

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

COLUMBIA

THE

OWL

Columbia's Invaluable Vets

60 YEARS OF THE GS
(NON) TRADITION

PETER AWN CELEBRATES
10 YEARS AS DEAN

COLUMBIA'S NEW
CREATIVE WRITING MAJOR

SPRING 2008

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**QUESTIONS, COMMENTS,
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Letter from the Dean



The Columbia Community has many things to celebrate this year. On the heels of the 250th anniversary of the University, the 50th Anniversary of the Joint Program between GS and List College of The Jewish Theological Seminary, the 50th Anniversary of the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program, we are this year celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the School of General Studies and my completing 10 years as Dean of this extraordinary college. It is also my 30th year on the Columbia faculty, so I have a unique perspective on the enormous changes that have occurred in the Columbia undergraduate program and especially at GS over these past three decades.

American education prides itself on being innovative. Yet in many ways undergraduate education, especially at private universities, has been locked into a model that does not, in my opinion, respond to the changing realities of the American population. Underlying traditional undergraduate education is the belief that college comes after high school. To choose to pursue one's education on a different schedule is seen as outside the norm.

Over the past thirty years the Columbia faculty has grappled with this issue and come to the realization that a great University should be attracting great minds no matter the stage of life of the individual student. In fact, diversity of age and experience is celebrated at Columbia because of what it contributes to the intellectual discourse and community life of the University. Over the past decade the faculty have worked with me and my colleagues at GS to insure that all undergraduates are integrated fully into the intellectual life of the classrooms, departments, and majors.

For those of us who are close to GS, this may all seem quite normal. I assure you it is not. You, in fact, represent the cutting edge of undergraduate education in the United States. Government statistics prove that upwards of 70 percent of the women and men in two and four year colleges around the country fit the GS profile more than that of traditionally aged undergraduates.

And so the most important thing we celebrate this year is Columbia's vision in embracing fully and unequivocally talented students who have pursued their educations on seemingly untraditional schedules. GS and GS students are now at the very center of Columbia's undergraduate program and integral players in all aspects of undergraduate life on campus. I invite you to join me in supporting GS and GS students so that together we can move this innovative college to even higher levels of distinction.

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

Columbia's

Veterans have played a part at the School of General Studies of Columbia University for more than a century. And today, the school boasts the largest number of vets in the Ivy League.

Invaluable Vets

BY SHARON M. GOLDMAN

When Oscar Escano arrived at Columbia University School of General Studies in 2004, he had just left the military after serving for three years as a U.S. Army Ranger, including a tour of duty in Afghanistan in which he participated in a dangerous rescue mission to save a fallen comrade. "I came back from Afghanistan in April and left the military in August—I actually got special permission to leave a week early so I could get to orientation on time," recalls the New York City native, who graduated in May and will begin medical school at New Jersey Medical School of University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey in the fall of 2008. After a "challenging and chaotic" stint in Afghanistan, attending GS helped him make the inevitable adjustment from the military to civilian life.

"GS really suited who I was—a 25-year-old who was young at heart but also had a lot of life experiences that others didn't have," he says. "I loved having the freedom to mingle as much as I wanted with students from other Columbia schools, but I also enjoyed the diverse group of people that attended GS who weren't part of the usual dorm social scene."

"The fact that GS took a chance on me when I came out of the military, because I seemed to have promise, changed my whole life."
-Justin White, '05

Military veterans have been members of Columbia's nontraditional student body for over a century. Doughboys returning from Europe, along with civilians who had been involved in the war effort at home, swelled the ranks of Extension Teaching (as the school was then known) after World War I from 7,000 students in 1918 to 17,000 by 1923.

Three decades later the influx of veterans back from World War II helped precipitate the reorganization of the extension program into a full-fledged undergraduate college with a unique mission: providing a rigorous, Ivy League education to its nontraditional student body.

Today GS is home to the largest number of veterans in the Ivy League, a statistic that Provost Alan Brinkley is particularly proud of. "We're delighted that so many veterans choose to come to Columbia," he says, "especially to GS, which was created specifically for students who have had a significant break in their education."

For Justin White '05, BUS '07, a former Marine who served for five years, including stretches in the Netherlands and Ghana, attending Columbia was a dream come true. "The fact that GS took a chance on me when I came out of the military, because I seemed



GS student Luke Stalcup. (Above and facing page photography by Matt Mireles '08)



Jed Celima '04, Wayne Thorsen '04, and Justin White '05

to have promise, changed my whole life," he says. "I'm eternally grateful to the admissions committee and all of the administration."

Even with the support of GS, however, many veterans find the lifestyle shift daunting. "I saw it as more of a cultural change," White says. "You have a lot of guys who get out of the military, and literally a week or two later they're full-time students. You just spent years of your life doing things a certain way, and then you come to Columbia, where the way you relate to people is different."

Escano agrees: "I went to Afghanistan, for crying out loud. That changes your perspective in ways it's difficult for me to convey. It's impossible to explain to anyone who went straight from home and high school to a very nice, supportive college environment."

White, Escano, and other veteran friends were surprised to find that there had never been an organized student group for military veterans on campus. In 2003 they founded the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia, or MilVets, a social group whose goal is "to promote camaraderie and networking among U.S. veterans, as well as to stimulate discussion and education on various aspects of military culture."

"MilVets started out with the idea that we have a lot of veterans at GS and in other schools such as Teachers College and the Law School," White says, "so we wanted to build a forum for people to get together, have some beers, and unwind, as well as be a resource to the school."

For GS senior Luke Stalcup, the current president of the now nearly 100-strong MilVets, the group helps vets keep from feeling isolated on a large campus where the vast majority of students have not had similar experiences. "When you get here as a veteran, there's def-

BRIAN LEARY '68



As a struggling student at an upstate New York teachers college in 1960, Brian Leary didn't have high hopes for his academic future. And with the U.S. military draft still in place, joining the army seemed like a good idea, since enlisted men

enjoyed greater control over their deployment. "It was one of the two smartest things I ever did," he says. "The other, of course, was attending GS."

In the Army Leary became a "spook," someone who listened in on and translated other people's telephone conversations—a role that greatly expanded during the Cold War. After a rigorous course in German at the Army Language School, Leary spent two years in West Berlin surrounded by men with similar backgrounds.

"I was thrown in with a lot of guys in the exact same situation, who had a shot at college and hadn't done well or lost interest,"

Leary recalls. "But they were very bright people, which made me feel like I wasn't as dumb as my grades would have indicated."

After his Army stint, Leary found out about GS from a girlfriend who was a Columbia student. "She said it sounded like the perfect fit for a veteran, and it was," he says. Leary began at GS in 1965, and in 1967-68 served as editor-in-chief of *The Owl*, then the school's student newspaper. "It was when everything was going on around campus, from anti-war demonstrations to a plan to take Harlem's only park and turn it into a Columbia gym," he remembers. "One thing I recall is that everyone had an armband of one color or another—each meant something different."

However, Leary says, he was not particularly involved in the turmoil of campus issues, nor did being a veteran make a pronounced difference in his GS experience. He kept busy, though, supporting himself, driving a New York City taxicab at night while attending classes during the day. He also got married while at GS, eventually raising a daughter, who recently gave birth to his first grandson.

After graduation, Leary attended law school at the University of California, Berkeley. He then joined a small law firm in Oakland, California, eventually becoming a senior partner. Now retired, Leary has grateful memories of his academic experience at Columbia. "GS saved my life," he says simply. "I had been a lousy student, but GS gave me another chance. As it turned out, I was pretty smart."

"When you get here as a veteran, there's definitely a palpable sense that you are not like the rest of the students in class." -Luke Stalcup, current student and president of the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University

initely a palpable sense that you are not like the rest of the students in class," he says. "And compared to other GS students, veteran students tend to be younger—our average age, in my experience, is 24 or 25."

Stalcup, who grew up in Oakland, Calif., enlisted in 1999 as an explosive ordinance disposal specialist in the Army bomb squad. "I guess it's something I had always kind of wanted to do," he says. "I'm a believer in public service, and when you're 18 and you're not looking to go to college, the military is definitely a direct link to doing something good for the world." Stalcup passed a variety of rigorous tests and training and was deployed to Kuwait for seven months, returning in 2001. Then came Sept. 11, 2001.

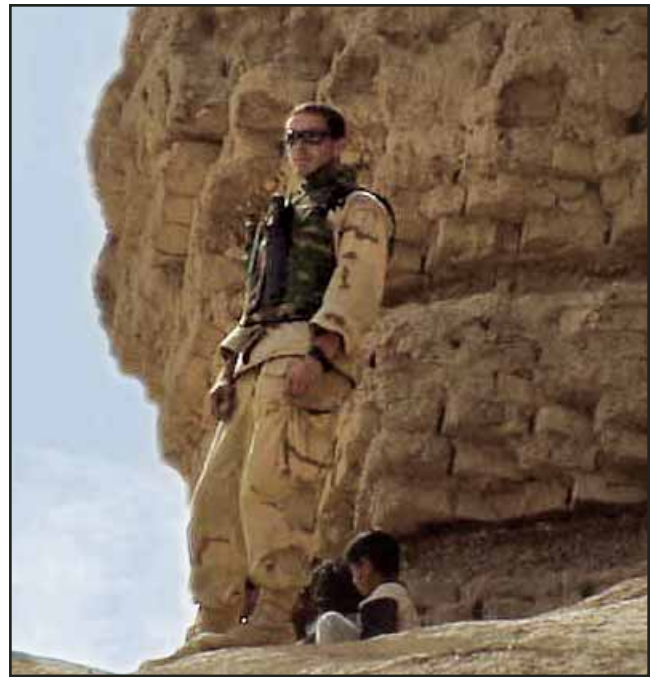
"It was really clear that we were going to have a lot more work after that," he says. Shortly before the U.S. Army's invasion, his unit was deployed to both Qatar, in late 2002, and Iraq in 2003. He remained in Iraq until October 2003. "All of our missions were inherently dangerous," he explains, due to the proliferation of land mines, unexploded bombs, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq.

Stalcup returned home to California in 2004 and spent a semester at the University of California at Berkeley. "A lot of things happened in Iraq that made me feel like I wanted to be able to define my missions, and that meant becoming an officer and getting a college degree," he explains. A friend who had attended GS told him about the school: "She said it wasn't just a bunch of 18-year-olds who were excited to be away from home, but it was more tailored to adults who were serious about their education." Stalcup no longer plans to become an officer in the Army, but going back into public service in some form is still a high priority for him. He is majoring in both mathematics and Middle Eastern and Asian languages and cultures.

Although Columbia has enjoyed a long relationship with its military veteran students, it has not been without controversy. The campus was a famous site of demonstrations against the Vietnam War in 1968, and, along with six other Ivy League schools, Columbia banned the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in 1969. After years of debate, the University Senate voted not to bring the ROTC back to campus in 2005.

Over the past two years allegations of anti-military bias have been made against Columbia by members of the MilVets group in the wake of a controversy surrounding GS student Matthew Sanchez, who claimed he was verbally attacked for being a member of the Marines at a student event in September 2005.

Subsequently the MilVets conducted a series of meetings and discussions with Provost Brinkley and his office. "The Sanchez incident unleashed a series of concerns from a lot of veterans on campus about



Current student and president of the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia, Luke Stalcup in Iraq.



Current student Peter Kim with Iraqi children (above, middle) and with fellow soldiers in Iraq (below, right).

CHRISTOPHER SHERIDAN '90



As a student at GS, Christopher Sheridan had considered enlisting in the military. That should come as no surprise, since he comes from a long line of military officers. In fact, his “umpteenth great grandfather” served as one of George Washington’s aides-de-camp.

His father was an officer, and his maternal grandfather was a captain in WWI. “It’s kind of odd I didn’t do it earlier—at our house, you don’t sit down at the Thanksgiving table unless you served your country,” he says.

But during his senior year at Columbia Sheridan broke his left elbow, creating a bone chip that led the Marines to reject his application. After six years working in investment banking, he decided he wanted to do something “easier and more fun.” He enlisted in the Army and was eventually recruited to become an officer in the Special Forces. During training, however, he broke his ankle and two vertebrae and took over a year off to have several surgeries and months of physical therapy. As soon as he was healed, in December 2002, he was sent to Afghanistan, with dozens of soldiers under his command.

“It was like going to The Show,” he says. “I had been training for seven years for that exact moment.” His experience in Afghanistan, where he spent all of 2003, was overwhelmingly positive. “We got to watch a democratic process evolve and to watch women get the right to vote, to go to school, and to drive. That was a huge influence in my life—I was part of making their lives better. I did my duty, and I’ll leave it at that.”

After his service was completed, Sheridan returned to investment banking and now works for Merrill Lynch. He believes MilVets is a considerable asset for educating other Columbia students about veteran issues. “When I was there, it was really only 15 years after Vietnam, but professors were talking about it as if it happened yesterday,” he says. “Now, I hope people listen and say, ‘These are hard-working individuals who enlist and do their term and want to get an education.’ I think that’s only positive.”



Photo by Michael DiVito

Amy Garcia '07 is a member of the U.S. National Guard.

how they’re treated and feel they’re viewed,” says Brinkley. “I had dinner at my home for many of them, and we talked a lot about the issues they face as veterans who are students. Our dialogue has been positive.”

Current GS student and MilVets vice president Peter Kim, a former Marine legal attaché who served in Iraq, agrees that the exchanges have been constructive. “We started a great dialogue with Provost Brinkley’s office,” he says. “As the student population has started to engage in this issue more like a debate rather than an argument, the administration has become more open to it. I’m so thankful to be able to witness this and be a part of it.”

Brinkley denies, however, that Columbia is a hostile environment for vets. “The opposition to ROTC was based on the military’s ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy that violates our own anti-discrimination rules,” he says. “I don’t believe those who opposed ROTC on those grounds had any animus towards veterans or the military.” In addition to the



Zhuo Zheng '07 served in the Marines before attending GS.

meetings with MilVets, he adds, the Provost’s office has made sure the university’s anti-discrimination policy includes discrimination against people on the basis of military service, and that the Student Services offices are conscientiously helping student veterans sort out the complexities of military benefits.

But not all GS vets want to be a part of MilVets or deal with the issues facing veterans on campus. “I had enough on my plate, with some family illnesses, a death in the family, as well as serving in my unit one week-

end a month,” says recent GS graduate Amy Garcia, a member of the Maryland unit of the U.S. National Guard since January 2003. There were times, however, when the New Jersey native felt uncomfortable as a member of the military, especially when she had to show up on

campus in uniform. “People get really passionate when they see someone dressed as a soldier,” she says. “I guess people just don’t understand that we’re individuals.”

Still, Garcia says, the military offered great training and discipline that translated into college success. “Columbia was the best experience of my life,” she says firmly. “I wouldn’t have the chances in life I have now if it weren’t for Columbia.” Now living with her husband in Westminster, Md., and expecting their first child, Garcia plans on going back to school to earn a doctorate in clinical psychology, with a pediatric specialization.

Initially Peter Kim also didn’t want to be singled out, especially as “the guy who went to war.” He wanted to experience Columbia, he explains, without the tag of being a veteran. But he has found students to be more open than he had initially expected, noting that “the majority are very accepting, even if they don’t agree about the war or the politics behind it.”

**"I went to Afghanistan, for crying out loud. That changes your perspective in ways it's difficult for me to convey."
-Oscar Escano, '07**

For others the transition to Columbia went without a hitch: Zhuo Zheng, a 23-year-old recent GS graduate and former Marine who is embarking upon a career in banking, didn’t find college life hard to handle. “I think I coped pretty well—I didn’t really have any issues. I did over the first couple of months after I came back from Iraq, but I had several months to adjust to my regular life before I started school.” He was excited to find a program at such an elite school that actually welcomed him as a nontraditional student. And finding other members of the military on campus was a bonus, he says: “It comforted me that I wasn’t alone.”

Columbia’s military veterans have plenty of advice for prospective veteran students, who can occasionally suffer from transition issues—including feelings of isolation, depression and stress—even if they have already been at the University for many months. “Number one, they should come talk to me and hang out,” Kim laughs. “Columbia is just a big intellectual party, and Thursday through Saturday it’s another kind of party—the whole city is at your disposal, so you should embrace it.”

On a more serious note, Escano emphasizes the importance of getting support from other students who have served, in order to ease the adjustment to student life. “It was tremendously helpful to lean on my fellow veterans,” he says. “It was just about having somebody who understood what I went through—this visceral, immersive experience where my mind still goes, even if my body is on campus in a lecture hall.”

MARILYN CHARLOT '96

As a vice president in the technology division of investment banking heavyweight Goldman Sachs, Marilyn Charlot says her current career is one of her life’s big surprises. Joining the mili-



tary was another: born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and raised in Brooklyn, Charlot knew little about the military when she signed up in 1985. “At the time, I wanted to open my own restaurant, and a conversation with an Army recruiter convinced me I could learn about the food business in the military, as well as receive a cash bonus,” she says.

Charlot was stationed in El Paso, Texas, and was then deployed to Germany, where she lived for three years. A stint in Alabama came next, and then she was transferred to Korea, where she served as a mess sergeant, supervising hundreds of other soldiers. When Operation Desert Storm began, she was on standby to head to the Middle East, but the war ended while she was being processed.

“I really enjoyed the work,” she says of her military service, but adds that she came home confused and angry about how little she knew about the politics of war. “The Army was definitely a positive for me, as I look back on it, but I was really torn about everything that was going on at the time.”

After changing her mind about a career in food service, she began to consider other options. “I realized that having a restaurant would be way too much work,” she says. “I started looking at a career switch, when my sister, who had always wanted an Ivy League education, started talking to me about Columbia.”

When she entered GS, Charlot says she didn’t want people to know she was a veteran. “I didn’t want to be associated with that experience—in fact, I hardly even talked about it. But it was just because I was in turmoil over it.”

Through her studies she learned a great deal about politics and economics and became interested in a career on Wall Street. “I felt my leadership skills and military background would work well in a corporate environment,” she says. “I realized I’m the type of person who really likes big institutions.”

The Columbia education “saved my soul,” she says. “I really found the answers to so many things there. I was surrounded by very mature people that I was really able to talk to. It was the perfect place for my transition.”

RED, WHITE, & LIGHT BLUE

BY ROBERT AST AND ERICH ERVING

During the American Revolution, the fate of Columbia University, like the fate of the United States itself, hung in the balance. Although some King's College students fought for the colonies—such as Alexander Hamilton, who spent his mornings drilling with a volunteer militia before classes—most professors and students were Loyalists, including British spy John Vardill and College President Myles Cooper, who was driven out of his home and back to England by a Revolutionary lynch mob. An interim president briefly took over, but, after classes were suspended from 1776–1784 and College Hall used as a hospital by occupying British forces, the postwar viability of the young school was in doubt, until a new charter and a name change offered a fresh start.

Columbia participated far more modestly in the U.S.'s 19th-century wars, including, somewhat surprisingly, the Civil War, which claimed the lives of two percent of the nation's population. Columbia students enlisted at rates far below those of students at other colleges, and less than a dozen alumni died in battle. By 1917 a more prominent, more diverse University was able to present a more comprehensive response to World War I, with Extension Teaching offering classes in trench warfare and vegetable gardening (for victory gardens), among numerous others. The University also hosted a branch of the SATC (Student Army Training Corps, the forerunner to the ROTC) and mandated drilling for all undergraduates in the fall of 1918.

Columbia's response to World War I—and, three decades later, World War II—helped lay the foundation for the modern University. The first Core Curriculum course, Contemporary Civilization, began in the fall of 1918 as "War Aims," a current-events class for SATC members. The aftermath of World War II brought not only Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower to Morningside Heights, but also the G.I. Bill, a financial blessing for the University, which was still reeling from the Depression. In the years following the war half of Columbia's students were veterans, most in the extension program, which, as its director noted in 1946, "found places for more than three thousand veterans, and it may be said that no veteran qualified to do work on the college level was turned away." In 1947,



Students look at model airplanes during an Army Air Corps recruiting event, May 1942. Photo furnished by Columbia University Archives–Columbia Library.

partly to meet the needs of returning veterans, including women from the WACS (Women's Army Corps) and WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), the extension program was reorganized into an undergraduate college, the School of General Studies.

Since its founding GS students have served in all of America's conflicts and participated on all sides of the debates surrounding them. Sixty years later, servicemen and -women no longer constitute the majority of the student body, but the school's commitment remains unchanged: GS continues to be a place where veterans—of other countries' armed services as well as the United States'—can begin the next chapter of their lives in a supportive community.

GS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

PETER AWN

CELEBRATES 10 YEARS LEADING GS

BY BETH KWON

It's easy to get caught up in Dean Peter Awn's enthusiasm as he describes the objets d'art that crowd his homey corner office in Lewisohn Hall. Visiting him is almost as if you've happened upon a well-stocked New York City antique shop and its proprietor is happy to give you a private tour. Among Awn's collection are a 16th-century Turkish plate decorated in the intricately-patterned Iznik style, a mid-1800s Chinese-Islamic

incense burner with delicate Sini (Chinese Muslim) script that Awn found on eBay, and a hand-painted burlap tapestry from India that he proudly admits he discovered at a flea market, only to see a similar one in a Sotheby's catalog.

Awn's eye for the unusual

and even eclectic item is part of what makes him perfectly suited to serving GS's unique student body. "The students are interesting because while they are looking for a rigorous, Ivy League education, they've come to it in a very nontraditional way," says Awn, who has been dean for 10 years. He jokingly refers to the GS Honor Society, a group of current and former students with 3.8 GPAs or better, as the "tutus or Uzis," owing to the preponderance of retired dancers and former members of the military, two groups of people who have gravitated to GS.

Kidding aside (although Awn's wit is rarely absent in conversation), he is passionate about making GS a place for students who have found their way to school despite sometimes very challenging odds. "Students often have to support families," says Awn, who is also a professor of Islamic religion and comparative religion. "And we are very welcoming to recent immigrants. We

"If you're good enough to be a part of this intellectual community we ought to treat you absolutely the same way."

had a valedictorian who, when he arrived in New York, couldn't speak five words of English."

Awn's primary focus in his ten years as dean has been to integrate GS courses with the rest of Columbia's undergraduates. "We went completely counter to the patterns in adult education that had existed for half a century, and argued that students should be fully and completely mainstreamed," Awn says. "Students should be in classes with all of the other undergrads, be held to the same standards — and earn the same degree." To achieve this, Awn largely did away with adjunct-taught night classes, and required students to attend classes during the day. Fees are comparable to what a full-time Columbia College student pays per course. "If you want the 'real thing' as I would argue, you're going to have to pay the same price as everybody else," Awn says. "If you're good enough to be a part of this intellectual community we ought to treat you absolutely the same way." Awn hopes to eventually capture the same level of financial aid for GS students as well as housing opportunities that other undergraduates are eligible for.

When he's not expounding enthusiastically about GS, or trolling flea markets for items to add to his office collection, Awn still manages to find the time to teach. In the fall he teaches a seminar on classical Sufi texts, and in the spring he leads an introduction to Islam course. "I love it, and it's important for students to see that, as dean, I still know what the university is supposed to be about, which is education."

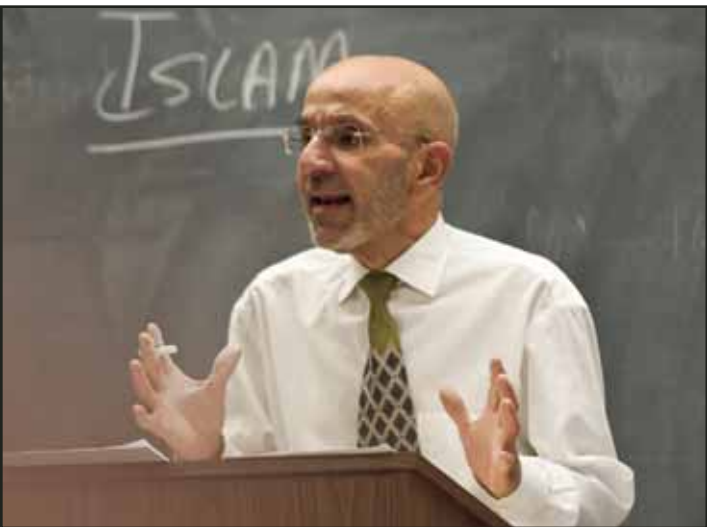


Photo by Alan Orling

1750

1780

1810

1830

1850

1870

60 YEARS OF THE GS TRADITION

BY ROBERT AST

From Extension Teaching to the nation's premier college for nontraditional students, Columbia University School of General Studies has evolved with the communities around it - the University, New York City, and the world.

Columbia University entered the modern world in 1830 with the institution of the Literary and Scientific Course, a track of instruction that eschewed Latin and Greek for the sciences and modern languages. The series of courses was open to all Columbia College students (roughly 120 in total)—but also to young men working in “mercantile and industrial establishments,” the University’s first part-time students. But modernity did not take, at least initially: the Literary and Scientific Course was discontinued in 1843, and it was not until the turn of the century that Columbia made a similar effort to reach beyond its gates.

1831
The Board of Columbia College, composed of President William Alexander Duer and the faculty, approves the Literary and Scientific Course.

1843
The Literary and Scientific Course is discontinued.



1904
Low Library

1754
King's College founded after years of contention over its location and religious affiliation.

1784
King's College renamed Columbia College.

1814
Columbia acquires a 20-acre botanical garden in midtown Manhattan on land that will eventually become the site of Rockefeller Center. The property is sold in 1985 for \$400 million.

1857
Columbia moves from its Park Place location near City Hall to 49th Street and Madison Avenue.

1864
Founding of the School of Mines, later renamed the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

1750

1780

1810

1830

1850

1870

1890

1900

1905

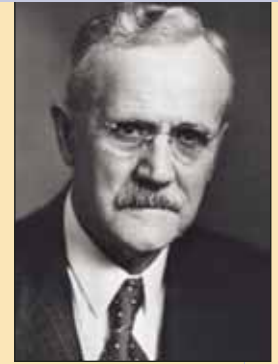
1910

1915

1920



circa 1925
Broadway



1910-1942
Dean James C. Egbert

1891
Upon a suggestion from President Seth Low, Columbia University begins to offer classes to non-degree students, including women, as well as lectures open to the general public.

1904
Adult education classes are organized into a formal program called Extension Teaching, which offers a broad array of courses, from classical studies to highway engineering and millinery.

1900
Summer courses are offered to part-time students; Nicholas Murray Butler serves as Director of the Summer Session.

1909
Columbia creates the Writing Program, which is administered by Extension Teaching.

1911
Extension Teaching begins to offer courses in business, leading to the 1916 founding of the School of Business. Extension courses also eventually give rise to the School of Dental and Oral Surgery.

1913
Extension Teaching establishes the Institute of Arts and Sciences, which offers lectures to the general public until its closure in 1957.

1919
Extension Teaching begins the Home Study series of correspondence courses. In its 18-year existence 65,000 people studied through the program.

FEATURE

1889
Founding of Barnard College.

1896
The University is formally designated Columbia University in the City of New York.

1897
Columbia moves to its current home, the Morningside Heights campus designed by noted architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White.

1902
Nicholas Murray Butler becomes President of the University.



1902-1945
Nicholas Murray Butler

1912
School of Journalism founded, after a bequest by Joseph Pulitzer.

1918
The Core Curriculum begins to take shape when the first incarnation of Contemporary Civilization is taught.

1890

1900

1905

1910

1915

1920

THE EVOLUTION OF GENERAL STUDIES



Building upon a successful series of public lectures, the University launched the Summer Session in 1900 and Extension Teaching in 1904, both of which offered the New York community unprecedented educational opportunities. Limited access to higher education was a nationwide phenomenon: in 1904 only 2 percent of men and women 23 years old had earned a bachelor's degree. Given this dearth, it is not surprising that Extension Teaching exploded, with nearly 1,600 students registering for adult education courses in 1904.

In addition to providing a service to the community and generating considerable income for the University, the program provided education commensurate with that given in the University's other divisions. "Most of the regular courses in Extension Teaching are now given at the University, subject to exactly the same standards which are required for the regular programme," wrote Frederick Keppel, the Dean of Columbia College (CC), in 1914. In 1921 the program was renamed University Extension and began to grant a degree: a Bachelor of Science in "general studies."

But the program's popularity also elicited concern within the Columbia College faculty. Some of the courses were vocational or simply nonacademic—subjects taught included stenography, beekeeping, and freshwater angling (given in the University pool)—offering ammunition to critics who questioned the program's value, or at least its place at

Columbia. For many the extension program's fundamentally dual nature—providing both "a college education for adults" and "adult education," which created a distinction between matriculated students seeking degrees (who underwent admissions screening processes) and the far more numerous non-matriculated students (who did not)—made separating the program's benefits from its drawbacks a difficult, or simply unappealing, task.

The influx of GIs seeking undergraduate degrees after World War II, following years of declining enrollment due to the Great Depression and the war, brought the matter to a head, if not a resolution. Harry Morgan Ayres, Director of University Extension, argued that the program's "various purposes do not conflict with each other. They form a whole that is complicated, but not confused." Confident that the school could continue with minimal revision, Ayres suggested a name change that, although apparently merely cosmetic, would publicly affirm the existing reality: that University Extension was "genuinely a part of the University." The new college's name, School of General Studies, referred to both its bachelor's degree and to the medieval schools known as *studia generalia*, which, unlike the *studia particularia*, served a broad array of students and scholars and became the foundation of the modern university.

GS quickly introduced a series of innovative educational ventures that could not have arisen anywhere else at Columbia, including the Joint Program with the Jewish Theological Seminary's Albert List College and the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program, created in 1954 and 1955, respectively. GS began to resemble a more traditional college, with its own faculty (1951) and Phi Beta Kappa chapter (1952), but the school continued to serve both degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students, until the President's Committee on the Educational Future of the University reported its findings in 1958. The Macmahon Committee Report, as it came to be known, affirmed the School's mission of providing a

college education for adults, noting that its "place is as important as that of any other unit in the University." But the report also recommended that GS abandon its adult education courses; Dean Louis Hacker resigned in protest. Although the committee's suggestion was not fully implemented, adult education courses were significantly curtailed.

With the increased focus on undergraduate education came increased focus on the degree that GS students earned. From almost the first moment when the extension program became a full-fledged school, questions had been raised about the appropriateness of the University granting a Bachelor of Science for a liberal-arts education. These questions became more persistent until—after considerable lobbying from GS students, alumni, faculty, and administrators, and despite rancorous opposition from some members of the CC faculty—in 1968 the University Council granted GS the right to award the Bachelor of Arts degree, and the school took the final step toward becoming a liberal arts college.

And, of course, something else happened in 1968. In late April students protesting the proposed gym in Morningside Park as well as Columbia's role in military research took over several buildings on campus and occupied them for an entire week. Although GS students could be found on both sides of the conflict, most did not support the protesters, and some actually stood guard with administration and faculty members to prevent a takeover of Lewisohn Hall. The uprising and bloody evacuation of protesters by police were thoroughly, though not always accurately, covered by the national media. Along with the unfavorable perceptions of the University, in the early 1970s Columbia also had to contend with the deteriorating Morningside Heights neighborhood, and enrollment declined in many divisions, including GS. But by the middle of the decade, bolstered by innovative new course offerings and special joint-degree programs with Columbia's graduate and professional schools, GS was able to report that applications were again on the rise.



Still, despite—or perhaps because of—its academic and fiscal successes, GS's existence as a discrete undergraduate school was occasionally called into question. Suggestions to merge GS and CC were never seriously considered by the University's central administration, however, and ultimately became irrelevant with the 1990 creation of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which unified the CC, GS, GSAS, and SIPA Faculties, ensuring that GS and CC students would take the same classes, with the same instructors.

Complete social integration did not follow directly on the heels of academic unification; initially GS students were presumed to have little interest in undergraduate social activities, which was generally true—most worked or had families, but virtually all were from the New York area, with pre-existing social networks. As the GS student body became more nationally and internationally diverse, with many students relocating to New York to earn degrees, the need for a student community became more apparent. After intensive efforts by student council officers in the late 1990s and early 2000s—efforts that continue today—the GS student body is now able to participate fully in undergraduate life.

GS continued to serve both degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students until 1977, when the School of Continuing Education was established as a separate division. GS later reincorporated Continuing Education, but the two were again separated in 1995 as part of a thorough administrative reorganization that allowed GS to focus on its core mission: attracting, training, and supporting nontraditional students who possess exceptional academic potential.

From its inception, as a supplementary program expected to be almost entirely self-sufficient, the School of General Studies has thrived in a way that few could have expected. What was essentially a community outreach venture has become the nation's finest undergraduate college for nontraditional students. GS alumni have gone on to change the world with their work in virtually every field imaginable. But perhaps just as important is the service they have provided the University by bringing the diversity of New York, and then the world, to Columbia.

GS TRAILBLAZER: MARGARET BANCROFT

“Though it would seem that my journey is only to satisfy a curiosity and a love of adventure, I am really going now, more for my students' sake, those yet to be and those whom I have already grown to love.” Written on a ship bound for the

Mediterranean in 1926, these words would seem almost incredible were their author not Margaret Bancroft, who devoted most of her life to the School of General Studies and its students.

Born in Wellesley, Mass., in 1891, Bancroft graduated from Wellesley and then earned a master's at Columbia before studying at Cambridge, where she researched early Roman settlements in Britain. She returned to Columbia in 1923 to teach ancient history at University Extension and remained for 37 years, instilling a love of classical civilizations and earning her students' admiration with lively, discerning lectures.

Upon retirement, Bancroft began a series of “athomes,” with former students and friends dropping by her tiny Morningside Drive apartment for informal intellectual conversation. In 1961 a New York Times reporter who was in attendance at one session counted 35 people engaged in discussion, including “Wall Street financiers, an archaeologist, an engineer, a dress designer, a radiologist, an antiques expert, students of astronomy and diplomacy, teachers, and Columbia's vice president.”

Bancroft remained a fierce advocate for GS during her retirement, even lobbying President Andrew Cordier to ensure that GS students were granted the right to earn a Bachelor of Arts.

In 1960 the GS Alumni Association established the Margaret Bancroft Award for Distinguished Retiring Professors; she was, of course, its first recipient. A few years before her death in 1979, astronomy professor Lloyd Motz wrote to her after receiving the Bancroft Award: “I was carried back to the golden days in General Studies when we all worked so hard to create the wonderful, exciting school that GS now is. And you were always in the front lines of that battle. I recall how often my students spoke of you with the greatest affection and esteem—you inspired so many of them. The students considered you their friend and knew that you were one they could always turn to for advice and comfort.”



Timeline photos provided by Columbia University Archives-Columbia Library except student photo - page 15, Baruj Benacerraf - page 18, student photo - page 19, and Peter Awn photo - page 19 by Alan Orling and Low Library at night - page 19 by Eileen Barroso.

1925

1930

1935

1940

1943

1945



1926
College Walk



1948
*Women have
been students at GS
since its inception.*

1926
University Extension registers a total of 19,000 students, including many who work with instructors in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Long Island, bringing the overall number of Columbia students to its highest-ever total.

1921
Extension Teaching receives a new name—University Extension—and begins to grant the Bachelor of Science degree.

1939
After years of declining enrollment due to the Great Depression, University Extension reports a boost in students as a result of the World's Fair.

1947
To meet the needs of GIs returning from World War II, University Extension is reorganized as an undergraduate college and designated the School of General Studies.



1942-48
Dean Harry Mogan Ayres

1923
With his father ill, Lou Gehrig decides to leave Columbia College and sign a contract with the New York Yankees, receiving a \$1,500 bonus.

1931
Nicholas Murray Butler is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in promoting the Kellogg-Briand Pact, a treaty drafted to outlaw war as an instrument of national policy.

1939
King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom visit Columbia to inspect the King's College charter, originally signed by King George II.

1940
Initial research for the Manhattan Project is conducted in Pupin and Lewisohn.

1948
Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower (pictured with his wife Mamie at a GS Holiday Tea) becomes the 13th President of the University.

FEATURE

1925

1930

1935

1940

1943

1945

1950

1953

1955

1960

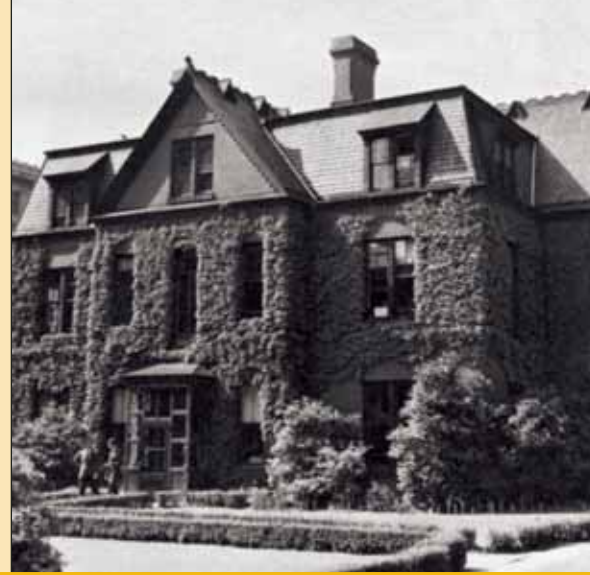
1963

1965



1951-58
Dean Louis Hacker

1955
The Alumni House
was the home of GS
before it moved to
Lewisohn Hall
in 1964.



1951
GS establishes
its own faculty.

1952
The GS chapter of
Phi Beta Kappa is
established.

1955
The Postbaccalaureate
Premedical Program,
the first of its kind in
the United States, is
established.



Pat Boone with
Dean Louis Hacker

1950
Borrowing from the family crest of Samuel Johnson, the first instructor and President of King's College, GS students create the first GS shield. Notable features include an owl and the school motto, "Lux in Tenebris Lucet," or "The light that shines in the darkness," both signifying that GS students attend classes at night.

1954
GS institutes a joint-degree program with Albert A. List College of The Jewish Theological Seminary.

1958
In 1957 Pat Boone had three number-one songs, starred in two films, and hosted his own television show; in 1958 he graduated from GS.

1958-64
Dean Clifford Lord



FEATURE



1953
Eisenhower leaves
Columbia to
become President
of the United States.

1960
With most research
conducted off-campus,
science has generally been
subordinated to the liberal
arts at Columbia.



1965
The School of the Arts is
established as a formal
institution. Many of its
programs, including
writing, theatre, and
painting, began as courses
in Extension Teaching.

1950

1953

1955

1960

1963

1965

1968



1970

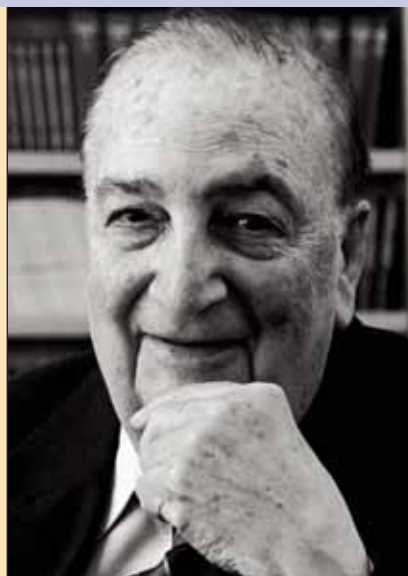
1969-77
Dean Aaron Warner

1975



1977-92
Dean Ward Dennis

1980



1980
Baruj Benacerraf

1985

1987

1968
GS begins to offer the Bachelor of Arts degree.

1971
Alumnus Simon Kuznets '21 is awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics for his work studying the quantitative characteristics of the long-term economic growth of nations.

1980
Alumnus Baruj Benacerraf '42 receives the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work in genetics.

1981
Alumni and friends raise funds to renovate Lewisohn Hall.

1987
GS institutes the Master of Arts program in Liberal Studies.

FEATURE



1964-68
Dean Clarence Walton

1973
GS becomes the first undergraduate division of the University to award financial aid to transfer students.

1981
The Division of Continuing Education and Special Programs is re-established as a branch of the School of General Studies.



1993-94
Dean Caroline Bynum

1968
Student activists protesting Columbia's plans to build a gym in Morningside Park and the University's affiliation with the Institute for Defense Analyses take over several buildings on campus and hold them for seven days. The violent police evacuation results in the arrests of 524 students, 25 alumni, and nearly 150 people unaffiliated with the University; 77 students, 8 faculty and staff members, and 14 policemen are treated at local hospitals for injuries.



1968
Butler and Low Libraries



1982
The Board of Trustees announces that Columbia College will become the last undergraduate college in the Ivy League to admit women. In 1987 the first coeducational class graduates from Columbia, with women serving as the class's valedictorian, salutatorian, and senior class president.

1968

1970

1975

1980

1985

1987

1990

1995

2000

2003

2005

2007



2007

GS celebrates 60 years. Today the school enjoys a deeper applicant pool, with increased student matriculation and persistence in both the undergraduate college and the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program.

1995

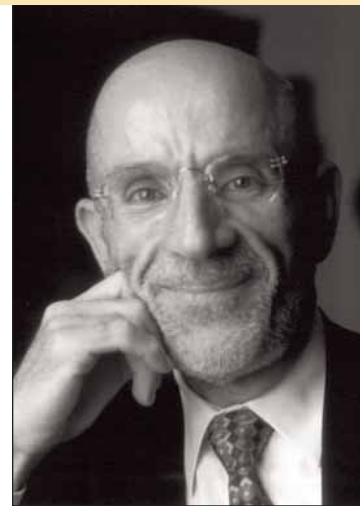
The Liberal Studies M.A. program moves to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

1998

Former GS Dean Caroline Bynum becomes the first woman in Columbia history to be named University Professor.

2002

After years of lobbying, General Studies Student Council members ensure that GS students can fully participate in on-campus student organizations.



1997-present
Dean Peter Awn

FEATURE

1994-97
Dean Gillian Lindt



1995

Continuing work begun by Dean Caroline Bynum, Dean Gillian Lindt leads an administrative reorganization that separates the undergraduate college and Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program from the following schools and programs:

- School of Continuing Education
- Summer Session
- American Language Program
- Columbia-sponsored study abroad programs

1990

The Faculty of Arts & Sciences is created, unifying the faculties of Columbia College, the School of General Studies, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), and the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

1999

Construction on Alfred Lerner Hall, the student union and newest addition to the campus, is completed.

2004

Columbia celebrates its 250th anniversary.

2002

Lee Bollinger installed as the 19th President of Columbia University.



1990

1995

2000

2003

2005

2007

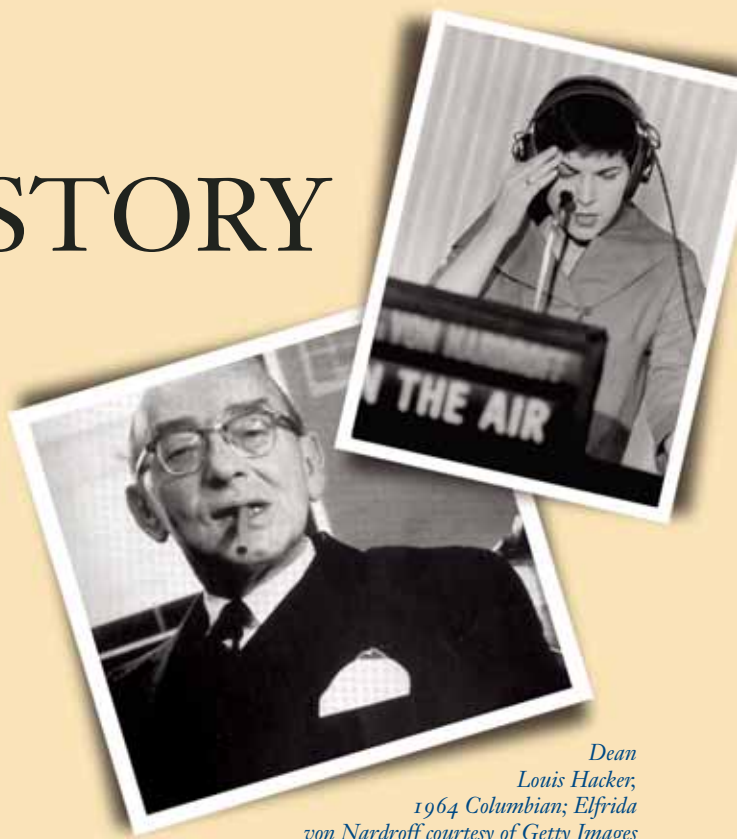
SNAPSHOTS OF GS HISTORY

1929 Federico Garcia Lorca

Federico Garcia Lorca was already an acclaimed poet and dramatist in his native Spain when he matriculated at University Extension to study English. Lorca attended classes (sporadically) and resided in Furnald and John Jay while composing innovative, experimental poems that broke decisively with the traditionalism of his earlier work.

The collection of these poems, *Poet in New York*, contains a letter Lorca wrote to his family describing his impressions of Columbia: "I have never seen more innocent creatures in my life than these Columbia students, or kinder, or more savage ones. ... These boys stretch and yawn with the innocence of animals, they sneeze without taking out their handkerchiefs and are always shouting, everywhere. And yet they are open and friendly, and they truly enjoy doing a favor for you. But how different they are from Spaniards who have been brought up properly."

An outspoken liberal and homosexual, Lorca drew the ire of General Francisco Franco's Nationalist forces as they rose to power. He was murdered by the Falange militia in 1936 and buried in a mass grave in Granada. His brother Francisco later became a professor on the General Studies faculty.



Dean
Louis Hacker;
1964 *Columbian*; Elfrida
von Nardroff courtesy of Getty Images

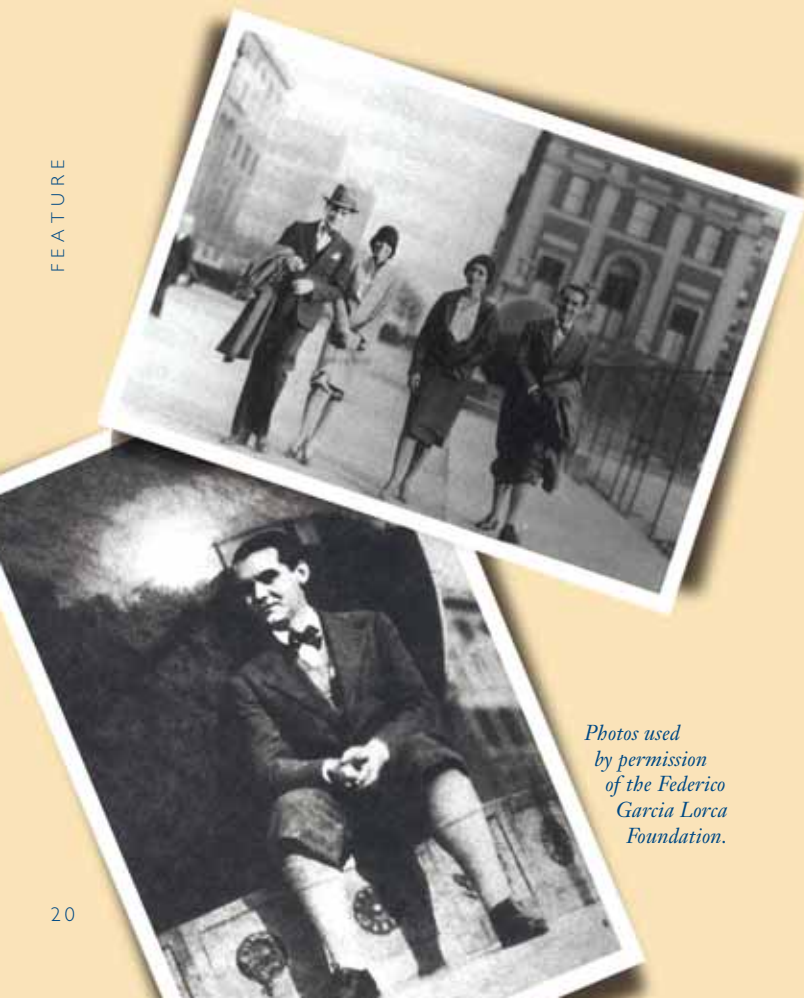
1959 GS and the Quiz Show Scandal

After Louis Hacker resigned as dean, he took on a new challenge, serving as the foreman on the grand jury probing the rigged quiz shows. Although virtually everyone called before the grand jury claimed otherwise, the district attorney's investigation discovered that contestants had been given the answers by quiz-show producers.

Even though this was not against the law—simply because no such thing had ever happened before—and no further criminal prosecution was possible, Hacker prepared a grand jury report detailing the extent of the fraud and calling into question the purported educational value of the quiz shows. When the judge sealed the report—a highly unorthodox and very rare maneuver—Hacker went to the media and helped launch a Congressional inquiry (depicted in the film *Quiz Show*) that exposed how thoroughly some members of the Columbia community were implicated.

Former Columbia English instructor Charles Van Doren remains the most widely known figure in the scandal, but it was GS student Elfrida von Nardroff who was *Twenty-One's* biggest winner, amassing \$220,500—the most money “won” on television for nearly 40 years. Along with Van Doren and 17 other contestants, von Nardroff pleaded guilty to perjury for her testimony before the grand jury and received a suspended sentence.

Although she was never charged, it was a GS student, Marie Winn, who sparked the initial investigations. Winn had received the answers to *Dotto* in advance, written them down, and reviewed them in the green room, in full view of the other contestants; she claimed to be studying for an exam. After her victorious performance, they raced offstage, grabbed her notebook, and ran to the district attorney's office. A *magna cum laude* graduate, Winn is now a fierce critic of television. She recently updated her book *The Plug-In Drug* for its 25th anniversary.



Photos used
by permission
of the Federico
Garcia Lorca
Foundation.

DR. HOWARD GROSSMAN '77 PBPM

BY BETH KWON

Howard Grossman's first job wasn't exactly easy. "It was soul-destroying," he says of his residency at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, where in the 1980s he saw some of the earliest AIDS patients. "The hospital was sitting on a powder keg, mostly because of the number of IV drug users. There were a lot of very poor people and immigrants from the Caribbean, especially from Haiti."

“As more anti-retroviral therapy gets out there, there are more people who need healthcare and resources, and as they get healthier they are in a position to spread the disease more. Unfortunately the fear-based messages we’ve used for the past 26 years don’t work for people who didn’t live through the early days of AIDS.”

Grossman graduated from GS's Postbaccalaureate Premedical Pre-health Program in 1977, attended medical school at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and was immediately thrust into the national epidemic.

Grossman, 53, has obviously seen better days since. Thanks to effective treatments, today there are 39.5 million people living with HIV globally, according to a 2006 study by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Still, more virulent strains make the disease resistant to drugs and elusive to a vaccine and cure. The number of new infections is steadily increasing. "In this country over 40,000 cases are diagnosed each year, which is unforgivable, and completely related to the fact that we don't do prevention very well," says Grossman, who is now the medical director of the Conant

Foundation, a San Francisco-based non-profit dedicated to HIV education. He points out an ironic paradox: "As more anti-retroviral therapy gets out there, there are more people who need healthcare and resources, and as they get healthier they are in a position to spread the disease more. Unfortunately the fear-based messages we've used for the past 26 years don't work for people who didn't live through the early days of AIDS."

Over the course of his career Grossman has played a pivotal part in the movement to educate and fight HIV. Seven years ago he helped form the American Academy of HIV Medicine, the first organization of its kind to bring together HIV specialists. He's traveled to Asia to set up Nepal's first HIV clinic and most recently was in Russia, a country with one of the world's fastest-growing epidemics, particularly among young people: About 80 percent of those with HIV are between 15 and 30 years of age, according to UNAIDS.

Grossman credits Columbia with helping make him a better doctor. Originally intending to become a lawyer, he studied political science at Haverford College until, as he explains wryly, "I realized I couldn't lie for a living, so I decided to be a doctor." He enrolled in GS's postbac program after graduation and met a population of students like himself, who came to medicine with a bit of life experience. "So many people go to college with the idea that they'll be a doctor without really knowing what it's about," he says. "But when people come back to it in their 20s and 30s it's because they choose medicine, rather than fall into it. For me Columbia was a really important growing experience."

And despite the challenges that lay ahead for him, Grossman's compassion for his patients and devotion to his work has never faltered. "I always wanted to do something that felt 'necessary,'" he says. "During the worst part of the epidemic and still today, I rarely wonder why I'm getting up in the morning. Not everybody can say that."

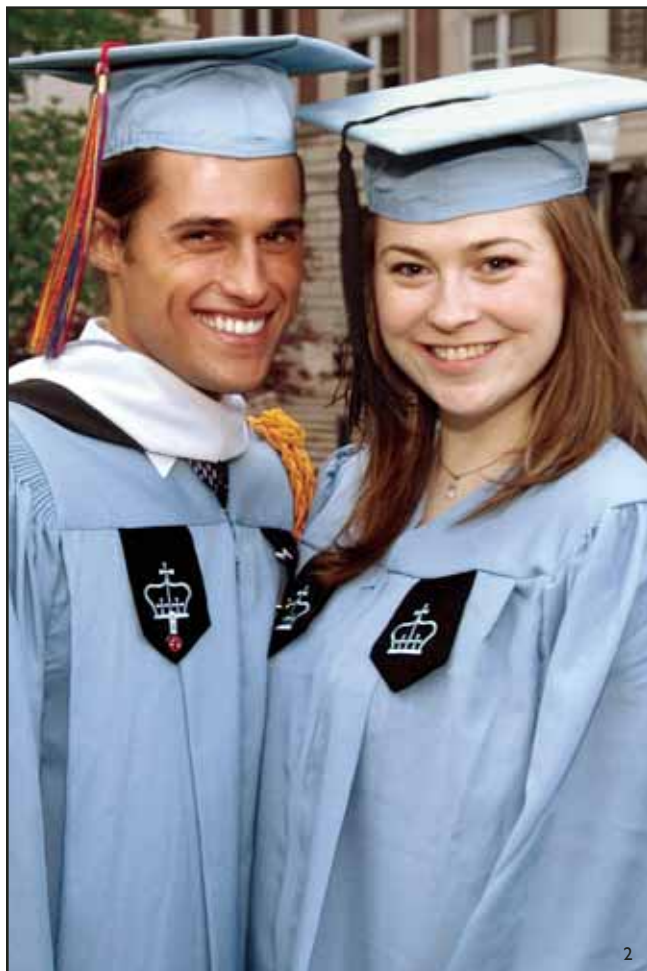


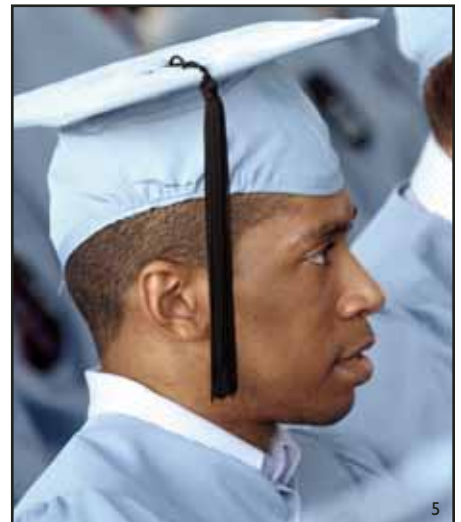
CLASS DAY 2007

PHOTOS BY DAVID WENTWORTH



1. GS Class Day was held outside on South Lawn for the first time.
2. Christopher Riano and Elizabeth Hollister.
3. Class Day speaker Deborah Marshall '79.
4. Grads line up to receive their diplomas.





1. The Biting Fish Brass Band led the graduates to their seats.
2. Valedictorian Chih-Hsin Hsu.
3. Mary Catherine Ford and her son.
4. Salutatorian Adam Parker.
5. Michael Nicholas.
6. Juri Ogawa (left), Chad Miller (middle), Makiko Anzai (right).

GS ANNUAL GIVING

THE GS ANNUAL FUND

During Columbia's 2006-2007 fiscal year, which ended June 30, the School of General Studies experienced record giving to the GS Annual Fund, raising more than \$403,049 and receiving 40 percent more gifts than the previous year. This increased participation is making a difference because current students feel the effects of this vital support everyday.

The GS Annual Fund is the school's primary vehicle for alumni giving and an important way that alumni may commemorate their GS experience. Each gift is appreciated, no matter the size. Gifts to the GS Annual Fund may be designated to the following areas:

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

GS ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

GS recognizes 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 graduates (those who have graduated within the last four years) who give \$100 or more become members of the GS Associates. In appreciation, members are rewarded with the following unique opportunities that help them stay connected to the school throughout the year:

- Invitation to Dean's Day
- Invitation to GS Associates Events
- Personal acknowledgments from the Dean
- Listing in the General Studies Annual Report of Giving
- Invitation to the Annual Scholarship Reception

Last year's GS Associates gatherings included a talk with Professor Sunil Gulati of the Department of Economics, who spoke about his role as the President of the United States Soccer Federation, and a donor thanksgiving reception with Professor Matthew Palmer of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, who teamed with one of his protégées, GS student Stephanie Smith '07, to discuss her recent research project.

GS ANNUAL FUND VOLUNTEERS

New GS Annual Fund volunteers are also making headway in encouraging their fellow alumni to become

involved. Under the leadership of Arthur Bingham '84, nearly two dozen alumni are engaged in outreach and making annual fund calls to encourage participation. Richard Space '05 is working with GS Annual Fund Associate Director Meredith Loffredo '02CC to develop and expand the Recent Alumni Leadership Committee, which helps graduates of the last 10 years stay connected to Columbia.

SENIOR GIFT

The GS Class of 2007 is helping set new standards for annual fund giving through the Senior Gift. A record 52 percent of seniors participated this year, raising over \$11,000 dedicated solely for student financial aid, including a challenge grant from classmate Christopher Riano.

NEW ANNUAL FUND OFFICER

On October 1 the GS Annual Fund staff welcomed Sheila Brogan-Testa '91, TC '92 to the team. An active member of the Columbia Alumni Association's Southern California Club, Sheila has relocated back to New York with her husband, SEAS Professor Rene Testa. Sheila will be working with alumni, parents, and friends to increase leadership annual giving to GS.

To learn more about the GS Annual Fund and how you can help, please contact Meredith Loffredo, Associate Director, GS Annual Fund, at mal82@columbia.edu or (212) 851-4165.

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)870-3100 or (800)338-3294
and by email at gift.planning@columbia.edu.



THE 1754 SOCIETY

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER: NOVEMBER 28, 2007

Benefactors and scholarship recipients unite for an evening of thanks and celebration of 60 years of the GS tradition.



1. President Lee Bollinger and Dean Peter Awn with Nicholas H. Niles '65 and Margetta G. Niles '65.

2. Roswell B. Perkins '79 and Helen Evarts '70, benefactors of both the Ward H. Dennis and Aaron W. Warner Scholarships, with John Bobbitt.

3. Brandon Blaylock with his father Albert J. Blaylock, benefactor of the Clayton A. Blaylock Memorial Scholarship.

4. President Bollinger addresses scholarship benefactors and recipients before the student panel.



5. GS student Amy Shadden with Dean Mary McGee and members of the Recent Alumni Leadership Committee Chad Miller '07, Stephen Davis '06, and Marguerite Daniels '05.

6. Student panelists Stephen Harris, Lyndon Park, and Akillab Wali.



7. GS student Trilbe Wynne, recipient of the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation Scholarship, with Thomas Wilfred, Executive Director of the Foundation.

8. Jeff Klein '91, Nancy Lewis '78, and GS student Lyndon Park.

9. Sandra Borg and Malcolm A. Borg '65, benefactors of the North Jersey Media Group Scholarship, with recipient Virginia Vilotti.

10. Low Library Rotunda.



PHOTOS BY EILEEN BARROSO

To learn more about the GS Associates Program and how you can participate, Please contact Sheila Brogan-Testa, Associate Director, GS Annual Fund at 212-851-4168 or email sab143@columbia.edu.

GS PLANNED GIVING

MEET SONJA CARTER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF GIFT PLANNING



Sonja Carter with her daughter Sophie.

Sonja Carter joined the Office of Gift Planning in 2002, after practicing law in Minneapolis and New York. She lives in Morningside Heights with her husband Matt and their 18-month-old daughter Sophie.

Why did you decide to switch from law to fundraising?

I had been a volunteer fundraiser for my sorority, college, law school, and a wonderful little theater company for over a decade. When I was laid off from my law firm after Sept. 11, rather than remaining in law, I decided to turn a volunteer activity that gave me great pleasure into a second career. I enrolled in the fundraising master's program at Columbia's School of Continuing Education a week before I started working for the University. My first development position was at Columbia Law School, and then I moved to the Office of Gift Planning. My legal background has been helpful when working with our alumni and friends and their financial advisors, whether we are putting together the right language for a bequest intention or establishing a charitable gift annuity.

What's the most rewarding aspect of fundraising management?

Helping people make a truly significant gift to their alma mater, a place they care deeply about, is very fulfilling. When people give, no matter the amount, it makes them feel good, and it does great things for the University and its students. It gives me great pleasure to serve as a resource for our donors, discussing the many creative ways they can give meaningful gifts to GS as well as achieve other goals such as retirement or tax planning at the same time.

I would be honored to work with you or your advisors, and encourage you to call if you have any questions about appreciated securities, bequest intentions, beneficiary designations of retirement funds (IRAs, 401k or other such plans), charitable gift annuities, or gifts of real estate and other tangible personal property. I'd love to help you create a win-win situation with your gift to GS. Please call me at 1-800-338-3294 or 212-870-2573, and we can get to work!

What's your favorite thing about Columbia?

I have too many to choose, but Sophie's is Low Library—she loves to climb the steps!

GIFTS TO GS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

Columbia's Office of Gift Planning 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.

GS ON CAMPUS

COLUMBIA STARTS CREATIVE WRITING MAJOR

BY ANNE BURT

J.D. Salinger enrolled in a short story writing class when he studied at Columbia's University Extension Program in 1939. Carson McCullers took odd jobs all over the city to pay for Extension courses in creative writing.

Although such culturally significant writers as Paul Auster, Allen Ginsberg, Langston Hughes, Jack Kerouac, Federico García Lorca, and Eudora Welty all studied in various divisions of the University, not all took writing classes here, and those who were undergraduates could not have earned a degree in creative writing.

The School of General Studies previously offered a major in literature-writing, but now, for the first time, GS and Columbia College students can complete an intensive creative writing major. This change comes in large part because of the efforts of Ben Marcus, chair of the School of the Arts MFA writing program, and Sam Lipsyte, director of undergraduate studies for the new creative writing major.

Thirty-five undergraduates have been admitted to the by-application-only major in its inaugural year, and hundreds more have enrolled in newly designed classes that teach students to approach fiction, poetry, and nonfiction as crafts to be learned, as opposed to traditional English classes that teach students to approach literature as works to be interpreted. In all, 25 new courses were created for the undergraduate major.

"We always had writing workshops in which a student's work could be critiqued, but now we have workshops running alongside rigorous seminars in which they have to read a great deal and learn about literary history, but from a practitioner's perspective," said Marcus, who is the author of, among other works, *Notable American Women*, *The Father Costume*, and *The Age of Wire and String*. "If students are only reading literature in an English class, they might not acquire that real, tactile sense of how to make a sentence."

Lipsyte, the author of *Home Land*, *Venus Drive*, and *The Subject Steve*, said he found it exciting to create a curriculum for undergraduates that mirrored the hands-on approach taken by the MFA program in writing. Graduate students "already understand the approach of 'reading as a writer' that we are trying to teach," he said. "With the undergraduates, you are explaining a new way of reading to them. And I see in their eyes when we begin that it's something they've been looking for. It's a way they have secretly connected to these texts all along. The major is giving them permission to pursue that line of inquiry."



Sam Lipsyte (left), and Ben Marcus are responsible for launching the new creative writing major at Columbia. Photograph by Eileen Barroso.

JTS CHANCELLOR ARNOLD M. EISEN

BY ROBERT AST

With degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Oxford and a doctorate in the history of Jewish thought from Hebrew University, Arnold M. Eisen brings a distinguished intellect to his new role as Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary. The former Koshland Professor of Jewish Culture and Religion at Stanford has also taught at Columbia and Tel Aviv University and written widely on American Jewry in such books as *Rethinking Modern Judaism* and *The Jew Within* (with Steven Cohen).



The position of chancellor, however, will present different challenges, as he acknowledged during a speech last year in Westchester County. "A member of the search committee put it to me rather directly and candidly, saying 'You have been giving advice through your books and through your speeches for twenty-five years. We've got enough kibbetzers around here; how about being a leader?'"

"The challenge of studying and giving advice and trying to draw on my personal experience and scholarship and my personal life, to take all that together and try to lead the major institution of Conservative Judaism—and increasingly one of the greatest institutions of American Jewish life ... was one that I could not resist."

Appointed the successor to Dr. Ismar Schorsch in April 2006, Eisen assumed the chancellorship in July 2007 after spending the yearlong interregnum traveling the country to speak with rabbis and laypeople about the future of Conservative Judaism.

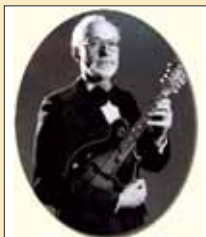
"The way we make Judaism live for people cannot be done in the same forms that it was done twenty years ago (let alone 100 years ago), and in many cases, that is exactly what we are doing," he said. "We are trying to fit 21st-century ideas inside structures and organizations that are 50 and 100 years old. And if they don't fit, there is a reason for that."

"This is a movement with enormous present strength. Let no one persuade us we're in crisis. We just have some work to do."

Alumni NOTES

EDITED BY ROBERT AST

1949



After graduating from GS, **Ely Karasik** earned a master's at Teachers College. Ely went on to teach music and science in public schools and, upon retirement, began to compose music, specifically pieces with Italian, Greek, Spanish, and Jewish flavors for mandolin and guitar duos. He also sets poems—including works by Edgar Allen Poe, Lewis Carroll, Ogden Nash, Pablo Neruda, and Jorge Luis Borges—to music for voice and piano. He has produced a number of CDs as well as a book, *13 Tango Passions for Mandolin and Guitar*.

1955

NEYSA WILKINSON recently moved to Orange, Mass.

1956

IRA JOSEPHS coordinated a film course at UNLV. "Movies for Movie Buffs"—though, Ira notes, "we do NOT watch them in the buff"—features lively discussion and is part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Ira encourages GS alumni living in the Las Vegas area to contact him: "The New York spirit lives, if not the Brooklyn Dodgers."



1957

RAYMOND FEDERMAN'S most recent novel, *Return to Manure*, a "surfictional collage of remembrance and expectation," was recently published by Fiction Collective 2. His literary blog is updated regularly at www.raymondfederman.blogspot.com.



1960

EDWARD KLEIN'S latest book, *Katie: The Real Story*, an unauthorized biography of Katie Couric, was recently published by Crown Publishing.



BARBARA PROBST SOLOMON received the United Nations' "Women Come Together Award," which "seeks to pay tribute to a group of women who share a dedication to stand out in their individual activities; a commitment to their work, and a devotion to

making the world a better place." A distinguished professor and prize-winning author, in 2005 she became the first North American and second woman to receive the Antonio de Sancha Prize, bestowed by the Association of Madrid Publishers and Editors, for her work upholding shared literary and cultural values.

1961

ROBERT LOCKWOOD is the author of *A Culture of Deception*, a political thriller recently published by Xlibris. Robert operated his own Washington, DC, lobbying firm after retiring as counsel to the US Senate Judiciary Committee; he previously served as U.S. Army colonel and as a Cabinet-level political advisor to secretaries in several administrations. He taught at West Point and the National War College and was an adjunct professor at Harvard, George Washington, and the University of Kansas. Robert also attended the Sorbonne, New York University School of Law, and George Washington, where he earned a PhD. He lives with his wife in Williamsburg, Va., and Hutchinson Island, Fla.



1963

HELEN LEVIN was featured in a solo art show *Helen Levin: Abstract Art from New York* at the Mikst Media Gallery in Woudrichem, Netherlands.

1965

After seven years of service, **RELA MINTZ GEFEN** is stepping down as President of Baltimore Hebrew University. Designated a Professor Emerita of Sociology, she has moved to Philadelphia to enjoy a sabbatical year.



1966

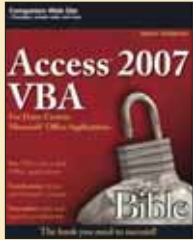
BARBARA BUONCRISTIANO is the Director of Compliance for the New York State Division of Human Rights. She was included in the book *Feminists Who Changed America: 1963-1975* and co-chaired the Jane Froman Centennial Celebration (www.janefroman.com), held Nov. 9-11 in Columbia, Mo.

ALEXANDER (SANDY) FISHER. See page 29.



1967

ROBERT BAYLEY was appointed Professor of Linguistics at the University of California, Davis. He teaches and conducts research in sociolinguistics and second-language acquisition and serves as the linguistics graduate advisor. He taught for many years at the University of Texas at San Antonio. His sixth book, *Sociolinguistic Variation: Theories, Methods, and Applications* (ed. with Ceil Lucas), was published by Cambridge University Press in November.



1968

HELEN FEDDEMA'S most recent book, *Access 2007 VBA Bible: For Data-Centric Microsoft Applications*, was recently published by Wiley. The book discusses using Access 2007 for data storage and entry, editing, and printing and as data exportation to other Office applications. A list of her other books and additional information on Access is available on her website, www.helenfeddema.com.

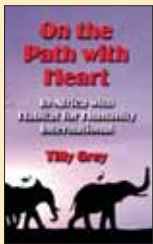


MARTHA (LEVINSON) LEV-ZION'S book, *Taking Tamar*, was recently published by Avotaynu (www.avotaynu.com/books/Tamar.htm). *Taking Tamar* depicts Martha's experience adopting and raising a young girl with Down syndrome. Today, Tamar lives independently and works as an assistant secretary at a university.



1970

ROY BERCAU is the editor of the blog Enough Room (www.enoughroom.blogspot.com and www.enoughroomvideo.blogspot.com). Many of his videos are also available on YouTube and GoogleVideo.



TILLY LORENTZ GREY recently retired and moved to horse country near Ocala, Fla. Her memoir, *On the Path with Heart: In Africa With Habitat for Humanity International*, was published in January 2006. Tilly says life is good, and, although retired, she still manages to return to Africa once a year.

1972

BARBARA GIMBEL was honored with a special tribute by the United Hospital Fund at its annual black-tie gala. An honorary director of the fund, Barbara began volunteering at Bellevue Hospital in 1947, later co-founded the quality-of-life program Children of Bellevue, and continued her commitment to improving the patient care experience with voluntary leadership roles. "Barbara has demonstrated a lifelong passion for learning, volunteerism, and improving New York's health care, and her commitment has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to us all," said James R. Tallon, Jr., the United Hospital

1966

Alexander (Sandy) Fisher



In June, Alexander "Sandy" Fisher, along with his wife Rossie, received the American Farmland Trust's Steward of the Land Award for their work in farmland protection and environmental stewardship. The Fishers run the thousand-acre Brookview Farm in Manakin-Sabot, Va. and provide grass-fed beef and organic eggs to local restaurants, markets, and visitors to their on-farm store.

After years as conventional farmers, the Fishers switched to organic agriculture in the early 1990s. A short time later they placed their farm into a conservation easement, which restricts future use of the land to agriculture. "One of the reasons we were interested in buying our farm in the first place is because we didn't want it to be developed," Sandy said. In 2002 they helped found the Goochland Land Alliance, which educates landowners about easements; they also plan to donate the \$10,000 from the Steward of the Land Award toward conservation causes.

Brookview Farm also features a composting operation that converts municipal yard waste into organic fertilizer, as well as educational programs for children and adults. "It would be a wasted opportunity if there wasn't interaction with the community," Sandy said.

Fund president. "We look forward to her contributions in the years to come."

1973

DIANE M. FALK, a writer, editor, and researcher, received an appointment certificate from Ambassadors for Peace USA for her community outreach. She is an education program associate for www.worldandischool.com, a cross-curriculum resource for high-school and middle-school students, and also works with the Women's Federation for World Peace (www.wfwf.org) and UltraTeenChoice (www.ultrateenchoice.org). Her work has appeared in the e-journal of the World Media Association (www.wmaassociation.com).

1974

ZOE ROXANNE GRAVES'S daughter Corina Jayne has started middle school at Riverdale Country Day School.

THOMAS WILLIAMS. See page 30.

BILL ZAVATSKY. See page 35.

1977

HOWARD GROSSMAN, MD (PBPM). See page 21.



1978

PETER MONDELLO is studying for a master's degree at the Dallas Theological Seminary. He recently married Kai Wu; they reside in Sarasota, Fla.



1979

This past June, **BONNIE LEE BLACK** earned an MFA in creative writing from Antioch University in Los Angeles at the age of 62. Although originally accepted to Columbia's MFA program after graduating from GS, financial considerations prevented her from attending. She is currently at work on a book about her recent time with the Peace Corps in Africa, titled *How to Cook a Crocodile*.



1980

CAREN NEILE, South Florida Storytelling Project director at Florida Atlantic University, was recently featured in the *Palm Beach Post* for her role in creating and organizing the "Vox Populi" series of "storytelling slams." She teaches at Florida Atlantic and recently spent several weeks in Jerusalem as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. Caren earned an MFA in creative writing at Florida International University and a doctorate in comparative studies at Florida Atlantic University.



1985

ELAINE GEORGE founded Silk Tree Gardens, a private, urban-based tree nursery in Bridgeport, Conn. A list of available services



can be found at the nursery website, <http://silktreegardens.com>.

1986

In August 2006 Hazzan **ALAN SMOLEN** became the hazzan, or cantor, of Congregation Beth Judah in Ventnor, N.J. He previously served as the hazzan of Congregations Shirat Shalom and Kneseth Israel, both in Elgin, Ill. He has initiated "Beth Judah Alive!"—a traditional Shabbat service infused with guitar, keyboards, and percussion. Alan serves as co-musical director and sings lead vocals. A very interactive religious experience, "Beth Judah Alive!" debuted in June 2007 to a standing-room-only crowd.

1987

"Show Me the Money," an article by **GERRY VISCO** discussing starting salaries for college graduates, was recently published in *New York Press*.

1989

JUAN DAVILA was recently named the director of development at Salma Hayek's new production company, Ventanazul. With its production partner MGM, Ventanazul will acquire, develop, and produce Latin-themed



1974

Thomas Williams



Tom Williams seems to have a normal job: academic librarian. The only catch is that he works in Qatar. As Director of the Distributed eLibrary at the Weill Cornell Medical College, the first branch of an

American medical school to be located outside U.S. borders, Williams leads the team that provides library services and assistance to the medical school community and the country's major hospital, as well as the wider Gulf region.

"The most rewarding aspect of my job is the success we've had in establishing state-of-the-art academic medical library resources and services where there were none before," Tom said. "Seeing our efforts meet with success and experiencing the positive feedback from those who use our services has been nothing short of thrilling."

Located just outside Doha, the nation's capital, the medical school is part of Education City, a complex of American universities,—including Carnegie Mellon, Georgetown, and Texas A&M—which offer degree programs in a variety of fields. Education City, established by Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani shortly after his accession in 1995, is indicative of the vibrant heterogeneity of Qatar, where the majority of residents are foreign workers.

"People have equal rights, women can vote, drive, work, own property, and have all the rights we might expect women to have in our Western cultures," Tom said. "The country has all the modern conveniences—skyscrapers, huge modern malls (most more elegant than those in the Western countries)—but still maintains its traditional culture and architecture throughout most of the country. Wearing the traditional clothing is optional, although most local women still choose to wear traditional garb, many including the fully covered face.

"One of the most wonderful aspects of living in this environment is the safety. There is very little crime in the country: car theft, muggings, and other serious crime are almost

unheard of. We have young children who love it here, and it is an experience they will never forget. They are also learning things they might not have learned had we remained in the States. The value of the experience of growing up in a vastly multicultural environment with all that it entails is incalculable."

But Tom is used to multicultural environments. After growing up in rural, upstate New York, he joined the Peace Corps and served in Bolivia, then returned to New York to attend GS. He studied part-time while working in the University Libraries System, graduating after seven years. After considering law school, he decided to attend Columbia's now-defunct School of Library Service.

"I calculated that I could get my MS in Library Science in just over one year," he said. "I figured that I was still young enough that I could go back to school after a few years if I didn't like it. Well, I liked it, especially working in medical libraries, and haven't looked back since. And so, 30-plus years later here I am, still with no regrets and with a wonderful job in the Middle East."

material. Davila previously headed the management firm Davila and Co. and worked as an executive at A&E Television.

KEN TARBOUS is a senior writer at *Asset-Backed Alert*, a weekly newsletter about the bond market published by Harrison Scott. Previously, he worked for Gannett News Service's *Home News Tribune*. Ken resides in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn.



1990

Before attending GS, **PAUL L. MILLS** enjoyed a celebrated career as Poez, a spoken-word performance artist; he later earned a law degree from UCLA and established a civil rights and criminal defense practice. In September, he performed in a one-man show, *Poez Bazooked on W. 4th Street!*, at the Bowery Poetry Club. Additional information, which includes MP3s of some performances, is available at www.poezthepoet.com. Paul married singer-songwriter and Barnard alumna Suzanne Vega in February 2006.

Siemens recently acquired Sunlight Systems, a company founded by **ADAM DONNELLAN**. In 2004, Sunlight Systems, a technology venture that uses ultraviolet light to disinfect water and waste-water, was ranked 137th on *Inc.* magazine's list of the nation's fastest growing companies.



1992

SHAWN ATKINS. See page 32.



JAKE NOVAK is the new commentator for the Columbia football broadcast team. A comedy writer whose work appears daily on www.preplinks.com and www.danoday.com and has been featured in *Newsday*, *The Jewish Week News*, and the *L.A. Jewish Journal*, Jake also blogs about Columbia football at <http://roarlions.blogspot.com>.



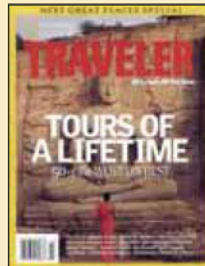
In 2004 **DONNA ROSS** opened the Donna Ross School of Classical Ballet in Frisco, Texas (www.friscocityballet.com). She also teaches ballet at QD Academy, an after-school program in Plano. Her former student Sarah Lane was featured on the cover of *Dance* magazine in June. A letter from Donna was published in the *New York Times* in June, and she has written two articles for the *Dallas Morning News*. She encourages alumni in the Dallas area to contact her.

THIERRY SENECHAL has joined the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), where he will be responsible for the banking commission. He previously served as an officer with the UN Security Council. A specialist in war-damage assessment and dispute

resolution in the financial sector, he has previously served as an officer with the UN Security Council and evaluated the damage of the Persian Gulf and 1948 Arab-Israeli wars. He has also handled various cases related to civil wars in commercial arbitration.

1993

The Maame Koranchee educational tour company was featured in *National Geographic Traveler* in October 2006 as part of its "50 Tours of a Lifetime." Founded by two GS alums, **NITA BROWN '93** and **GLENDA FRANCIS '91**, Maame Koranchee offers tours in Ghana, South Africa, Brazil, Dominica, and South Carolina's Gullah Islands. For more information, visit www.maame-koranchees.com.



SHIVA DUSTDAR was named one of *Credit* magazine's Top 50 Women in Credit in 2006. After years at JP Morgan, she is now at the European Investment Bank and working on a new lending program that supports companies researching renewable energy, life sciences, and information technologies. She earned an executive MBA from the London Business School and is a founding board member of the European High-Yield Association.



1994

MELANIE CONTY married Joseph Scarpati on October 20, 2006. They currently reside in Manhattan but plan to move to Long Island.



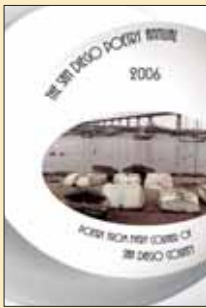
CHRISTOPHER KERR LAVAGNINO was recently promoted to managing director and head of the New York office of the brokerage firm Kepler Landsbanki and CEO of its US-based subsidiary, Kepler Equities Inc.

JEFFREY A. SOILSON is an associate in the firm Burns & Levinson's probate and trust litigation and divorce and family groups. His areas of focus include will contests, contested accountings, reformation of trusts, premarital agreements, divorce, adoption, guardianship, conservatorship, and paternity proceedings. Prior to joining Burns & Levinson in Dec. 2006, he was an associate at the law firm Lee & Levine and a partner in his own firm Soilson Press LLP, a civil litigation law firm focusing on divorce and family law.

1996

JEFFREY "JAY" STERN's debut feature film, *The Changeling*, an adaptation of the 1622 play by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, opened at New York's Pioneer Theater in May. He is also a PhD student in the European Graduate School and the producer of the First Sundays Comedy Film Festival.





1997

STEPHEN PAGE recently had poems published in the *Renovation Journal* and the *San Diego Poetry Annual 2006*. He was also interviewed for an article on balancing writing and living for the March/April 2007 edition of *Poets & Writers*.

1998

STEVEN J. DRURY, MD (PBPM), of Saint Barnabas Medical Center's Department of Pathology in Livingston, N.J., has been selected to serve as a member of the College of American Pathologists Foundation Board of Directors. He also served as a Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons research fellow.

ROBIN McDONALD, a Deloitte and Touche consultant, married Bermuda native Matthew DeCosta in May. Robin met Matthew while on vacation in 1995, but returned to the U.S. to attend GS in the fall. When she returned to Bermuda to celebrate her 30th birthday, she called Matthew for a restaurant recommendation. Dinner led to a proposal on the beach. Matthew subsequently moved to New York, and the wedding was in Englewood, Col., Robin's home state.

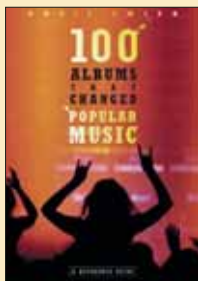


ESTELLE RABONI is the program manager of Real Life, Real Talk, Planned Parenthood's initiative designed to change the way America talks about sex and health. She recently received a master's in public health from the City University of New York. Last year she gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Lucien Manuel Fischer.



2000

KATHRYN MAUGHAN published her first novel, *Did I Expect Angels?*, featuring the interweaving stories of a suicidal young mother and widow and the Costa Rican immigrant who changes her life. *Did I Expect Angels?* is available on Amazon.com. She has also established a website (www.myunexpectedangel.com), which allows users to pay tribute to those who have surprised them with a helping hand.



CHRIS SMITH attended graduate school at the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia. He teaches cultural criticism at the University of British Columbia and works as a freelance writer in Vancouver. His fourth book, *100 Albums That Changed Popular Music*, was published earlier this year. In November 2006, he represented Canada at the World Ultimate Frisbee Championships in Perth, Australia.

1992

Shawn Atkins

In April, filmmaker Shawn Atkins was named a 2007 Guggenheim Fellow; the fellowship will support her work on *The Broken Teacup*, an adaptation of some of Franz Kafka's short stories. Atkins also runs The House of Frame by Frame Fierce, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to using animation as a form of artistic activism for at-risk youth.

Why are you drawn to animation as your mode of expression?

Animation is an amazingly elastic and generous medium, which awakens the landscape of my imagination, my dreams, and ultimately, my unconscious. In the creation of this landscape, animation doesn't limit me to a single art form. With animation, I can combine photos with paintings and drawings to tell stories, which teeter between real and imaginary worlds. In many of my films, the characters start out in the "real" world, and are quickly catapulted into a magic, imaginary world by the events of the narrative. Similar to fairy tales, the characters in my films must find their way back into the real, undergoing various challenges along the way which help them evolve and transform.

Do you have a typical method by which you work, or do you adapt to the project?

The germination of my films has been a strange, dreamlike process. Captivated by an image or a sequence of images, I will begin to work. This work takes multiple forms: research and writing, storyboarding, and simultaneously, the creation of images, whether characters or backgrounds. Although the films I've made are very different from one another, each film extends a thread which surfaced during the making of the previous films.

While making my second film, *The Travelling Eye of the Blue Cat*, I studied C.G. Jung's writings on the unconscious. One of Jung's characters in that film was a little monster—half Frankenstein, half Chaplin—that emerged from the main character's head in an effort to help her resolve the narrative. Jung wrote extensively on the internal division between the conscious and the unconscious psyche of individuals: how at a certain level people remain unknown to themselves and that this lifelong struggle to understand oneself births self-awareness. Jung's writings helped me develop the character of the psyche in my blue cat film.

However, Jung's influence didn't stop; his idea of a precarious balancing act between the known and unknown within the individual became the starting point for my Kafka project. At its foundation, this new project is an effort to understand how conflict is generated within an individual and what happens if this conflict is projected outward, rather than dealt with internally.

Although Travelling Eye is surrealistic, there are some autobiographical touches. Are you approaching the Kafka adaptations differently?

My films have all started out from an autobiographical point. *The Travelling Eye* began as an animated documentary about my two very jealous and mischievous cats. From there, the film traveled



into the realm of the imaginary, allowing me to explore a story of transformation—what Jung termed individuation, the evolving self-awareness of an individual. The two destructive cats

became helpers in the journey of the main character. I conceived the Kafka project in 2001 after the destruction of the World Trade Center, as an attempt to understand where the impulse for war originates in the human psyche. The stories I am adapting revolve around a character's interior struggle to grasp something that lies beyond one's comprehension, and the internal conflict that this incomprehension creates. Interestingly enough, Kafka wrote these particular stories during a period of great political turmoil and destruction—World War I. Based on my own experiences during Sept. 11, 2001, I understand them within a context of war and conflict, as the response of an artist to exterior destruction and nationalistic hatred.

How did you get started making films?

I grew up in a household devoted to film and theatre, immersed in the fantastical worlds artists could create through their imaginations. I played backstage in the university theatres where my parents taught, and was often onstage in children's roles. As early as I can remember, my parents encouraged me to express myself creatively.

I, however, didn't start to make films until graduate school. In high school and college, I wrote poetry and edited a literary magazine. When I moved to New York, I reached an impasse with written language and no longer felt able to express my experiences in words. At that point, I began to experiment with photography and painting. In graduate school, I took an animation class and realized that animation allowed me to combine photography and painting to create a type of visual poetry. I've been working in this medium ever since.

What's the most important thing you took away from your time at GS?

GS gave me so many important experiences; it's a challenge to pinpoint just one. Professor Ivan Sander's classes in Eastern and Central European literature showed me how art and politics intertwine to create absurd worlds which communicate in hermetic, hilarious, and oblique images. Professor Luciano Rebay's Italian poetry classes imbued me with a deep respect and love for the creation of stark and powerful poetic images. Also, the friends I made at GS later became my most important working colleagues. Nita T. Brown '93 helped me produce *The Travelling Eye of the Blue Cat* and later became one of the founding members of The House of Frame by Frame Fierce, Inc.

How has teaching affected your work?

In recent years, I've taught animation to children between the ages of five and nine. They have shown me repeatedly how powerful the impulse can be to express one's inner world through images. Their films literally burst with colors and strange, otherworldly characters. The children have a joy and fearlessness in creation, which I often draw upon in my own work.

To read the full interview with Shawn Atkins, visit www.alumni.gs.columbia.edu.

2001

SHANNA (ACKERMAN) HOCKING was recently promoted from director of advancement to director of leadership gifts at the University of Alabama School of Social Work.



EYTAN SCHWARTZ was profiled in the *Jerusalem Post* magazine for his work as an advocate for Sudanese refugees seeking asylum in Israel.

2002

Comedian **STEVE HOFSTETTER** organized and hosted a benefit comedy show for families of the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre. Eleven stand-up comedians performed at the event, which was held in Strasburg, Va., on May 2 and promoted primarily through the social-networking website Facebook. The event raised over \$3,000, and the Facebook group for the event included over 6,600 people.



FRANCISCO IRBY is a third-year medical student at Boston University School of Medicine completing a trauma surgery rotation.

GERALD JACKSON JR. was recently quoted in *MovieMaker*. Additionally, his script *A Florida Story* was a runner-up in the Filmmakers International Screenwriting Competition. He graduated with a master's in film production from Florida State University, and his production company, Five Alive Films, currently has several projects in development.



Cold Fusion Gelato, a Newport, R.I.-based eatery specializing in homemade artisan-style gelatos and sorbets run by **TORRANCE AND NOLA KOPFER**, was featured on the Food Network's *Giada's Weekend Getaways* in April.



ADRIANA LINS DE ALBUQUERQUE, a doctoral candidate in political science at Columbia, and Brooklyn graphic designer Alicia Cheng continued their *New York Times* series "31 Days in Iraq," a map and statistical analysis of the more than 1,900 military and civilian fatalities sustained in Iraq during January 2007.

LAURIE MANFRA was recently appointed editor of a new imprint at Princeton Architectural Press, *Materials Monthly*. She also works as a freelance journalist and has written for *Metropolitan Home*, *Architect*, *Metropolis*, *The Architect's Newspaper*, and *Contract*.



MEGAN O'GRADY GREENE works in planning management with Peace One Day, a non-profit organization devoted to Peace Day, observed annually on Sept. 21. Visit www.peaceoneday.org for more information.

CARLOS VAZQUEZ is a doctoral candidate at Brown University, studying 20th-century American literature with an emphasis on African-American, Anglo-American, and Nuyorican writers. He has been awarded the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship and a fellowship from the Jacob K. Javits Foundation. For the 2007-2008 academic year he is a graduate fellow at Brown's Pembroke Center for Research on Women. In October he will moderate a panel on cultural anthropology at the Ford Foundation's annual conference in Irvine, Calif.

2003

LARRY KOPP is the president of T.A.S.C. Group, a New York-based consulting firm, and the proud father of two children.



2004

VINNIE APICELLA launched his website, Vinnie's World (www.vinniesworld.com). The website contains writings on subjects as diverse as international real estate, the Dead Kennedys, and property listings. "The website is a combination of written content, images, and business/property promotion," he said. An editor at New Jersey's Quadrant HealthCom, Vinnie also recently published an e-book, *Discover China*, which offers assistance in traveling, living, doing business, and investing in China.



JULIE BROPHY gave birth to her second son Max Hudson in June.

WILLIAM GUYSER is the chairman and CEO of Good Morning Africa, a U.S.-based NGO dedicated to promoting high-growth social entrepreneurship in Africa. The organization, which offers socially conscious African companies long-term peer mentorship, executive consultants, and U.S. partnership opportunities, recently launched its pilot program in Ghana.

2005

KELLY ALBERTSON is in the midst of another mid-life career change. After graduating, Kelly worked as an administrative manager at a start-up real estate investment firm in Greenwich, Conn., having previously worked in technology management. But "academia continued to beckon," Kelly said, "so I decided to chuck it all (sell my house, quit my job, move out of state) to apply to the graduate program of my dreams." With the help of a full-tuition graduate assistantship and stipend, she is pursuing a dual master's program in nonprofit management and philanthropic studies at Indiana University.



LISA ARKIN (PBPM), a student at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, recently appeared in Penn's admissions literature.

CLAUDIA BARRERA is the proud owner of George, a Brussels Griffon puppy.

DOMINIQUE RUSSO recently earned an MBA at the MIT Sloan School of Management and joined the New York office of Booz Allen Hamilton as an associate.



2006

MATAN ARIEL launched a new series of children's CDs and DVDs, offering new versions of Jewish holiday songs and children's music. Visit www.matanarielandfriends.com for product information.



A poem by **ERICH ERVING**, "Dream of the Housecarpenter," will be appearing in the next issue of *Alehouse*. He showed his etchings in the Harlem Open Artist's Studio Tour in October and will be participating in the group show *Art! Actually! Painting, Drawing, Sculpture* at the Leslie/Lohman Gallery in SoHo from March 11 to April 12 (www.leslielohman.org).

ERICA JACKSON is an MFA student in writing at the California Institute of the Arts. Additionally, she was a finalist in the 2006 Photographer's Forum College Photo Contest.

JORDANA KRIZTER (PBPM) directed David Ives' *Time Flies and Others By Ives* at Manhattan's Laurie Beechman Theater. Cited by the *New York Times* for her "spirited production," Jordana is the Bohemian Archaeology theatre company's artistic director.

NINA MARANO is a student at BYU Law School in Provo, Utah. She also started Nina's Original NY Pizzeria and Juice Bar, which she plans to franchise within three to five years.

SVETOSLAV ROUSSANOV began his college education at the Academy of Economics in Bulgaria, but, dissatisfied with the lack of academic rigor, he applied for and won a Ministry of Education scholarship for study in China. He studied Mandarin at Beijing's Capital University of Economics and Business for a year before enrolling in the school's economics program, where classes were conducted entirely in Chinese. The school's instruction, however, offered a predominantly Marxist interpretation of economics, and Svetoslav left after three semesters to work in customer service for a global real-estate corporation. Despite his success, Svetoslav's intellectual ambitions, along with the SARS epidemic, led him to leave China in order to study in the

U.S. After a stint at a college in Oklahoma, Svetoslav transferred to GS and graduated with honors. He works in the London office of Lehman Brothers' capital markets division.

VINCENT SANTILLO (PBPM) was recently profiled as part of *New York Magazine's* "Survivor Monologues." After recovering from prostate cancer, Vincent, a former private equities trader, enrolled in the Postbac Program and is currently studying to become a urologist at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons.



In April, **ARIEL OSTERWEIS SCOTT** performed her dance-theater piece—titled "Re-Hump," as both she and her performance partner were seven months pregnant (her son Dashiell was born July 6)—as part of "Lab Run," a collection of experimental theater pieces written and directed by PhD students in Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies. This summer, she will be conducting ethnographic research on contemporary dance in Senegal.

ALMA STEINGART is a PhD student in MIT's History, Anthropology, Science, Technology, and Society program. She received a presidential fellowship for her first year of study.

Friends

After years researching blindness in Columbia's Eye Radiation Laboratory, **JOHN F. DOORISH** continues his work with his new start-up, Doorish Ophthalmic Technologies. The company is developing a series of prosthetic devices that will be inserted into the eye in order to stimulate retinal ganglion cells and restore the gift of sight. Additional information, including an in-depth description of how the devices work and details on investment opportunities, is available at www.doorishtech.com.

Former associate dean **ALAN D. ENTINE** was recently elected student body president of the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at the University of San Francisco. After receiving a PhD in economics from Columbia in 1963, Entine was an assistant professor in economics and a member of the GS administration from 1965-69. During his tenure, Entine expanded the premed program and administered the New Careers Program, an initiative funded by the Ford Foundation that helped mid-life individuals return to school.

He moved to SUNY-Stony Brook in 1969 when Dean Clarence Walton left GS to become the first lay president of Catholic University and spent the next 22 years in administrative assignment. After retiring in 1991 he became a seminar leader at Towers



1974

Bill Zavatsky

An admitted "self-inflicted casualty of the 1968 student uprising," poet Bill Zavatsky left GS shortly after the campus imploded, convinced he didn't need "the useless piece of paper called the college degree." After working for a few years as a journalist, he returned to Columbia and in 1974 received both a bachelor's degree from GS and an MFA in writing from the School of the Arts.

Zavatsky has remained productive in his life after Columbia, performing as a jazz pianist, teaching English at the Trinity School in Manhattan, and occasionally leading professional writing workshops. His most recent collection, *Where X Marks the Spot*, is now available from Hanging Loose Press.

With New York as the backdrop for much of his poetry, Zavatsky's intimate style offers a peek into everyday city life, from an encounter with a celebrity in "104 Bus Uptown" to the spot of the title poem, a Times Square parking lot where a relationship ended, to "Failure," which confronts the limitations of responding to the Sept. 11 attacks through poetry. In "My Uncle at the Wake," he returns to a familiar New York institution:

"What a school! What a world you've discovered, where people really cared about the mind! ... You could sense it in the bricks, on the library steps."

Throughout the book Zavatsky maintains a distinct authorial voice, even as individual poems range from melancholic to ecstatic. There is no hunt for buried treasure here; his work clearly marks the spot.

—Erich Erving



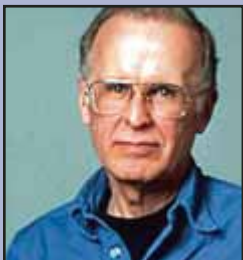
Perrin, an international human resources consulting firm where he designed and delivered retirement planning seminars.

After his wife passed away, he moved to San Francisco to be near his daughters and their families. He subsequently became very active in the Fromm Institute, which offers older adults a wide selection of eight-week courses taught by retired professors from universities nationwide. "We have our own endowment, campus building, and we are growing rapidly," he said. "GS was the first step of a wonderful career, and I have always benefited from teaching, assisting, and working with older students."

Two books by **PAUL GRENERT**, *Existential Exodus* and *Ashes of X-Girlfriends and Other Stories*, have been published by PublishAmerica. Paul lives in New Jersey with his wife Manuela and two cats, Lulu and Lux.



IN MEMORIAM



JOHN BACKUS '49

John Backus, who developed Fortran, the first significant high-level programming language, passed away in March 2007. After receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Backus worked at Columbia's IBM Watson Laboratory, where, in 1954, he designed Fortran to bypass the drudgery of programming. "Much of my work has

come from being lazy," he told the IBM employee magazine in 1979. Fortran has been modified several times over its more than 50-year history and remains widely used.

SONIA SLATIN-LEWIS '53

Sonia Slatin-Lewis passed away in July 2007. She studied at Juilliard before attending GS and earning a doctorate in music at GSAS. She later taught at Columbia, CUNY and Brooklyn College, specializing in Schenkerian analysis.



JUDITH LIPSEY '61

Judith Lipsey, a longtime supporter of the School of General Studies, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Miller Theatre, passed away in July 2007. An active member of the GS Dean's Advisory Council, the Friends Committee of GS, and the GSAS board, she played a key role in providing substantial financial support to

GS students for many years. Mrs. Lipsey and her late husband Merrill established three endowed scholarships at GS, as well as other funds to benefit the Arts & Sciences.



LILY WHEELWRIGHT '03 - '05

Actress Lily Wheelwright passed away in March 2007, days after her debut film *Orphans* received a Special Jury Award at the South by Southwest Film Festival. A screening of the film was held in her memory April 30 at New York's IFC Center.

TANYA HANLEY '07

Tanya Hanley passed away in June 2007. At a memorial service held in St. Paul's Chapel, GS Dean of Students Mary McGee said that Hanley worked toward being "a more effective advocate for the dispossessed and disadvantaged in our world. She envisioned a world when social justice will guide us all to act more responsibly."



JAMES BECK, faculty

Columbia art history professor James Beck passed away in May 2007. Beck trained as a painter and sculptor before completing his doctorate in art history, specializing in the Italian Renaissance. The author of 13 books, Beck is best known for his criticism of the conservation methods used to restore the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and Leonardo

Da Vinci's "The Last Supper." He received the School of General Studies Distinguished Teacher Award in 1984.

New Grad NOTES 2007

After graduating in May with a degree in art history, **ELISE TRUCKS** spent the first months of the summer continuing her research interests in New York before joining the Allman Brothers Band as an assistant tour manager in August. In September, she began studying for a master's in the history of art at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London with Professor Mignon Nixon.



This summer, **EDOE COHEN** studied conservation biology in the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest and traveled around South America. In the fall, he began working as a Legacy Heritage Fellow in the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center in Herzliya, Israel, managing projects and assisting in research. Additionally, he has continued to develop Café Nana, the Middle-Eastern café located in the Columbia/Barnard Hillel, which he helped to create as a student in the GS-JTS joint program. In addition, he will be serving as a reserve infantry officer in the Israeli Defense Forces.



ROBERT CALDWELL matriculated at GS the same week his son Bobby began classes as a freshman at Loyola University in New Orleans. In the early 1970s, Caldwell left Fordham University to work full-time in his family's furniture business on Canal Street. After successfully running that business for years, he embarked on a career in finance and sales, working for companies such as Shearson Lehman Brothers, Dow Jones & Company, and Standard & Poor's. When it came time for his son Bobby to consider college, he advised him about the value of a liberal-arts education and encouraged him to stay intellectually curious, following his passions rather than focusing on coursework geared toward a specific career. In the midst of counseling his son, Caldwell realized he was engineering his own plan for resuming his educational journey. Caldwell, a member of the GS Honor Society, graduated with a major in art history & archaeology.



BRIDGET POTTER'S decision to get her college degree came during a transitional period in her life: she was divorced, her youngest daughter had just gone off to college, and she found herself unable to focus on her work as an executive and producer in the television industry, where she'd worked since the age of

16. Burned out, she decided to make a list of the things she'd always regretted, with not going to college topping the list. She soon enrolled at GS and



fully immersed herself in undergraduate life—even attending her Columbia College friends' parties. A cultural anthropology major, she is currently a student in the MFA program in nonfiction writing at Columbia's School of the Arts.

Former advertising copywriter **LILIANA REYES** was born in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, where she lived with her family until being forced to immigrate to safety in the United States shortly after the 1979 Sandinista revolution. Although she found creating television commercials for Nabisco and radio spots for Alamo Rent-A-Car enjoyable, her true passion for writing was rooted in fiction, and she began to compose a novel reflecting the experiences of Nicaraguans living in the United States. Background research for the project, which included returning to her homeland after almost 20 years, prompted Reyes to read her native country's literature and mythology, study its history, and eventually apply to the School of General Studies. While majoring in history and comparative literature and society, Reyes wrote one thesis based on research she conducted at Reid Hall in Paris and another about the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua. Reyes is a PhD student at Princeton University where she continues to investigate the history of her native Nicaragua.

Two weeks after graduating, and just a few days after taking the GRE, **NICOLE ROBERTSON** gave birth to her second child, Sofia Adriana.



Growing up in a poverty-stricken section of Miami, **EMILIO RODRIGUEZ** had few options, and those were limited even further when, at fifteen, he dropped out of school, was kicked out of his father's house, joined a gang, and began to abuse alcohol and drugs. After a year-long stint in the gang, Emilio began to turn his life around and eventually graduated from high school and attended Miami-Dade College, where he excelled academically, held leadership positions in several on-campus organizations, and was personally honored by President George W. Bush. As a Program for Academic Leadership and Service scholar at the School of General Studies, Emilio reached out to inner-city high school students, interned at Lehman Brothers, and completed his degree in economics-political science.



"*A Morning After*," a play by **MARK E. ROSENTHAL**, has been selected from more than 1,200 entries as a finalist for the 2007 Heideman Award.

Bestowed by the Actors Theatre of Louisville as part of the Humana Festival of New American Plays, the Heideman Award, which includes a \$1000 prize, is given annually to the winner of the Festival's National 10-Minute Play Contest. Last spring, Mark was the first GS student to serve as a member of the principal cast in the Varsity Show.

At age 17, **STEPHANIE SMITH** moved from Louisiana to New York to pursue a career as a professional fashion model. After nearly a decade in the business, she enrolled at GS to



study environmental biology. In fall 2004, she was nominated as a member of the Earth Institute's Student Advisory Committee, focused particularly on sustainable development. She interned at the Bronx Zoo's Wildlife Health Center and spent last summer in Florida working with rehabilitated manatees as part of her senior thesis. She is attending the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and plans to specialize in wildlife medicine. Additionally, Stephanie is a member of the GS Honor Society, an honor bestowed on less than 5 percent of the GS student body.

Born in Brazil to Israeli parents and raised in Israel and the United States, **ZOHAR TIROSH** is a playwright and activist, with



much of her work focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the hope for peace in the Middle East. Already an accomplished playwright

and actress before coming to Columbia, Zohar graduated from Circle in the Square Theater School and has written, performed, and directed in New York, Tel Aviv, and Berlin. Her most recent play, the senior thesis for her degree in literature-writing, *This Bloody Mess*, was selected for a development workshop at the Lincoln Center Theater in May 2007. She will be performing her one-woman show, *Pieces*, at Boston's New Repertory Theatre in spring 2008. She is also working on a screen adaptation of *Pieces* with Shira-Lee Shalit, '98 Arts. Zohar has received a Foundation for Jewish Culture grant and the Hermen Ziegner Excellence in Writing Award at Columbia University.

Events CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

28, THURSDAY

Strategic Intuition: How Aha! Really Happens
The Waters Edge at Giovanni's II
2748 Post Road
Darien, CT

6:15-9:30 p.m.

Speaker: Professor William Duggan, Columbia Business School

Sponsors: Columbia Alumni Association & Columbia University Club of Fairfield County
Professor William Duggan will speak about processing flashes of insight and how to use this insight in business or in life.

MARCH

1, SATURDAY

Ninth Annual GS Gala

Low Rotunda, Low Memorial Library

9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Sponsors: Columbia Alumni Association & General Studies Student Council

Dessert, coffee, and cocktails will be served while you dance the night away with GS students, alumni, and friends. Tickets are available at <https://www.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/31101>.

2, SUNDAY

Flying to the Edge of Space and Time

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
1071 5th Avenue (at 89th Street)

New York, NY

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Speaker: Professor David Helfand, Columbia University Department of Astronomy

Sponsor: Columbia Alumni Association

Light particles from the depths of space tell us how the history of the universe began and most likely how it ends. Professor David Helfand provides a visual journey through the galaxies, revealing both our knowledge and our ignorance.

4, TUESDAY

Reception and Lecture: Cross-Currents in Islam – How Conflicting Religious Ideologies Shape Political Crises in the Middle East

Columbia University Club of New York

15 West 43rd St.

New York, NY

6:30-8 p.m.

Speaker: GS Dean & Professor Peter J. Awn

Sponsors: Columbia Club of New York & Columbia Alumni Association

Peter J. Awn, GS Dean, will discuss and field questions about the role of religion in the politics of the Islamic world. Reservations are required. For reservations, please call (212) 596-1261, or email events@princetonclub.com.

5, WEDNESDAY

March Happy Hour in Northern New Jersey
restaurant.mc

57 Main Street

Millburn, NJ

5:30-7 p.m.

Sponsor: Columbia Alumni Association

27, THURSDAY

2008 GS Honor Society Induction

Faculty Room, Low Memorial Library

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Keynote Address: Lawrence Kopp '03

29, SATURDAY

El Regresso: Latino Alumni Homecoming

Low Rotunda, Low Memorial Library

6-11 p.m.

Sponsors: Columbia Alumni Association & Latino Alumni Association of Columbia University

This annual awards dinner and celebration will commemorate the diversity and achievements of Latino alumni.

Columbia Community Outreach Day - National and International

New York City and other participating cities

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sponsor: Columbia Alumni Association & Columbia Community Outreach

Columbia Community Outreach Day is a student-run undergraduate service day designed to promote community service on campus and raise awareness for volunteerism.

APRIL

12, SATURDAY

GS Dean's Day

Faculty Room, Low Memorial Library

10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

The Columbia community is invited to informative discussions with faculty members.

17, THURSDAY

Faculty Speakers Program

Northern New Jersey

Time: TBA

Speaker: Professor Andrew Nathan, Department of History

Sponsors: Columbia Alumni Association & Alumni Club of Northern New Jersey.

MAY

16, FRIDAY

Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program Certificate

Ceremony

Location: TBA

5-6:30 p.m.

Join GS as it celebrates the newest class of Postbac alumni.

19, MONDAY

GS Class Day and Anniversary Classes Reunion

South Lawn, Morningside Campus

5-6:30 p.m.

All alumni are encouraged to come and celebrate the Class of 2008. A special program will commemorate alumni celebrating reunions.

21, WEDNESDAY

Columbia University's 254th Commencement

Low Plaza, Morningside Campus

10:30 a.m.

ONGOING SERIES

SUNDAYS

Columbia Literary Society

606 Lewisohn Hall, 6th Floor

4-5:45 p.m., \$5.00 donation

Sponsors: GS Alumni Association & Columbia Alumni Association

The CLS meets monthly in Lewisohn Hall to hold intellectually stimulating discussion on relevant literary works. For more information, email TheLeoSchmidt@msn.com. Refreshments served.

February 24

The Shadow Line by Joseph Conrad

March 30

The Bell by Iris Murdoch

April 27

Honorary Consul by Graham Greene

May 18

The Sorrows of Young Werther by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Columbia Alumni Arts League (CAAL)

The Arts Initiative at Columbia University was created in 2004 by President Bollinger to reinvent the role of the arts in the university, and the university's role in the arts. This effort now spans the campus, unconstrained by venue, department, field, or program, and reaches out into a diverse international culture. CAAL plays a vital role to share this resource with alumni. For more information, visit www.cuarts.com/membership.

Wednesday, March 19 The Armory Show, The International Fair of New Art

Thursday, March 27 *Fuerzabruta*, a musical

Friday, April 25 *Tap Meets Flamenco*, The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

Alumni Travel Study Program

The Alumni Travel Study Program allows Columbia alumni to combine learning and pleasure through domestic and international travel. The travel-study experience is often enriched by the participation of Columbia faculty members. For more information on trips, visit http://alumni.columbia.edu/attend/s4_1.html.

March 7-21

Wings over the Nile with Dr. Richard Seager

March 26-April 9

Springtime in Japan

March 26-April 17

Around the World by Private Jet with Dr. Lisa Anderson

April 19-27

Village Life in Tuscany

April 23-May 1

Cruising the Canary Islands, Madeira, Gibraltar and the Algarve with Dr. Wadda Riós-Font

May 2-10

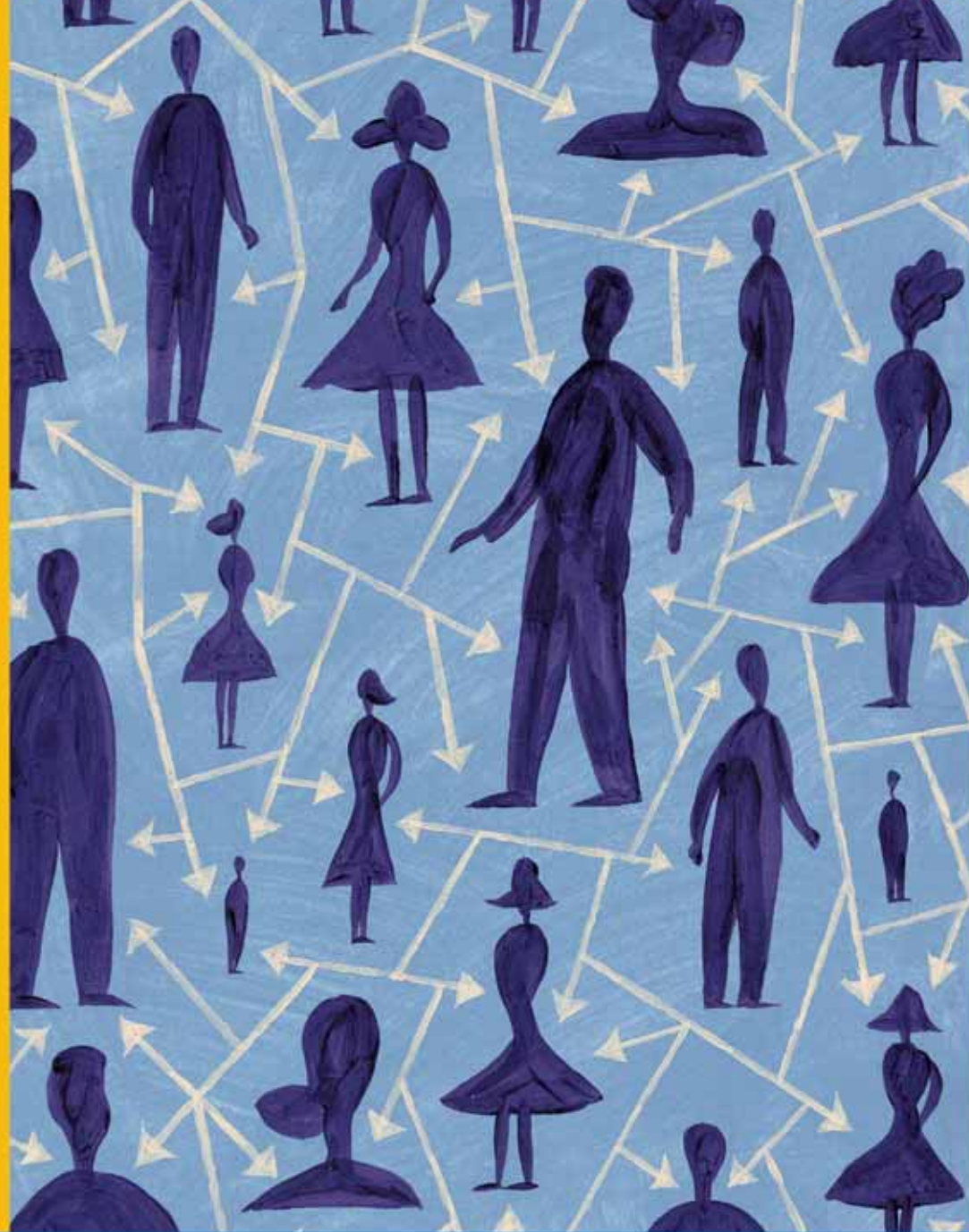
Waterways of Holland and Belgium with Dr. Evan Haefeli

May 9-21

Western Mediterranean Islands with Dr. Alan Cameron

May 22-June 1

Danube River and the Habsburg Empire with Dr. Walter Frisch



**Get
Networked!**
alumni.columbia.edu

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Make an impact.

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