Alumni

# Rivka Galchen '06SOA, Carl Cofield '14SOA, and Other Alumni in the News

Winter 2014-15

#### Frankly Noted

Six Columbians appear on the *New York Times'* list of the 100 Notable Books of 2014. The selections include *All Our Names*, by **Dinaw Mengestu '05SOA**; *American Innovations*, by writing professor **Rivka Galchen '06SOA**; *Let Me Be Frank With You*, by humanities professor **Richard Ford** (see page 60); *Little Failure*, by writing professor **Gary Shteyngart**; *Panic in a Suitcase*, by **Yelena Akhtiorskaya '09SOA** (see page 56); and *Nora Webster*, by humanities professor **Colm Tóibín**.

#### Aid for AIDS

Five faculty members from the Columbia University Medical Center have joined New York governor Andrew Cuomo's AIDS task force. They are **Robert Fullilove**, a professor of sociomedical sciences and the associate dean for community and minority affairs; **Alex Carballo-Dieguez**, a professor of medical psychology and a research scientist in the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at the New York State Psychiatric Institute; **Stephen Ferrara**, an assistant professor of nursing and the executive director of the Nurse Practitioner Association of New York State; **Kalvin Leveille**, the community-outreach associate for the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health; and **Robert Remien**, the director of the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies. The task force will implement a three-point plan to reduce the rate of new HIV infections to 750 per year by 2020.

#### Let's Dance

Forty-three School of the Arts filmmakers had their work showcased at the Sundance and Slamdance film festivals in Park City, Utah, this January. At Sundance, twenty-three alumni, faculty, and current students worked on sixteen films that were invited to the festival. Additionally, adjunct professor **Eliza Hittman**and **Olivia Newman ’12SOA** were selected for the Sundance Screenwriters Lab, and **Mayuran Tiruchelvam ’13SOA** and **Gerry Kim ’11SOA** won Sundance Creative Producing Fellowships.

#### Knockout Production

**Carl Cofield ’14SOA** won the NAACP Theatre Award for best director in the local category for his premiere production of *One Night in Miami*. Written by Kemp Powers, the play envisions what took place between friends Cassius Clay, Malcolm X, Sam Cooke, and Jim Brown after Clay defeated Sonny Liston in February 1964.

#### UN PR VIP

United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon appointed **Cristina Gallach ’86SIPA** the undersecretary-general for communications and public information. Gallach is a Spanish journalist who has served as the head of the public-relations unit of the Council of the European Union since 2010.

#### Good Fellows

The American Association for the Advancement of Science named four Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons professors as new fellows, recognizing their contributions to “innovation, education, and scientific leadership.” **Oliver Hobert** was selected for his work in neurobiology; **George Yancopoulos ’80CC, ’86GSAS, ’87PS** and **Charles Zuker** were selected for their neuroscience research. **Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic**, who has a joint appointment with Columbia Engineering, was

selected for her tissue-engineering work. She was also recently named one of *Foreign Policy's* 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2014.



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