

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

COLUMBIA

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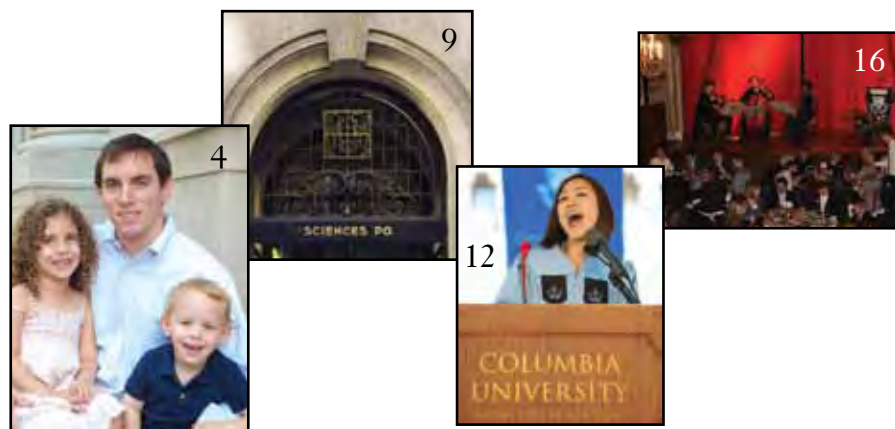
OWL



Rethinking
Premedical
Education

2010

Table of CONTENTS



FEATURES

Rethinking Premedical Education

4 The roots of the Columbia University Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program extend to the early 1900s when Columbia first began offering premedical classes to students who were not enrolled as undergraduates. A century later, as American medicine undergoes a sea change, the Postbac Program asks how premedical curricula can best serve future doctors and their patients.

GS Launches New Dual-BA Program

9 This fall, a small group of undergraduates from the French university Sciences Po will arrive at GS to complete their educations in the United States. They won't be earning one degree, however, but two; and the program they'll be inaugurating is no simple student exchange or year abroad.

Alumni from Class Years ending in 0s and 5s Return to Campus

10 The General Studies alumni community comes together, along with fellow alumni from Columbia College, the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Barnard College for a second fully integrated, four-school Reunion weekend.

Alumnus Spotlight: Joel D. Newman '76

11 GS/JTS alumnus Joel D. Newman discusses his journey from the pulpit to the barracks.

Meet Karen Sandler

30 Karen Sandler '94CC, the new Executive Director for Alumni Relations, brings her passion for Columbia to GS.

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 9 On Campus | 14 Postbac Premed | 25 In Memoriam |
| 10 Community News | Class Day Gallery | 26 New Grad Notes |
| 11 GS Alumnus Spotlight | 16 Annual Giving | 28 Community News |
| 12 Class Day Gallery | 20 Alumni Notes | 30 Events Calendar |



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THE OWL IS DESIGNED BY
DIVISION CREATIVE GROUP
NEW YORK, NY

THE OWL IS PRINTED BY
THE FOUNDRY
ALEXANDRIA, VA

Letter from the Dean



In September 2009 GS led the celebration of the inauguration of Columbia University's participation in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, part of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. In the fall of 2010, only the second year that the new GI Bill has been in effect, GS will welcome 70 U.S. military veterans into the Columbia undergraduate community, a 268 percent increase over the 19 who enrolled in the fall of 2008. Additionally, we expect another 30-40 veterans to enroll in spring 2011. As many of you know, GS was founded partially in response to the influx of soldiers returning from WWII who sought educational opportunities under the original GI Bill. The initiatives of the last two years coupled with the remarkable response by veterans connect GS to its past and further solidify GS as the undergraduate college with the largest population of student-veterans in the Ivy League—a story that has been covered by news outlets like *The New York Times*, Fox News, and BBC News.

Our participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program is one example of how GS remains at the forefront of higher education by providing innovative opportunities to the most talented and diverse group of nontraditional students. In this issue of *The Owl*, I am pleased to announce that in September 2010 we are inaugurating a new program with the distinguished French university Sciences Po. Like our existing Joint Program with Albert A. List College of The Jewish Theological Seminary, students in the Columbia GS-Sciences Po program will earn two BA degrees: one from Sciences Po and one from Columbia. The new program significantly advances Columbia's commitment to expanding its position as a global university—and marks GS's unique role in this initiative through this pioneering collaboration.

The cover story of this issue celebrates another ground-breaking GS academic endeavor, the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program. As the oldest and largest program of its kind in the country—one that is armed with the engagement of alumni like Judith Tenenbaum who with her husband recently established an endowed scholarship supporting currently enrolled students—the Postbac Program is well positioned to have an increasingly important impact on the medical profession and medical education. Furthermore, Postbac students and alumni, with their diverse backgrounds and intellectual breadth, are well-equipped to participate in the current discussions and debates that will transform the future of health care.

Having celebrated with many of you the inauguration of the Yellow Ribbon Program last September and at our second, fully integrated, four-school undergraduate reunion weekend in June, I am inspired by the quality of our alumni and what they have accomplished. Looking forward to this fall, I am further inspired knowing that we will welcome to Columbia one of the largest and most selective classes ever to matriculate at GS, including the first group of students from Sciences Po.

I hope that you enjoy the 2010 issue of *The Owl*, and I thank you for your continued support as we work to further augment this unique and distinctive center for innovative education.

With warmest regards,

Peter J. Awn

RETHINKING PREMEDICAL EDUCATION

BY ALEXANDER GELFAND
ILLUSTRATION BY LUCI GUTIÉRREZ

Not long ago, Reuven Cohen was a health care analyst at SAC Capital, a hedge fund with \$14 billion in assets. His job, which involved investing in biotech companies, was interesting, well remunerated—and, ultimately, unsatisfying.

“I was attending conferences and spending my days talking to doctors about the various drugs and medical devices they used, but it was all purely intellectual,” Cohen says. “There were no tangible results aside from making money. I wanted to leave a more positive, lasting result.”

When Cohen became a father—he has a daughter, now five, a son, two, and a newborn—his desire to find a career that would both satisfy his intellectual curiosity and allow him to help others became more acute.

“It may sound hokey, but having children really did change my perspective on what was important to me,” he says. “I wanted some integrity in what I was doing. There wasn’t enough spin in the world to make it seem like I was helping anyone but myself.”

Cohen’s growing desire to make a difference eventually led him, as it has so many aspiring physicians, to the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program in the School of General Studies.

Now in its 55th year, the program is the oldest and largest of its kind in the United States. Generations of graduates have used it

to launch careers as doctors. (90 percent are admitted upon first application to medical school, while a small number choose instead to become dentists, veterinarians, osteopaths, and allied health professionals.) And now more than ever—as American medicine undergoes a sea change, and experts debate the very nature of medical training—those graduates are poised to make a powerful contribution to American health care and to the communities they will one day serve.

The roots of the Postbac Premed Program extend to the early 1900s, when Columbia first began offering premedical classes to students who were not enrolled as undergraduates. In 1955, the University established the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program within General Studies for the express purpose of providing all of the prerequisites for admission to medical school.

Today, the 550 students enrolled in the program are fully integrated into the Columbia community. They take the same classes, with the same faculty, as the traditional undergraduates who sit alongside them; yet the paths they have taken to premedical studies remain as varied as they are uncommon. Many already hold degrees from the finest colleges and universities in the country, albeit without the scientific background required for medical school. And they often arrive fresh from substantial careers in other fields, from music and dance to journalism and finance, bringing with them considerable prior knowledge and life experience.

The requirements for medical school admission have gone largely unchanged since 1905—despite revolutionary changes in the life sciences and mounting evidence that many of the qualities and characteristics that we associate with good doctoring are neither taught nor assessed within the current system.

“I’m impressed and, I must confess, humbled by what they’ve done, never mind what they will do,” says Andrew Sunshine, director of the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program. “Many of them have made significant sacrifices to be here. Many were doing well on Wall Street or in other professions, and in deciding to come here, their standard of living may plummet.”

That pretty much sums up the experience of Reuven Cohen. Though he worked and saved for six years, the \$60,000 Cohen estimates he will rack up in tuition and associated costs by the time he completes the accelerated program—cramming two years of coursework into just 18 months—is nothing to laugh at, particularly when you live in Manhattan, study full-time, and have three small children at home. “It took me a year to build up the courage to leave Wall Street and return to school, and making my wife and kids sacrifice for me to go to this program gave me pause,” he says. At the same time, there’s nowhere he’d rather be, and nothing else he’d rather be doing.

Such stories are common among GS students, and Postbac Premed enrollees are no exception. “Many have really had to work in order to be able to undertake this degree,” says Victoria Rosner, coordinator of academic affairs for GS and associate dean of the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program. “They understand it to be a transformative experience.”



That was certainly the case for Dr. Judy Tanenbaum. When she enrolled in 1982, classes were held in the evenings. So Tanenbaum, who was ineligible for student loans, but held an MS in child health from the University of Colorado Health Science Center, spent her days working as a physician’s assistant in Queens public schools, and her nights hitting the books. “Postbacs on the whole are deeply committed to their studies here because many are paying out of pocket,” Sunshine says. “They’re footing the bill, and with that goes a commitment to making it work.”

Tanenbaum’s day job didn’t cover her expenses; but having decided to become a doctor, she was determined to complete “the best program possible.” So her mother, who had already quit college to send Tanenbaum’s father to law school, sacrificed yet again to send her daughter to Columbia.

Today, Tanenbaum is an assistant attending psychiatrist at New York Presbyterian Hospital and a clinical instructor in psychiatry at Weill-Cornell Medical College.

Photo Credit: David Wentworth/Columbia University. All others: Eileen Barroso/Columbia University

“I do not want to be simply a recipient of decisions coming from elsewhere. I want to be part of the conversation.”

And while the Postbac Program wasn't easy, Tanenbaum firmly believes that it gave her the preparation and support she needed to go from being a physician's assistant to being a physician. “It's incredibly competitive, it's time-consuming—but so is becoming a doctor,” Tanenbaum says. “There were hardships, but the professors and the head of the program were incredibly supportive. I credit them with helping launch my career.”

In return, Tanenbaum recently gave \$100,000 to establish an endowed scholarship in her mother's honor. By substantially adding to the \$70,000 or so in scholarships that are currently available, Tanenbaum's gift will help expand access to the program, rendering it even more inclusive and diverse. And while that is in keeping with the overall philosophy of the University—“diversity is a Columbia tradition,” says Peter Awn, dean of the School of General Studies, “and it brings a range of experience that is salutary”—it is also extremely timely. The question of how to increase the number of underrepresented groups entering the medical profession has received considerable attention of late, in part because it has implications for both the types and the numbers of people who will be able to practice medicine in the 21st century—issues that will only grow more

pressing with time.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), for example, predicts that the nation will face a shortage of 150,000 doctors by 2020—a shortage that will be spurred both by an aging population of baby boomers saddled with chronic diseases, and by the newly enacted federal health care law, which extends insurance coverage to an additional 32 million people. The most acute shortfall will occur among primary care physicians: the very same general practitioners, internists, and pediatricians to whom the new law grants even greater responsibility for coordinating patient care, and who are already underpaid in comparison with their specialist colleagues.

High educational costs, added responsibility, lower pay: this is not a recipe for increasing the supply of a much-needed class of professional, or of attracting already disadvantaged groups to its ranks. In the words of Dr. Howard Dean, Postbac Premed '75, former governor of Vermont and former chairman of the Democratic National Convention, “Unless doctors graduate without debt, they won't be able to go into primary care.” Finding ways of expanding access to medical training while containing student debt won't entirely solve the problem, but it would certainly help.



I want the faculty and the community at Columbia to be part of the conversation.” – Dean Peter J. Awn

Still, giving as many students as possible the opportunity to become highly trained caregivers is one thing. Determining how best to prepare them for their future roles is another. And that, too, has become a hot topic.

According to Dr. Donald Barr, an internist and sociologist at Stanford University who researches premedical education, the requirements for medical school admission have gone largely unchanged since 1905—despite revolutionary changes in the life sciences and mounting evidence that many of the qualities and characteristics that we associate with good doctoring are neither taught nor assessed within the current system.

In an effort to address this problem, the AAMC recently published a report recommending that premedical programs move away from the prescribed diet of chemistry, biology, and physics, and toward a more flexible curriculum that focuses on inculcating the habits of research and analysis upon which physicians must increasingly rely throughout their careers. These “competencies,” as the AAMC calls them, would hopefully equip future doctors to wrap their minds around everything from the latest breakthroughs in molecular biology to the ethical conundrums associated with genetic testing and end-of-life care.

Yet the question of how premedical and medical school curricula should be modernized is enormously complex, and unlikely to be answered any time soon—especially when the pros and cons of any changes will have to be carefully weighed in light of many competing interests and concerns.

“Physics and calculus are not, in general, relevant to medicine,” Dean '75 says, by way of illustration. “On the other hand, I think that doctors should have a general understanding of how the world works, and your scientific training isn't complete without some understanding of physics.”

Coming to a consensus won't be easy. But no matter where the process leads, Awn wants to make sure that Columbia plays a role in it. “I do not want to be simply a recipient of decisions coming from elsewhere,” he says. “I want to be part of the conversation. I want the faculty and the community at Columbia to be part of the conversation.” And the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program may be uniquely suited to leading, never mind participating in, the emerging debate over the future of premedical education.

On the one hand, the program is justly famous for the rigor of its science curriculum. “The professors here go above and beyond anything I learned in my undergraduate



Howard Dean



Jonathan Friedman



Kayla, Judith, and William Tanenbaum

classes,” says Jonathan Friedman, who came to Columbia with a degree in psychology. “That’s why I’m pretty much in the library 10 hours a day.”

Yet the program is far more than an MCAT preparation mill; and the breadth of its offerings, coupled with the rich and varied backgrounds of its students, make it an ideal place to test assumptions and hypotheses about how best to prepare future health care providers.

For one thing, all students are required to complete 120 hours of work in a clinical or research setting. And this being New York City—home to the largest municipal hospital system in the country, and to many of its leading teaching and specialty hospitals, as well—the opportunities for top-flight placements are pretty much limitless. “One of the great things about the program is that a lot of different doctors and agencies around the city know about it,” Friedman says. “So every week, the office gets flooded with hundreds of emails asking for students who might be available.”

Friedman briefly worked in finance, but decided to pursue a career in medicine after volunteering at La Rabida Children’s Hospital in Chicago and Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. “I played with sick children, taught them how to read,” he says. “I really enjoyed it—the medical setting, working with kids. I decided it was time to become a doctor.” He’d like to continue working with children, and given his background in psychology, pediatric neurology seems especially attractive. So this past year, he volunteered 30 hours a week in a cognitive neuropsychology lab here at Columbia. Cohen, meanwhile, did stem cell research with a cardiologist at Mount Sinai Hospital. Both say that they gained a perspective on the practice of medicine that they could not have gained through coursework alone.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in innovative colloquia like “Reading the Body,” which presents narrative descriptions of the experiences of doctors and patients, and examines literary and cultural representations of illness and medicine. This kind of interdisciplinary work, otherwise known as “medical humanities,” has become an important part of many premedical and medical programs. And while it might be tempting to regard it as simply icing on the cake, or as a less-than-critical complement to purely scientific training, that would be a mistake.

“There is evidence that those who are strongest in the humanities make the best doctors, so long as they’re also strong in science,” says Barr, who points out that

“Doctors are scientists, and they should be scientifically trained, but a liberal education is essential. A doctor is not a mechanic. Doctors are often looked upon as leaders in their communities, and a wider education, where you have to know something about your culture and your history, is essential to be a leader.”

— Gov. Howard
Dean ’75

there is a “significant correlation” between students’ scores on the verbal reasoning portion of the MCAT, and their scores on the final stage (“Step 3”) of the U. S. Medical Licensing Exam.

This is not a new argument, though it is sometimes forgotten amidst the pressure to meet the narrow curricular requirements of medical school. As early as 1914, Abbott Lawrence Lowell, then president of Harvard University, made an impassioned and well-supported case for liberal education as the

best foundation for a medical career. So when Awn contends that “a broad-based liberal education cannot but help improve your performance as a physician,” he isn’t just giving props to the many Postbac Premed students who come to the program with precisely such an education in hand. He is championing a philosophy that is as old as premedical training itself.

“Doctors are scientists, and they should be scientifically trained, but a liberal education is essential,” says Dean, who graduated from Yale in 1971 with a BA in political science and worked as an investment banker before deciding to become a physician. (He continued to practice as an internist in Shelburne, Vt. until becoming governor of the state in 1991.) “A doctor is not a mechanic. Doctors are often looked upon as leaders in their communities, and a wider education, where you have to know something about your culture and your history, is essential to be a leader.”

But how do we as a society ensure that doctors receive not only the scientific training but also the liberal education that their jobs demand? How do we best prepare them to cope with the changing nature of scientific knowledge, and of American health care? How do we guarantee that we will have the number of doctors—and the kinds of doctors—that we will need in future? And how do we make certain that gifted and dedicated students can get premedical and medical training, regardless of financial need?

These are big, complex questions, and not ones to which definitive answers will be found anytime soon. But they are ones that the administration and faculty of the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program are tackling head on, so that students like Cohen and Friedman will be prepared for whatever the future might hold—just as Tanenbaum, Dean, and thousands of others were before them. And they are also questions that Postbac Premed students may themselves be unusually well prepared to address.

“This is a time for creative and flexible outlooks,” says Rosner. “Postbac students have not had a straight trajectory to reach their premedical educations, and I think that they will be well-equipped to participate in these debates, and in the changes to the health care system.”

Cohen, for one, doesn’t doubt for a moment his decision to pursue a career with meaning and purpose—no matter how challenging it has been, or may continue to be.

“Now that I have invested the time and effort,” he says, “I feel even more committed.” ☞

GS ON CAMPUS

GS Launches New Dual-Degree Program with Sciences Po

BY ALEXANDER GELFAND

This fall, a small group of undergraduates from the French university Sciences Po will arrive at the School of General Studies to complete their educations in the United States. They won’t be earning one degree, however, but two; and the program they’ll be inaugurating is no simple student exchange or year abroad.

Students will spend two years at Sciences Po, one of a handful of grandes écoles that have traditionally trained France’s political and diplomatic elite, followed by two years at Columbia. By the time they’re done, they will have earned undergraduate degrees from both universities.

“Two great institutions of higher learning will share something at the core of higher education: the undergraduate experience,” Francis Verillaud, vice president for international affairs at Sciences Po says. “This will create a corps of students that will share the two institutions’ values.”

Through their joint participation in the Alliance Program, a Franco-American educational consortium that also includes the École Polytechnique and the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Columbia and Sciences Po already offer a number of dual-degree programs at the graduate level. The new program, known officially as the Dual BA Program Between Columbia University and Sciences Po, is a different animal, however—one that will significantly advance Columbia’s commitment to expanding its position as a global university.

“Columbia has always had a very international student body at the graduate level,” says University Provost Claude Steele, who will travel to Reims to inaugurate the new program in September. “In its 2009 report, the Task Force on Undergraduate Education recommended that similar attention be given to internationalizing the educational experience of undergraduates, including increasing the number of international students who study at Columbia for an undergraduate degree. This new program, which will bring students from Europe and around the world to study with students already at

Columbia, could well serve as a model for other institutions.”

During the pilot phase of the program, a select group of students who hail from France, Norway, Brazil, and Germany and have already spent two years at Sciences Po will come to Columbia to complete the curriculum of the School of General Studies. At the same time, Columbia and Sciences Po will begin jointly recruiting and admitting high school students from Europe, North America, Asia, and elsewhere. These entering freshmen will begin the program at one of the three Sciences Po campuses that offer instruction in English.

Each of these campuses has a distinct international focus, and draws students from different regions of the world. Reims concentrates on transatlantic relations; Menton on the Middle East and Mediterranean; and Le Havre on Europe and Asia. “Sciences Po is an archetypical French institution, but also a global one,” Vanessa Scherrer, director of the existing Alliance Program and visiting professor at the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs says.

Two years later, those students will ma-

triculate at Columbia to complete their dual degrees. When the program reaches full capacity, there will be 60 students in New York and 60 in France at any given time. “We will really be getting cohorts of students who will fully participate in the life of both institutions,” Peter Awn, dean of the School of General Studies says.

By bringing together students from around the globe and having them study full time for two years at a world-class European university before bringing them to a world-class American one, the new program will expose participants to a wide range of languages, cultures, and experiences. The ensuing cross-fertilization of attitudes and perspectives will make “an immense contribution to the intellectual conversation in the Columbia classroom,” Awn says.

Verillaud envisions the same benefits for Sciences Po, which places a similar emphasis on internationalizing its student body and on preparing its graduates to deal with the complex global challenges of the 21st century.

“Together, we can accomplish even more than we could alone,” he says. “In this case, one plus one makes more than two.” ☞



GS Celebrates Reunion and Dean's Day 2010


Nearly 100 alumni and guests from the School of General Studies graduating classes ending in 0s and 5s, as well as members of the larger General Studies alumni community, participated in 2010 Reunion and Dean's Day during the weekend of June 4-6. Alumni traveled from as far away as Turkey and as near as 100th and Broadway to return to their alma mater. Two groups boasted the highest attendance: the class of 1950 and alumni from recent graduating classes.

In this second, fully integrated, four-school undergraduate reunion event, the weekend offered an opportunity for the General Studies alumni community to come together, as well as meet and greet fellow alumni from Columbia College, the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Barnard College.

Aubrey Escoffery '50, who was accompanied by his wife, shared his GS memorabilia including his yearbook, commencement program, and Class of 1950 Senior Prom keepsake book with Columbi-ans from every class year.

The Dean's Day Lunch, held on Saturday, June 5 in the newly renovated Faculty House, hosted alumni as well as University faculty and administrators, including Executive Vice President for University Development and Alumni Relations Susan K. Feagin '74, Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks, Dean of Career Services Kavita Sharma, and Dean of the School of General Studies Peter J. Awn.

Reunion Committee Chair Adam Casdin '95 welcomed guests and acknowledged the University officials who attended the lunch. Feagin, Dirks, and Awn all spoke about the importance of the School of General Studies as part of the greater Columbia community, reminding alumni that for over 20 years GS undergraduates have sat in the same classes with the same faculty as all other Columbia University undergraduates and that in recent years the GS academic curriculum has been reorganized to be virtually identical to that of Columbia College, guaranteeing all GS students a true Columbia education. These curricular changes, Awn reported, mean great things for GS and Columbia: "Thus far, applications for Fall 2010 are 60 percent ahead of last year's numbers, and applications to the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program are also ahead of this time last year."

Awn said, "75 percent of college students around the country look more like GS students than traditionally aged undergraduates, and because no other school of Columbia's caliber has been able to capture such a large pool of talented, intellectually mature students in the way that GS has, Columbia remains a distinct leader in higher education for adults and returning students." 



1. Howard Lipan '66 looks at Aubrey Escoffery's memorabilia from his time as a Columbia student.
2. Alumni enjoyed having their photo taken after a day of events.
3. Amei Wallach '65, Dean Peter J. Awn, Jonathan Levin '50, Nancy Schaefer '50, Caroline Wueschner '71, Howard Lipan '66, Aubrey Escoffery '50, and Jules Wertbeimer '50
4. Dean Awn addresses alumni at the Dean's Day Lunch held in the newly renovated Faculty House.



Save the Date!
Reunion Weekend 2011
June 3-5, 2011

Joel D. Newman '76 GS/JTS The U.S. Navy's Senior Rabbi to the Marine Corps

BY ROBERT AST

In 2008, Commander Joel Newman GS/JTS '76 learned that he had been selected to receive an honorary doctorate from The Jewish Theological Seminary. The only hitch was that at the time of the ceremony Newman, a chaplain for the U.S. Navy, would be with Marine Corps troops in Iraq, the latest in a series of deployments that includes stints in Somalia, Ecuador, Japan, the Arabian Gulf, and Afghanistan.

Even before joining the military, Rabbi Newman was well-traveled. As a student in the Joint Program he spent a year studying abroad at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and later completed his rabbinical training at the Leo Baeck College in London.

Following his ordination he returned to the United States and led congregations in St. Paul, Minn., and Denver, each for six years. Ultimately, however, he wanted to find a different way to minister.

"When you're on a pulpit, you don't have young people coming to you with issues and problems," Newman said. "If they come to talk to you about marriage, they're discussing how to use your facility at the wedding, where to put the flowers, and so on. By contrast, the stuff that I've done for the last 20 years now is really life and death."

After spending a year in the Naval Reserves, Newman opted to go on active duty and, shortly thereafter, received his first deployment. "I got the call on my anniversary," he recalled. "We're flying you out to Mogadishu for Chanukah."

Chaplains live, work, and travel alongside regular military personnel, and even undergoing basic training, although they are prohibited from carrying a weapon by the Geneva Convention.

"There's no valet service," Newman said. "You have to jump off the helicopter and then walk a mile or two carrying all your equipment to the check-in point. It's one thing to do it when you're in your twenties, but I'll turn 58 this year. You have to be 100 percent; you can't get injured, can't catch a cold. You have to be very, very careful, and I am."

In addition to their ministerial duties,



chaplains serve as a vital link between the military command, whom they advise on ethical issues, and the troops on the ground. Consequently, sharing the dangers and rigors of everyday life is indispensable.

"When I was in Afghanistan last October, I sat with the general and discussed how the troops were doing," Newman said. "Most people here don't realize that when you're in a horrible situation, you still have to go to the bathroom, shower, eat, sleep, wash your clothes. What's portrayed on the news here is nothing; it's a thousand times worse."

Even in less trying conditions, establishing a religious presence during a deployment poses challenges, particularly in the Jewish community.

"Often people will try to gather, but if there isn't someone to lead and run things, their resolve can falter. That's a problem for all faiths. But if you publicize that there's a professional coming out, it works. In my case, it's much more complicated, because, instead of being a Conservative rabbi, I have to be a rabbi for everyone. You have people who've never been to a service but their grandmother was Jewish, and then you have someone who's gone to a Jewish day school. You have to find somewhere in between. Instead of saying, 'Come worship in my style of Judaism,' I look at their style and bring it to them, and that's where I think you truly find success."

While serving as a rabbi is Newman's foremost responsibility, the bulk of his time is spent in counseling military personnel and their families, another task that often requires him to reconcile diverging perspectives.


"The divorce rate for service members under 28 is 85 percent," Newman said. "Cultures are different, family backgrounds are different. To give them the tools to communicate and maybe save the marriage is a huge thing."

After 10 years in Southern California, Newman, his wife, and two daughters moved to Maryland in 2002 for his next assignment: teaching ethics at the U.S. Naval Academy.

"Going back into the university world was wonderful," Newman said. "It's amazing to be with some of the top-level thinkers in the world as they're creating just war theories. They're willing to go out and question what's the best way for a future naval officer to serve his country."

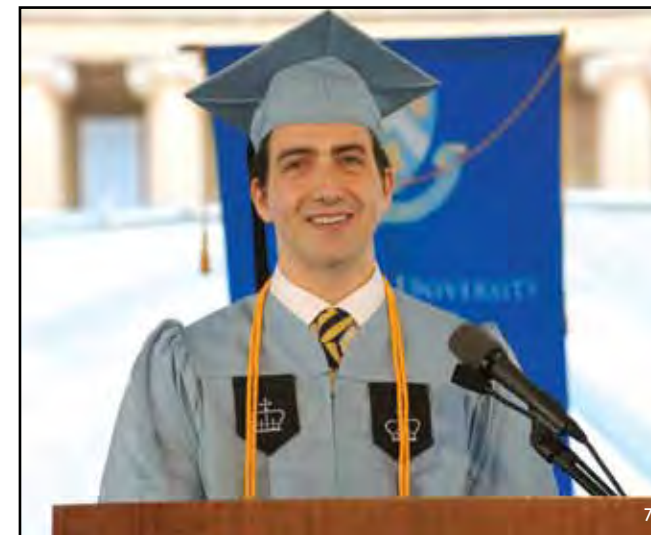
Once his tour at the Naval Academy was completed, Newman and his family returned to California. Throughout his career his family has been supportive, although Newman notes that serving as a chaplain has, in some ways, made their lives easier.

"When you're on a pulpit, you're being scrutinized all the time," Newman says. "You have to live up to a contract, which refers to how well the synagogue is doing financially. In board meetings they're discussing you, your wife, and your future. I thought, 'How much more difficult would it be to sit in a tent in a war zone?'"

"The family got used to it; they never complained or said 'I don't like what you do.' We celebrate holidays early or late, and with email you can stay in touch all the time. They know that when I go out on a deployment, it's for the greater good. If I'm not there, there's a real void. I don't think everyone can say that about their jobs." 

CLASS DAY 2010

PHOTOS BY DAVID WENTWORTH/COLUMBIA



1. Class Day procession.
2. The Biting Fish Brass Band performs for GS graduates.
3. Lena Park, Korean R&B star and GS graduate, sings the national anthem.
4. Dean Peter J. Awn and Thomas Williams.
5. GS Class Day speaker chef Jacques Pépin '70.
6. GS salutatorian Issis Palomo and family.
7. GS valedictorian Brian Corman.
8. Stephen Tobias and family.
9. Katherine Edwards, Alumni Key Award recipient and 2009-2010 student body president.
10. Founders of the nationally-recognized Columbia Ballet Collaborative.



POSTBAC PREMED CLASS DAY 2010



1. Ellen Watts, assistant dean, celebrates with Greg Jaffe and his mother.



2. Michael Shamoon delivers the student address.



3. Dr. Judith Tanenbaum '83, clinical psychiatrist, delivers the keynote address.

4. Andrew Sunshine, associate dean and director of the Postbac Premed Program, with Ellie Coromilas and her father.

5. Daniel Becchi and Jonathan Friedman with Professor Deborah Mowshowitz.

6. Columbia Postbac Premed graduates at Class Day.

7. Elizabeth Kern, Samantha Moni, and Brittany Kligman.

8. Veronica Mitchell, assistant dean, with Paul Zentko and his family.

9. Dustin Carlson and Lise Hazen, Biological Sciences.

10. Stephanie Rounds, Marissa Purcelli, Ariel Haves, and Brooks Crowe.

11. Dean Peter J. Awn congratulates Postbac Premed Program graduates.



PHOTOS BY EILEEN BARROSO/COLUMBIA



GS ANNUAL GIVING

The School of General Studies continued to experience an increased level of giving to the GS Annual Fund during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Gifts totaled approximately \$550,000, an increase of nine percent over the previous year.

During its inaugural year, the GS Annual Fund Leadership Committee, chaired by Deborah Marshall '79, helped raise over \$100,000 toward this annual fund total.

Close to \$85,000 was raised from GS alumni celebrating their reunion year in 2010. The GS Class of 2010 raised an impressive \$7,500 through its Senior Gift Fund drive.

The GS Annual Fund is the school's primary vehicle for alumni giving and an important way for alumni to 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
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Newcombe Scholars
- Sinnott Memorial Scholarship Fund (in honor of Michael Sinnott)
- Perkins Memorial Scholarship (in honor of Jennifer Perkins)

ANNUAL GIVING 2010 DONOR ROLL

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KEY

BUS — Graduate School of Business
CC — Columbia College
GSAS — Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
GS — School of General Studies
HON — honorary degree recipient
JRN — Graduate School of Journalism
LS — School of Library Service
LAW — School of Law
P: — Parent of
PH — Mailman School of Public Health
PS — College of Physicians and Surgeons
SCE — School of Continuing Education
SEAS — The Fu Foundation School
of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA — School of International and Public Affairs
SOA — School of the Arts
SW — School of Social Work
TC — Teachers College
W: — Widow/Widower of

ANNUAL GIVING

PARTICIPATE, CELEBRATE, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The GS Annual Fund is the school's primary vehicle for alumni giving. Throughout the year, participants are recognized with unique opportunities to stay connected to Columbia and the School of General Studies through events like the June 2009 Annual Fund Reception at Vermilion restaurant, the annual Scholarship Celebration at Casa Italiana, the Senior Cocktail Party at Faculty House, and High Tea with Dean Awn at The Carlyle Hotel.



Annual Fund Reception – June 24, 2009

1. Paul Croitoroo '79, Dean Peter Awn, David Kagan '09, and Joan Potter '72
2. Jimmy Chiu '05, Akiva Zablocki '07,'09PH, and Claudia Barrera '05
3. Suzanne Prye '76 and Lois Baumert Williams '83
4. The Annual Fund Reception was held at Vermilion restaurant.



Senior Cocktails – April 15, 2010 at the Ivy Lounge & Coffee Bar at Faculty House

5. Maxcina Njoroge, Paige Lampkin, Evelin Collado, and Lydia Walker, known as "The Originals" because they met in University Writing when they first enrolled at GS.
6. Onika Shabazz and Leslie McCracken
7. Sarah King Besse with her husband Austin and son Indigo
8. Evelin Collado, Jacqueline Thong, Paul Zachary, Andrea Gerson, and Filaree Moore



Scholarship Celebration – November 17, 2009

9. Sara Moradi, recipient of the Peter K. Block Scholarship, with Desmond G. FitzGerald '79GSAS, benefactor of the Angelita Garcia Campos Endowed Scholarship
10. Students and guests recognize Angela de Lara '78BUS, benefactor of the John Clafin Scholarship and the Juan Jacobo de Lara and Jonne Low de Lara Foundation, Inc. Scholarship
11. The Teatro at Casa Italiana
12. Sandra Borg, Jonathan Krueger, the recipient of the North Jersey Media Group Scholarship, Jennifer Parker, a recipient of the Helena Rubinstein Foundation Scholarship, and Malcolm A. Borg '65, benefactor of the North Jersey Media Group Scholarship

High Tea at The Carlyle – May 23, 2010

13. Deborah Marshall '79, Chair of the GS Annual Fund Leadership Committee and a member of the Undergraduate Campaign Council, addresses guests.
14. Paul Yates '05, '08BUS and Arthur LeMay '94
15. Students Joshua Lopez, Helen Shor, and Ayla Kalani speak to Larry Lawrence '69, Co-chair of the Undergraduate Campaign Council (center), and Dean Peter Awn (right).
16. GS 2010 Reunion Committee Chairperson Reunion Chair Adam Casdin '95
17. Elaine Bernstein '72, major gifts officer Leab Cohen, and Margaret Lim '06, '08SIPA

Alumni NOTES

EDITED BY ROBERT AST

1941

GUSTAV BECK and his wife Rita recently made a leadership gift of \$50,000 to Foulkeways at Gwynedd, the Pennsylvania retirement community where they reside, to fund the installation of 17 new geothermal units. The Becks dedicated the project, which is designed to reduce the community's carbon footprint, to the memory of their son, an environmental researcher who studied thermal pollution in the Hudson River and later died from a rare form of cancer that is believed to have been caused by his work in the Hudson.



of North Carolina, where he completed his medical education, and an honorary doctorate from Kenyon College.

1966

MARY DOUGLAS EDWARDS earned an MA and PhD at Columbia, as well as an MLS at the University's now defunct School of Library Science. She has taught art history since 1970, spending the last 25 years at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, and has published over 40 articles on painting, sculpture, and architecture in various scholarly journals.



1967

DANNY SIEGEL is an author, speaker, and expert on microphilanthropy. For more than 30 years he has lectured on the topics of personalized tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam ("repairing the world," or social justice). He is the founder and chairman of the Ziv Tzedakah Fund.



1968

Searching for Tibet, an in-depth study of the history of international relations between China and Tibet by **DIANE WOLFF**, will be published by Palgrave/McMillan in September. Beginning with the conquest of China during the Mongol Empire and extending to the present day, the book analyzes the foundations of Chinese rule in Tibet and proposes a new and original regional solution. Also forthcoming is *Khubilai Khan: A Novel of Imperial China in the Time of Marco Polo*. More information is available on her website, www.dianewolff.com.



1971

ROGER PILON, the founder and director of the Cato Institute's Center for Constitutional Studies, spoke at Ohio Northern University's Pettit College of Law in October. He is the publisher of the *Cato Supreme Court Review* and is an adjunct professor of government at Georgetown University. Prior to joining the Cato Institute, Pilon held five senior posts in the Reagan administration and was a National Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution. In 1989 he received the Benjamin Franklin Award for excellence in writing on the U.S. Constitution from the Bicentennial Commission; in 2001 he was awarded the GS Alumni Medal of Distinction.

1949

MICHAEL GOLD is one of the principal subjects of *Soldier From the War Returning*, a book by University of Pennsylvania historian Thomas Childers. Presenting the "complex, often painful realities" of the post-war experiences of World War II veterans that, the author notes, have often been "muffled under a blanket of nostalgic adulation," *Soldier From the War Returning* recounts Michael's life from his time as a prisoner of war in a German stalag, to his reacclimation to civilian life and his time commuting from New Jersey to attend GS while working a series of jobs to pay expenses not covered by the G.I. Bill, to his successful career as a doctor, and, ultimately, 50 years after the war ended, to his being diagnosed with chronic post-traumatic stress disorder.



1959

KEL COHEN, MD is an emeritus professor of Plastic Surgery at the Virginia Commonwealth University Health Science Center. He served as the chair of the center's division of plastic and reconstructive surgery from 1972 to 1997 and was a visiting professor at a host of medical schools and hospitals, including Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine, the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, and the University of Virginia Medical School. A member of the American Surgical Association, he has been honored with the outstanding physician award from the Richmond, Va. Maimonides Society and many lifetime achievement awards from wound-healing societies, as well as the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University



1975

PHILIP HEMLEY, aka Phil Void, was recently featured in both the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Irish Times*. The founder and frontman of the band the Dharma Bums, he resides in Dharamsala, India, the Dalai Lama's home in exile. The Dharma Bums have performed at venues all over the world, often to raise funds for the Tibetan independence cause, including a concert at Madison Square Garden following a lecture by the Dalai Lama. More information about the band is available at www.dharmabums.org and www.myspace.com/dharmabumsusa.



1976

MARVIN McFEATERS attended the 2009 Veterans Administration Research Week conference.



1977

LISA COLLIER COOL has launched a website showcasing her articles, books, and professional skills: <http://web.mac.com/lwcollier/iWeb/Site>



1979

REBECCA (BROWN) ORE is a science-fiction author whose most recent work is *Centuries Ago and Very Fast*.



1981

JUNE MIDDLETON hosts *Minding Your Business*, a cable television show devoted to entrepreneurship. Visit www.mindingyourbusiness.info for viewing information.



1982

In January **JOHN HORGAN** served as a keynote speaker at the Swiss Biennial on Science, Technics + Aesthetics. A science writer who has been published in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *Discover*, Horgan is currently director of the Center for Science Writings at the Stevens Institute of Technology. He has received the Templeton-Cambridge Journalism Fellowship in Science and Religion, the Science Journalism Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Association of Science Writers Science-in-Society Award, and his writings have been featured in the 2005, 2006, and 2007 editions of *The Best American Science and Nature Writing*.



IDANNA PUCCI wrote *Brazza in Congo: A Life and Legacy* and created exhibitions at NYU's Casa Italiana and the National Arts Club celebrating Pietro Di Brazza, an Italian explorer whose philosophy of nonviolence and compassion for Africans offer a distinct counterpoint to other European agents during the



"Scramble for Africa." In *Brazza in Congo* Pucci, who is herself a descendant of Brazza, also collects the work of other writers—including excerpts from Brazza's own journals—to illuminate both Brazza's past achievements and his enduring legacy.

1983

SUZIE GILBERT operates a nonprofit bird-rehab organization, Flyaway, Inc. Her memoir *Flyaway: How a Wild Bird Rehabber (Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings)* was published by Harper Collins in March 2009.



1984

Dee Dee Day, a novella by **MYKOLA DEMENTIUK**, is available for the Kindle on Amazon.com, where his previous works *Times Queer*, *Vienna Dolorosa*, and *Holy Communion* are also available in book form. His novella *My Father's Semen* was published in the anthology *Cruising for Bad Boys*.



1986

JAMES BRALY recently premiered his new monologue *Asylum* at Dixon Place in New York. His previous monologue, *Life in a Marital Institution*, has been optioned for film and television by Meredith Vieira Productions, with James attached as the writer. He has already adapted *Life* as a memoir, forthcoming from St. Martin's Press.



The abduction of a Columbia College student from Reid Hall in Paris kicks off *One-Trick Pony*, the latest thriller from **STANLEY TRYBULSKI**. *One-Trick Pony* and other books in the series of Doherty mysteries are available on his website, www.stantrybulski.com.



1987

Think Twice Before Crossing, a memoir by **BEATRIZ GARCIA NIN**, was published in November and is available at www.bgnin.com.



1988

WALLIS WOOD is a professional writer and a member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors. He earned an M.A. in creative writing from City University of New York.



1991

The Blue Orchard, the first novel by **JACKSON TAYLOR**, has been published by Simon and Schuster. Taylor is the associate director of the graduate writing program at The New School and the director of the Prison Writing Program at PEN American Center.



JOSH WOLF-POWERS, a cofounder and partner of Blue Wolf Capital Fund, spoke at GoldenNetworking.com's Distressed Investing Leaders Forum in February 2010. From 2003-2005, he served as managing director of private markets for New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. Prior to holding this position, he was a vice president at KPS Capital Partners and an investment banker with Goldman Sachs. After graduating from GS, he earned an MBA at NYU's Stern School of Business, where he was a Dean's Scholar. He is a member of the boards of Finch Paper Holdings and Azure Mountain, respectively, and chair of the board of Health Care Laundry Systems.



1993

RENE AUBRY earned a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2009. A native Haitian, he participated in the relief effort for the January earthquake and is currently working to launch Ciel Capital Partners, LLC, a venture fund that aims to help remake Haiti by introducing high-rent industries and knowledge-based jobs to its economy.

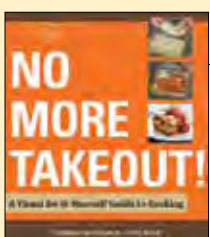


1994

ERIC DRATH produced and directed *Assault in the Ring*, a feature-length documentary examining the aftermath of one of the boxing world's darkest hours: the Billy Collins Jr. vs. Luis Resto bout, which Resto fought with the padding illegally removed from his gloves.

In his review Neil Genzlinger of *The New York Times* wrote that it "has an unexpected elegance. It's a carefully etched example of the ripple effect at work in real life, a study in how a single, brief incident can have shattering consequences that string out for decades in multiple directions."

Assault in the Ring premiered on HBO in August 2009 and won an Emmy for Outstanding Sports Documentary. The film is now available on DVD; see www.assaultinthering.com for more information.



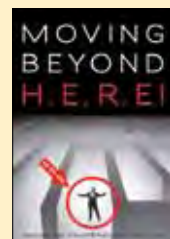
1995

Along with chef Stephen Hartigan, **JERRY BOAK** coauthored *No More Takeout*, which aims to help culinary neophytes develop the necessary kitchen skills to become accomplished home cooks. Visit www.nomoretakeout.com for more information (and recipes!). Additionally, Boak, who is also a 2003 graduate of the School of the Arts and an associate director in Columbia's Office of the Executive Vice President for Finance/HR and Training, was recently elected to the University Senate.



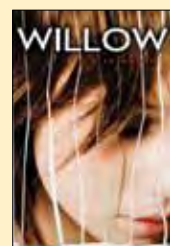
1997

STEPHEN PAGE serves as the director of the Glot of Poetry reading series. Based in Buenos Aires, the polyglot series features readings in English, Spanish, or any language. Additionally, some of his recent book reviews have been published in the *Buenos Aires Herald* and *Keyhole* magazine.



2001

VONEKHAM GUTHRIE served as the keynote speaker for the Long Island Women's Institute conference at Long Island University-C.W. Post. She recently published the book *Moving Beyond H.E.R.E.* She heads a management consultancy firm, Cognitive Divine Enterprises, and is the proud mother of four children.



2002

Willow, a novel by **JULIA HOBAN**, has been published by Dial, the young-adult division of Penguin Books and is available in bookstores and online. Careful readers will note that many of the scenes take place at a certain university in northern Manhattan.



2003

CARLOS BARZQUETA has been contributing to the Spanish-language program *Mega News* as a political analyst since December 2009.

VICTOR FIDEL ESCAMILLA married Heather Floyd in March 2009. The couple was featured in the Vows section of *The New York Times*.



JAMES POMERANTZ is currently pursuing an MFA in photography, video, and related media at the School of Visual Arts. His photographs have been exhibited at the 2010 New York Photo Festival, the Griffin Photo Museum in Boston, the Los Angeles Pacific Design Center, the Soros Foundation, and the National Portrait Gallery in London.

2004

JULIE HAAS Brophy, the creator of the websites *Shit My Kids Ruined* and *Shit My Pets Ruined*, was recently profiled in *The New York Times*.



2006

In 2009 **ALICIA BATISTA** worked to implement sustainable landscape design in Panama as one of two David Bird International Service Fellows. A graduate of the Conway School of Landscape Design, she has worked as a designer with Abel Bainnson Butz LLP, a landscape architecture and site planning firm.

1958

STEVIE PHILLIPS

Born in a hospital in New York's theatre district, Stevie Phillips jokes that her career in show business was "probably preordained." But as she is quick to point out—and her varied, successful career attests—accidents of chance have influenced her life in ways that her best-laid plans could never have anticipated.

Her first serendipitous accident came when she took a job as a floating secretary at the powerful talent agency Music Corporation of America (MCA), known in Hollywood as "The Octopus" for its habit of extending its tentacles into all aspects of the entertainment industry. When the Department of Justice began to investigate MCA for antitrust violations, the company left the agency business to purchase Universal Studios, and Phillips was at a crossroads.

"[MCA head] Lew Wasserman closed the doors, and people ran around stealing office supplies and starting companies," she says. "Freddie Fields and David Begelman were the two that seemed to me to be the most charming, the most flamboyant, and the most prepared to face a difficult world in the entertainment business, and they became my champions and mentors."

She followed Fields and Begelman to their fledgling agency, Creative Management Associates (CMA). "Freddie Fields decided he needed someone who would put his agency on the map, and that person was Judy Garland. He thought that if he could give her her 67th, 133rd, 211th—or whatever number it was—comeback, that that would establish his firm," she says. Phillips hit it off with Garland and subsequently embarked on tour with her, serving as both the shows' road manager and as Garland's handler.

"I called the shows, stage-managed, organized the press, the load-in, absolutely everything," Phillips recalls. "Judy wasn't easy; sadly, she was the queen of tragedy."

For all its difficulty, the tour was successful: Garland had established her reliability and once again began receiving film and television offers, and Phillips became an agent in training, climbing up the ranks of CMA until she became a partner.

"I learned very quickly that, in the agency business, the agency belongs in the hands of the people who sign the clients," Phillips says. "So it became very clear, very quickly to me that I had to become a client signer. I signed Redford, signed Pacino, signed Liza, and ultimately I became one of Judy's agents, not just her schlepper."

In addition to generating new business, Phillips worked as a packaging agent, helping to assemble talent for such films as *Butch Cas-*



sidy and the Sundance Kid, all the while operating in what was almost exclusively a male dominated industry.

"I had some thrilling moments. I had an associate in California by the name of Sue Mengers, who represented some wonderful people as well. One day we locked ourselves in an office and called the heads of all the studios and told them they had to deal with us, not our bosses, which opened the door for women that followed us. I say that immodestly, but I know it's true."

In 1975, CMA merged with another agency to form International Creative Management (ICM), and many of its agents left for jobs at studios. Phillips, who by then had infant children, refused to leave New York for California and instead became president of a small energy company that helped bring solar and wind energy to New York City.

"The very talented architect Travis Lee Price had discovered, with wind energy collected in a sweat-equity building on the Lower East Side, how to reverse the meter and feed excess energy into the Consolidated Edison grid, charging the same rates to Con Ed that they were charging to people in the building," Phillips says.

Con Ed brought the case to the New York State Energy Commission, arguing that its 10-million-kilowatt grid might not be able to handle power surges from the 2-kilowatt windmill. With assistance from former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who volunteered his services, the building residents prevailed. A year later, the principles of the commission's ruling became federal law, with the passage of the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978.

"It is now statutory law that any company that generates excess alternate energy can feed it back into the local utility grid and charge the same rates that the utility is charging tenants," Phillips said. "That's one of the things of which I'm most proud, helping to create precedential law in the land."

Ultimately, however, Phillips realized that her company's days were numbered. "I saw that, in 1977, there was not enough government interest in subsidization for alternative

forms of energy and that I was not going to be able to make a living doing that," she says.

Just in time, another fortuitous accident intervened when the screenwriter William Goldman and his wife Eileen invited her to a performance by Peter Masterson at The Actors Studio.

"I went along and saw a loose accumulation of scenes that had the smell, taste, and feel of Texas. I thought the work was wonderful and went backstage and offered to buy it. I didn't know anything about Broadway, but you can't allow those things to stop you."

With the support of Universal, Phillips presented *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* off-Broadway, with Masterson and Tommy Tune directing.

"Again, a wonderful accident happened," Phillips says. "Apart from the fact that the show was terrific, Jacqueline Kennedy came on the third night. My press agent was alert enough to get a photographer there quickly and get a picture of her entering under the word 'whorehouse' on the marquee. It appeared on the front page of *The New York Post*, and we were sold out thereafter."

"Within six weeks we moved to Broadway and the cost of our doing so was \$750,000, all in. We paid it back in two and a half months; there isn't a show that I can think of that can do that anymore. And we ran for five years. It was an extraordinary blessing that really benefited from two accidents, more than my expertise, although the expertise of everybody involved was significant. And that set me on the track of my new career as a Broadway producer."

Today, Phillips continues to develop both film and stage projects, and in April she returned to GS to speak to current students about building a career in the industry. At the same time, she keeps up a busy life outside the industry, collecting Native American crafts, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro for her 60th birthday, and spending time with her family. "Looking back, I realize I actually had a life while I was doing all this stuff."



ERICH ERVING had 10 erotic etchings displayed in the group show *Drawn Together*, exhibited at the Leslie Lohman Gay Art Foundation.

ELIZABETH KOSTRZEWA earned her JD from the University of California-Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law and is currently a Litigation Associate at Debevoise and Plimpton LLP in New York. In March she spoke at Westchester Community College as part of its Women's History Month celebration.

2007

EMILY (BELLI) MARTIN works as an assistant editor at Bennington College in Vermont, when she is not busy writing. Her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Iodine Poetry Journal*, *The Columbia Review*, *Poetry Salzburg*, *Absinthe: New European Writing*, *International Poetry Review*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *The Innisfree Poetry Journal*, *The William and Mary Review*, *Mid-American Review* and *Dos Passos Review*. Her husband Scott Ashby Martin '06LAW works as an attorney, and their cats Luna and Milton as well as their dog Hudson keep them busy in their spare time. She is currently a student in the Poetry MFA program at Columbia's School of the Arts.

Omanoot, an organization cofounded by **EDOE COHEN** that employs Israeli music, film, visual arts, and literature as a tool for nuanced educational exploration, has launched a new website: www.omanoot.org.

JAMES MCGIRK was the editor and senior writer for the team that won the Knight Foundation's News Game award at the 2009 Games for Change Expo. His team was rewarded for its ability "to change news consumption from passive reading to active engagement."

AKIVA ZABLOCKI married his college sweetheart Amanda Jaffe '07BC in August 2009. He is a member of the board of the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation and worked with **RICHARD SPACE** '05 to organize the foundation's annual bowl-a-thon fundraiser.



2008

DAVID DRURY earned a master's degree from St. John's College in Santa Fe, N.M. In 2009 he taught history and Spanish at a high school in upstate New York. Beginning this fall, he will teach history at an IB charter school in Albuquerque, N.M.

JACQUIE WAYANS was the grand-prize winner of the "Colorful Life" essay contest, sponsored by Maybelline and the Meredith Corporation. She was featured in *More* magazine and attended the premiere of *The Broadroom*, an online series created by Candace Bushnell, author of *Sex in the City*.

2009

In August 2009 **LUKE FORELLE** biked from Denver to San Francisco to raise funds for severely injured veterans as part of the Wounded Warrior Project. More information about the ride, which raised over \$8,500, is available at www.rideforourwounded.com.

"In the Hands of Men," a chapter from a memoir by **LAURA LIFSHITZ-HERNANDEZ**, was published in the Spring 2009 issue of the online literary magazine *The Oklahoma Review*.

Friends

Gilda Chirafisi has been appointed chair of the board of directors of the Bronx Arts Ensemble, after serving on the board for the past 16 years.

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IN MEMORIAM

G. DOUGLAS PUGH '51

George Douglas Pugh, a civil rights activist and New York State labor official, passed away in May. The first African-American chairman of the New York State Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board, Pugh often found himself at the forefront of integration: he and his family were among the first African-Americans to move into the Riverdale section of the Bronx—and in the process exposed some landlords' discriminatory rental practices—and he purchased the Savannah, Ga. radio station WSOK at a time when there were very few minority-owned radio stations in the United States.



After growing up in Harlem, Pugh served in the South Pacific during World War II and attended the School of General Studies on the G.I. Bill, when he majored in music. He went on to earn an MBA at Columbia Business School and subsequently worked on reports for the Urban League of New York, documenting racial discrimination in hiring. He also was a coeditor of the book *Black Economic Development*.

Over the course of his career Pugh held a variety of administrative leadership positions for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the Ford Foundation, and the New York State Dormitory Authority, among other organizations. In 1976 he was appointed to the Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board and became its chairman in 1987, a position he held until his retirement in the mid-1990s. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, and brother.

JO ANN KAY McNAMARA '56

Pioneering feminist scholar Jo Ann Kay McNamara died in May 2009. Specializing in the early Middle Ages, Dr. McNamara helped elucidate the role of women in medieval society. Her book *Sisters in Arms: Catholic Nuns Through Two Millennia* discussed the attempts of nuns to create an identity outside of traditional gender paradigms. She was also instrumental in applying academic discourse on women's history to men's history. Dr. McNamara taught at Hunter College for many years and helped to establish its women's studies program. In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. McNamara was active in the anti-war and women's movements and participated in a sit-in designed to induce McSorley's Old Ale House to admit women. She is survived by her son, a professor of history at Queensborough Community College. A full obituary is available at <http://medievalclubofnewyork.blogspot.com/2009/05/jo-ann-kay-mcnamara.html>.



RAYMOND FEDERMAN '57

Author and scholar Raymond Federman passed away in October. Born in France in 1928, Federman witnessed the Gestapo's arrest of his parents and sisters in 1942, an event that would haunt his work in such books as *Double or Nothing: A Real Fictitious Discourse* and *The Voice in the Closet*. He spent the remainder of World War II in hiding on a farm in France; his parents and sisters died in Auschwitz.



After the war Federman emigrated to the United States and served with the U.S. Army in the Korean War. After completing his military service, he matriculated at the School of General Studies where he graduated in 1957. He earned master's and doctoral degrees at UCLA and began his teaching career at UC Santa Barbara before moving on to SUNY-Buffalo, where he taught French and comparative literature for 35 years.

He received Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, as well as the American Book Award for his novel *Smiles on Washington Square: A Love Story of Sorts*, in addition to numerous other awards.

ALFRED APPEL JR. '59

Alfred Appel Jr., a scholar and expert on the work of Vladimir Nabokov, passed away in May 2009. After graduating from high school in Long Island, Appel enrolled at Cornell, where he attended Nabokov's course "Masters of European Fiction." He left Cornell to serve in the U.S. Army and, upon being discharged, transferred to the School of General Studies. He went on to earn master's and doctorate degrees from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and taught at Columbia before moving to North-western, where he taught for over 30 years.



In addition to critical studies on Nabokov, James Joyce, and Eudora Welty, he also published interdisciplinary works on modernism. He is best known, however, as the editor of *The Annotated Lolita*, which was first published in 1970 and has constantly remained in print. Its success notwithstanding, the book introduced him to one of the occupational hazards of Nabokov studies: many people, including fellow scholars, thought that he was merely another of Nabokov's authorial dodges, as he recounted at "Lolita at 50," a panel discussion held at Miller Theatre in 2005. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Nina, as well as his mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, and grandchildren.

MAN-HO CHOU EDWARDS '81

Man-Ho Chou Edwards passed away in February 2010.



MICHAEL SINNOTT '06

Michael Sinnott passed away in January 2010.

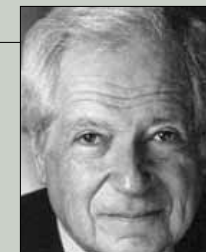
JENNIFER PERKINS '09

Jennifer Perkins passed away in June 2010.

Friends

LIONEL PINCUS '56BUS

Lionel Pincus, former Columbia University trustee and the long-time companion of alumna Princess Firyal of Jordan '99, passed away in October 2009. A financier, venture capitalist, and philanthropist, Pincus ran Warburg Pincus for nearly 40 years and built it into one of the most prominent investment firms on Wall Street. "Mr. Pincus was a devoted Columbian and his legacy of service and leadership will live for years to come at the University," Dean Peter Awn said.



New Grad NOTES 2009 2010

In 2005, **NAMEMA AMENDI '10** emigrated to the United States from Nairobi, Kenya with his parents and siblings, and shortly thereafter enrolled at Middlesex County College in Edison, N.J. A member and officer of Middlesex's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa,



Namema's academic success earned him a scholarship of \$30,000 per year from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to attend GS. As a GS student, Namema was involved with the African Students Organization, and as a resident of International House, he helped plan cultural events for fellow residents. Additionally, he helped organize a major conference at the Desmond Tutu Center called Social Entrepreneurship in Africa. Namema, who graduated *magna cum laude*, is a full-time research assistant in neuroscience at Columbia University and is applying to dual-degree programs in medicine and law.

Born in the Philippines, **ARIES DE LA CRUZ '09** emigrated to the U.S. with his family when he was five, living primarily in Manhattan and Queens. In 2001, Aries dropped out of high school to work as a grassroots community activist. Eventually Aries earned his GED and attended Metropolitan College of New York for a year before transferring to GS. As a GS student, Aries, an anthropology major, was the vice-president of the Columbia Queer Alliance and a member of the *Columbia Daily Spectator* editorial board and the GS senior fund committee. In recognition of his leadership on campus, he was awarded the GS Spirit Award, the Gold Crown Award, and the Dean's Citation. Aries, who graduated *cum laude*, is earning his Master of Public Administration at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.



Born in Evanston, Ill., **TIM GOEBEL '10** won the Bronze Medal in figure skating in the 2002 Olympics. Tim, known as the "Quad King," was the first person to land a quadruple salchow in competition and the first person to land three quadruple jumps in one program. After announcing his retirement in 2006, Tim enrolled at GS where he majored in mathematics and continued to stay connected to figure skating by coaching part time and teaching lessons through Figure Skating Harlem, an organization that provides girls ages 6-18 with educational and skating opportunities. After graduation, Tim began working for Nielsen as a financial analyst in Stamford, Conn.



After a career in the entertainment industry that included touring with an Elvis impersonator, performing in an Off-Broadway play, and working as a talent agent, **ADRIENNE HERRERA '09** decided to complete her college degree. Prior to enrolling at GS, Adrienne studied in California at Fullerton Community College and Pasadena Community College. As a GS student, Adrienne was a part of the Program for Academic Leadership and Scholarship (PALS) and founded a program called Symposium, a grassroots effort that encourages college attendance among New York City public school students. Her commitment to equal access for education was recognized by the PALS program when she was awarded the No Limits Derrick Wilder Award for Leadership and Service. The first in her family to graduate from college, Adrienne is pursuing her master's degree at Columbia University Teachers College. She continues to run her outreach program, Symposium.



Former actors **EVAN** and **CATHERINE MADEO '10** met in 2003 when they were hosting competing yard sales. Shortly after getting married, Evan and Catherine enrolled at Santa Monica College where they formed the Future Leaders Club and were active in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. While enrolled at GS, the couple started a family and still managed a full-time course load. In addition to raising their daughter, Evan was active in the GSSC, and Catherine was a member of the editorial collective *Extension: Columbia Journal of Anthropology*. Evan recently began working at Google in their online sales division in Mountain View, Calif. and Catherine is applying to doctoral programs in anthropology. Both graduated *magna cum laude*.



At 21 years old, **DAN NECHITA '10** and his wife emigrated from Romania to the United States. With dreams of one day becoming a professor, he enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College, where he was an active member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and an intern for ABC News' political unit. Upon graduation, Dan was awarded a scholarship of \$30,000 per year to attend GS from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. As a GS student, Dan, who became a father while enrolled, worked as a research assistant at the SIPA's Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies and was a member of the Columbia University Ballroom Dance Team. Dan graduated *cum laude* and was recently awarded a graduate scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. He will begin his doctoral studies in political science at George Washington University in the fall.



ONIKA SHABAZZ '10 had a childhood filled with tragedy and family illness, and at age 15 she dropped out of school to take care of her family. In 1995, Onika earned her GED and went on to work a series of jobs, including acting in Off-Broadway plays. After a 15-year break in her education, Onika enrolled at Borough of Manhattan Community College, and later that year she enrolled at GS. As a GS student, Onika served as an orientation leader for four years, a mentor with the Academic Resource Center, a junior marshal for graduation, and a member of the Senior Week Committee. In the fall of 2010, Onika will begin her studies at the University of Washington in pursuit of her Master of Social Work.



After successfully running the New York City Marathon at age 50, **STEPHEN TOBIAS '10**, president and co-founder of I.A. Englander & Co., one of the largest institutional equity derivatives brokers on the American Stock Exchange, the Chicago Board of Options Exchange, and the Pacific Stock Exchange, decided to return to school to obtain his undergraduate degree. In 2003, Stephen enrolled at GS and took two courses per semester for the past seven years while continuing to lead his company. After graduation, Stephen, a father of three and grandfather of two, plans to continue in his position at I.A. Englander and Co., but also hopes to one day be a food and travel writer. ☞



Melissa Muller Daka '09

Melissa Muller Daka's passion for food began before she was old enough to use the stove. As a child, Daka spent time visiting her mother's family farm in Sicily and helping in the family kitchen.

After high school, Daka enrolled at New York University, but soon after decided to follow her dream of becoming a chef. She applied and was accepted to The French Culinary Institute in her native New York where she enrolled in both the Classic Culinary Arts program and the Art of International Bread Baking program.

Shortly after graduation, 23-year-old Daka opened her own restaurant, Osteria del Gallo Nero, which featured a Tuscan-style cuisine. The opening of this restaurant not only fulfilled her goal, but also spoke to a larger issue.

"The opening of Osteria del Gallo Nero was not long after Sept. 11. When I chose the location of the restaurant in Greenwich Village, I looked at it as a way to revitalize the decimated area downtown," Daka said.

In 2005, with her lease expiring, Daka decided to close Osteria del Gallo Nero and open another restaurant on the Upper East Side called Giorgio's. She also began feverishly reading books on food history.

"I was reading a new book every two days. I eventually realized I wanted to return to school," Daka said.

Daka, who planned to return to NYU or apply to The New School, applied to GS on a whim. Originally thinking Columbia was too far uptown and that she probably wouldn't be accepted, Daka says her mother encouraged her to apply.

"In mid-July of 2006, my mom and I took a trip to campus, and even though it was past the application deadline for the fall, I was encouraged to apply. I was accepted for the fall of 2006," Daka said.

After her first year at GS, Daka, a Middle Eastern languages and culture major, sold Giorgio's to focus on her studies. While enrolled, Daka also met her husband Tarek Daka, a Palestinian-Israeli citizen. During their courtship, Daka traveled to the Middle East and continued researching regional culinary traditions.



After graduating in the spring of 2009, Daka didn't waste any time getting back into the kitchen. In July, she took a position as the chef of Organika, an Italian restaurant in the West Village whose menu includes local, sustainable, and artisanal products. Although no longer serving as chef, Daka continues to do consulting work for the owner through her company TM Culinary Concepts, Inc., which focuses on catering services, menu consulting, and private chef services.

Daka is also pursuing a Master of Science in Journalism part time at the Columbia University School of Journalism. Her writing is focused on sustainable agriculture and food and its relationship to culture.

This fall, Daka, who recently appeared on the Food Network show "Chopped," is also planning to open her third restaurant, Terra, a green-certified restaurant that will feature Sicilian-Mediterranean inspired cuisine. As a part of being green-certified, Terra's design will have a vintage look, but Daka does not want that to be the restaurant's focus.

"Although the restaurant will be green-certified, this is not the concept of the restaurant; I believe all restaurants should strive for this model. The restaurant will be decorated with vintage Sicilian pieces; it will be a real gathering place," Daka said.

COMMUNITY NEWS

STRENGTH IN WHAT REMAINS



Photo Credit: Village Health Works

Deo with members of the Kigatu, Burundi community, planting orange trees in the very early days of the Village Health Works clinic founding in 2006.

Since his last appearance in *The Owl*, Deogratias, the founder of Village Health Works, a community health clinic in his hometown of Kigutu, Burundi, has been characteristically busy. He has resumed the medical education he had interrupted in order to devote himself fully to Village Health Works, and this May he received the Women's Refugee Commission Voices of Courage Award. In April he returned to New York City to speak to alumni and current students from 15 of Columbia's graduate and undergraduate schools about restoring hope to the world's "forgotten places."

In August 2009 *Strength in What Remains*, a book by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder, was published by Random House. Employing an inventive, chronologically disrupted narrative style that juxtaposes events in Deo's life with his later recollections and conversations with the author, Kidder creates a layered chronicle of Deo's extraordinary personal journey—from his flight from civil war and genocide in Burundi to the intervention of friends that took him from being homeless on the streets of New York to a student at GS and, later, the Harvard School of Public Health to, ultimately, the founding of Village Health Works—that also examines the textures of memory and the ways in which one person can make a great impact. *Strength in What Remains* was a *New York Times* bestseller and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize.

The following excerpts from *Strength in What Remains* discuss Deo's time at the School of General Studies:

Deo enrolled in Columbia's American Language Program, an ESL program essentially, but more rigorous than most. [His friends and benefactors Nancy and Charlie Wolf] paid the tuition, about six thousand dollars. There were still nights he couldn't sleep or didn't dare to try, but he could use those

hours now to read and write his papers. He studied English through the spring and summer of 1995. Meanwhile, he had applied to become an undergraduate in Columbia's School of General Studies, a program fully integrated with the college proper, created for students whose college careers had been interrupted. The standards for admission were rigorous, but the deadline for applying was June instead of January.

... Improbable as it would have seemed to almost anyone else, the fall of 1995 found Deo entering his freshman year at Columbia University. It seemed improbable to at least one of his classmates, who asked Deo if he was the son of an African king. Deo said he wasn't. Well, the classmate asked, how did he come to be at Columbia? Deo didn't tell him that only a year ago he'd been delivering groceries and sleeping in Central Park, or that a combination of student loans, scholarships, and Nancy and Charlie's money was paying his way. To explain would only have left his classmate more confused and inquisitive. Deo simply smiled and said brightly, "I don't know why I'm here, but I'm here!"

Deo hadn't known he'd accomplished anything special when Columbia had accepted him, not until he met a few people from other New York colleges and realized they were impressed—"Really? You're going to Columbia?"

Deo discussing the classroom environment:

I got so much here. To be able to sit in a class where people have access to so much and having teachers who love teaching, who enjoy seeing the result of their energies and their students making progress, it's not something I was used to. And that opened up my mind. At Columbia University the teachers were like colleagues."

In 2006 Deo returned to visit campus with Kidder.

As we walked through the gates, Deo's mood changed utterly. He might have been a student again, conducting a campus tour. "The gym is right here. It's huge! It is a-mazing. ...I loved it here."

Deo stopped on the steps of Low Library and pointed across the quadrangle at another monumental building, a product of the Italian Renaissance Revival, one of many all around us. This one advertised itself with names carved in the granite frieze above its broad front: HOMER, HERODOTUS, SOPHOCLES, PLATO, ARISTOTLE, CICERO, VERGIL. "That is the Butler Library. I love it. It's the library in my heart." He was laughing softly. "I loved that library. I like to be back here, actually."

"This was a happy place," I suggested.

"Oh my God yes!" He was smiling. "Gosh, I really miss being here." 🙏

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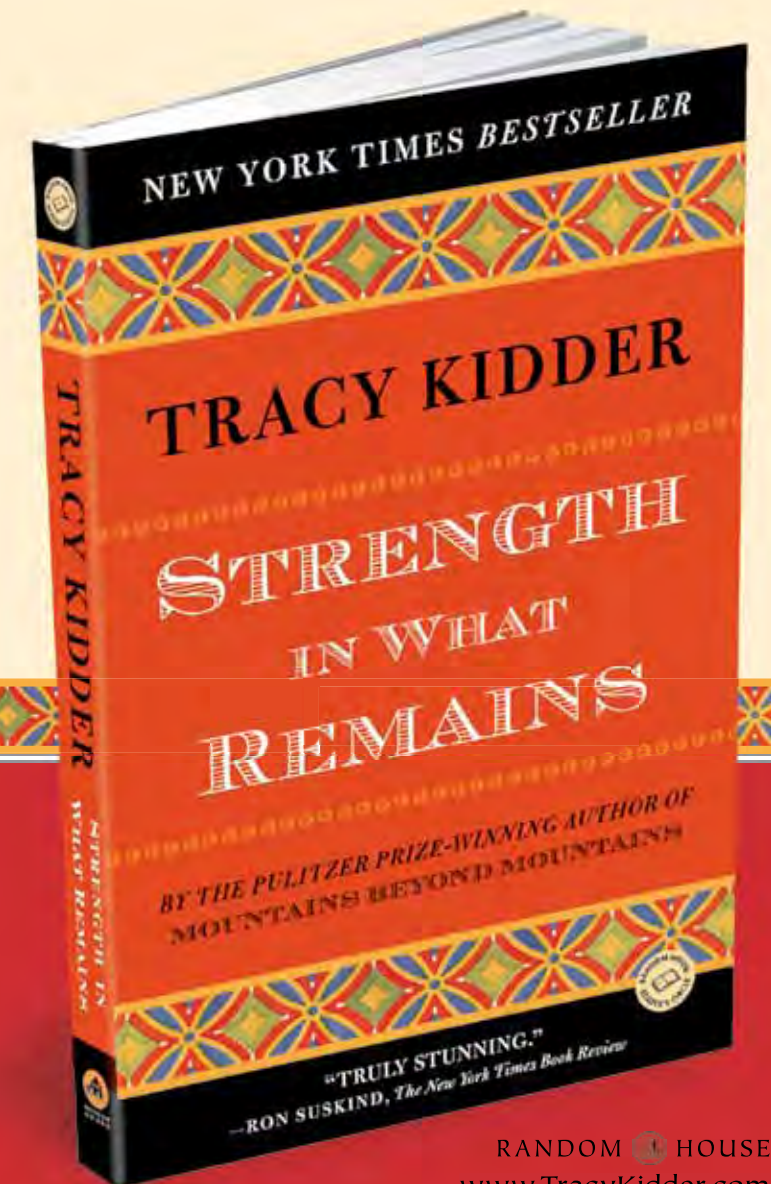
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Events CALENDAR

Below is a list of highlighted GS and Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) events for the upcoming months. For up to date information about these events and others, visit www.gs.columbia.edu/alumni.

SEPTEMBER

1, WEDNESDAY

CAA at the US Open
Queens, NY

Sponsor: Columbia Alumni Association

Join us in the hospitality tent for dinner before the match.

OCTOBER

15-16, FRIDAY - SATURDAY

CAA Assembly and Alumni Medalists Gala
New York, NY

Sponsor: Columbia Alumni Association

Join 2010 alumni medalist Larry Lawrence '69, '71BUS for the 6th annual CAA Leaders Assembly and Alumni Medalist Gala.

NOVEMBER

7, SUNDAY

CAA Health and Wellness Series
New York, NY

Sponsor: Columbia Alumni Association

The CAA Health and Wellness Series, launched in 2006 with the mission of connecting Columbia's alumni community with its leading doctors and researchers, covers topics including caring for aging parents, autism, infectious diseases, and mental health. Topics for the 2010-2011 series will be announced in September.

DECEMBER

GS Holiday Party
New York, NY

Details will be announced closer to December.

JANUARY

22, SATURDAY

CAA at Sundance Film Festival
Park City, UT

Sponsor: Columbia Alumni Association

Mingle with Columbia filmmakers at special screenings and receptions.

FEBRUARY

Recent Alumni Leadership Committee (RALC) Reception
New York, NY

The RALC invites all recent alumni to join them for a special reception. Come mix and mingle with fellow GS recent alumni, and find out more about the goings on of the Recent Alumni Leadership Committee.

MAY

16, MONDAY

GS Class Day
New York, NY

Attending Class Day is a great way to welcome the latest group of GS graduates to the alumni community. Join your fellow alumni on South Lawn for one of the high points of the year, and then celebrate with our newest alumni at the reception afterwards.

JUNE

3-5, FRIDAY TO SUNDAY

Reunion Weekend 2011
New York, NY

Celebrate and reconnect with classmates and friends from your graduating class. Alumni with graduation years ending in 1 and 6 are invited back to campus for a fun-filled weekend of events. To volunteer for your Reunion Committee, please call the General Studies Office of Alumni Relations at (212) 851-7432.

ONGOING SERIES

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/travel>

November 6-19, 2010

World Highlights by Private Jet with Dean Peter Awn

Jet around the globe with Professor Peter Awn for an unforgettable two-week journey through Europe, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and Africa.

November 20-December 1, 2010

North Africa & Andalusia with Bill Moyers

We invite you and your family to join us in November for a journey into the enduring intellectual and cultural legacy of the Moors in Morocco and Spain's Andalusia, and featuring one of the world's most important media intellectuals.

November 26-December 8, 2010

Israel with Professor Brian Boyd

We invite you to join the CAA and Columbia Professor Brian Boyd for a unique tour to timeless Israel.

MEET Karen Sandler



This past spring, Karen Sandler '94CC joined the University Office of Alumni Relations as the Executive Director for Alumni Relations. Sandler brings her passion for Columbia to GS after spending two years as director of alumni relations for the law school and more than four years as a regional officer in Europe, where she was instrumental in launching the Columbia Alumni Association in 2007.

I've heard you "bleed Columbia blue." What else are you passionate about?

As an undergraduate at Columbia I majored in ancient studies and art history. I fell in love with studying the Bronze Age, specifically in the regions around the Aegean Sea. After graduating I spent several months on a dig on the island of Crete—one of the most fascinating experiences of my life. To see the thumbprint of the person who made a vessel from thousands of years ago... it's just amazing to me! Being on that excavation inspired me to pursue master's work at the Institute of Archaeology at the University of London. Although I'm not doing archaeology now, I will always consider myself an archaeologist.

You've been back at Columbia since 2002 working in various capacities. What do you find most rewarding about the positions you've held?

Working in alumni relations is another way of giving back to my alma mater. I enjoy creating opportunities for alumni to reconnect and support each other. I find General Studies alumni to be especially passionate about Columbia—something we share in common—because GSers are so proud of their degrees. In the short time I've been working with them, we've begun to raise more awareness about the extraordinary alumni of this school within the Columbia community. I find connecting with alumni from all generations very rewarding.

What are some of your favorite Columbia moments?

There are so many! It's such a vibrant place and there is always something exciting going on, from Columbia 250, when musician Wyclef Jean performed an outdoor concert for thousands of alumni, students, and members of the New York City community on Low Plaza; to the World Leaders Forum, when Russian president Vladimir Putin watched a baseball game between a Russian youth team and an American Little League team from Harlem right on South Lawn; to welcoming alumni back to campus after graduating 50 years ago; and symposia reviewing the 1968 riots 40 years later. It's all Columbia, and it's never dull. ☺

COLUMBIA ALUMNI CENTER



Second Annual Especially Open House October 21 and 22

The Columbia Alumni Center is always open to all alumni of the University, Monday through Saturday. But for two days this October, we will be *especially open*.

There are even more reasons to visit the Center during Homecoming weekend: refreshments, giveaways, a special athletics display, benefits help, and a chance to win prizes. You can also add your Columbia story to our alumni video project, Columbia University Close-Ups.

It's all happening October 21 and 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., leading into Homecoming and Family Weekend. We'd love to see you, so come on home!

COLUMBIA *alumni*
ASSOCIATION | CAA

Columbia Alumni Center 622 West 113th Street between Broadway and Riverside Drive alumni.columbia.edu/openhouse2010

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More than 200 guests joined the United States Military Veterans of Columbia University (MilVets) student organization to celebrate the inauguration of the Yellow Ribbon Program on September 10, 2009. The Yellow Ribbon Program is an initiative authorized by the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act that allows educational institutions to provide eligible student-veterans with a tuition waiver or grant that is matched by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. At the School of General Studies, student-veterans who qualify for both the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Yellow Ribbon Program are provided a with a full-tuition waiver.

Pictured below: Sean O'Keefe '10, 2009-2010 (MilVets) president, John McClelland, GS student and 2010-2011 (MilVets) president, Peter J. Awn, professor and dean of the School of General Studies; Frank Lautenberg '49BUS, U.S. Senator for New Jersey and keynote speaker. (Photo: Michael DiVito/Columbia University)

