Alumni

Jennifer Lee, Ursula Burns, and Other Alumni in the News

Spring 2014



Jennifer Lee (Disney)

Freeze-Frame

Two Columbians took home Oscars this year, and two others were nominated for them. **Jennifer Lee ’05SOA** won in the best animated feature category for *Frozen*, which she co-wrote and directed, and **Dede Gardner ’90CC** was honored for co-producing *12 Years a Slave*, which was named best picture. Producer **Albert Berger ’83SOA** was nominated for *Nebraska*, a contender for best picture, and **Judy**

Becker ’82GSAS was nominated for production design on *American Hustle*.

Fortune Calls

Fortune magazine included **Ursula Burns ’82SEAS** and **Nancy McKinstry ’84BUS** on its annual list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business. Burns is the chairman and CEO of Xerox, where she has spent her entire career. McKinstry is the chairman and CEO of the Dutch publisher and information-services company Wolters Kluwer.



Ursula Burns. Photo courtesy of Xerox Corporation

Arts and Sciences and Letters

Thomas Jessell, a professor of neuroscience, biochemistry, and molecular biophysics at Columbia, won the 2014 Vilcek Foundation Prize in Biomedical Science. The $100,000 award honors immigrant contributions to American arts and sciences. The British-born Jessell, who is codirector of Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, was selected for his work with the vertebrate central nervous system.

Maison Française director **Shanny Peer** was awarded the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government in recognition of her commitment to intellectual and cultural exchange between France and the United States.

Theater producer **Marla Rubin '85CC** won a South Bank Sky Arts Award, which recognizes British cultural achievement, for her London stage production of *Let the Right One In*.

Clerks

Three Columbia Law alums were awarded US Supreme Court clerkships. **Jennifer B. Sokoler '10LAW** will clerk for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, **Mark Musico '11LAW** for Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsberg '59LAW**, and **James W. Crooks '13LAW** for Justice Anthony Kennedy.

City Hall Bound

New York City mayor **Bill de Blasio '87SIPA** appointed fellow Columbians to posts in his administration. **Mary Bassett '79PS**, a professor at the Mailman School of Public Health, will serve as the commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Bassett previously served as New York's deputy commissioner of

health promotion and disease prevention. **Alicia Glen ’93LAW** was appointed deputy mayor for housing and economic development. Glen has been the head of the urban investment group at Goldman Sachs for twelve years.

Big Data

Applied-mathematics professor **Chris Wiggins ’93CC** was named chief data scientist for the *New York Times*. Wiggins, who is a founding member of Columbia’s Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, will help the newspaper analyze user data generated by its website.

Robert Wolven, the associate university librarian for bibliographic services and collection development, won the 2014 Melvil Dewey Medal, given to one person annually for excellence in library and information sciences. Wolven was recognized for his work with digital content, such as making e-books more accessible to public-library users.



Chris Wiggins

Guide to school abbreviations

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