

THE OWL



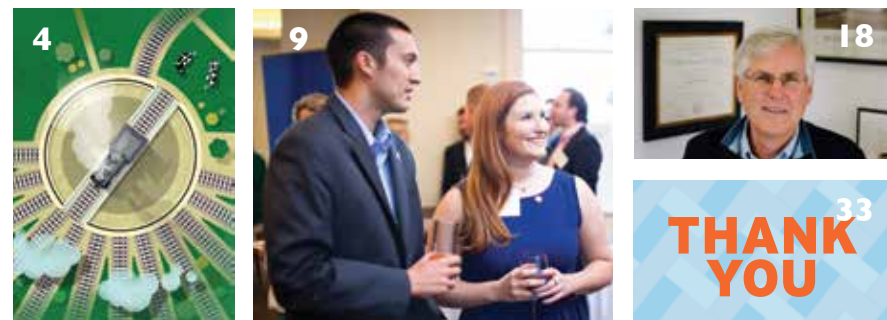
THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?
ENTREPRENEURS AT GS

WE ARE ALL IN
THIS TOGETHER:
GS UNVEILS A NEW
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS



IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 If Not Now, When?**
The School of General Studies offers entrepreneurs and those with an entrepreneurial spirit a place to refuel, gain insight, and embark on their next track.
- 9 The General Studies Alumni Organization Reinvents Itself for the Future**
In June, the Recent Alumni Leadership Committee officially transformed into a new GS alumni organization, yet into one with a familiar name.
- 16 JTS Students Link Jewish Values to Life's Work**
The Fellowship in Jewish Social Entrepreneurship gives a select group of List College students a capstone experience.
- 18 Postbac Alumnus Feature: Dr. David T. Scadden '76**
Postbac Premed alumnus David T. Scadden, MD, a highly respected expert in stem cell biology, embodies the connection between creativity and cutting edge research in medicine.
- 34 Giving Back and Climbing High**
Attorney and mountain climbing enthusiast Pavan Surapaneni '06 shows how one can give back and climb high.

SECTIONS

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 14 Reunion | 26 Postbac Premed |
| 15 News | Class Day Gallery 2014 |
| 16 On Campus | 28 New Grad Notes |
| 19 Postbac Alumnus Spotlight | 33 Giving |
| 20 GS Class Day Gallery 2013 | 35 Alumni News |
| 22 Postbac Premed | 41 In Memoriam |
| Class Day Gallery 2013 | 42 In General |
| 24 GS Class Day Gallery 2014 | |

THE OWL

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

Peter J. Awn
Dean

Malcolm A. Borg '65
Advisory Council, Emeritus

Curtis Rodgers
Vice Dean

Jill Galas-Hickey
Senior Director Alumni Relations

Janet Griffin
Associate Director for Alumni Relations

Editor
Allison Scola
Communications, Special Projects

Assistant Editor
Anna O'Sullivan
Associate Director of Communications

Contributors
Eileen Barroso

Nancy J. Brandwein

David Dini

Michael DiVito

Alexander Gelfand

Alexander Gould

Noah Kutzy

Alan Orling

Anna O'Sullivan

Kira Pole

Allison Scola

Christopher Young

Front Cover Illustration
Dieter Braun

**Questions, Comments,
and Change of Address**

Office of Alumni and Development
408 Lewisohn Hall, MC 4121
2970 Broadway
New York, NY 10027-9829
gsowl@columbia.edu
Tel 212-851-7432
Fax 212-851-1957

The Owl is designed by
Di Vision Creative Group
New York, NY

LETTER FROM THE DEAN



I am pleased to present to you the latest installment of *The Owl*, the alumni magazine for the School of General Studies. This issue of *The Owl* highlights the dynamic energy of the new General Studies Alumni Association, recently launched after more than a year of planning, along with so many of the wonderful happenings at GS.

Alumni leadership, in concert with University alumni relations officers, worked tirelessly to conceptualize and design an organization that reflects the strides that our college has made over recent years. "We are All in This Together: RALC Transforms into a New GSAA," explains the initiative's evolution, and ultimately, its goals. To reach those goals, the GSAA seeks your participation—whether that means through attending events and Reunion, participating in career-related panel discussions, acting as an alumni representative at New Student Orientation, or leading Giving Day social media campaigns. Your participation and contributions will build the GSAA community and strengthen the School of General Studies for years to come. Together, we have and will continue to build a vibrant GS—one that attracts the world's best nontraditional students and produces successful graduates who excel in an array of professions.

Case in point is the issue's cover story, "If Not Now, When?" This story chronicles a number of alumni in different fields who have excelled as entrepreneurs. GS has long been an academic haven for the untraditional, but it is also an inspiration point and launch pad for new careers and entrepreneurial, life-changing endeavors.

Proudly, GS also continues to be a leading transition point for those seeking a career in medicine. The article on page 18 describes a number of new and innovate initiatives undertaken to support our Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program students. In many ways, the Postbac Program has entered a new era—one that provides the best programmatic support from matriculation through graduation and beyond.

In addition to the celebration of your work, as detailed in "Alumni News" and that of recent graduates as exhibited in the Class Day galleries and "New Grad Notes," I want to highlight the extraordinary strides we have made in fundraising over the past ten years as illustrated in the Giving section. Your generosity has led to \$33 million dollars raised via The Columbia Campaign—\$8 million beyond our initial \$25 million goal. This has helped to increase the School's scholarship pool from \$3.7 million dollars in 2003-2004 to \$17.1 million dollars in 2013-2014. And on Giving Day this year, the GS Annual Fund raised over \$250,000 in one day—more than what was raised in one year by the Annual Fund, just ten years ago. These successes allow GS to ensure that the dream of a Columbia education will continue to be a reality for nontraditional students from all walks of life for years to come.

Clearly evident is the impact of your generosity and partnership, and I want to take this opportunity not only to express how grateful I am for your support, but also how honored I am to have been able to lead the School of General Studies to this moment in our history—a moment that marks how far we have come and together, and how much further we can go.

With warmest regards,

Peter J. Awn

Peter J. Awn

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

GS has always been a haven for military veterans and retired dancers and performing artists, yet in recent years it has also become a switchyard for entrepreneurs with an intellectual bent.

BY ALEXANDER GELFAND

“If not now, when?” That was the question facing Aaron Hagedorn '05 one morning in 2008. At the time, Hagedorn had a job as a researcher at a financial firm in Manhattan; and while he had managed to follow orders for five years as a helicopter rescue swimmer in the Navy before returning to school, the idea of working for someone else held little long-term appeal. That might have had something to do with his family history: Hagedorn's grandfather had been a serial entrepreneur, and most of the Hagedorn clan had worked in the furniture and appliance store he established in southern Indiana. In any case, the opportunity to do something different seemed tantalizingly close at hand. Each weekday, as Hagedorn and his wife, model-turned-financial strategist Katarina Maxianova '04, '05 SIPA, walked to the subway station near their East Village apartment, they passed a shoe repair shop that looked like the perfect location for a Central European-style coffeehouse modeled after the ones in Maxianova's native Slovak Republic.

Now, suddenly, the repair shop was shuttered, the space was for rent—and the moment of truth had arrived. The couple drew up a business plan, and armed with Maxianova's annual bonus, a veteran's loan from the Small Business Administration, and the assistance of partners Alex Clark

and Lenka O, they launched Ost Café. (Ost is German for East, as in the Ostblock, or Eastern Bloc, evoked by the old Communist posters on the walls of the café.)

The first three or four months were brutal, with Hagedorn and Clark slinging java from behind the counter 12 hours a day, seven days a week. As the café matured into a mainstay of the lower Manhattan coffee scene, however, the partners were able to hire others to handle the barista duties. Today, Hagedorn spends most of his time working from his apartment, where he can concentrate on developing the business.

Hagedorn's story might sound like a

BEFORE ENROLLING, SCOTT BRINKER '05 HAD ALREADY SECURED A PLACE IN TECH HISTORY BY HELPING TO BUILD ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES OF THE PRE-INTERNET ERA.

fairytale for grown-ups: military veteran from the Midwest graduates from Columbia and builds a successful business on a dream and a lot of hard work. But it's not as rare as it might seem, at least not for GS alumni. The college has long eyed prospective students in much the same way that a venture capital firm might treat a promising start-up, investing in those who want a nontraditional path to an Ivy League education, and giving them the flexibility and support they need to achieve their goals. And it tends to attract students with a similar appetite for risk. Students for whom the decision to attend Columbia often involves confronting the same question Hagedorn did—if not now, when?—and making the same leap of faith.

Some of those students begin their entrepreneurial careers after leaving GS. Others arrive in Morningside Heights with fairly deep resumes, and treat the School as a kind of academic oasis where they can broaden their intellectual horizons without having to put their careers on hold.

Scott Brinker '05, for instance, had

already secured a place in tech history by helping to build one of the most important computer and telecommunications companies of the pre-Internet era. In the mid-1980s, when Brinker was a high school student in South Florida, he began coding multi-player adventure games for Galacticomm, the company behind The Major BBS, a prominent commercial bulletin board system. (Galacticomm sold the modems and software required to let multiple users communicate via computer before the advent of the Internet.) Soon after, he established his own BBS and software development company; five years later, he dropped out of the University of Miami, agreed to a formal merger with Galacticomm, and went to work for the company full-time, becoming president and CEO by the time he was 21.

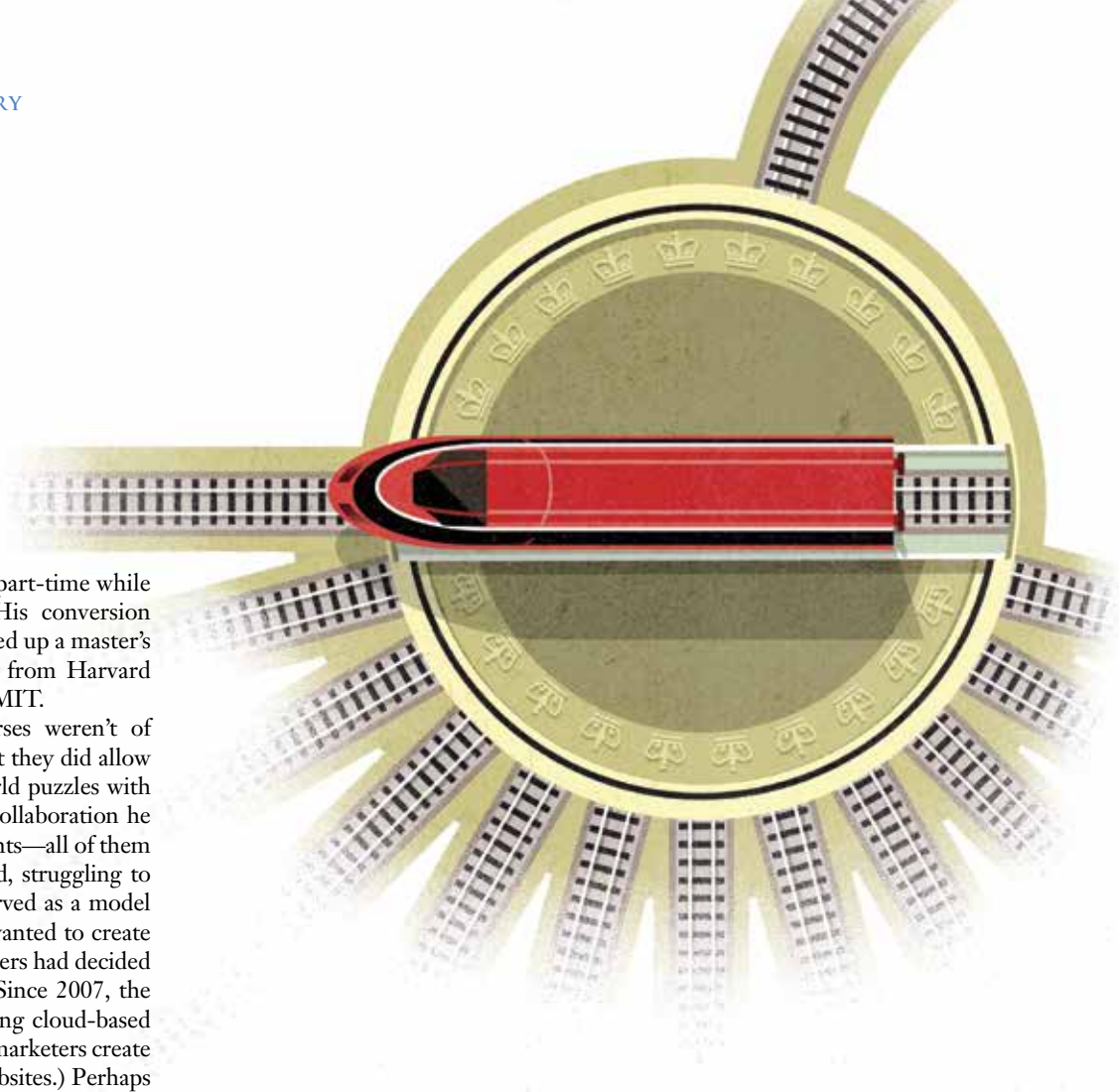
In the late 1990s, Brinker refashioned himself as an Internet technology consultant and cofounded ion interactive, a web development agency whose roster of clients included Siemens and Office Depot. Nonetheless, when he enrolled at GS,

SOME GRSERS BEGIN THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL CAREERS AFTER GRADUATING. OTHERS ARRIVE IN MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS WITH FAIRLY DEEP RESUMES AND TREAT THE SCHOOL AS A KIND OF ACADEMIC OASIS WHERE THEY CAN BROADEN THEIR INTELLECTUAL HORIZONS WITHOUT HAVING TO PUT THEIR CAREERS ON HOLD.

Brinker did so with a chip on his shoulder. For all his success, he still considered a college degree to be table stakes for becoming a productive member of society. And he hadn't yet ponied up.

The former programming prodigy arrived at Columbia with a bit of a math phobia, and his first foray into theoretical computer science—a class with the renowned mathematician and computer scientist Jonathan Gross—“scared the bejesus” out of him. Terror was soon replaced by fascination, however, and Brinker took every course in the subject that





he could, racking up credits part-time while working full-time at ion. His conversion was so complete that he picked up a master's degree in computer science from Harvard after earning an MBA from MIT.

Brinker's Columbia courses weren't of direct use to him at work, but they did allow him to return to his real-world puzzles with fresh eyes. And the intense collaboration he enjoyed with his fellow students—all of them huddled around a whiteboard, struggling to solve problems together—served as a model for the kind of dynamic he wanted to create at ion, which he and his partners had decided to take in a new direction. (Since 2007, the firm has specialized in building cloud-based software tools to help online marketers create and manage sophisticated websites.) Perhaps more than anything, Brinker's experience at GS reinforced his belief that the greatest gift an entrepreneur can possess is the ability to recognize that things can be different; that the way the world works today need not be the way it works tomorrow. To Brinker, who had always assumed that an Ivy League education could only be had straight out of high school in a single, four-year dose, GS offered proof that “no, actually, this can work entirely differently.”

That sense of possibility appealed to Fabian Pfortmuller '11, as well. A native of Switzerland, Pfortmuller spent a couple of semesters at the University of Zurich a decade ago, before leaving to pursue other interests. In high school, Pfortmuller had been heavily involved in student politics at the canton and federal levels, and had gone so far as to establish his own event management company in order to mount some of the largest student gatherings in the country—an experience that got him thoroughly hooked on “the whole entrepreneurial game.” Eventually, he graduated to corporate events, and spent several years building offline communities for the European social network XING.

After a while, Pfortmuller concluded

that he did not want to spend the rest of his life as an event manager. “What would be the social impact of that?” asks the former political activist. So he decided to leave Switzerland and return to college in order to broaden his horizons. As a twentysomething who hadn't cracked a textbook in five years, however, Pfortmuller feared being the proverbial “stupid old kid in class.” When he stumbled across GS, he couldn't quite believe that such a place existed. He applied in April of 2008, arrived in New York City in August, and began classes one week later.

Pfortmuller's visa required him to study full-time, but he still managed to launch two new enterprises while pursuing a degree in Middle Eastern studies. “It was an intense three years,” he says. Sandbox, a social networking service that connects more than 800 under-30 overachievers to a global community of peers and mentors, came close to bankruptcy several times. “We had absolutely no business model when we started,” Pfortmuller says. Today, however, Sandbox attracts corporate sponsors for its annual events and charges consulting fees to companies that are eager to brainstorm with its dues-paying members, who are

organized around hubs in 25 cities on three continents. And Holstee, which began life as an online apparel company with an emphasis on sustainable design and a single product—t-shirts featuring giant, holster-like pockets—has since moved into accessories and artwork.

While he is sometimes described as a social entrepreneur, Pfortmuller himself—whether out of modesty or brutal honesty, it is hard to tell—disputes the claim, insisting that he has never been motivated by the desire to solve a particular societal problem. Instead, he says, he has simply sought to do things that he enjoys; though as he admits, the activity he most enjoys is “building things that have an impact on other people.”

Joshua Gordon '04 is less equivocal. “I want to change the world here and now,” says Gordon, who was born and raised in Israel but has built his life, and several businesses, in New York. Gordon made his first trip to the city after completing his mandatory service in the Israeli army, and fell in love with it immediately. But he only learned about GS while studying in Paris, where he met a group of Columbia students from Reid Hall, the University's foothold

on the Left Bank. Gordon enrolled, went premed—fulfilling a “contract that I had with my mother that said I had to be a doctor,” he says—and was well on his way to finishing his medical degree at NYU when he decided that he did not, in fact, want to practice medicine. So he began experimenting with other pursuits: organizing events for his fellow medical students, founding the Middle East Medical Association with the goal of coordinating healthcare throughout the region, and studying finance on the side. As graduation neared in 2008, Gordon was interviewing for a position as a healthcare analyst in the banking sector. But the global financial meltdown intervened, and he decided to go the entrepreneurial route instead.

For someone who hailed from a family of academics rather than businesspeople, and who graduated from med school with more debt than cash, the experience of trying to start a business on his own was “frightening as hell.” Nonetheless, armed with nothing more than a credit card with a \$10,000 limit, Gordon soon had his first venture up and running: Nios Spa, a hair removal clinic. Gordon then used the revenue generated by Nios to fund two additional businesses. The first of these, Noya, comprises a line of all-natural kosher lip balms—a product category that existed in Israel, but remained foreign to the American market. The second, Nios Shield, is a line of SPF-rated hairstyling products. Gordon got the idea for the latter when he went to the beach one day, came back with a sunburn on top of his head, and discovered that there was as yet no such thing as hair-care with UV protection. So he invented it. The result, he says, is an entirely new category in beauty—one that aligns with his world-changing ambitions. “Hairstyling with SPF is perhaps a small start, but six per cent of cancers occur in the head and neck, and very few people think of protecting those regions,” says Gordon, sounding every inch the doctor.

AFTER A WHILE, FABIAN PFORTMULLER CONCLUDED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE AS AN EVENT MANAGER. “WHAT WOULD BE THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THAT?” ASKS THE FORMER POLITICAL ACTIVIST.

Gordon's trajectory from physician to personal-care innovator might seem rather circuitous, but it is all par for the entrepreneurial course. “Sometimes, life takes you on a path that you don't fully plan in advance,” he says, articulating a concept with which many GS alumni are familiar. “The truth is,” he adds, “in business and entrepreneurship, nothing works according to plan—and that's the first thing you learn.”

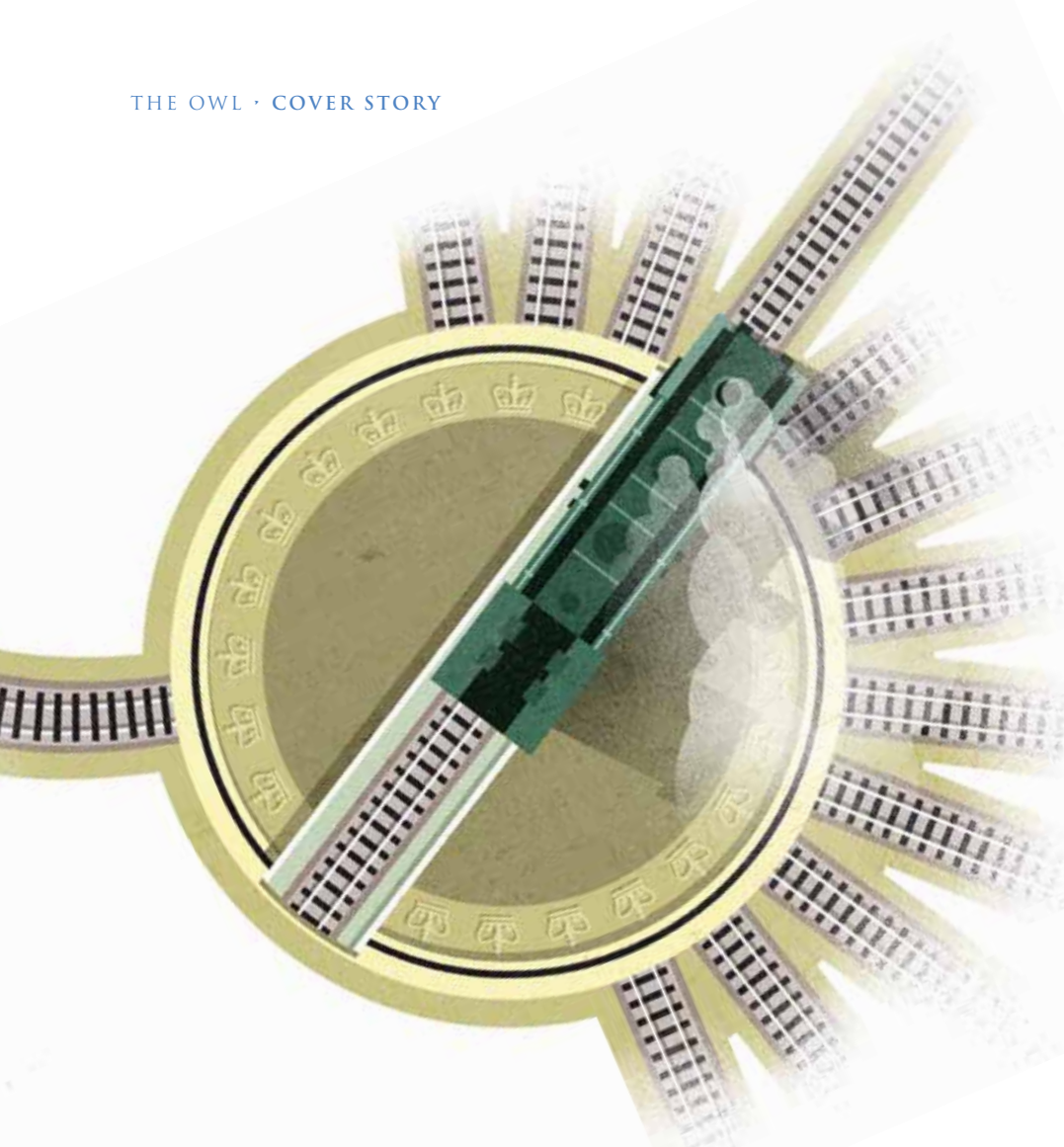
Judging by the long, varied, and still-evolving career of Elaine George, '85, it may also be something that you never stop learning. Fascinated by biology but also by subjects like art, music, and anthropology, George was disappointed by her initial college experiences, and left school to work in a corporate health clinic in Manhattan. It was not until her co-workers persuaded her to complete her education that she found her way to GS and discovered that she could earn a BS in Biological Sciences without abandoning her other interests—or her job. The research skills she picked up at Columbia served her well during the 10 years she spent doing clinical research for pharmaceutical companies Purdue Pharma and Schering-Plough. And they served her just as well when she decided to reassess her priorities, leave Big Pharma, and strike out on her own.

A lifelong athlete with a love for the outdoors, George picked up a master's degree in physical education and sports science while working full-time on drug development. Travels throughout the wilds of her home state of Connecticut, meanwhile, led to a concern over the loss of old-growth

forest and native tree species, while visits to the American West gave her an appreciation for how deforestation has affected wildlife. So in 2007, George founded two ventures: Odyssey Sport Technology and Silk Tree Gardens. The first offers serious athletes help in applying the latest sports science and technology to their training regimens. The second, which occupies the bulk of George's entrepreneurial efforts, is a container tree nursery and landscaping business with a serious environmental mission: to revive and propagate native tree species like white birch that have largely vanished from the scene. “Is it something that's going to make a million dollars for me? I'm not so sure,” says George, who also works as a substitute teacher in Norwalk's public schools. “But it's important to me personally.” And though she muses that her career might have unfolded differently had she found her focus earlier, she evinces no regrets about following a path that has brought her closer and closer to the things about which she cares most. “As I've gotten older,” she says, “I've been allowed to pursue what I really wanted to do.”

At first blush, Jon Snyder '92, '93 BUS, owner of the high-end gelateria Il Laboratorio del Gelato, might seem to embody a very different entrepreneurial trope: the innovator who finds his passion at an early age, and pursues it with single minded intensity. In reality, though, his story is much more complex. “I've struggled with what I wanted to do with my life,” says the man who introduced New Yorkers to the joys of artisanal Italian-style ice cream back in the 1980s.

Snyder's grandfather was a contractor who built many of the Carvel ice cream shops in the New York region, and he kept the last one he erected—a drive-up stand in Peekskill, NY—for himself. Snyder grew up working summers there alongside his siblings and cousins (his grandmother and, later, his mother ran the operation); but



he did not go straight into the frozen-treat business. A strong science student with an interest in the stock market, Snyder spent the year after high school working as a margin clerk on Wall Street, then enrolled in the Colorado School of Mines to study engineering. A summer trip to Italy between his freshman and sophomore years sparked a gelato obsession, however; and though he returned to New York to continue his studies at Brooklyn Polytechnic, the die was cast. After pulling in a couple of cousins as helpers and raising \$25,000 from family and friends, Snyder left school in 1984 to launch Ciao Bella, a wholesale gelato supplier in lower Manhattan.

Carving out a niche for the city's first purveyor of small-batch, handcrafted gelato was a long and grueling process. Three years passed before Snyder could take any money out of the business, and for the first four, he did pretty much everything from making the gelato to delivering it. By the time he sold the company in 1989, Snyder was selling gelato to some 60 restaurants and generating revenues of approximately \$200,000; but he was also thoroughly burnt

out, and had little desire to ever handle an ice cream scoop again. (The new owners turned Ciao Bella into a national brand, and moved the company's headquarters to New Jersey.)

By then 25 years old and unsure of what to do next—"there was some mourning to

BY THE TIME HE SOLD THE COMPANY IN 1989, JON SNYDER WAS SELLING GELATO TO SOME 60 RESTAURANTS AND GENERATING REVENUES OF APPROXIMATELY \$200,000; BUT HE WAS ALSO THOROUGHLY BURNT OUT, AND HAD LITTLE DESIRE TO EVER HANDLE AN ICE CREAM SCOOP AGAIN.

do; Ciao Bella was really my life," he says—Snyder knew that he wanted to stay in the city. He also wanted to finish his education. So he turned to GS, ultimately completing the college's combined program with the Columbia Business School. There followed seven years in the financial services industry, first at Lehman Brothers and then at ABN Amro. But Snyder was not happy trading equities, and his old entrepreneurial urges eventually began to reassert themselves. It was not until the events of 9/11, however, when his brother narrowly avoided the collapse of the World Trade Center, that Snyder's own "if not now, when?" moment arrived, and he felt compelled to open another business in Manhattan—and to return to his roots in ice cream.

Thus was born Il Laboratorio del Gelato, which follows in the wholesale footsteps of Ciao Bella—the company supplies more than 250 flavors, many developed in collaboration with local chefs, to more than 500 restaurants in Manhattan and Brooklyn—but adds a hip retail storefront on Ludlow Street. Though Snyder says he embarked on his second act in the gelato business with limited expectations, Il Laboratorio does more than \$2 million in annual sales. And it is another family affair: Snyder's sister helps with the books, and his mother, now 80, lives in an apartment above the shop and comes down seven days a week to lend a hand. (A former night-shift nurse, she is often the first one in at 3am.)

It has been a long, winding road from ice cream to finance and back again. But throughout, Snyder followed his bliss as best he could, letting his interests lead him where they might. In the end, his take on the late-stage success of Il Laboratorio could be read as a life lesson for entrepreneurs in general—and perhaps for anyone who is not quite sure where they are headed in terms of job or career, much less how they will get there.

"You find your passion," says Snyder, "and the money will find you." 🍷

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER: RALC TRANSFORMS INTO A NEW GSAA

BY NANCY BRANDWEIN

At June's Alumni Reunion, School of General Studies Dean Peter J. Awn announced a development that has been a long time in the planning stages and that will benefit current and future students enormously. The Recent Alumni Leadership Committee (RALC), the highly active group that has mentored hundreds of current students and spearheaded so many GS alumni programs and events, has been renamed the General Studies Alumni Association (GSAA). Not only is there a new name, but there is also a more formal structure and a succession plan to draw more alumni into its ranks.

Like a vibrant plant pushing against the confines of its pot, RALC had outgrown both its name and its informal structure. Those most active in RALC, including its co-chairs Chris Riano '07 and Alex Vial '09 and alumni Mason Beard '04, Richie Space '05, and Justin White '05 all graduated nine to ten years ago—hardly the most "recent" alumni. As a result, School of General Studies leadership together with active alumni and administrative officers of the Columbia Alumni Association Office of Alumni Relations recognized it was time for an upgrade. Columbia University Senior Director of Alumni Relations Jill Marie Galas Hickey said of RALC, "There wasn't a deep bench of potential leaders. We had roughly twenty volunteers—one to three committee heads, and we needed to create a sustainable succession plan. Now we have one, and now we have the ability to grow the people we have and to think about the people we don't have, and get them involved."

Transforming incoming students into active alumni will be a much easier task for the GSAA than it was for the fledgling RALC. "The history of GS is not one of great alumni involvement," said General Studies Dean Peter Awn while citing the nature of the nontraditional students' alumni-path. For many GS students—from veterans to ballerinas and business owners



ALL PHOTOS: DAVID DINI

to homemakers—it can take 8 to 12 years to graduate. "Because you can attend part time or full time, you may begin with a particular cohort, but there's no guarantee you'll graduate with the same group of people," Awn explained, emphasizing that unlike traditional colleges, GS alumni historically did not associate with a class-year contingent.

However, he has noticed an evolution in class identity, particularly over the last 12 years, most likely attributed to the fact that upwards of 65% of GS students now attend full time, which has built a sense of class cohesion. "All of the sudden, the student council began to appoint class presidents and give them serious money to run events."

The desire to be integrated into undergraduate student life is what fueled RALC's formation in the mid 2000s. As GS students, many RALC members fought to pay the same student activity fees as other CU students for the right to participate in campus life as equals (A triumph detailed in a 2005 Owl story, "Student Life Evolves.").

GSAA co-chairs Mason Beard '04 (left) and Christopher Riano '07 talk with Elizabeth Hollister '07, chair of the 2014 Reunion Committee, and Elaine Bernstein '72.



Dean Awn's enthusiasm for engaging alumni was a vital component for the development of the new GSAA.

RALC grew organically, as alumni from those heady times continued the strong bonds they had forged during their GS years and began to give back to the school after graduation. Beard '04, a former ballerina with the Pennsylvania Ballet who is now major gifts officer for the nonprofit Summer Search, remembers, "The General Studies Student Council (GSSC) invited alumni back as panelists for networking nights, résumé review sessions, and mock interview events. Once we graduated, we wanted to be the ones offering those kinds of sessions." Beard also said that a significant part of RALC's early mission was "wanting our alumni-veteran population and our current students attending on the GI bill to interact, therefore helping the vets adjust to student life and, later, transition to the workplace."

Military veterans Richie Space '05 and Justin White '05 became RALC's first co-chairs in 2007, roles they held for six years. Space concurred with Beard on the importance of those GS alumni-student interactions, "Part of the impetus for building the alumni group is the idea of mentoring. As a veteran coming out of the United States Marines and four years of college, I went through my own bumps and hurdles, and any time I see students struggling, I try to pair them up with alumni."

By 2011, RALC's continued engagement with current students through mentoring at New Student Orientation and networking events during the school year caught the attention of Peter Awn and Office of Alumni Relations administrators; they knew they had a vital resource in the cadre of RALC members. Janet Griffin, Associate Director of Alumni Relations, was charged with cultivating this group and was bowled over by the members' energy and sense of purpose. "A project I thought was going to take two to three years took a matter of months."

After her initial meeting with RALC and its then-current co-chairs Chris Riano and Alex Vial, she said the group immediately got to work. For example, they re-branded the annual Recent Alumni Reception renaming it the Mid-Winter Mixer, enhanced the event's publicity with a more attractive email invitation, and conducted personal outreach to draw people's interest. "Attendance went up 30% that year," said Griffin.

"It was just really exciting to watch it all come together. At the next meeting, everyone was excited to start new projects and continue the momentum that had begun at the Mixer. We redesigned the monthly newsletter, revamped our orientation panels, and had RALC recruit people to run panels on careers, job hunting, and other professional concerns.

"They owned these projects," said Griffin.

For current GS students, RALC's efforts to engage them have been a real boon. In

"A PROJECT I THOUGHT WAS GOING TO TAKE TWO TO THREE YEARS TOOK A MATTER OF MONTHS."

JANET GRIFFIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

fact, students enrolled today, said Griffin, "are shocked" to learn that when these alumni were students, they did not have all the resources that students have now. Alumni who graduated five to ten years ago, Griffin explained, recall how, as students, they created post-graduation planning programs at a grassroots level with few resources. That may have been the case during their time as students; however, it is important to note that before RALC was established, there existed a core group of active GS alumni who operated the first GS alumni association that had been established sixty years ago, aptly named General Studies Alumni Association (see "Back Then Too, Owls Gave a Hoot," page 13).

Today's students likely take for granted all the panels, mixers, and funds that RALC produces to foster student and alumni-centric events. It seemed only natural, then, that in 2012, Alumni Relations administrators and Dean Awn decided to expand RALC's mission to serve the extended GS alumni community.

Office of Alumni Relations administrators and RALC members alike consider Dean Awn's passionate involvement as key to RALC's smooth transition to the new GSAA. Mason Beard, who this year replaces Alex Vial as the GSAA co-chair to serve alongside Chris Riano, said, "It's amazing how much time Dean Awn has devoted to the conversations." For his part, Awn points to larger forces at play on campus that make it an opportune time for GSAA's formation.

"There's a sense of celebration of both the community and the university and the diversity within the university. The leadership of the university has really embraced what GS represents," Awn reflected. "So much so that Dean of Columbia College James Valentini is championing GS, saying, 'What makes the Columbia classroom unique is the level of diversity to which we are committed. It's different than any other Ivy.'" Awn noted that Dean Valentini's son, a former marine,



has been enrolled at GS since fall 2013, so he is personally invested in the school's success and contribution to the greater university community.

Within GS, Awn points to the ever higher caliber of admitted students, "We're attracting an incredible group of people who can handle full-time loads and handle them incredibly well." While the uptick in full-time GS students makes them a more cohesive group, it also presents challenges. Awn admitted, "A really interesting quirk of GS is the students enroll with 40 to 50 credits. They often graduate in two years, taking full summer terms, too, so they don't have time to think, 'What am I going to do for a living?' As a result, there's a real urgency in trying to get incoming students not only to engage one another in a meaningful way, but also to almost immediately engage them with alumni." The next challenge is to capture the attention of Postbac Premed Program students and alumni. As Awn pointed out, once they start on their path as medical students and then doctors, they have very little time to devote to engagement. Yet, as with the undergraduate population, Postbac Premed alumni involvement with current students is highly

Mason Beard '04 (center) talks with new graduate Justin Natbaniel Carter '14 (left) and Associate Director of Alumni Relations Janet Griffin.

"EVERYONE TALKED ABOUT THIS DEEP CONNECTION WITH GS, IDENTIFYING IT AS A JOURNEY THAT NOT EVERYONE EMBARKS ON AT THE SAME TIME. SOME PEOPLE SAY IT STARTS THE MOMENT YOU GET ACCEPTED. OTHERS SAY THERE IS A DISTINCT, VERY PERSONAL MOMENT YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH GS."

JILL MARIE GALAS HICKEY, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

NEW GSAA COMMITTEES INVITE ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

beneficial and rewarding for both parties.

Adopting a concept pioneered and executed extremely well by Princeton University, according to Awn, GSAA's goal is for GS students to consider themselves alumni as soon as they matriculate. This approach, coupled with putting the existing experience and energy of RALC to work within the new GSAA framework, will help GS's nontraditional student and alumni populations realize success.

The GSAA will consist of a leadership board made up of co-chairs and committee chairs who have clearly defined roles enabling the association to be more efficient and focused (see sidebar). A two-year term for co-chairs and a succession plan will enable smooth leadership transitions. Hickey pointed to a print-out of a presentation she had prepared for one of the GSAA planning meetings that outlined the new organization's vision. It stated,

The alumni board passionately leads and dedicates ambassadors to enhance the GS experience for alumni from the beginning of their Columbia journey through their lives as members of the worldwide Columbia community.

The idea of a "Columbia journey" is a powerful one for GS alumni. At the planning meeting, said Hickey, "Everyone talked about this deep connection with GS, identifying it as a journey that not everyone embarks on at the same time. Some people say it starts the moment you get accepted. Others say there's a distinct, very personal moment you fall in love with GS."

Whenever their journey begins, all GS alumni and students now have the support and resources of the General Studies Alumni Association, a organization that possesses the structure and strength required to foster life-long relationships with alumni from both past years and recent years so they, in turn, will be inspired to keep giving back through mentoring, networking panels, and professional programs. 🍷

In reinventing the Recent Alumni Leadership Committee (RALC) as the new General Studies Alumni Association (GSAA), Dean Peter Awn, Alumni Relations Senior Director Jill Marie Galas Hickey, and Associate Director Janet Griffin—together with alumni leadership—created the following committees, each one representing opportunities for students and alumni to interact and be engaged with GS.

ANNUAL FUND

Together with the Development staff, members of the Annual Fund Committee will be ambassadors for giving to and investing in GS. They will serve as leadership for campaigns such as the Annual Fund and Giving Day.

AWARD

The Awards Committee will create and maintain a portfolio of GS and University-wide citations for which GS alumni may be eligible, such as the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) Medal and the University's Medal of Excellence. Alumni members of the committee will research and nominate fellow alumni who they believe deserve accolades for outstanding service to the School and beyond.

COMMUNICATION

With a mission to ramp up the social media activity that RALC initiated, the Communications Committee will address all means of messaging, not only about events, but also about news, career development, and community development.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee will aim to engage students and alumni in career panels, orientation panels, and other career-related programs. Members of the committee will help identify and cultivate future alumni leaders and build awareness about the alumni community among current students.

PROGRAMMING

Alumni members of the Programming Committee will be instrumental in recommending content, venues, and target audiences for events. Each member will sponsor or assist with the production of one event annually. In addition to helping promote programs, members will help develop engaging happenings outside the tri-state area.

JOIN US!

It is a new era for the GS community. Those interested in participating in the General Studies Alumni Association (GSAA) and the committees listed above are encouraged to contact:

Columbia GS Alumni Relations
622 West 113th Street, MC 4525, New York, NY 10025
Phone: 212-851-7432
Fax: 212-851-1957
email: gsalumni@columbia.edu

BACK THEN TOO, OWLS GAVE A HOOT

BY NANCY BRANDWEIN

Many students—and recent alumni—don't realize that The Alumni Association of the School of General Studies (GSAA) was founded in 1948 and established as a non-profit organization in 1954. Alumni such as Barbara Voorish Levy '48 and Mrs. Helen Gilbert Baer '50 (for whom Lewisohn Hall's Baer Room is named) cultivated a robust and active organization. In fact, Baer received the alumni medal in 1960 for her contributions to the School.

According to Philip Ehrlich '88, president of GSAA from 1994–1998, there were 21 members of the original board, and amazingly, though names and faces changed, that number of involved individuals held constant for fifty years. The GSAA was in a unique position as an entirely independent organization, which, nevertheless, was totally supportive of the School. Ehrlich thinks it amazing that for many years there was only one dedicated staff member, Carol Burton, who handled alumni relations and development. Yearly dues enabled the GSAA to raise enough money to not only endow a yearly scholarship that was established by former president Lucille Roussin, but also to put out a yearly mailing and host social and educational events such as lecture series. Ehrlich cites memorable speakers such as Nobel Prize winner and father of modern brain science, Eric Kandel and the immensely popular history professor James Shenton. On one memorable evening astronomer Neil DeGrasse Tyson (host of the re-tooled hit television series *Cosmos*), then a Columbia grad student, took a group of GS alums up to the Pupin Hall observatory where he showed them the rings of Saturn.

The Owl also got its start through GSAA funding. Melissa Bell '93 and Kate Mellor '91 took this publication from a sometime newsletter to a biannual publication, and Bell, a playwright and content developer, was editor from 1993–2000. She remembers walking the proofs to the printer in Journalism Hall, and says a highlight for her was

compiling the Alumni Notes because GS graduates followed such interesting paths. Ehrlich, for instance, went from philosophy to art; his 22 inch polished bronze owl sculpture, dedicated in 1996, presides over the GS student lounge and can be seen from the Lewisohn foyer.

Over its history, the group accomplished many successes, yet ironically, Ehrlich says his principal achievement as president was leading the effort to integrate the group's operations with the School's enhanced alumni relations program, therefore paving the way for increased investment in the university-wide Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) and eventually, for today's re-launch of the GS Alumni Association. "Although we became inactive as an organization, several of us remained active as individuals," said Ehrlich, who regularly participates in events sponsored by the CAA and annually, along with GS Alumni Association Scholarship founder Roussin, attends the GS Scholarship Reception and other events where they proudly meet the recipients of the group's commemorative scholarship. 🍷



Two former GSAA presidents Philip Ehrlich '88 and Lucille Roussin '69 at the 2014 Alumni Reunion in May

2014 ALUMNI REUNION RECAP

“What’s the fun of being traditional?” asked Gergana Pancheva ’12 when she addressed more than 100 alumni and guests on Saturday, May 31 during the 2014 Alumni Reunion Cocktail Reception and Dinner. “I want to break the rules,” she said, as she described her journey from being a non-English-speaking Bulgarian immigrant to a Columbia GS graduate and now Vice President at a private equity placement group. Gergana’s journey was one of many stories highlighted at this year’s all-class Reunion held Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31 on the Morningside Campus.

Throughout the weekend, Reunion Chair Elizabeth Hollister ’07 encouraged the more than 240 alumni from graduating

classes spanning from 1948 to 2014 to, like Gergana, share their stories by creating hashtag-phrases that described their GS experiences. Hashtag-phrases such as #Rebirth, #AlwaysWelcome, and #GSsavedMyLife demonstrated the diversity of the GS alumni community, as well as a common thread—that their nontraditional paths converged at GS, where they sought a world-class education that would transform their lives.

Transformation was another powerful theme of the weekend, as Dean Awn and leadership of the Recent Alumni Leadership Committee (RALC) rolled out the new General Studies Alumni Association (GSAA). During his remarks

at the Dinner, Dean Awn introduced the nascent organization as a way to strengthen GS’s alumni and student community and its fundraising efforts. Furthermore, GSAA co-chairs Mason Beard ’04 and Christopher Riano ’07 invited attendees to “continue their GS stories and get involved.”

Saturday’s dinner was just one highlight of a Reunion that was packed with lectures, discussions, and social events. Another was Saturday morning’s Talks Across Campus when Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anna Quindlen ’74BC led a session that garnered much discussion by attendees who reported feeling “fired up” by the lecture that addressed how much progress women have made in American society over the past 50 years. At another talk, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History Eric Foner ’63CC, ’69GSAS discussed “The Emancipation of Abraham Lincoln,” a topic that captured the interest of many history buffs.

At the Dean’s Luncheon, more than 85 alumni gathered in Faculty House’s Skyline Ballroom to socialize and learn about the state of the School of General Studies. Dean Awn thanked members of the Recent Alumni Committee for their commitment and tireless work for GS. He recounted the successes GS has had in recent years raising funds for student scholarships, and he laid out his vision for building upon the School’s strides toward offering a world-class education to all deserving nontraditional students. He also discussed issues that have recently been in national news: the call to warn students about triggering content in the classroom and the discourse on sexual assault and misconduct on college campuses, and, importantly, steps Columbia is taking to address them.

The afternoon’s Mini-Core Courses featured classes such as Contemporary Civilization: Is It Right to “Nudge?” with humanities professor Patricia Kitcher and Frontiers of Science: Saving the Forest for the Trees led by Don Melnick, professor of conservation biology.

More than thirty alumni attended the GS-sponsored veterans reception where alumni leader Richie Space ’05 and Dean Awn celebrated the 71 veterans that graduated from GS in May 2014 as well as that the University has raised close to \$370,000 from a campaign that will support the student-veteran community for years to come.

A favorite event for many attendees was the nighttime Starlight Reception and Dance. The weather was perfect, and alumni and guests from every Columbia generation enjoyed an all-school gathering on the Plaza with Low Library lit in blue flood lights and Butler Library glowing over South Lawn.

GS GRADUATE IS FIRST U.S. NAVY OFFICER COMMISSIONED AT COLUMBIA SINCE 1973

For the first time since 1973 and since the return of the NROTC to campus, a NROTC cadet, GS graduate Abigale Marie Wyatt ’14, was commissioned as a U.S. Navy officer on May 22, 2014 in Low Memorial Library Rotunda at Columbia University in the City of New York. More than 100 guests, including family, friends, educators, administrators, and Naval officers attended the historic ceremony that celebrated the achievements and bright future of Ensign Wyatt.

The ceremony opened with the presentation of the official party and an invocation from Commander Joel D. Newman ’76, U.S. Navy, followed by remarks from Columbia University Provost John H. Coatsworth and Professor Peter J. Awn, Dean of the School of General Studies, who introduced Rear Admiral Dan Cloyd, U.S. Navy. Captain Ted Graske (ret) ’59CC, U.S. Navy performed the Presentation of the Sword. All the speakers focused on Ensign Wyatt’s impressive achievements, as well as the importance and historical significance of the relationship between Columbia University and the U.S. Navy.

The commissioning then became official with the Reading of the Commissioning Scroll and the administration of Oath of Office by Captain Matthew Loughlin, Columbia University NROTC director. Ensign Wyatt was joined by family and friends for the Installation of Insignia. In a touching moment, the traditional Rendering of First Salute was performed by Ensign Wyatt’s father, Petty Officer, First Class William Wyatt, U.S. Navy (ret). The ceremony closed with Anchors Aweigh

and the Marines’ Hymn and was followed by a reception where the cutting of the cake was performed using the sword that was bestowed upon Ensign Wyatt. Ensign Wyatt then took a moment to toast all in attendance and express her gratitude for the opportunity to be part of such an historic moment.

Ensign Abigale Marie Wyatt was born and raised in New Hampshire. At 21, she enlisted in the United States Navy and became a Cryptologic Technician - Interpretive (CTI) and subsequently was employed providing translation services at NSA Georgia at Fort Gordon.

During her time at NSA Georgia, Wyatt was selected for the Navy’s Seaman to Admiral-21 Program, a prestigious program that provides support and financial assistance, allowing outstanding active duty sailors to receive a top-notch college

education and become commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy. She has spent the past five years in the Navy and graduated from Columbia University School of General Studies on May 21, 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics.

She will now head to Naval Air Station Pensacola to begin her training to become a Naval Aviator. Wyatt will have an eight-year commitment to the Navy after she finishes pilot training, and she expects to go to graduate school, which the Navy encourages. She leaves Columbia with a wealth of knowledge and experience. “I’ve met so many intelligent people with so many different goals and so many different opinions,” she says. “It’s a unique environment and I’m going to miss it.”

To watch a video about Ensign Wyatt, visit <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/news/commencement2014/abigale-wyatt.html>



PHOTOS: DAVID DINI



2

1. Jesse Dean ’08, Pamela Arteaga Mata ’09, and Evan Elisseou
2. Gergana Pancheva ’12
3. Mpule Kvelgobe ’06



3



PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

Captain Ted Graske (ret) ’59CC presented the sword to Ensign Wyatt.

ON CAMPUS

BY ALLISON SCOLA

GS DEDICATES
OFFICIAL SCHOOL FLAG

On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, students and alumni of Columbia University School of General Studies held a dedication ceremony on the northeast corner of Lewisohn Lawn where a new flag symbolizing School of General Studies school pride is now flying. The flagpole and flag were a gift of the Class of 2013.

Spearheaded by former General Studies Student Council Vice President of Policy Nikki Morgan '13, the flag initiative was a way for the Class of 2013 to give back to GS. "The flag represents the banner under which incredibly diverse walks of life converge. It acts as a guide showing GSers that they have a clear place on campus and in the Columbia community," Morgan said. "I wanted to leave something behind for future students that encapsulates this unique journey—something that says, 'You are part of this community.'"

The flag bears the letters G and S and the School's official shield that was designed by students in 1950 and re-designed by alumnus Philip Ehrlich '88 in 2001. Its placement on the Morningside Campus, in front of Lewisohn Hall, marks the home-base for Columbia's students who have followed a nontraditional path towards a traditional education. Ultimately, however, it demonstrates students' strong school spirit. As Dean of Students Tom Harford wrote in an email to the GS community, "The flag represents students' pride in their college."

Speakers at the ceremony included School of General Studies Dean Peter J. Awn, Dean of Students Tom Harford, and Co-Chair of the Recent Alumni Leadership Committee Christopher Riano '07. Members of the Class of 2013 along with 2013 Senior Class President Angelica Hoyos and Nicole Morgan were in attendance.



GSSC Vice President of Policy Nikki Morgan '13, Dean of Students Tom Harford, and 2013 Senior Class President Angelica Hoyos proudly present the GS flag.

JTS OFFERS PRESTIGIOUS
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
FELLOWSHIP

"Participating in the Fellowship in Jewish Social Entrepreneurship has been a defining experience during my time at Columbia and JTS," said 2014 Joint Program graduate Marisa Rader. "Combining social justice entrepreneurship and Judaism in this way has helped me solidify what I want to be doing [after graduation] and where I want to be doing it."

Rader, who majored in American studies and modern Jewish studies, is one of 10 student-fellows who spent their senior year participating in professional development internships as part of the Fellowship in Jewish Social Entrepreneurship (FJSE), a unique program started in 2009 that is designed to give List College seniors a capstone experience, one where they develop an understanding of how the Jewish values they have learned during their time at JTS could be directly applied to the working world in order to elicit positive social change. Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Dean of List College, explained that through intensive orientation and training sessions, weekly seminar meetings that include reflective discussions and presentations by leading professionals, and internships with organizations and businesses that demonstrate effective modes of social change, FJSE "prepares fellows to be visionaries and realists."

This past academic year, Rader served as a Development Intern at AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, an antipoverty and community building organization that operates a one-year program that places young adults in service positions in inner cities. "I wanted to do the Fellowship because I wanted to get a better understanding of how social justice organizations operate," said Rader, who worked on fundraising campaigns and donor relations. "I learned that social justice work is a partnership among many different players. It was great to see a non-profit organization in action, learning what can be accomplished when donors are engaged to give."

Rader found her experience to be highly rewarding and eye-opening, and as a result, she plans to work for a nonprofit organization after graduation.

In addition to internships that require 10-12 hours of onsite work, students in the program participate in a weekly seminar designed to deepen their understanding of Jewish engagement in social action, develop and strengthen leadership skills, and dialogue with change-makers working in a variety of contexts. Led by Associate Dean Aliyah Vinikoor, the weekly seminar involves reading related texts, engaging in interactive discussions, visiting organizations such as Greyston Bakery in Yonkers and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, and connecting with guest speakers from Jewish and secular social change organizations including Alcoa Foundation, The Advocacy Lab, Ma'yan, and many others.

"It was a very meaningful hour and a half," said Rader about the weekly seminar. "We really bonded over the course of the year. We learned from each other and helped each other when we were struggling."

"The Fellowship really embodied the best of both my amazing Columbia education and phenomenal JTS education."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
DAVID CHAMBLISS JOHNSON

David Chambliss Johnson
Professor of Political Science and
Director of Undergraduate Studies,
Department of Political Science

Education: BA, Swarthmore
College; MPhil, Oxford University;
PhD, Princeton University

Publications include: *The Rhetoric of Leviathan*; *Thomas Hobbes and the Politics of Cultural Transformation*; *The Idea of a Liberal Theory*; and *A Brief History of Justice*

Current Projects: A work with the tentative title *Justice as Reciprocity* and a book with the expected title *The Birth of Social Justice*

One could argue that David Chambliss Johnson's academic career started in 1965 when he was just 16 years old. The Vietnam War was raging in South East Asia, and at home in East Tennessee, a battery of questions provoked the high school student. "My father was a highly ranked captain in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was supportive of the War in Vietnam, and I was not," recalls Johnson, Professor of Political Science and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Political Science at Columbia.

Johnson remembers several discussions over many years with his father where they disagreed with each other. But for Johnson, it was not simply enough to disagree. Having come from a family where every adult relative he knew was a lawyer, he had to understand why his opinion differed from his father's and be able to explain it. So, at the prompting of his social studies teacher, he read about the history of the War. But his inquiry did not end with a book or two. Johnson proceeded to survey 1000 people about their attitudes regarding the Vietnam conflict in order to form his own opinion and feel secure in his discourse. "My father was a New Deal Democrat and ex-military. Like many from his generation, he trusted his government to make good decisions—I was taught in civics classes to have faith in government too, but the War in Vietnam was a huge failure with regards to loss of life, energy, and resources," recounts Johnson who, at the same time, was grappling with the other significant social issue of the 1960s: the civil rights movement.

"I was from the American South. We had legal segregation when I was growing up, which created an astounding impression on me. It was the biggest issue of my youth," says Johnson who, as a result of exposure to such social discord, today writes and teaches classes on social justice.

Although he was a college student at Harvard and Swarthmore during the

"THE BETTER YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORLD, THE BETTER YOU CAN SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS. MY INCLINATION IS TO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES, AND WITH THAT, I CAN HELP OTHER PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES AND GIVE RISE TO SOLUTIONS."

DAVID CHAMBLISS JOHNSON

1960s' historic anti-war and civil rights demonstrations, Johnson saw higher value in forming a strong understanding of the issues, versus participating in rallies. "I'm an intellectual. I'm interested in ideas and the world. The better you understand the world, the better you can solve its problems. My inclination is to understand the issues, and with that, I can help other people understand the issues and give rise to solutions," says Johnson who brings that resoluteness to his writings, research, and work with students.

Since joining the Columbia faculty in 1986, Johnson has challenged undergraduates to inquire and discuss social thought through courses such as Contemporary Civilization, Political Theory, Theories of Justice, and Justice, all of which consist of elements of thought history, theory, law, legal cases and writings, and applied political theory. His objective as an educator is to encourage his students to question and discuss their points of view.

"People don't have to accept the way the world is. We are in a position to do something about it, whether that's as an activist or a practitioner of some kind," Johnson asserts. "We can each spend a segment of our lives working to rectify the injustices of the world."

POSTBAC PREMED PROGRAM ENHANCES BENEFITS AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

BY NOAH KUTZY

Despite being the oldest and largest program of its kind in the United States and having a placement rate of up to 90 percent in American medical schools, the Columbia University Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program continues to pursue new ways to enhance the support services and opportunities it offers to students in order to help all Columbia Postbacs succeed in their premedical and prehealth pursuits. This includes adding more academic advisors and glide year advisors, expanding mentoring and coaching programs, adding new linkage programs to an already robust roster, and forming new graduate program agreements; all of which continue the program's unparalleled level of commitment to premedical and prehealth students.

"We are constantly seeking ways to support and provide for our students as they pursue their careers in the medical field," Senior Associate Dean for the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program Victoria Rosner said, "I feel that the recent additions we've made establish the depth of our commitment to our students and their success."

Specialized Advising for Medical School Application

The program recently added Assistant Dean of Students Glenn Novarr as a specialized advisor helping prepare students for medical school interviews and connecting them with ideal Glide Year

opportunities such as clinical and research work, academic degree programs, and international fellowships. His addition to an advising team staffed by the senior associate dean and four dedicated, academic advisors means the Postbac Premed Program now has an even greater ability to help students meet their intellectual and career goals.

A Growing List of Opportunities

Beginning this spring, Postbac students have the opportunity to apply for the Combined Postbac Premed-MS in Human Nutrition Program, offered in partnership with the Institute for Human Nutrition at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, or the Mailman School of Public Health Accelerated MPH Program. These programs, along with the Combined Postbac Premed-MS Bioethics Program help students enrich and diversify their premedical education prior to enrolling in medical school.

The new combined master's programs come on the heels of new linkage agreements with Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine (the only dental linkage program in the nation), Weill Cornell Medical College, and New York University School of Medicine. Along with the Program's ten additional linkage agreements, they enable qualified Postbac Premed students with a strong interest in one linkage school to accelerate the application process and potentially matriculate in that school in the academic year upon completion of the orgo/bio year, forgoing the Glide Year.

As these and other additions and enhancements show, the Columbia University Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program's dedication to its students' success has never been greater.



A Postbac Premed Program student with his advisor, Limary Carrasquillo, TC '02.

POSTBAC ALUMNUS FEATURE: DR. DAVID T. SCADDEN '76

BY ALLISON SCOLA

"The best scientists think like the best poets," said biologist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author E. O. Wilson on the National Public Radio podcast *The Really Big Questions*. "The ideal scientist thinks like a poet and writes like a bookkeeper. But he's still a poet inside."

This great insight from the world's leading authority on ants is particularly appropriate when one considers the path and successes of fellow Harvard professor and physician-scientist David T. Scadden, MD '76BBPM.

Scadden, who attended the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program after graduating with a degree in English from Bucknell University in 1975, is a practicing hematologist/oncologist who focuses on bringing stem cell biology to patient care. His research and practice focuses on targeting the stem cell niche to attain novel therapies for blood diseases. Scadden is currently the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Professor of Medicine at Harvard University, Director of the Center for Regenerative Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, Co-Director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Co-Chair of the Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology at Harvard University, and former Chief of Hematologic Malignancies at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. He holds over 20 patents, and therapies based on his research and work are utilized to treat blood diseases and cancer patients with immunodeficiency worldwide.

As a child, Scadden loved science. His father fostered his interest by building him a lab outfitted with a chemistry set in the family's basement. However, once he reached high school, the Bergen County, New Jersey native found science to be tedious. Literature, on the other hand, captured Scadden's imagination. "It brought to life elements of the heart and head and history in ways I hadn't previously imagined. Literature also awakened in me an interest in the craft of writing," remembers Scadden,

who, while at Bucknell, wrote his senior thesis on the poet W. B. Yeats.

"Doing scholarly research on Yeats and having to distill it down to something readable for my thesis advisor was a concept-builder for me. It proved that I could take on big challenges. As a result, while still at Bucknell, I wanted to see if I could get reengaged with the sciences, so I took a few math classes to test myself. I loved coming from the world of ambiguity to the world of clarity and of right and wrong in mathematics," recalls Scadden. "I thought, 'I would really enjoy getting back to the sciences,' but then my task was to sort out how one could craft a life out of the love of the humanities and use those principles as a way to pay the rent.

"Medicine was a way to do that."

Scadden enrolled in the Columbia Postbac Premed Program and saw it as a rigorous way to test himself. He found success and enthusiasm for biology and the principles of how life is organized. He also volunteered at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and in the emergency room at Columbia Medical Center. "It was a test of whether or not I could enjoy being a caregiver and help people with acute need. It all felt right," he recalls.

While a student at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, Scadden thought he would become a clinician, not a researcher. But what he found was that his background in the humanities not only enabled him to sympathize with patients and their families, but it also gave him a valuable foundation for successfully processing research. "I felt capable of being able to take complicated situations and break them down," Scadden says.

When his mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer while Scadden was an intern, he realized that hematology and oncology were areas where he wanted to make a difference. Now, over 30 years later, Scadden has clearly done just that, and not only with his ground-breaking research and



work as a physician, but also as a teacher. For most of his career, Scadden has taught medical students and postdocs, but in addition, for the past six years, he has led a freshman seminar at Harvard that bridges literature with science.

"The creative challenge of medical research is not immediately visible to people, and I thought if I connected with students early, they might be more encouraged to stay with the inherent joy of thinking about how the body works," says Scadden.

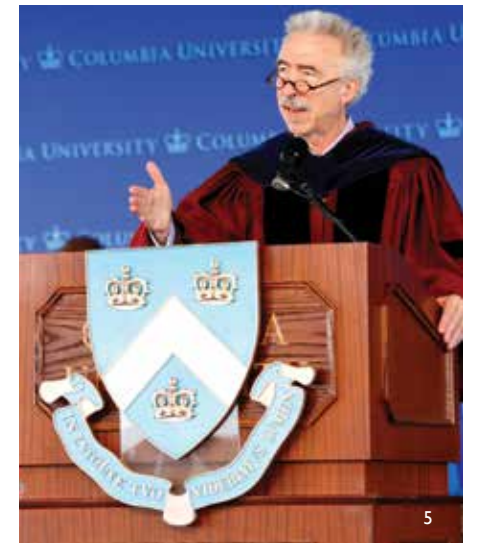
Each semester twelve first-year students enroll in *Blood: From Gory to Glory*, a course that examines blood as represented in texts ranging from ancient Greek classics through modern ones, such as *Dracula*, and then explores the science associated with blood. Students study this "giver and taker of life" through many lenses—those of ritual and religion, good versus evil, and then through that of the microscope, for after considering how blood is represented throughout history, students then go to the lab to conduct experiments to understand blood's power in the medical realm.

Scadden's message to students: For as long as there has been human life, there has been an evolving understanding and curiosity about this substance and "...we are all part of the discovery process."

It is that sense of curiosity and analysis—one that Scadden has held since he was a young man—combined with his desire to share it with not only his students, but also with his colleagues and patients, that make him not only a wildly successful scientist, but also a poet, in the truest sense of the word.

CLASS DAY 2013

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIVITO

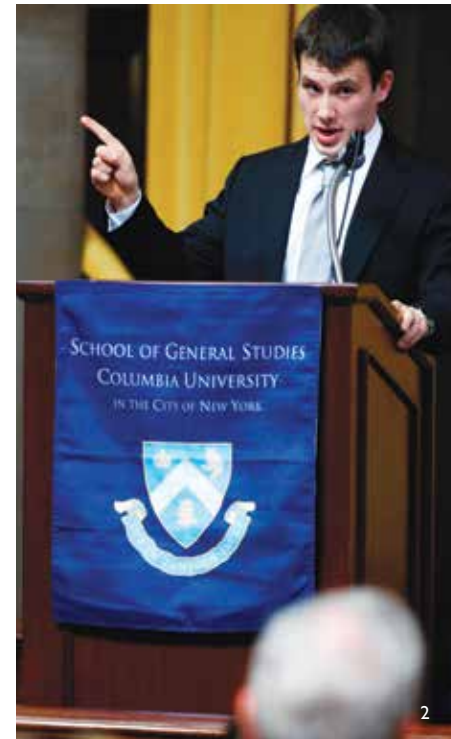


1. GS salutorian Damian Harris-Hernandez
2. Class Day procession
3. Mabogany Wright and family
4. Marissany Gavin and family
5. GS Class Day speaker Nicholas Dirks, chancellor designate of the University of California at Berkeley
6. Howard Fishman and the Biting Fish Brass Band performs for GS graduates
7. GS valedictorian Benjamin M. Shababo with his wife and daughter
8. Dean Peter J. Awn celebrates with GS graduates
9. Sciences Po Dual BA graduates Margot Renaut, Corentin Charlès, and Nur Arafé
10. Christopher Riano '07 (Co-Chairman of the recent Alumni Committee) with Alumni Key Award recipients Kevin McWilliams and Brian Driscoll
11. GS salutorian Tiekka Tellier



POSTBAC PREMED CLASS DAY 2013

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIVITO



1. Columbia Postbac Premed graduates at Class Day
2. Tyler Lopachin delivers the student address
3. Richie Dubey and Instructor Lise Hazen, Biological Sciences
4. Dr. David Newman, director of clinical research in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, delivers the keynote address
5. Dean Peter J. Awn congratulates Postbac Premed Program graduates
6. Senior Associate Dean Victoria Rosner (Right) with (from Left) Ashley White-Stern, Eugene Carragee, and Allison Lockwood
7. Katie Pivarnik (Center) and her husband with Professor Deborah Mowsowitz
8. Postbac Director and Associate Dean Andrew Sunshine (Right) with Walter Klyce and Phoebe Johnson-Black
9. Postbac Premed graduates from the Premedical Association celebrate their achievements at Class Day
10. John Andrews, Stephanie Sutter, and family with Student Affairs Officer Mike Allen



CLASS DAY 2014

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIVITO



5. Biting Fish Brass Band leads the Procession
6. Rakan Altouq (Left), Andre Bautista (Middle Left), Richard Baldassari (Middle Right), and Yiling Bao (Right)

7. Aries Dela Cruz '09 and Elegance Bratton '14
8. Gale Brewer '97, Manhattan Borough President, addresses the graduates as their Class Day keynote speaker.

9. Valedictorian Ido Haimi addresses the audience

10. Kasey Lockwood (Left), Alexander Owusu (Middle), and Adam Abin (Right)

11. Luka Kvirikadze and Lile Gelasvili with their son

12. Robert Britt (Left), Atetegeb Worku (Middle), and Elie Bleier (Right)



1. Salutatorian Gabriel Jackson address the graduates and guests
2. Graduates listen
3. Christopher Riano '07 (Co-Chairman of the General Studies Alumni Association) presents the Alumni Key award to recipient Ryan Kendall
4. Hua Tong (CityU Hong Kong Joint Degree Program Grad) and Saroj Siegler (Senior External Liaison Officer, City University of Hong Kong)



POSTBAC PREMED CLASS DAY 2014

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIVITO



1. *Outgoing PMA Board Walter Klyce, Eugene Carragee, Donte Watkins, Phil Plevak, Allie Lockwood, Ashley White-Stern, Davis Verde*

2. *Class Day Speaker Dr. Linda P. Fried*

3. *Student Speaker Evan Joiner*

4. *Shimon Jacobs, Allie Lockwood, Jaime Rojas, Matthew Aizpuru, Davis Verde, and Elizabeth Evans*

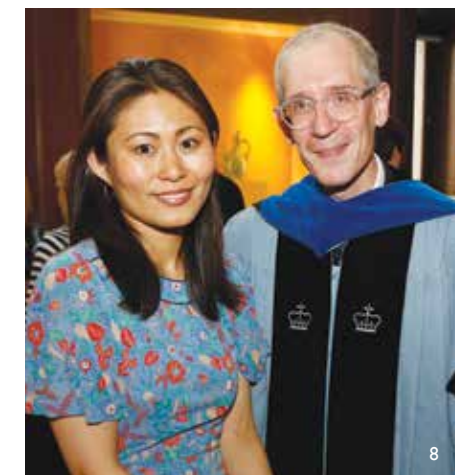
5. *Monique Hedmann-Maxey, Instructor Lise Hazen and guest*

6. *Dean Peter J. Awn, Ashley White-Stern and family, along with Associate Dean Victoria Rosner*

7. *Desiree Oyola and Dean Peter J. Awn*

8. *Kei Tateyama and Postbac Director Andrew Sunshine*

9. *Associate Dean Victoria Rosner*



2013 NEW GRAD NOTES



Born in Alberta, Canada, **Lisa Cant** is an international model who has worked for such companies as Betsey Johnson, Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, Tommy Hilfiger, and Juicy Couture, and who was featured

twice on the cover of *Vogue Italia*. While a student at GS, Lisa took classes full-time while continuing to model, and in 2012, she received the Herbert H. Lehman Prize for Excellence in History. A member of the Phi Beta Kappa society, Lisa was also awarded the Olga H. Knoepke Scholarship and graduated *summa cum laude*. Since graduation, Lisa has been raising her newborn baby girl.



Born in Jamaica, **April Jackson** has also lived in France and England, and was named the valedictorian of her senior class at the Royal High School in Bath, U.K. In 2008, April was named Miss

Jamaica Universe, and served on a national education board at the request of the Prime Minister. Shortly thereafter, she established Give Children a Future, a charity that provides development-aid for children worldwide. At GS, April was a member of the Caribbean Students Association and participated in "Paris Then and Now," the creative writing program's study abroad program in France. She also kept busy by writing a memoir and cookbook,

and in April of 2013, she completed the Paris Marathon, raising nearly \$6,000 to donate to the Child Development Agency in Jamaica. After graduation, April will continue running her charity while launching the Savour Jamaica Supper Club, an enterprise that will bring international chefs to Jamaica to cook exclusive dinners around the island.



One of 63 U.S. veterans who graduated from GS in 2013, **Dan Lagana**, who was born in San Salvador, El Salvador, served two tours of duty in Iraq and received the Bronze Star Medal for performance and

leadership. During his time at GS, Dan was very involved in student life, serving as President and Board Member of the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University from 2009-2011, raising \$25,000 for the organization, and participating in successful congressional lobbying in D.C. for the Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act. He also served as Student Council Treasurer and Finance Delegate for the General Studies Student Council from 2009-2011. Dan was one of six students in 2011 to be selected for the Spirit Award, the highest leadership award at GS. In the fall of 2012, Dan completed an internship at the White House. Since graduation Dan has pursued a career in public service.



Aryeh Primus started his undergraduate career at Brandeis University, but dropped out to work in the high tech industry. He was employed by a number of startups, and eventually

landed at Hewlett Packard, where he worked as a software evangelist, promoting products to customers at conferences and other events. In 2009, Aryeh took a year off from work, but quickly got restless. A friend told him about GS, and because he had always wanted to finish his degree at a top-tier institution, he decided to apply. As a student, Aryeh made his mark by teaching a lecture series entitled "Unix and Advanced Networking" for the computer science department. A member of the GS Honors Society, Aryeh graduates *magna cum laude* with a degree in economics and statistics, and a concentration in computer science. After graduation, he enrolled at Oxford to pursue a master's in computer science.



Tiekka Tellier left high school early to pursue ballet, eventually joining the Houston Ballet in 1988, where she became an acclaimed professional ballerina. After a 16-year career

that included performing leading roles for royalty, presidents, and diplomats around the world, she decided to pursue the college degree she had always wanted. Prior to enrolling at GS, Tiekka studied at Borough of Manhattan Community College, and as a GS student, she took classes while juggling the responsibility of being a working single mother to a special needs child. Tiekka was named salutatorian of the Class of 2013, and also received the Lifchez-Stronach Scholarship Award. A member of the GS and Phi Beta Kappa honors societies, Tiekka graduates *summa cum laude* with a degree in art history, which she hopes to use to pursue a career in the arts, perhaps working with special needs children. In the meantime, she will continue to teach ballet.



Born in Manchester, England, and raised in East Jerusalem, Palestine, **Nur Arafah**

took a uniquely international path to GS. Nur, who was named class valedictorian at the Lycée Français de Jérusalem, was awarded a full scholarship to attend Sciences Po in Menton, France, where she focused on Middle Eastern studies and was eventually offered the opportunity to participate in the Dual BA program between Sciences Po and GS. At GS, Nur was involved in Students for Justice in Palestine and the Turath Association, and is also a member of the GS and Phi Beta Kappa honors societies. After graduation, she enrolled at Cambridge University to pursue a master's degree in development studies, and plans to enroll in a doctoral program shortly thereafter. Longer term, Nur hopes to return to Palestine to work for the Ministry of National Economy, helping to build a better Palestinian government.



GS/JTS graduate **Sam Shuman** has always been interested in politics. He began his college career at Northwestern University. During that time, he completed an internship for a

U.S. Senator. He chose to continue his studies at GS because he wanted to attend a school that demonstrated concern about political and social issues taking place in the global community. Sam served as president of Gayava, the Jewish LGBT club, and also organized with Occupy Columbia. A member of the GS and Phi Beta Kappa honors societies, he is the recipient of the GS Dean's Prize in Anthropology, an Ella Deloria Research Fellowship from the anthropology department, a grant from the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, and departmental honors. Sam graduated with a degree in Jewish women & gender studies from List College and a degree in sociocultural anthropology from General Studies. He hopes to apply for a PhD program in sociocultural anthropology in the next few years.

2013 POSTBAC NEW GRAD NOTES



After completing his bachelor's of fine arts in dance at Purchase College, **Peter Chamberlin** immediately began a career with a professional dance company, traveling worldwide and performing for the

likes of President Barack Obama, Oprah, and Paul McCartney. After five years, Peter was ready for a change, and he wanted to work in a field that allowed him to directly impact the well-being of others. He decided on medicine as a means to pursue that goal, and enrolled in the Postbac Premed Program. During his second semester, Peter lost his mother to cancer, and while it was a heart wrenching experience, it reaffirmed his decision to pursue medicine as one of the most meaningful ways to help ease others' suffering. While at GS, he volunteered in Brooklyn at New York Methodist Hospital's Emergency Room as well as with the Kings Against Violence Initiative, a youth violence intervention, prevention, and empowerment program. Peter enrolled at Weill Cornell Medical College this fall and plans to return to his rural Maine hometown to practice family medicine.



Born in Sugar Land, Texas, **Mary Nwosuocha** completed her bachelor's degree in comparative literary studies at Northwestern University before working for Nordstrom, where

she helped high-end clients update their wardrobes or dress for special events. Shortly thereafter, her younger sister, who was still in high school and having trouble at home, moved in with her. The experience of having another person depend on her led Mary to realize she wanted to make a career out of helping those in need, and she enrolled in the Postbac Premed Program to prepare for medical school. As a Postbac student, she volunteered at New York-Presbyterian Hospital as a videographer for the COACH program, an online medical education training tool, and also as a research assistant in their Pediatric Emergency Department, where she helped one of the doctors draft her IRB proposal. This fall, Mary matriculated at her first choice, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

SAVE THE DATE

Below are just two of the engaging events we have planned for this year. Join the GSAA as we embark on a new era together!

**MID-WINTER MIXER
FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

**ALL-YEAR ALUMNI REUNION
MAY 30, 2015**

Visit gs.columbia.edu/alumni for the latest news, event information, and more!

JASON EVERMAN '13

Jason Everman has cultivated a life of adventure. In 1987, Everman, then a commercial fisherman off the coast of Alaska, quit his job and moved to Seattle where he made his mark in the music scene, becoming the second guitarist for the band Nirvana with whom he recorded and toured the country to promote their *Bleach* album. One year later, he auditioned for a spot in Soundgarden, beating out the competition and playing bass on their "Louder than Love" tour that took him through the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Europe. Upon the tour's completion, Everman moved to New York City where he was recruited as the bassist for Old Lady Drivers. Shortly thereafter, he went on to sign as a guitarist with alt-metal group Mind Funk.

Everman eventually outgrew the rock scene, and in 1994, he traded his pick for a rifle and enlisted in the U.S. Army special operations forces as a part of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, partially inspired by his grandfather, who was a WWII tank commander. After about three years of service, Everman found a job as a bike messenger in Manhattan in order to save money for a trip to Nepal. He hiked the Himalayas for several months and stayed in a monastery in the Everest region for a few weeks, dividing his time between meditating and doing chores.

In 2000, Everman re-enlisted in the U.S. Army special operations forces and was deployed to S.E. Asia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. After finishing his tour of duty, Everman decided to attend college, considering the completion of his bachelor's degree the final step in pursuing a well-rounded life.

"Throughout my adult life I have made the conscious effort to develop three aspects of who I am: the artist, the soldier, and the philosopher; I believe GS has been the ideal place to realize this development," Everman said.

During his time at GS, Everman was an active member of the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University student organization. Since graduation, he has spent time traveling, and he hopes to publish a novel. He also plans to apply to a graduate degree program to study history.



2014 NEW GRAD NOTES



Born in Michigan, **Chad Brauze** began cooking in restaurants at the age of 14. In 2002, he enrolled in the Culinary Institute of America, where, before completion of his first semester, he was tapped by world-

renowned chef Daniel Boulud to work in his restaurants, progressing through each station of the kitchen within three years and attaining the role of sous-chef. At the encouragement of Boulud, Chad then embarked on a series of apprenticeships at some of the best kitchens in Paris. When he returned to New York, Chad served as Saucier at Per Se before reuniting with Boulud at Daniel. After reading the autobiography of and consulting with GS alumnus and world-famous chef Jacques Pépin '70, '72GSAS, Chad enrolled at GS. He earned his BA in computer science and mathematics while also working full time. While at GS, he also worked with Daniel Boulud and author Bill Buford to help create the cookbook *Daniel: My French Cuisine*. Chad is currently Executive Chef at Rotisserie Georgette, a NYC French restaurant recently named a Critics' Pick by *The New York Times*.



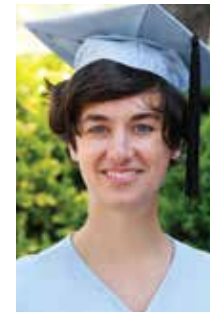
Tina Ling enrolled at GS after a successful career in the fashion industry where she was a top seller and the youngest member recruited for the opening team of Dolce & Gabbana's New York boutique,

their first flagship store in the United States. As a GS student, Tina was president of Columbia University Family Support Network (CUFSN), a support network for Columbia Students and their family members that she co-founded in 2012. In

recognition of Tina's leadership on campus, she was awarded the GS Spirit Award, GS Service Award, Dean's Citation, Office of Multicultural Affairs Award for Service and Leadership, and a Helena Rubenstein Foundation Scholarship. After graduation, Tina drove cross-country to research the migration of displaced Chinese railroad workers transitioning to gold rush mining in the West.

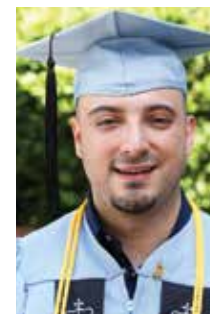


Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, former American Ballet dancer **Jacquelyn Reyes** began training at four and performed many leading roles in productions including *The Nutcracker*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Aladdin*. Accelerating her studies, she graduated with honors from high school in three years and began performing on some of the world's greatest stages in cities such as Paris, Tokyo, London, Seoul, and Beijing. With dance as her first passion, Jacquelyn enrolled at GS where she pursued her interest in the arts and graduated *cum laude* with a degree in film studies. Jacquelyn has been honored as a National Coca-Cola Scholar and recognized by the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts, an organization committed to identifying the next generation of emerging artists. Jacquelyn is currently directing her first short film called *Spicy Tuna*, which she plans to enter into SXSW film festival.



Kristine Gorgen embodies the international character of the Dual BA Program Between Columbia University and Sciences Po. Raised in Germany to parents who were foreign correspondents,

Tine attended an international high school in Hong Kong and volunteered in China, Tanzania, and Burma before moving to France to study Euro-Asian relations at Sciences Po's Le Havre Campus. At Sciences Po, she studied English, French, and Hindi alongside a rigorous social science curriculum. As a GS student, Tine majored in political science and served as a tour guide for GS. She plans to return to Germany for a position with the government and will apply to graduate school.



Ryan Kendall came to GS from Denver with an activist streak. Having emancipated himself from his parents at age 16 after undergoing two years of antigay reparative (or conversion) therapy, Ryan

spent several years battling homelessness, depression, and addiction before enrolling in community college and working with law enforcement organizations on issues of LGBT equality and discrimination. His expertise brought him to the U.S. District Court, where he served as a key witness in the case that overturned Proposition 8, the amendment banning same-sex marriage in California. While at Columbia, Ryan majored in political science, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He received the Alumni Key Award for his exceptional academic achievement and service to the Columbia community. Ryan also received the Courage Award from the National Center for Lesbian Rights and continues to testify as a fact witness in states where reparative therapy bans are being considered. Ryan will attend law school in the fall and pursue a career in civil rights law.



Justin Nathaniel Carter hails from the Bay Area and came to GS as a transfer student and Phi Theta Kappa member from West Valley Community College. As a Columbia student, Justin personified

school spirit. His commitment to service was unparalleled, representing GS in the University Senate for two years and serving as an EMT with the University's Emergency Management Service as well as participating in the GS Student Council and Columbia University Family Support Network. Justin also served as a GS tour guide and Orientation Leader and worked part time for the school's Communications department. He graduated with a degree in political science and hopes to use his education to reduce social inequalities and work on grassroots political campaigns.



Robert LeDesma spent several years in his native Arizona as a dog trainer before transferring to GS from Mesa Community College where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a nominee for the All

USA Academic Team. At Columbia, Robert was a Program for Academic Leadership and Service Scholar, majoring in biology with a premedical concentration; he also served as a GS tour guide and Orientation Leader and was an active member of the GS Student Council and Columbia University Family Support Network. Robert received the Dean's Citation in 2014 for his commitment to the Columbia community during his tenure at GS. Following graduation, he plans to pursue full-time work in laboratory research before applying to PhD programs in virology.



Elegance Bratton left home at age 16 due to a contentious relationship with his mother over his admission that he is gay. Following nearly ten years of homelessness on Manhattan's Christopher Street,

he joined the U.S. Marine Corps during the height of the Iraq War and served as a combat specialist. At GS, Elegance was awarded a Humanity in Action fellowship to study French social justice movements and was a member of the Dean's List. He also wrote and directed *Pier Kids: The Life*, an independent documentary initially funded through Kickstarter that follows the lives of LGBT youth of color. While a student, Elegance also published books on photography and poetry. He graduated with a degree in African American studies and has been accepted to the graduate film program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.



William Tant enrolled at GS in 2011 after a successful career as a professional surfer that ended following a diagnosis of a rare disease that required him to have open-heart surgery in 2013.

Will runs a charity and is the sponsor of an annual surfing competition in his Florida hometown that memorializes his brother, Tommy, who passed away from the same heart condition in 1998. In addition to surfing, Will was also a professional model featured in Nautica's 2011-2012 international ad campaign. He graduated as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the GS Honor Society with a degree in religion and plans to apply to graduate school.

UMARU JALLOH '14

On Oct. 2, 1992, with his brother on his shoulder and mother and sister close behind, Umaru Jalloh ran for his life as grenades exploded and bullets screeched by his head. Twenty-two years later, Jalloh, a 42-year-old Sierra Leonean refugee who has endured personal tragedies such as homelessness and triumphs such as being named to the Dean's List, graduated from Columbia University School of General Studies on May 19, 2014.



Jalloh—the first person in his family to graduate elementary school—could not be more thrilled to earn his BA in anthropology.

"I am dedicating my degree not only to my sister, who was forced to drop out of school in second grade because she is female, but also to my brother who also was forced to drop out because of a disability. I am indebted not only to them, but to girls and children with disabilities with marginal circumstances everywhere," Jalloh said.

Education is not only Jalloh's personal mission, but it was also his pathway to the United States in 2002. As a political refugee in one of the largest refugee camps in Guinea, he learned from a United Nations field worker of a teacher shortage for English-speaking refugee children in the Guinean capital, Conakry. It was there that he met Lisa Gimbel, an American who was volunteering at the school, and who eventually encouraged Jalloh to come to the United States to work as a camp counselor in Wading River, N.Y.

"After working at Camp Wolfson and learning new skills from program management and wilderness survival, my desire to be a college-educated, certified teacher was even stronger, and in the fall of 2006, I enrolled at Suffolk Community College (SCCC)—17 years after graduating from high school. I felt reborn," Jalloh said.

At SCCC, Jalloh was a straight-A student and the president of the Phi Theta Honor Society, an international honor society of two-year colleges and academic programs. His success at SCCC led him to apply to Columbia University School of General Studies for the spring of 2010.

"When I enrolled at Columbia University, I struggled not only with health issues, but also homelessness. The School of General Studies, however, supported me through these tough times with tuition, housing, and medical assistance. I've made life-long friendships; I always felt welcome; and I could not be prouder to be a GS alumnus and a member of the Columbia community," Jalloh said.

After graduation, Jalloh would like to study the history of technology through a joint program at the University of Pennsylvania and the Franklin Institute Museum where he serves as a science fair volunteer. He has also initiated plans to open an inclusive school in rural Sierra Leone called Fair-play Academy to ensure all students receive a quality education.

2014 POSTBAC NEW GRAD NOTES



Born and raised in Boston, Mass., **Ashley White-Stern** earned her BA in cinema and media studies from the University of Chicago and her masters in film studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

After completing her MA, while working as a Maître D' at a Boston seafood restaurant and oyster bar known for its local menu, she had the opportunity to travel to Sicily for a course on health and terroir with a Sicilian chef and a physician from San

Francisco. It was on this trip that Ashley decided to pursue a career in medicine because she realized that as a physician, she could combine her passions for food, community building, population health, and community health. While in the Postbac Program, Ashley was very involved, serving as President of the Premedical Association Board and helping to organize the Annual Medical School Fair and the Annual Postbac Symposium. She began medical school at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in the fall.

Evan Frederickson Joiner grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2007, he earned his BA in American studies and theater studies from Yale University. He then moved to



New York City where he worked as an actor and an academic tutor. Through his role as a tutor, he developed a strong interest in child psychiatry that inspired him to pursue a career in medicine. For the past year, he volunteered in the Psychiatric Recovery Center at St. Luke's Hospital where he worked primarily with patients with psychotic disorders. He matriculated at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons this fall.

EXTRAORDINARY STRIDES, EXTRAORDINARY GRATITUDE

GIVING



COLUMBIA | GS
School of General Studies

Over the past 10 years, GS has seen a significant increase in contributions received from alumni and friends. The size of the GS endowment has more than doubled, from 15.8 million to 39.7 million. This increase translates to better access to housing and improved academic and student support services. Additionally, GS has created over 30 new named scholarships. Armed with the ability to give more financial aid, the School has been able to attract the best nontraditional students from around the country and the world.

Unless otherwise noted, the numbers expressed below are based on donations received between June 3, 2013 and June 2, 2014.



ONE MILLION DOLLARS RAISED FOR THE 2013-14 ANNUAL FUND

MORE THAN 1,800 DONORS

GIFTS IN 2013-2014 RANGED FROM \$1 TO \$1 MILLION

69% STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS OR GRANTS



\$17.1 MILLION

GIVEN AS SCHOLARSHIPS OR GRANTS TO GS STUDENTS

THANK YOU



gs.columbia.edu/give
#ColumbiaGS Thanks you!

\$33 MILLION

RAISED FOR GS FINANCIAL AID VIA THE COLUMBIA CAMPAIGN



MORE THAN **\$250,000** RAISED FOR GS ON GIVING DAY 2014

AVERAGE AWARD IN 2003-2004: **\$5,949**
AVERAGE AWARD IN 2013-2014: **\$12,217**

THE COLUMBIA CAMPAIGN

FINANCIAL AID POOLS

\$3.7 MILLION (2003-2004)
\$17.1 MILLION (2013-2014)

GIVING BACK AND CLIMBING HIGH

“I trace everything I’ve done so far professionally, back to GS,” says 2006 graduate and class salutatorian Pavan Surapaneni. “GS took a chance on me that no one else would—and for that reason, I joined RALC—and I now serve on the Board of Visitors.”

That “chance” to which Pavan refers, is one to which many GSers can relate. Before enrolling at the School of General Studies in 2002, the now attorney was a high school dropout and troubled teen. After a life-altering experience, he sought help, earned his high school diploma at The John Dewey Academy, and found a new path. Once at Columbia and part of a community of diverse and dynamic students, Pavan worked harder than ever before, and it paid off. Upon graduation, he attended Harvard Law School.

Today, Pavan is an Associate at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, a leading law firm based in New York City. He landed a position there after serving as a Summer Associate during both of his summers breaks while in law school. After briefly meeting a partner of the firm at a job fair during his first semester in Cambridge, Mass. he was invited to join them for the summer. “They were interested in me not based on my Harvard grades—because at that point I hadn’t earned any. They were interested in me solely based on my work at GS,” recalled Pavan.

As an attorney, Pavan helps clients evaluate and allocate the risk of, and negotiate and ultimately close, business transactions. For example, Pavan was one of the members of the S&C team advising Frank McCourt in connection with the settlement of his divorce and marital property dispute over—and subsequent sale of—the Los Angeles Dodgers. The transaction involved

coordinating a number of different lawyers from different legal disciplines along with brokering an unprecedented agreement with the Office of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball and Guggenheim Baseball Management, which eventually acquired the team, its media rights, and real estate that included Dodgers Stadium.

Such deals can be stressful and all-consuming, so to decompress, Pavan heads to the hills—but not just any hill. An avid hiker and climber, Pavan takes day trips out of Manhattan up to the Hudson Highlands and Cold Spring, N.Y. to challenging sites like the one that hikers call Breakneck Ridge. Or during the colder months, he goes ice climbing in New Hampshire’s White Mountains. “I was born in Maine, so I was born to be in the mountains,” he said.

When Pavan has more time, he climbs some of the world’s tallest peaks. Every two years, after extensive training and preparation, he picks a new summit to conquer. To his credit thus far, he counts Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, Mount Elbrus in Russia, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and Mount Rainier in Washington State, to name a few.

This June, he took a month off from work to climb to the summit of Denali (also known as Mount McKinley) in Alaska, a vast wilderness of forest, tundra, rocky landscapes, and glaciers.

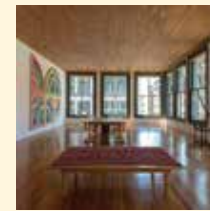
“When you’re on the mountain, you must be in the moment. You must focus on each step to do it safely. And when you’re able to stop, you look around at the stunning views and think, ‘Wow, this is beautiful!’ There’s no time to think about work and the stress it brings. You have to think about how you are going to take the next step,” said Pavan.



“SERVING ON THE BOARD OF VISITORS IS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO THE SCHOOL THAT GAVE ME SO MUCH. AT THE END OF THE DAY, GIVEN MY PAST, I HAVE A SENSE THAT I WAS GRANTED A CHANCE. I WANT TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE TO HAVE THAT SAME CHANCE.”
PAVAN SURAPANENI '06

ALUMNI NEWS

COMPILED BY CHRISTOPHER YOUNG



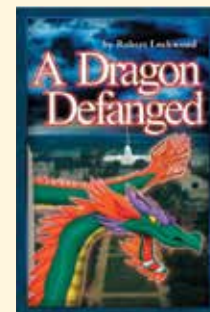
1953

The Judd Foundation, established in recognition of minimalist artist **Donald Judd**, refurbished Judd’s former residence in order to open it to the public as a museum featuring the artist’s collection of works by Duchamp, Frank Stella, Stuart Davis, and Dan Flavin. Additionally, the gallery will exhibit Judd’s own sculptures.



1960

Barbara Probst Solomon’s archive was recently acquired by the Harry Ransom Center, a humanities research library and museum at UT Austin. The archive, which includes manuscripts, correspondence, published books, first drafts, interviews, documentaries and photographs, tells the story of Probst Solomon’s life as a prolific writer, journalist, and activist focused on fascist Spain in the second half of the 20th century. Solomon is still regularly featured in *The New York Times*, *Harpers*, *Vogue*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *El País*. She is also the publisher and editor of the literary journal *The Reading Room*.



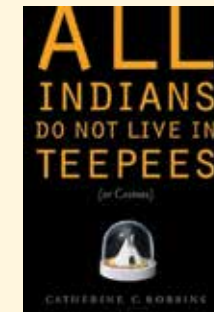
1962

Robert Lockwood wrote political thriller *A Dragon Defanged*, which intertwines domestic politics, economic issues, and the rivalry between China and the United States. Previously, Lockwood held various political posts, ranging from Counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and Army Colonel to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger’s chief speechwriter and Deputy Special Arms Control Adviser to President Ronald Reagan, all before becoming a Washington lobbyist for several Fortune 500 companies.



1963

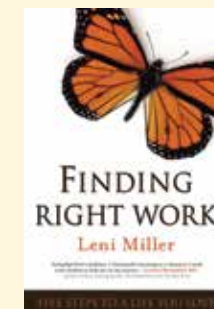
John Tauranac, who led the Metropolitan Transportation Authority committee that created the iconic 1979 subway map (the basis for the map still in use today), has independently produced an updated Subway map. Showing such useful details as what stations



make you pay a second fare to change directions, this map also shows future lines, such as the 7 Line extension to 34th Street and 11th Avenue (planned to open later in 2014), and the Second Avenue Line (planned to open in 2016).

1965

Catherine Robbins’s book *All Indians Do Not Live in Teepees (or Casinos)* is a tale about contemporary American Indian life. Originally published last year, it is now in its second printing. Robbins is currently working on her second book, *Nobody Travels South of Rome*, about Calabria, a region in southern Italy.



1967

Leni Miller recently had her first book, *Finding Right Work: Five Steps to a Life You Love*, published. With almost four decades of experience in professional job placement, Miller helps people find “right work” that is fulfilling and utilizes their talents.



Eli Zabar, son of the founder of Zabar’s specialty food market, now owns a number of gourmet cafés and specialty food shops throughout Manhattan, the most well-known being the Vinegar Factory and E.A.T.

1969

Susanne Brahm is having several of her poems about widowhood published in two anthologies, *On Our Own: Widowhood for Smarties* and *The Widows' Handbook*, which will feature a forward by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.



1972

Anne-Marie Brumm just published her latest book *Honor Killing: a Novel of Israel* about a Mossad agent sent to infiltrate a Hezbollah camp by seducing the leader’s aging sister. Brumm, already the author of a number of other books has lived in Israel for 15 years and is already planning her next book about a double murder on a state university campus.

BERNICE BERGER MILLER '53



"President Eisenhower was my neighbor for a time," wrote Bernice Miller '53 of her time at Columbia—an experience that was quite some time ago, but for this liver-transplant survivor, each moment of life is vivid and lived to its fullest. Author of three novels and now, *Liver Transplant: My Story*, after graduating from GS, Berger Miller raised a family, earned her MA in English from Florida Atlantic University and her PhD from University of Florida. She

owned and operated a building company, spent 25 years in the antiques and collectibles business, and traveled widely. No doubt, a full life, but certainly, one not lived without hardship.

Liver Transplant: My Story, which was published in 2012, is a memoir in which Berger Miller describes in detailed, layman's terms her experience from the moment she learned her liver was diseased in 1990 through pre-transplant and post-transplant periods. By explaining this serious subject with humor and an uplifting message, she hopes that her account will help other transplant candidates—liver or otherwise—become more familiar and, therefore, less anxious about what is facing them.

1973

Joseph Jacobs' new book *Mohawks on the Nile* is about how he, a member of the Kahnawake Mohawk tribe, navigated the divide between being Native American and white. The youngest of four children and the first to graduate from high school, Jacobs describes how he graduated from Columbia GS and Yale before rediscovering his Mohawk identity.

1975

Ralf Hertwig retired from federal service in 2011. He most recently held a position at the Bureau of Labor Statistics as an economist and statistical analyst. Ralf writes extensively about deficit finance and the national debt debates.

1976

Anouk Markovits authored *I Am Forbidden*, a gripping story of what happens when unwavering love, unyielding law, and centuries of Jewish tradition collide. She was featured in the 20th Annual Mandell JCC Jewish Book Festival.



1979

Bonnie Lee Black just had her third book, *How to Make an African Quilt: The Story of the Patchwork Project of Ségou, Mali*, published. *How to Make an African Quilt* is a memoir about Black's time living in Ségou, Mali teaching Malian women how to make American quilts as part of an economic initiative called the Patchwork Project, while simultaneously exploring the historic and contemporary issues in Mali. Black has written two other books, *Somewhere Child*, about when her daughter was kidnapped by her ex-husband, and *How to Cook a Crocodile*, chronicling her other experiences in Africa.



1981

Jean Foss wrote a book, *Sun, Clouds, and Stars of Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt*, about the life of a young woman who married into the Roosevelt family and all the excitement that it entailed.



1982

John Horgan recently had his latest book, *The End of War*, published. Already the author of books *Rational Mysticism: Dispatches from the Border Between Science and Spirituality* and *Where Was God on September 11?*, Horgan is a science journalist and director of the Center for Science Writings at Stevens Institute of Technology.



1983

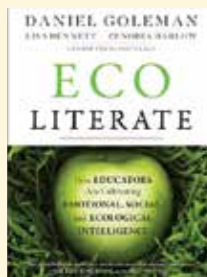
Brent Weingard, who has cleaned windows in New York City for more than 35 years, was featured in *The New York Times*. Weingard, who started his window cleaning business while at GS, discussed the complex technical aspects of window cleaning, from harness rigs to cleaning solvents, as well as his numerous encounters with famous New Yorkers whose windows he has cleaned over the years.

1984

Yael Israel joined Pricewaterhouse Coopers as a Director in Practice in charge of a team working to optimize tax engagement strategies in investment management groups.

1985

Lisa Bennett coauthored her first book *Ecoliterate: How Educators Are Cultivating Emotional, Social, and Ecological Intelligence*. She is often featured in *The Huffington Post*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and *The New York Times*, and has contributed to several other books. Bennett is currently the communications director for the Center for Ecoliteracy.



Tina Casey writes about military, corporate, and technological sustainability for sites such as CleanTechnica and TriplePundit.



1986

James Braly is a comedic writer who performs his works as monologues. His show "Life in a Marital Institution," about his long and tumultuous marriage to a wife he met while they attended GS, is available as a memoir, has been optioned for television, and was featured on "This American Life."



1992

Jay Amari was featured in a book by T.J. Banks. He has also been in a number of independent films and written several screenplays. Two of his scripts were nominated as finalists at the Actors Theater of Louisville National 10-Minute Play Contest.

1994

Katherine Dufault (nee Fields) curated an exhibit of 40 abstract works at the Rye Arts Center, including several of her own. Over the past several years, Dufault has had her work exhibited at a number of venues around New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.



1996

Chris Dixon is a General Partner at the investing firm A16Z (formerly Andreessen Horowitz). Over the last decade, Dixon co-founded several startups, such as Hunch, which was bought by eBay, and has since been an angel investor in companies such as Four-square, Kickstarter, Pinterest, and Dropbox. He also co-founded a New York-based seed-stage venture firm called Founder Collective.



1997

Gale Brewer, the School of General Studies 2014 Class Day keynote speaker, is serving as Borough President of Manhattan. Elected to the leadership post in fall 2013, she was previously a longstanding member of the New York City Council as a representative of the Upper West Side and parts of Clinton in Manhattan.



1998

Rojé Augustin published her first novel *The Unraveling of Bebe Jones*. After initially working as an editorial assistant and writing short insert pieces for the *New York Daily News* and *BET Weekend Magazine*, Augustin began a career in television working on such shows as *20/20*, *Primetime*, and *Good Morning America Weekend Edition*. Augustin now lives in Sydney, Australia.

1999

Wade Black was recently appointed to the board of Alabama Graphite. He is also President of BlackBerry Fund Management, Inc. and Director of Tiex, Inc., a Canadian mineral exploration company.

ELLIOT LEVIOFF '60

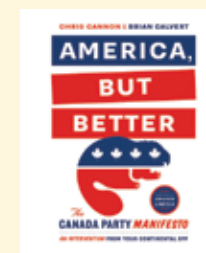
Fall 2014 marks the third season for the Seniors Orchestral Society of New York City (SOSNY), founded by Elliot Levioff '60. SOSNY is the first permanent symphonic ensemble in the City composed of senior citizens. The ensemble brings together accomplished musicians who are over 60 years old and wish to study, learn, and rehearse the classical music repertoire with the goal of making classical music available to as wide an audience as possible through the presentation of free concerts throughout the five boroughs.

Before leading SOSNY, Levioff enjoyed a long career as a conductor and musician. After earning his bachelor's degree in music at GS in 1968, he was awarded his doctorate in music and music education from Teachers College. Once settled in the Philadelphia area, he led a number of noteworthy community orchestras, and until 1994, Levioff taught music and was the choral conductor at Overbrook High School in Pennsylvania. Additionally, he founded and was the conductor of the Philadelphia Promenade Orchestra, a 60-piece professional ensemble that gave free concerts. Visit www.sos-nyc.org to learn more about the Seniors Orchestral Society of New York City and their upcoming concert schedule.



2000

Chris Robert Smith, who uses the pseudonym Chris Cannon, is enjoying the success of his most recent book *America, But Better: The Canada Party Manifesto*, co-authored with Brian Calvert. His photography and writings have appeared in publications such as *Rolling Stone*, *Men's Journal*, *University of Chicago Magazine*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and others. In 2006, under the name Chris Smith, he authored *101 Albums that Changed Popular Music*. Read more from Smith at cannonwriter.com.



2001

Eytan Schwartz recently ran for a seat in the Israeli Knesset. Previously, he won the first season of *The Ambassador*, a popular Israeli reality show focused on creating a better public image for Israel. This led him to work at Israeli at Heart, a New York-based Israeli advocacy group.

MIRIAM KARTCH '70

BY ALLISON SCOLA

As a piano student at Mannes Music School in the early 1940s, Miriam Kartch '70, '77GSAS, and '80GSAS was identified by Co-Director Clara Damrosch Mannes as having a gift for pedagogy, and thus began an inspired, 70-year career as a music educator.

"Ms. Karch cares greatly for her students," said percussionist and Mannes College of Music graduate Daniel Mallon, who was a student of Kartch's in the mid-1980s. "I've been honored to know her for the past thirty years, first as her student, and now as a colleague on the faculty."

Known for her dry wit and unconventional personal style, during the post-War 1950s, Kartch was ahead of her time. "In my day, girls married in order to get married. I was teaching [Mannes Preparatory] and Extension School piano lessons, and then I was Director of the Prep school. I had a calling," said Kartch.

One of her Extension piano students was Vernon W. Hughes '41CC, '50GSAS, a PhD candidate in physics at Columbia. "He came to Mannes for evening lessons; since we lived two blocks apart, we became acquainted and dated." At the time, Hughes was interested in getting married. Kartch had other ambitions.

A few years later, in the summer of 1962, her then fiancé died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage. The loss was shocking. A year later, seeking a countermeasure to her grief, a bereft Kartch was encouraged by music theorist and then dean of Mannes Carl Schachter to visit Donald Klein at the School of General Studies at Columbia. "I had to do something that nobody could take away from me, and that was education," recalled Kartch.

GS appealed to her. She started taking one class at a time, and eventually two. "Completing my bachelor's took me seven years because I could only do a little at a time," Kartch said.

"GS was a wonderful place—it was a mind-opening experience. We were all working hard to fit courses into our schedules. We were all trying to enrich our lives"

After completing her undergraduate degree, Kartch went on to pursue a master's, and subsequently, a doctorate in musicology at the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS), during which she taught Music Humanities and piano at Columbia. Then, in 1979, her recently widowed, old boyfriend Vernon Hughes, by now Sterling Professor of Physics at Yale University, called. This time, she accepted his marriage proposal... meanwhile, she failed to earn her doctorate.

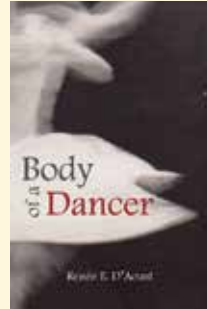
While fulfilling her new role over the subsequent decades, Kartch continued to teach piano to undergraduates at Mannes and courses in music history in Mannes Extension Division. She is still a member of the faculty.

At age 90 and after decades of teaching, her influence on current and former students runs deep. She receives letters and visits from all over the world. "Everyone needs a grandmother," she laughed. Well, if that is a succinct way to sum up that Kartch is an inspirational example of grace, style, perseverance, and humility, then it is a marvelous tribute to her.

For Kartch's full story, including a wonderful account of her experience studying Italian Renaissance painting with Columbia's legendary professor Howard McParlin Davis, please visit <http://gs.columbia.edu/miriam-kartch>.



PHOTO: EUGENIA AMES



Larysa Kondracki directed *The Whistleblower*, a film starring Academy Award winner Rachel Weisz. Featured at the Athena Film Festival, *The Whistleblower* was inspired by true events and tells the story of a peacekeeper in postwar Bosnia who discovers an elaborate human-trafficking operation.

Renée D'Aoust's book *Body of a Dancer*, a memoir about her time as a modern dancer in New York City and the history of modern dance as a style, was published by Etruscan Press. Additionally, she has written a number of other short essays on dance such as "Reading Dance" and "On Stage Alone."

Adam Weinstein was hired as a full-time staff writer for *Gawker*. An investigative reporter who used to be the Engagement Editor for *Mother Jones*, Weinstein has also written for the *Wall Street Journal*, *Village Voice*, and the *Columbia Journalism Review*.

2002

Sara Landeau joined the punk rock band called The Julie Ruin. Landeau has taught music at the Willie Mae Rock Camps for Girls in Brooklyn and now runs her own music school teaching guitar and drums to girls of all ages, helping to empower them through music.

Gerard Jackson is the creator of Five Alive Films, an independent film company which has produced music videos, book trailers, and documentaries.



2005

Marguerite Anderson (née Daniels) is a freelance web designer and publishes a food blog, ASingleChef.com, where she has compiled and created recipes designed for making a single serving. Last spring she had her wedding noted in *The New York Times*.



Carolyn Castro is now Executive Director of the Livery Roundtable, where she most recently created policy suggestions for the City of New York regarding the use of taxi-calling apps for smart phones. Previously, Castro spent five years as the Assistant Director at the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission.



2006

In February, **Erich Erving** exhibited live printmaking at the Shoestring Press studio opening party in Brooklyn.



2007

James McGirk was published in *Wired Magazine* writing about his experience living in Arcosanti, famous architect Paolo Soleri's attempt at designing a utopian community in the Arizona desert.



Chad Miller starred in *An Ordinary Family*, a film about a family reunion that takes a very different turn when Miller's character arrives with a male partner and his conservative family must decide how to react. Premiering at the Los Angeles Film Festival, *An Ordinary Family* later won Best Narrative Feature at the New Orleans Film Festival. Miller is also now co-producing *Ponies! Live on Broadway*, a new web series.

Ali Naderzad is narrating and producing a podcast series MOVIE TRACKS! about movie soundtracks for the website Screen Comment, where he writes film news and movie reviews. Naderzad is also a frequent contributor to the French edition of *The Huffington Post*.

Christopher Riano was appointed to the Columbia University faculty where he teaches undergraduate law courses. He was recently interviewed by *USA Today* for a legal opinion on the implications of the Supreme Court's case dealing with Affirmative Action.

2008

Robert Brink wrote and directed a short film, *Insecurity*, which premiered at the opening night of the Trinity International Film Festival where it won Best Short Film.



Marey Jencks recently published her first novel *Heights of Desire* under the pseudonym Mara White. The book was nominated as one of the top 50 indie books of the year by Indie Author Land, and it recently topped the Amazon urban erotica best-sellers list.



Danielle Klein (GS/JTS) married Avi Aarons in March 2014. The couple grew up, met, and wed in New York. After graduating from Columbia, Danielle earned an MS in interior architecture and design from Drexel University and is currently working as a showroom designer for Ralph Lauren at the company's global headquarters. The wedding party included fellow alumni **Jamie Diamond '09 GS/'09 JTS** and **Lisa (Kravitz) Mamaysky '08 GS/'08 JTS**.



Jacqueline Wayans recorded her first album, *My Strength, My Song*, where she covers Christian music in a smooth, jazzy style. She celebrated her album release with a concert series in Harlem and the Bronx. Wayans also had her first book *Ambrose* published. A children's book, *Ambrose* retells the story of the Garden of Eden from the snake's perspective. Additionally, Wayans is the host of an inspirational radio program, *Don't Give Up*, broadcast out of New York City.



2011

Justin Humphries is a retired minor league baseball player and was one of the first participants in George Washington University's STAR Program (Special Talent, Access, and Responsibility), which helps current or retired athletes earn their MBAs.

Christine McHone received her second Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship, this time for graduate studies in anthropology, which she is also undertaking at Columbia University.

Sara Ziff, while continuing her modeling career, started Model Alliance, a labor organization working to improve the industry conditions for models. One recent success was her lobbying of the New York State Senate and Assembly to categorize models under 18 as child workers, allowing them much more protection under the law. Her other endeavors include Save the Children, a program that helps alleviate childhood malnutrition.

2012

Heather D'Angelo is a member of the band Au Revoir Simone, which recently released its newest album *Move in Spectrums* after a break of several years.

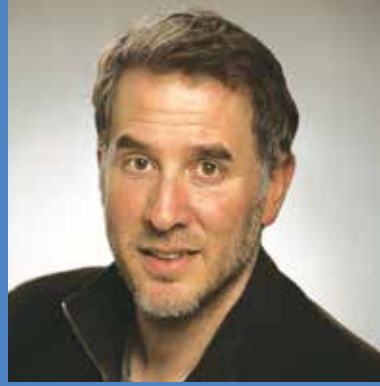
Maurice Decaul is a poet, librettist, and essayist whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Sierra Magazine*, and others. He recently performed in the theatrical production *Holding It Down: The Veterans Dreams Project*, which premiered at the Harlem Stage Gatehouse. *Holding It Down*, a collaboration between jazz pianist and composer Vijay Iyer and poet Mike Ladd, tells the story of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Aelfie Oudghiri (née Tuff) recently married a Columbia College alumnus in a ceremony presided over by GS Dean Awn in Staten Island's Chinese Scholar Garden. After graduating, she opened a boutique rug showroom in Brooklyn and launched her own line of affordable kilim rugs.



Cameron Russell has been a model for brands such as Victoria's Secret, Calvin Klein, and Ralph Lauren and has appeared in *American*, *French*, *Italian*, *Spanish*, *German*, and *Japanese Vogue*. She gave a TED talk at the TEDxMidAtlantic conference titled "Looks aren't everything. Believe me, I'm a model," as well as appeared on shows like *ABC's Nightline* to speak out against constraining definitions of beauty and their negative reflections on society.

ERIC SHAW '03 SCORES EMMY FOR ANIMATION WRITING



Eric Shaw's '03 path to becoming an Emmy-winning writer has been a circuitous one. It began in 1994, when he crammed everything he owned into his Toyota Corolla and drove from Jericho, N.Y. to Los Angeles, Calif. to pursue a career in screenwriting. With no job secured, he relied solely on a friend's reference, which allowed him to rent an apartment. He wasted no time, however, and began diligently faxing his resume to more than 200 production companies.

Only one company responded—Wpello Productions, then owned by Tom and Roseanne Arnold—and at the interview, he was hired on the spot. One year later, with Tom Arnold's help, Shaw landed a position as a production assistant at FOX, where he served his time making coffee runs and photocopying scripts. It all paid off when he was offered the chance to write his own script for an episode of FOX's *Secret Service Guy*.

"It is a very small business, and there is no better recommendation for a gig than from someone your prospective bosses know and like. But I was finally offered the script because I begged! To succeed in Hollywood, you must be persistent," Shaw said.

After a few years in the business, Shaw realized that opportunities in his niche industry were dwindling as the reality television phenomenon took off. With his first child on the way, he decided to step away from the uncertain world of sitcom writing and applied to GS with the intention of going into law or medicine.

Upon matriculating in the spring of 2001, Shaw supported himself by working a staggering 70 hours per week as a facilities manager at a stock footage company in downtown Manhattan. He also found time to write for the *Columbia Spectator* while completing a bachelor's degree in political science with a focus on constitutional law.

After graduating in the spring of 2003, Shaw was looking for work while he applied to law school, and reached out to his former boss at FOX. After following up on several referrals, he eventually found himself on the phone with the executive producer of the animated series *SpongeBob SquarePants* who said he would be looking for a writer in a few months and would call back. Shaw never expected to hear from him again, but three months later the phone rang.

Shaw seized the opportunity to dive back into writing, but it required some sacrifices because the Nickelodeon office was located in Burbank, Calif., and his children were living in Long Island, N.Y. at the time. To balance his career with parenthood, Shaw flew home more than 40 weekends of each year.

"I would take the Burbank to JFK red-eye Friday night, and then I'd be back at JFK for a 6 a.m. return flight on Monday. I just couldn't stand being away from my kids," Shaw said.

When his role at Nickelodeon concluded, Shaw's agent found him a job as a head writer with the PBS animated series, *WordGirl*, a show in its fifth season, intended to expand children's vocabularies. Shaw was nominated for, and eventually won, an Emmy award for outstanding writing in animation at the 40th Annual Creative Arts Daytime Emmy Awards on June 14, 2013.

Lately, Shaw's focus has been shifting from children's programming to live action drama, and he hopes to write the next *Breaking Bad*. He is also currently a visiting instructor at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he teaches a course in basic screenwriting.

"So many professors, like Brigitte Nacos in the Political Science Department at Columbia, have had a profound effect on my life. If I can make that sort of impact on someone else's life, I want to do it," Shaw said.



2013

In addition to teaching piano, voice, and guitar privately, **Sebastian Clegg** is Director of Music at Mott Hall Charter School in The Bronx. In November 2013, he led a fund raiser powered by the website Donors Choose that aimed to raise money to purchase instruments for his students.



Pablo Mota is pursuing a graduate degree at the London School of Economics and was named as a Santander Scholar. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue an MPA in Public Policy.



2014

After publishing an essay in *HuffPost Women*, **Katie Naum** was featured on *HuffPost Live*'s "What's Trending" in a segment that accounted her tumultuous past before attending Columbia and her personal triumph of earning her undergraduate degree.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

THE OWL WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send us news about your latest accomplishments, milestones, and projects.

Email us at: gsowl@columbia.edu

Mail it to us at:
The Owl Magazine
408 Lewisohn Hall, MC 4101
2970 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Visit our website at:
www.gs.columbia.edu/owl-magazine

IN MEMORIAM



BARBARA VOORHIS LEVY

'48

When **Henry C. Stevens '42** passed away in January 2014 at 95, he was the oldest instructor at University of Akron, Ohio where he was scheduled to teach a chemistry course as usual, for the spring semester. "Hank" received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Columbia and his master's and doctorate in chemistry from Case Western Reserve University. He holds 40 patents and was employed by PPG Industries for 42 years. He began teaching chemistry at UA part-time in 1986 and since, impacted thousands of students with his enthusiasm and energy for the subject.

Louis Simpson '48, Pulitzer-winning poet, passed away on September 18, 2012. Though Simpson was best known for his award-winning poetry, he achieved many other feats in his life. Born in Jamaica to a Scottish and African father and a Russian mother, after high school he moved to the United States to study at Columbia. When World War II started, Simpson joined the 101st Airborne Division. He survived some of the toughest fighting in France and Belgium. After the war, he studied in Paris for a time before returning to the U.S. to finish his degree at GS. In 1963, Simpson published his Pulitzer-winning collection *At the End of the Open Road*.

Barbara Voorhis Levy '48, an extremely dedicated and active alumna, passed away on June 27, 2014 in New York City. Levy, who worked full time while enrolled at GS, earned a BA in history and went on to serve as the first president of the General Studies Alumni Association and as an editor at the Columbia University Press. Prior to her enrollment at GS, Levy worked



DONALD RICHIE

'53

during World War II making Norden bombsights. Levy also served as a Congregation Daat Elohim board member and vice president and, in 1975, was elected to P.S. 9 district's school board in New York City.

Gerhard H. Roberts '50 died on March 23, 2013. Born in Berlin, Germany, Roberts received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Columbia University. After serving in U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II, Roberts moved to Long Island and was a mathematics teacher and administrator for two school districts for a number of years.

William L. Carroll '52, a veteran and finance tycoon, passed away on May 5, 2013. Carroll received a degree in industrial psychology and industrial engineering from GS. During World War II, Carroll served in the 785th Tank Battalion in the Philippines before working as an engineer at the financial consulting firm McCormick & Co. He was also a vice president of the National Bank of Westchester and later returned to McCormick & Co. to serve as its president. Carroll went on to establish his own company, Carroll & Co. Ltd., a management consulting firm.

Donald Richie '53, film critic and writer who introduced the English-speaking world to Japanese cinema, passed away on February 19, 2013. Richie was first introduced to Japan when he was stationed there as part of the American occupying force. While working for the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, the soldier-run newspaper, he became fascinated by the Japanese culture and people, and began to write movie reviews. After returning to the United States for a few years to study at GS, Richie



PATRICIA RYAN

'68

returned to Japan where he wrote prolifically as a film critic and of his own experiences traveling the Japanese countryside. He lived in Japan until his death.

Geraldine (Jean) Zamoyski '54 died on July 29, 2012. Zamoyski, who put herself through GS while working full-time as a medical assistant, met her future husband while finishing her internship and residency at Lenox Hill Hospital. Together they set up a practice in Brewster, N.Y., where Zamoyski was a family physician, in addition to being active in the local medical community where she taught and helped establish local health organizations.

Patricia Ryan '68, managing editor of *People* and *Life* magazines, died on Friday, December 27, 2013. Starting in the secretarial pool, Ryan's exceptional talent allowed her to become the first woman to be appointed the top editorial job at a Time Inc. publication in 27 years. During her time at *People*, Ryan transformed it into the magazine it is today, both expanding its coverage of more serious news while also instituting the now famous annual "Sexiest Man Alive" issue. Under her leadership, *People* also won its only national magazine award for general excellence in 1987.

Rachel Jeanne Lehr '81 was 49 when she graduated from GS. After high school, she completed one year of college, but then focused her time on raising five children. At age 52, she earned a JD from Rutgers University and then embarked upon a 28-year career as an attorney, first with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and then as a deputy attorney general for the



LESLIE WOODARD

'94

Division of Law of the Office of the Attorney General for the state of New Jersey where she worked until her death in December 2012.

Leslie Woodard '94 passed away on Monday, October 15, 2013. After directing the Columbia undergraduate creative writing program, Woodard became dean of Yale's undergraduate Calhoun College. Remembered by all for her warmth and passion for teaching, Woodard worked to foster a sense of community around the Columbia writing program. Originally a dancer with the Dance Theater of Harlem before enrolling in GS, Woodard pursued a variety of interests and was working on a novel called *The Last Tour of the Hot-House Flower* when she passed.

Andrew Hamilton '13 passed away unexpectedly in late June. Andrew, who earned a Bachelor of Science in neuroscience in 2013, was selected as one of 100 students chosen nationally as a 2012 White House Fellow. In this role, he interned in the President's Office of Communications in Washington, D.C.

FRIENDS

Mariam Chamberlain (Faculty Member), an influential thinker who helped create the field of women's studies, passed away on April 2, 2013. After receiving her PhD in economics from Harvard, Chamberlain taught at the School of General Studies before joining the Ford Foundation, where she arranged numerous grants to kick-start research into the inequality between men and women in the workplace.

IN GENERAL

LARRY J. LAWRENCE '69 RECOGNIZED FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

*Trustees Chair
William V. Campbell
'62CC, '64TC,
Michelle S. Kolb
'05, '09NRS, Larry
Lawrence '69, '71BUS,
and President Lee C.
Bollinger '71LAW*



During the Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend luncheon on Saturday, October 12, 2013, Larry J. Lawrence '69GS, '71BUS was presented with The Richard E. Witten Award for Transformational Volunteer Leadership. Lawrence is a dedicated alumni leader who over many years has shown a profound determination and commitment not only to the School of General Studies and Columbia School of Business, but also to the University as a whole. His fundraising efforts and their results have benefited students, alumni, and faculty in countless ways.

Lawrence has served as co-chair of the Columbia Undergraduate Campaign Council and worked closely with faculty and University leadership to support the strategic needs of the School of General Studies. His initiative and leadership were instrumental in establishing a \$3 million matching program for GS financial aid and in raising over \$6 million in The Columbia Campaign. He currently serves on the GS Board of Visitors. In addition, he has been a member of the Columbia Business School Lang Center Advisory Board, served on his reunion committee, and was the recipient of the 2009 Entrepreneurship Partner of the Year Award.

A retired venture capitalist known for his strategic thinking and candor, Lawrence serves on the board of the Columbia Investment Management Company. In 2010, his dedication to increasing alumni engagement and his legacy of distinguished service was recognized with the Alumni Medal.

He and his wife Sally Lawrence are benefactors of the University, focusing their gifts on student support and scholarships.

The Witten Award was created in 2012 in honor of former Trustees Vice Chair Richard E. Witten '75CC. It is presented annually in recog-

inition of fundraising efforts on behalf of schools or programs in two categories: Volunteer Leadership, for extraordinary and innovative efforts over two to four years, and Transformational Volunteer Leadership, for exceptional service over five or more years. Honorees are selected by representatives of the University Trustees Committee on Alumni Relations and Development and the Office of the Executive Vice President for University Development and Alumni Relations.

In addition to Lawrence, Michelle S. Kolb '05, '09NRS was also honored.

MEET JILL GALAS HICKEY, SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS



Since November 2012, Jill Galas Hickey has sat at the helm of School of General Studies Alumni Relations, guiding her colleagues and GS alumni in community building. Before serving in her current capacity, Jill worked as the Director of Programming and Alumni Career Development at the University. She holds a Master of Social Work from Columbia School of Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Mount Saint Vincent. Jill and her husband James live in New Jersey with their two sons, Owen, 12 and James, 9.

The Owl: *What did you do before your current position?*

Jill Galas Hickey: Before assuming my role at the Office of Alumni and Development, I worked for the Columbia Center for Career Education, and my position allowed me to work closely with GS students and alumni. Prior to that, I was a social worker at a foster care agency in the Bronx.

What does your position at Columbia entail?

I help individual schools within Columbia develop their alumni communities. This means collaborating with deans, senior administration officers, and student and alumni leaders. Over the past year, we've worked on creating a new GS Alumni Association (GSAA) that reflects the School's current needs. We've also committed to organizing more regional alumni programming.

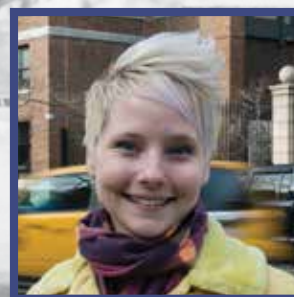
What is the most rewarding aspect of your position?

In my past position it was incredibly fulfilling to meet and work with GS students in career counseling relationships. GSers have fantastic stories, and reconnecting with them now as alumni allows me to hear about—and be a part of—the next chapters in these stories. GS alumni are doing amazing things, and most importantly, helping each other along the way.



“It’s not only what you learn inside the classroom, but also the experiences along the way—Columbia transforms you...”


– Aries Dela Cruz '09GS,
Anthropology Major



ILLUMINATE CHANGE

GIVE TODAY AT GS.COLUMBIA.EDU/GIVE



 COLUMBIA | GS
School of General Studies

THE OWL

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York, NY
Permit No. 3593

Proudly Flying Our Flag | On Wednesday, December 11, 2013 students, alumni, and administrators dedicated and raised the official flag of the School of General Studies on the northeast corner of Lewisohn Lawn. The flag bears the School's official shield and the letters G and S. Members of the Class of 2013, who gave the flag and flagpole as a gift to the School, were in attendance, including 2013 Senior Class President Angelica Hoyos (First row, fifth from right next to Dean Awn) and 2013 Dean's Citation recipient Nicole Morgan (First row, second from right). (Photo: Michael DiVito) See full story on page 16.

