARI** appeared in an episode of *Forensic Files* and was featured in his hometown newspaper, *The Savannah Morning News*. His stage script, *The Owners*, was performed at New York's Theatre Studio Inc. He has also appeared in two feature films, *Love & Orgasms* and *Red Cockroaches*.



**JOSEPH EHRLICH** and **Katie Rosner** are the proud parents of a son, Ariel Clay Ehrlich, born in March.



**BEN GOLDSMITH'S** first book, *Imitation in International Relations*, a study of the foreign policies of Russia and the Ukraine, was recently published by Palgrave Macmillan. Goldsmith earned an M.A. from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He is currently a lecturer in the School of Policy at the University of Newcastle, Australia.



Syndicated cartoonist **TED RALL'S** latest book, *Gas War: The Truth Behind the American Occupation of Afghanistan*, was recently published by Writers Club Press. Featuring cartoons, charts, and maps, *Gas War* argues that the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan was motivated solely by the Bush Administration's desire to control Caspian Sea oil and gas reserves and offers a comprehensive look at the Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline project.

## 1993

**SAM HALIM** (PBPM) has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Swiss Medica, which distributes clinically tested, patented natural products that relieve chronic ailments. Halim studied in the Postbac program and at the New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine and the University of Cairo Medical School. Halim has founded, acquired, and managed multiple medical facilities that have cared for over 70,000 people and served over 2,000 physicians. He recently launched North American Physicians, Inc.

## 1994

Former Olympic pairs figure skater **GILLIAN WACHSMAN HOLLENBERG** was profiled in *Greenwich Time* during the 2006 Winter

Olympics. With her skating partner Todd Waggoner, Hollenberg won the gold medal at the 1986 U.S. Figure Skating National Championships, finished fifth at the 1988 Calgary Olympics and won the 1991 U.S. Open Professional Championships. Hollenberg majored in Medieval Renaissance Studies at GS and moved to France in 1994; she is now a full-time mother of four children.

## 1995

*Neighborhood Explorers: Transforming the Park Avenue Viaduct*, an installation designed by **LITA RIDDOK**, was exhibited in November 2006 at the Bank Street College of Education. The Neighborhood Explorers program teaches East Harlem middle school students how to become active participants in shaping their community by identifying a neighborhood problem and designing a solution using principles of architecture, planning, and preservation.



## 1996

**NANCY LYNN** with her daughter Anna appeared on the cover of the May 2006 issue of *(201)* magazine. Nancy is the Director of Traveling Programs at the American Museum of Natural History.



**DANIEL RUSSO** ran on the Republican ticket for the New York State Senate in the 29th Senatorial District, which extends from the Upper West Side down to Chelsea and east to Stuyvesant Town.

## 1997

**STEPHEN PAGE'S** second book of poems, *Still Dandelions*, has been reprinted by Black Spring Press.

## 1998

**KELLY KILLOREN BENSIMON**, an editor at large for *Elle*, was recently profiled in *The New York Times*. Her recent history of bikinis, *The Bikini Book*, was published in May.



## 1999

**HADARA STANTON** is a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California. She has been an instrumental litigator in the controversial "Exit Exam" case.

## 2000

**ALTHEA VIAFORA-KRESS** recently appeared in a panel discussion on art collecting at the New York City Affordable Art Fair. She is an advisor on contemporary art and the host of "The Collector's Forum," a program on WPSI Art Radio, an Internet radio station operated by the P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center and the Museum of Modern Art.



## 2002

### Steve Hofstetter

In addition to being a touring stand-up comedian, Steve Hofstetter writes a column for the *Sports Illustrated* website and is the Director of Acquisitions for National Lampoon's forthcoming TV network, Comedy Express (on which he also performs). He made his TV standup debut on Showtime in Fall 2006. His comedy album, *Cure for the Cable Guy*, climbed to Number 20 on the Billboard comedy charts. He is also the author of two books, *Student Body Shots*, and its sequel, *Student Body Shots: Another Round*.

**The Owl:** *You're booked through 2007. How does it feel to be in that place in your career? And how does it feel to have your life scheduled so rigorously?*

**Steve Hofstetter:** I am extremely thankful for the success I've had thus far, especially this young. But that doesn't mean I'm settling for it—I'm a compulsive striver. It annoys people close to me all the time. I was on ESPN last week and ended up complaining that I wasn't on long enough. Part of me needs to shut up and enjoy myself sometimes.

Now is the best time to have a rigorous schedule. I have no wife, no kids, and living in Los Angeles, no local sports team I care to see live. So I travel—I get to see the world and have other people pay for it—and it feels pretty good.

*Your new album, Cure for the Cable Guy, has been successful but also has you embroiled in controversy. Has there been a downside to this for you?*

The downside to taking sides is having people on the other side hate you. You cannot wake up every day to hate mail without it affecting you a little. Unless you're Barry Bonds. Then the steroids have taken hold and you have no feelings. But I am immensely glad I took on Larry the Cable Guy. It is rare that standing up for something you believe in is also a good career move. Usually the two are independent of each other.



*Has being on the executive side at Comedy Express affected your view of the business?*

I've been a producer since I started—I was running live shows really early on. So I haven't seen much this year that I didn't already know. But it's been reaffirmed. There's a LOT of bad talent out there. Wow. Seriously. Also, there are a lot of mean execs out there, too. People seem surprised when I'm nice to them and offer them a fair deal. I guess I'm not typically Hollywood that way.

*Stand-up comedy has basically no on-paper prerequisites. Has being a Columbia graduate helped you in your career, and if so, how?*

Having a Columbia degree has helped me position myself as a comedian for the intellectual audience. Which, by the way, is a startlingly small portion of the potential audience. It's also allowed me a shorter climb on the business side of things—it's rare that someone has a professional grade sense of humor and an Ivy League degree. Julius Sharpe and David Feldman also went to Columbia, but I haven't run into any other Lions out there yet.

*What's the most important thing you took away from being a student at GS?*

At GS, I learned not to judge people based on one affiliation. As a younger GS student, I had the opportunity to watch many of the other schools rag on GS to me. It was such a silly notion—that someone was lesser because they took time off before coming back to school. I once had a class with three models, a [video jockey], a video game coder, and the owner of a chain of auto dealerships. Tell me that's not a better learning environment than a typical classroom.

*What's been your biggest professional thrill?*

I host often at the Hollywood Improv, and we often have special guests. This year I've been able to introduce Dane Cook, Dave Chappelle, and Robin Williams, all unannounced. To be on that stage during a 100% standing ovation, even if it wasn't for me—the energy was just amazing.

*People should visit your website, www.stevhofstetter.com, because ...*

I have an archive of over 500 pieces of hate mail and my responses. That has GOT to be more entertaining than your friends' MySpace bulletin.

## 2001



An exhibition of children's drawings organized by **ARLENE ATHERTON** was recently featured at New York's Asia Society. Several months into the relief effort for the 2004 tsunami, Atherton, a multimedia consultant and photo-journalist, asked children from Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka to depict their perceptions of the disaster. (See back cover.) These drawings, accompanied by some of Arlene's photographs, became *Children Speak: Tsunami* ([www.childrenspeaktsunami.org](http://www.childrenspeaktsunami.org)). Arlene displayed the artwork and spoke at the Bulgarian Embassy for International Children's Day. Additionally, this winter, the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library will mark the tsunami's second anniversary by hosting the exhibition. Arlene also runs Visual Linguistics, a



multimedia consulting firm recently featured in *BusinessWeek* and other trade journals for its work in bringing the Korean online community Cyworld to the U.S.

**RENÉE E. D'AOUST** received an M.F.A. in Writing from the University of Notre Dame. Her essay "Graham Crackers" won a 2005 nonfiction award from the Associated Writers Program, and she has completed a memoir, *Body of a Dancer*, based on her experience as a dancer in New York City. Her play *Urban Vermin*, begun in Austin Flint's CU playwriting class, won a Julie Harris Award for Emerging Playwrights, and received a staged reading at the National Arts Club. Her recent journal publications include *Kalliope*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Notre Dame Review*.



Last summer **REBEKAH (KNOLL) MAGGOR** performed her one-woman show, *Shakespeare's Actresses in America*, in Boston and New York. *The Boston Globe* termed it an “accessible, intelligent and utterly transfixing evocation.” Her first full-length play, *Two Days at Home Three Days in Prison*, about three Israeli conscript soldiers, was given a reading at London’s Old Vic Theatre and will be produced in London in April. She also served as the voice and speech coach to Kathleen Turner and Bill Irwin on the Tony Award-winning production of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. Maggor earned an M.F.A. in acting at the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard University. She is currently a research fellow and voice and speech specialist at the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard.



**EYTAN SCHWARTZ** helped organize an attempt to set the Guinness World Record for the world’s largest plate of hummus in February during a celebration of Israeli culture at the Jewish Community Center.

## 2002

**STEVE HOFSTETTER.** See page 29.

**ADRIANA LINS DE ALBUQUERQUE**, currently a Ph.D. student in political science at Columbia, produced several statistical analyses of the war in Iraq for *The New York Times*.

**MEGAN O’GRADY GREENE** recently received a Master’s of Social and Public Communication from the London School of Economics’ Institute of Social Psychology. She is currently training as an account planner at London’s Beattie McGuinness Bungay advertising agency.

**ADAM WEINSTEIN** was a two-time *Jeopardy!* champion and took home \$40,700 in prize money. He teaches high school English and math at a Florida preparatory school and is pursuing a master’s degree in international affairs at Florida State University.

## 2003

**JIMMY DAHROUG** ran for the New York State Senate, District 3 seat. As in 2004, Dahroug, a Democrat, fought a great campaign and garnered 40 percent of the vote but was defeated by Republican incumbent Caesar Trunzo.

**ALICIA GRAF** was profiled in *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and *Time Out New York*. Graf recently joined the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and performed in Judith Jamison’s “Reminiscent.” *Times* dance critic John Rockwell wrote that her performance was “one of those instant star turns” and “pretty much perfect.”



**JEFFREY D. KALLENBERG’s** play *The Tailor of East King’s Highway* was recently staged at the Marjorie Lyons Playhouse in Shreveport, Louisiana. Set in Brooklyn in 1960, the one-act play presents a conflict between Morris, a Jewish tailor, and a hunchbacked Finnish sea captain who asks Morris to fashion a suit from a magic bolt of cloth that he believes will transform his body.

**VIRGINIA KAPLAN** graduated from SIPA with an M.P.A. and is now the e-services project manager in Columbia’s Student Services division. She is also the proud new mother of a daughter.

**NOAM MAGGOR** is a doctoral student at Harvard University in the History of American Civilization Program.



**ERIC SHAW** is a staff writer on *SpongeBob SquarePants* and “loving every moment of it!” he said. “Sometimes, I guess, all you need is to study poli sci, think about going premed, enjoy Art Hum, and be mystified by physics to realize you’re a television writer at heart, and always have been.” Eric’s first episode, “Best Day Ever,” aired in November 2006.



Producer/writer/director **YITZI ZABLOCKI** held a screening for the rough cut of his forthcoming film *Reality Lost*, which depicts the struggle between dreams and conformist reality in a futuristic dystopia where fictional films have been banned. Zablocki is Director of Film and Literary Programs at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan.

## 2004

**KATHRYN LANGHAM** and **JAMES BIGHAM** are the owners of Critter Caravan, an educational experience that introduces children to animals. They held a special on-campus petting zoo for the children of GS students in April.



Ice dancer **KIM NAVARRO**, along with her partner Brent Bommentre, qualified as an alternate for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino. The pair—who competed together for the first time in May 2005—placed fifth at the U.S. Figure Skating National Championships in January and received the award for Best Ice Dance Performance from the Professional Skaters Association. Navarro was also an alternate on the 2002 Olympic team and a member of the renowned Ice Theatre of New York.



**BEN PUGSLEY** worked as an assistant economist at the Federal Reserve, where he served as a research assistant on monetary policy and labor economics. With economist Gauti Eggertsson he co-authored a paper on monetary policy errors committed during the Great Depression. Ben is currently a student in the University of Chicago’s economics Ph.D. program.



**OLIVER ROTHSCHILD** (PBPM) attends the Yale University Medical School.

**TONY TAGLIENTI** (PBPM) attends the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

## 2005

**ELENA COMENDADOR** was recently profiled in *O* magazine. Elena discussed her recovery from breast cancer and Dancelife Productions, the nonprofit organization she co-founded to promote awareness and support for breast cancer in the visual and performing arts. Elena currently teaches at the Ailey School.

**MARGUERITE DANIELS** and Erich Erving founded Fete and Faire. Based in Jersey City, Fete and Faire is an event planning company committed to providing “guilt-free parties that are gentle on the earth.” In November 2006 they planned the Columbia Business School Black Business Students Association’s 25th Anniversary Conference and Gala.

**RACHEL GILDINER** is the Assistant Director for Faculty Foundation Relations for Columbia University Development and Alumni Relations. She previously worked as a development assistant in foundation relations and as an Individual Giving and Stewardship Coordinator at the Columbia Business School.

**SAM QUAN KRUEGER** was named the Chief Operating Officer of New York’s Museum of Chinese in the Americas in September 2006. Founded in 1980 to document Chinese immigrant history, the museum will move to a new location at Lafayette St. and Centre St. in late 2007. Krueger has worked in the nonprofit sector for the last decade. He participated in the two-year Public Allies program and was named a National Urban Fellow. He earned an M.P.A. from CUNY’s Baruch College and was recently profiled in *Crain’s New York Business*.

**LORRAINE LIANG**, PBPM, earned an M.S. in Nutrition at Columbia’s Institute of Human Nutrition and is a medical student at the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. She plans to volunteer in Bolivia or Argentina this summer.

“Karaoke impresario” **SEBASTIAN NICOLAS** was recently profiled in *The New York Times*. Nicolas hosts the Sunday night karaoke party at the exclusive Cipriani Downtown lounge.

**ROB WARD’S** band, Food Will Win the War, has released their self-titled first album. Based in New York, the band plays a “fun but mellow blend of original music,” he said, and has earned comparisons to Elliott Smith and Belle and Sebastian from reviewers.



**NICHOLAS WUORENEIMO** and Petra Caroline Hauff were married on August 5, 2006, in Kungsängen, Sweden, outside of Stockholm.

**HECTOR ZAMBRANA** is the director of the First Work Program at Boys and Girls Harbor, which provides instruction in work- and life-skills for young people, along with counseling and workshops in finance, business, and computers.

## 2006

**ERICH ERVING’S** poem “Grunion,” will be published in the 2007 *Alehouse* journal, alongside works by other distinguished poets, including former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins. Erich writes the “Break Time” column for *The Record*, Columbia’s official newspaper, and operates Fete and Faire with Marguerite Daniels (see 2005).

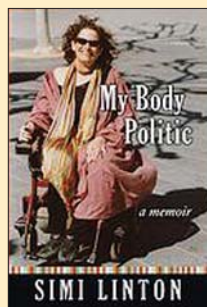
Lifelong *Detroit Tigers* fan **HY SAFRAN** was profiled in *The Detroit News*. During the Tigers’ run to the World Series last year, Safran, who now lives in Israel, traveled around the country to attend all of their postseason games.

## Friends

Author and paramedic **JOE CONNELLY** was featured on *60 Minutes* for his work in the 2005 Kashmir earthquake relief effort. Connelly and 12 other New York City paramedics traveled to Pakistan without any government or organizational support to help those in the mountains, where relief efforts were minimal. On the program Connelly said, “We’re saving lives, many lives, every single day....As a paramedic in New York City once in a while you have a direct influence on life and death. Here it’s happening every half an hour.” Connelly is the author of *Bringing Out the Dead*, a novel begun at GS and later adapted into a Martin Scorsese film. His latest novel is *Crumbtown*.

**SIMI LINTON**, Ph.D., recently gave a reading at Columbia for her new memoir *My Body Politic*, published by the University of Michigan Press. Linton, a disability advocate, formerly taught at Hunter College and is also the author of *Claiming Disability: Knowledge and Identity*. She founded Disability/Arts, an organization that works with artists and cultural institutions to help shape the presentation of disability in the arts and to increase the representation of works by disabled artists.

Former postbac administrator **ROOSEVELT MONTAS** received his Ph.D. from Columbia. His dissertation, “Rethinking America: Abolitionism and the Antebellum Transformation of the Discourse of National Identity,” received one of two Bancroft Dissertation awards.



## IN MEMORIAM



**JANE JACOBS** (1940s)

Author and activist Jane Jacobs, best known for her book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, passed away in April 2006. First published in 1961 and focusing on the value of neighborhoods, population density and diversity, *Death and Life* presented a fundamental challenge to the urban planning models prominent in the

1950s. In 1964 Jacobs and other activists successfully resisted a proposal, led by city planner Robert Moses, to build an expressway through Lower Manhattan. Jacobs attended GS for two years during the 1940s, taking classes in geology, zoology, law, political science, and economics. In 1968 Jacobs and her family moved to Toronto; she continued to explore cities, economics, politics, and culture in several books.

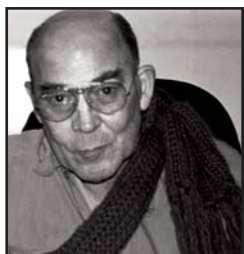


**YOLANDA FENYO KENDRIS** ('48)

Yolanda Fenyo Kendris passed away peacefully in June 2006 in Albany, New York. Yolanda is survived by two sons, grandchildren, and her husband Christopher, whom she met while a student at GS. She later earned a master's degree in library science from SUNY Albany. She worked at the American

Embassy in Athens, Greece and at the United Nations General Assembly and served as a librarian at Guilderland Elementary School and Troy High School in Troy, New York. A generous donation to the GS Academic Resource Center was made in her honor.

**GEORGE NELSON** ('53)



**HUNTER S. THOMPSON** ('58 entering class)

Hunter S. Thompson died in February 2005. The following is excerpted from an article, "The Nonstudent Left," that he wrote for *The Nation* in 1965.

"In 1958, I drifted north from Kentucky and became a nonstudent at Columbia. I signed up for two courses and am still getting bills for the tuition. My home was

a \$12-a-week room in an off-campus building full of jazz musicians, shoplifters, mainliners, screaming poets and sex addicts of every description. It was a good life....

"Being a 'non' or 'NCO' student on an urban campus is not only simple but natural for anyone who is young, bright and convinced that the major he's after is not on the list. Any list. A serious nonstudent is his own guidance counselor. The surprising thing is that so few people beyond the campus know this is going on."

**CATHERINE LONG** ('60)

**R.W. APPLE** ('61)

Legendary journalist R.W. "Johnny" Apple, passed away in October at the age of 71.

Apple worked at *The New York Times* for over 40 years, covering the Vietnam War, the revolutions in Nigeria and Iran, the fall of Communist governments in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Hungary, and the Persian Gulf War. Additionally, he served as the national political correspondent for *The Times* from 1970 to 1976 and



as the paper's bureau chief in Albany, Lagos, Nairobi, Saigon, Moscow, London, and Washington.

Also renowned for his writing on culture, food, and wine, R.W. Apple was named associate editor of *The Times* in 2002 and is the author of two travel guides rich with economic, social, architectural, and cultural history, *Apple's Europe* and *Apple's America*.

Apple graduated magna cum laude from GS in 1961 after being expelled—twice—from Princeton University. While studying at Columbia, he was already a working journalist, writing for the *Wall Street Journal* and NBC News. In addition to numerous other accolades, including an Emmy for his work as a correspondent on "The Huntley-Brinkley Report," Apple received the GS Owl Award in 1986 and was No. 90 on the *Columbia Spectator's* list of the 250 Greatest Columbians.

**GEORGE BUDABIN** ('68)

**CHARLES ENGELL FRANCE** ('71)

Charles Engell France, a writer and former assistant to Mikhail Baryshnikov, passed away in New York in December 2005. France studied ballet at the school of the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen and attended the Sorbonne and Yale in addition to GS. He worked at the American Ballet Theater for over two decades, most prominently as the assistant to Baryshnikov, the artistic director from 1980-1989. Together France and Baryshnikov collaborated on two books, *Baryshnikov at Work* and *Baryshnikov in Color*.

**JAYMA ABDOO** ('88)

Jayma Abdoos passed away in August 2006. An Assistant Dean at Barnard College, she served as an advisor to premed, pre-law, and international students. "Jayma actively and kindly actualized her idealism," said Paola Scarpellini Crotts, GS Assistant Dean of Students ('95). Abdoos graduated with honors from GS and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received a master's from the College of William and Mary.

**BEN CHAPPEL** (student, entered in fall '05)

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# New Grad NOTES 2006

**AMITTAI AVIRAM** spent the summer interning for Microsoft Research in Redmond, Wash., where he helped develop a demonstration sample for the Phoenix Project, a forthcoming computer programming technology. He is currently a student in Yale University's computer science program, where he intends to focus on programming languages with the aim of inventing an easy-to-use and reliable programming methodology. Amittai also holds a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature, which he taught at the University of South Carolina for 20 years before attending GS.



After her final semester, **MICHELA CARATTINI** moved to the Czech Republic to work for La Strada, an anti-human-trafficking non-government organization (NGO). At La Strada, she worked directly with survivors, the Czech Interior Ministry, the International Organization for Migration, attended UN conferences, and researched survivor reintegration practices. Also a flamenco dancer and multilingual poet, she performed in Prague and was most recently published in Columbia's *Tablet*. She is presently working on a master's of criminology at the University of Sydney's Law School. She hopes to continue the fight against sexual violence and human trafficking by working with law enforcement in government.

**BRIAN DAWSON** is the Director of Business Development for American Charity Events, which handles public relations, event promotion, and marketing for

nonprofit and public interest organizations. Brian is responsible for corporate sponsorship, major individual donors, and long-term strategic expansion. Recent high-profile events include the third annual "Evening at the Playboy Mansion," a benefit for the Special Olympics, and "Corazon de Mexico-Concierto para el Immigrante," a benefit concert featuring several prominent Mexican recording artists.

**WALTER DENINO** (PBPM) is a student at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and the founder and director of NYC Triathlon Consulting Services ([www.nyctriconsult.com](http://www.nyctriconsult.com)), which offers personalized training and comprehensive nutrition analysis.

**AUSTIN GREEN** is studying for examinations to become a licensed digital securities trader. Also, as an owner, entrepreneur, and consultant, he is developing several enterprises in media/entertainment, product development, civic and political action, and nonprofit, charitable organizations. In the future he plans to attend law and business school, write a book, make more music, and possibly run for elected office.



Westchester Track Club and has served on the board of several nonprofits. She is currently studying for an M.P.A. at SIPA, concentrating on International Finance Policy.

**PAVAN SURAPANENI** spent the summer working at Seeds of Peace International Camp as a camp counselor and athletic director. Seeds of Peace brings a total of 360 teenagers from Afghanistan,

Egypt, India, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, and Yemen to a summer camp in the Maine woods for two three-week sessions. In addition to daily two-hour dialogue sessions designed to engage the "other side," campers participate in traditional camp activities, allowing individuals from different, often hostile countries to adopt cooperative practices. Pavan directed the American Camper Program and led the American Delegation, a small group brought in for each session to provide an American perspective. Pavan currently attends Harvard Law School.



**TAKEHIRO TSUCHIOMOTO** is an institutional salesperson in the Tokyo office of UBS Investment Bank. A specialist in Japanese equities, he is currently responsible for marketing research reports to financial institutions and hedge funds and facilitating interaction between investment analysts and their clients.

In April and May, **GILLIAN TURNER** spent time in Washington, D.C., conducting research for former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (M.A. '68, Ph.D. '76). In July, she began working as an analyst for the White House National Security Council.



**VIKKY URENA** was accepted into the highly competitive Serrano Scholars Program at SIPA, where she plans to pursue a master's in International Affairs with a concentration in International Security Policy. Initiated by Congressman José Serrano, the Serrano Scholars Program offers full tuition with a stipend, as well as special internship and employment opportunities.

# Events CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

### 20, THURSDAY

*Columbia University Black Alumni Happy Hour*  
The Columbia Club  
15 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY

6:00-8:00 pm, \$15 in advance, \$20 at the event  
The Columbia Alumni Association (CAA)  
cordially invites you to an evening of socializing  
and networking. All are welcome. Visit [www.alumni.columbia.edu](http://www.alumni.columbia.edu) to register.

### 27, TUESDAY

*GS Career Dinner: Consulting*  
See Career Dinners Series at right for  
more details.

### 28, WEDNESDAY

*Finance Networking Night*  
The Columbia Club  
15 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY

6:00-8:00 pm, \$10 for recent alumni, \$20 for  
class of '95 and earlier

## MARCH

### 6, TUESDAY

*CAA Health and Wellness Series: Caring for  
Aging Parents*

Tavern on the Green  
67th St. and Central Park West  
New York, NY

6:00-8:00 pm, \$20 for recent alumni, \$35 for  
class of '00 and earlier  
Dr. Victoria H. Raveis, Associate Professor  
at Mailman School of Public Health hosts  
an in-depth discussion on the benefits and  
challenges of caring for aging parents. Visit  
[www.alumni.columbia.edu](http://www.alumni.columbia.edu) to register.

### 27, TUESDAY

*GS Celebrates 60 Years of Educating Women*  
The Columbia Club  
15 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY

6:00-8:00 pm  
A panel of women representing each decade from  
the 1940s to the present will discuss their experi-  
ences as GS students and their career and life  
paths since graduating. Co-sponsored by the  
General Studies Student Council. Visit  
[www.alumni.columbia.edu](http://www.alumni.columbia.edu) to register.

### 28, WEDNESDAY

*GS Career Dinner: Law*  
See Career Dinners Series at right for  
more details.

### 31, SATURDAY

*Dean's Day*  
Morningside Campus  
Members of the Columbia community are invited  
to return to Alma Mater and participate in  
informative discussions with faculty members.

### 31, SATURDAY

*8th Annual El Regreso*  
Low Memorial Library, Morningside Campus  
6:30-9:00 pm  
Presented by CAA and the Latino Alumni  
Association of Columbia University (LAACU).  
Visit [www.alumni.columbia.edu](http://www.alumni.columbia.edu) to register.

## APRIL

### 7, SATURDAY

*Columbia Community Outreach Day*  
New York, NY  
Visit [www.alumni.columbia.edu](http://www.alumni.columbia.edu) for  
more information.

### 27, FRIDAY

*GS Wine Tasting Series*  
Morrell Wine Bar and Café  
1 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY

6:00-8:00 pm, \$10 for recent alumni, \$20 for  
class of '95 and earlier  
Sample a wide variety of wines at the award-  
winning Morrell Wine Bar and mingle with the  
GS community. Open to all GS graduates and  
GS seniors who have contributed to the 2007  
Senior Class Gift.

### 28, SATURDAY

*GS 60th Anniversary Picnic*  
Morningside Campus  
All GS students and alumni are invited to  
celebrate GS' 60th Anniversary, featuring activi-  
ties for children, campus tours, and a speech  
from Dean Awn. Co-sponsored by the General  
Studies Student Council.

## MAY

### 11, FRIDAY

*Postbac Premedical Pre-health Certificate Ceremony*  
5:00-6:30 pm

### 14, MONDAY

*General Studies Class Day Ceremony*  
South Lawn, Morningside Campus  
5:00-6:30 pm

### 16, WEDNESDAY

*Columbia University 253rd Commencement*  
Low Plaza, Morningside Campus  
10:30 am

## CAREER DINNER SERIES

Career dinners are great opportunities for a  
few students (no more than 25-30) to sit down  
privately with 2-3 alumni who work in a partic-  
ular field. Please contact José Gonzalez at (212)  
854-8498 or [gsalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:gsalumni@columbia.edu)  
if you would like to participate.

February 27	Consulting
March 28	Law
April 24	TBA

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



During his three-day run on  
*Jeopardy!*, GS alumnus Adam  
Weinstein faced these three Final  
Jeopardy questions. How many can  
you answer?

(Answers appear on page 13)

### GEOGRAPHY

10 million people live in this  
country that is almost bisected by  
the second-longest river in  
Europe.

### 1950s FILM ENSEMBLES

Name missing from this list:  
Webber, Begley, Marshall,  
Warden, Balsam, Fiedler,  
Klugman, Binns, Sweeney,  
Voskovec & Cobb.

### U.S. STATES

Now the fourth largest in area,  
it's the largest state formed  
primarily from the Louisiana  
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NEW YORK, NY 10027-9829

An exhibition of children's drawings organized by **Arlene Atherton** ('01) was recently featured at New York's Asia Society. Several months into the relief effort for the 2004 tsunami, Atherton, a multimedia consultant and photojournalist, asked children from Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka to depict their perceptions of the disaster. These drawings, accompanied by some of Atherton's photographs, became *Children Speak: Tsunami*. Atherton displayed the artwork and spoke at the Bulgarian Embassy for International Children's Day, and, this winter, the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library will mark the tsunami's second anniversary by hosting the exhibition. Learn more at [www.childrenspeaktsunami.org](http://www.childrenspeaktsunami.org) where you can purchase prints of the artwork to support the children of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Thailand. Right: An Indonesian child's depiction of the events. Below: A child from Sri Lanka illustrates a train's derailment, and inside (pg. 29), a Thai child's impressions of the disaster. Visit [www.alumni.gs.columbia.edu](http://www.alumni.gs.columbia.edu) for Atherton's full captions of these pieces.

